

WYOMING Catholics

St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Community

Winter 2017

"And let us run with endurance the race
God has set before us." —Hebrews 12: 1



From Left: Joe Harlow, Karly Thompson and Brendan Massey at Fall SEARCH Retreat

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Leading Us Into the Future

The energy in the room and the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable as 85 members of our community gathered on December 4 to hear a summary report of over 1500 person hours of study and prayer. For the past several months our community has been discerning the future of St. Paul's Newman Center. We have listened to informative presentations by Ken Griesemer, a Liturgical Design Consultant, as he walked us through the past 2000 years of church history; both in architecture and in the way the Eucharist has been celebrated. We have studied the church's teaching about reserving the Blessed Sacrament and the importance of sacred art and devotional space. At the same time, we have continued to explore the space needs for gathering and formation, student campus ministry, and providing direct

service to the Laramie community. At the December meeting, those gathered affirmed the plan to move forward with the architectural firm of Malone Belton Able, P.C. (MBA). MBA will gather information about our existing facilities and make recommendations about what could be repurposed or renovated and what might need to be constructed to make the dreams of our community a reality. On

"This is a project that will impact Campus Ministry for decades to come."

February 18, 2018, MBA will return for another town-hall meeting during which they will present a master plan for the use of the property of St. Paul's.

I share the sincere desire of all involved in this project to share as much information as possible with as many people as possible. This is a project that will impact Campus Ministry for decades to come.

As a supporter of the ministry of St. Paul's over the years, please

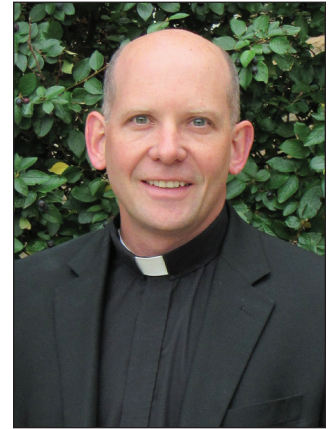
join us in praying for the continued guidance of God's Holy Spirit as we move forward. The need for facility expansion is the result of the hard work of the staff and community at St. Paul's.

The number of students involved in Campus Ministry continues to grow. Thank you for your support of finances and prayers that is allowing the mission of St. Paul's to thrive.

In this newsletter, you will learn about the purchase of a new house for Campus Ministry, the growth in Hispanic Ministry, and a deepening desire of our students to be involved in service. May your experience of Christmas, be a new incarnation of God's love in your life.

Blessings and Peace,

Fr. Rob



One of 6 presentations to evaluate needs



Knock and the Door Shall Be Opened

As the ministry of St. Paul's Newman Center continues to grow, so does our need for space. This summer, the Newman Center was presented with an opportunity to purchase a well-built, home at the corner of 18th and Garfield Streets. This home was built in the 1950s for John and Patricia Guthrie and has been their family home until last year when Patricia died.

Legacy of Faith funds (earmarked in 1999 by the Diocese of Cheyenne for property expansion at St. Paul's Newman Center) were used for the purchase and minor renovation costs (cleaning, painting and minor repairs/upgrades). For now, the property will be used as additional campus ministry space. Our university students are especially excited and have been very involved in removing wallpaper (it was everywhere!), pulling carpet, cleaning and painting.

The students are utilizing the space for study and for Cowboy Catholic meetings, using the main areas of the house. The large rooms on the west side have been painted, floors refinished and carpeted. Next on the agenda is to paint and refinish floors in the three bedrooms and, soon, open those rooms for use, as well.



Newman Students taking advantage of a spacious study space

Winter Break Mission Trip - Nazareth Farm in West Virginia

During Winter Break in January, 8 students and 2 residents from the Newman Center are headed to Nazareth Farm, a Catholic community in rural West Virginia that transforms lives through a service-retreat experience. Our students will join the Nazareth Farm mission of serving alongside their neighbors to address substandard housing by providing home repair. The week also will afford our students a great opportunity to experience rural poverty, to learn about Catholic Social Teaching and environmental justice, and to grow in the Farm's four cornerstones: prayer, simple living, community, and service. This is a new Mission Retreat trip provided by Campus Ministry, one which will help form our students as servant leaders at St. Paul's Newman Center and beyond.



Cowboy Catholic: Wrangling Faith Issues

-Lillie Romeiser



Lillie Romeiser

The Fall proved to be an engaging and fruitful semester for Cowboy Catholic, the