

WYOMING Catholics

St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Community

Summer 2017

*"Always remember this: life is a journey.
It is a path, a journey to meet Jesus."*

—Pope Francis



Back row from left: Joe Adams, Katherine Schulz, Tyler Julian, Breanna Farley, Kianna Olson, Chris Moodry, Sierra Admundson. Front row: David (guide), Julia Cathey, Sarah Maze, and Fr. Rob.

Father Rob Spaulding
Pastor
rob@newmancenter.org

Anthony Allen
Director of Pastoral Ministry
anthony@newmancenter.org

Lillie Romeiser
Director of Campus Ministry
lillie@newmancenter.org



Tom Quinlivan
Director of Pastoral Music & Liturgy
tom@newmancenter.org

Sandy Gaddis
Parish Business Manager
sandy@newmancenter.org

St. Paul's Newman Center Staff

Myra Belser
Communications Coordinator
myra@newmancenter.org

Sandra Loza
Administrative Assistant
sandra@newmancenter.org



Planning for the Future



Summer is one of the best times to be in Laramie and after this past year, we are all catching our breath and recharging our batteries.

As you'll discover in this newsletter, Lillie Romeiser, our Director of Campus Ministry, has been hard at work developing relationships with our students. Her presence and dynamism has reinvigorated Campus Ministry at St. Paul's.

You might remember from the last edition of Wyoming Catholics, the parish of St. Paul's is in the middle

of a process of discerning God's Spirit for the next 75 years of our parish. We have identified 4 pillars of our faith community:

- 1) Worship and Prayer,
 - 2) Community Gathering and Formation,
 - 3) Student Campus Ministry,
 - 4) Direct Service to the Laramie Community.
- These pillars are the priorities that will help us evaluate our current facility and guide our plans as we look into the future.

As students return in the fall, we will be meeting regularly to learn and to pray. We believe that through prayer filled conversation, God's Will for St. Paul's will become evident. One thing is evident...we have run out of space for the many wonderful ministries of this parish.

By the end of the fall semester, we will have compiled our vision for the future and will begin the process of transforming words into drawings and plans.

I hope that you will join us in this process. Your prayer that we listen to God's voice will be essential. Maybe you have suggestions from your time at St. Paul's. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or suggestions: rob@newmancenter.org.

I remain grateful for the many ways you support the ministry of St. Paul's Newman Center. As I write these words, please be assured of my prayers for you. It is an honor to work with college students as we work to build the Kingdom of God on earth.

Students in Service

Building Homes—Building Relationships by lillie romeiser

The annual work trip to Oklahoma City is much more than swinging a hammer to provide a roof overhead for someone in need. Director of Campus Ministry, Lillie Romeiser, describes their recent Habitat for Humanity experience.

The goal of the OKC work trip is to provide a meaningful service opportunity that exposes our students to a new place and the needs of others. Habitat for Humanity does incredible work supporting those who need a step-up in life, while also teaching and engendering skills of self-reliance and development. We were blessed to learn from the example of the Habitat staff, who work hard on behalf of others and infuse their faith into their daily work. This trip

also gives us the chance to bond and grow our relationships as a Newman Center family, which was one of the highlights of the trip for all. How could fourteen hours in the car together not be a bonding experience!?

This year's pilgrims included Emma Thielk, Bailey Schramm, Cameron Ellis, Matt Jones, Zach Parsons, Michael Seas, Chris Henry, Father Rob, and myself. Excluding Father Rob and two students, most were first-timers on this work trip. Nevertheless, the strong engineering background of the majority of our group made for some quick-learning on the job! Our group worked diligently and was up for each and every challenge from mundane painting and



Director of Campus Ministry,
Lillie Romeiser

caulking to more perilous rooftop acrobatics and nail-gunning. Our days started after a quick breakfast (or early morning run!). We then joined our Habitat staff at the worksite for the daily construction. We endured the Oklahoma wind while nailing walls, lifting trusses, and providing the finishing touches on a number
[cont. on pg. 5]

Let's Take a Walk by sarah maze

What draws one to take part in a fifty-mile hike? Those who embark on this pilgrimage are told the walk represents nothing more (or less) than our desire to let God guide our footsteps and nourish our souls. It is intended to be a journey of joy and fulfillment.

A senior pre-med student from Ranchester, Sarah Maze, was asked her expectations as she readied herself for a long walk. "I was just looking for an adventure. My hope was to spend lots of time in contemplation and prayer." What she did experience was the immense giving spirit of God's people. "Everywhere we went, locals hosted us and provided shelter, sustenance, and support for the journey. It was wonderful to be in the presence of so many followers of Christ, who gave their time to be present to total strangers."

The Chapel at Chimayó, located in northern New Mexico, has been a spiritual destination for 150 years. It has a reputation of being a place of spiritual healing. Sarah describes the New Mexican culture as vibrant and she was pleased to witness and learn about the deep and enduring



Chapel at Chimayó

history of the route, its significance, and the locals who live along it.

Sarah spent time in prayer while walking. "It was a beautiful reprieve from the daily busyness of life as a college senior. It was rewarding to better know the other pilgrims and to talk about their prayer intentions during their journeys. I was able to pray for others in their needs for love, or support, or healing, or strength. This opportunity bolstered my own prayer purpose as we walked together."

Prior to the pilgrimage, Sarah experienced the unexpected passing of a friend. "I was not prepared to be away, was still processing what had happened, and just wanted to stay in Laramie to be with my friends. But something tugged at me to go on the pilgrimage anyway. Through my walking, prayers, and tears, I came to understand that my pilgrimage was the best contribution to give to that grieving family. I was grateful for the support of my fellow pilgrims during that time, but most grateful for the experience to give of my able body to do something that my friend no longer could. This experience further heightened how blessed I am to possess a physically capable body and spirit, to complete a 47-mile



A blister break along the trail

pilgrimage through mountain snow and desert sand. That alone spurred me on to continue—in support of all those who are unable to or do not have the opportunity to complete similar journeys. I walked for them, I walked for my friend, I walked for his family, I walked for mine, and for all the intentions of my fellow pilgrims."



Pilgrims arriving at the end of day 2

"This journey has changed my life and heightened the importance of spending time in silence—with my God and with my thoughts, not asking for anything or saying specific prayers, but just being in communion with Jesus."

Ministry to the Homeless

by myra belser

Christ in the City, in Denver CO, a Catholic non-profit dedicated to



forming individuals in knowing, loving and serving the poor, was selected as our 2017 Lent/Easter project for two reasons. The first reason being that we decided to choose a charity close to home. The second reason was due to the firsthand experience of our students who volunteered for Christ in the City in March.

Wyatt Overton was amazed by how easily he was able to see Christ in the people he met. “One of the clearest places I saw Jesus was in the men and women we befriended on the streets. They were so joyful despite their circumstances and loved everyone without exclusion. Reflecting on this, I realize that they love like Christ loves.”

Sierra Amundson also learned a lesson on loving. “Through our time at Christ in the City, my eyes were opened as to how legitimately

desperate those without homes were for love. I came to understand that all humans require and deserve love. It is love that remains through sin, addiction, sickness, loneliness, poverty, and homelessness. This kind of unconditional and genuine love was taught to us by Christ and it is

our calling to outpour the same



treatment to our brothers and sisters in Christ, no matter when or where we might encounter them.”

Julia Cathey encountered a woman and observed that she was totally

disregarded. “She talked about seeing people pass her every day who never give a second glance. She received continual looks of disgust and people never stopped to give a handshake or say hello. She started crying and soon I was holding back my own tears. Why do we get to that point? Why do we think we deserve more or are better than others? She was happy that we had taken time out of our day to talk to her. To give a simple smile, that’s all she was asking for.”

The community at St. Paul’s Newman Center, once again, responded overwhelmingly to the Lent/Easter project and we were able to send a \$20,000 contribution toward helping the homeless in Denver.

Christ in the City Student Volunteers:
Upper left—Joe Adams,
Center—Julia Cathey,
Lower right—Tyler Julian



Recognized for Service to the Community

by myra belser



There is no question that Ted Cramer is passionate about his vision and what he has accomplished since he was hired as Executive Director of the Laramie Soup Kitchen in October 2015. He certainly has taken this ministry to a new level. Under his leadership, the soup kitchen served 17,472 meals in 2016 and averages a daily attendance of 68 people. Never saying “no” when offered a donation, Ted was responsible for 107,300 pounds of food donated this year, an increase of 60,900 pounds from the previous year. Now the Soup Kitchen is able to donate food to Interfaith, Laramie Youth Crisis Center, SAFE Project, the Cathedral Home for Children, and more.

In honor of Ted’s selfless service in the community, he was recently named the recipient of the Jim Cavalli Service to Others Award by the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance (LCBA). This prestigious honor recognizes service to the betterment of Laramie and its residents done without regard to personal gain.

Ted implemented a new after school program to Big Brothers Big Sisters providing 1,039 meals at no cost. When not promoting the Soup Kitchen, Ted is active in the community with LCBA’s Red Carpet Committee, Laramie Young Professionals, and occasionally cooking Sunday Suppers here at the Newman Center.

Habitat for Humanity [cont. from pg. 2]

of new homes. After work each day, we celebrated Eucharist together, which gave us the chance to reflect on and share our experiences and lessons from the day.

While building a home provides the tangible evidence of one’s impact, we tried to focus on the impact that this experience had on us. This impact was made possible primarily through the individuals we worked alongside and observed with Habitat for Humanity. Our students commonly reflected on how inspired and encouraged they were by the Habitat crew, as well as by our interactions with the families who had received homes from Habitat for Humanity.

We had the honor of attending a dedication/blessing of one of the homes we worked on. In addition to filling us with homemade tamales and cookies, this experience gave us the chance to see how allegiant Habitat for Humanity is to its Christian

mission, as the event was filled with prayer for the family and their new home. We also were grateful to meet this family and to see first-hand how this home, in the father’s words, has made their “dream finally come true.” Their joy was palpable, which gave us satisfaction for our work and a chance to reflect on the many blessings in our own lives, especially our homes that we so easily take for granted.

While our hours at the worksite definitely were fun, we also made sure to enjoy the new surroundings in Oklahoma. Our evenings out were spent at the Bombing Memorial, playing laser-tag, eating our fill at buffets, competing at a local establishment’s trivia night, and evading (or perhaps chasing!) tornadoes. The last day of our trip was spent at Lake Eufala, where we were the guests of a long-time friend with Habitat for Humanity. The day afforded fishing, swimming, and



Cameron Ellis and Matt Jones on the worksite

meeting the neighbors at a big fish fry in the evening. We were grateful for the incredible Oklahoman hospitality!

We trust this time-honored relationship with Habitat for Humanity will continue for years to come. Not only are the lives of families who are recipients of new homes impacted, but the lessons learned through relationship and Christian values have a transforming impact on the lives of our students.



St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Parish
1800 East Grand Avenue
Laramie WY 82070-4316

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Alumni Event

Coming Home to St. Paul's Newman Center

Mark your calendar for the October 29-30, 2017 weekend. On Saturday, we hope you will be in town for Homecoming when the Cowboys will meet the Lobos of New Mexico on the gridiron. Then on Sunday, you are invited to worship with us at the 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. Liturgy. Brunch will be served between Liturgies. This will be an "egg"-citing time to reconnect with other alumni and friends. Please RSVP to myra@newmancenter.org



ST. PAUL'S NEWMAN CENTER

60th Anniversary

1957-2017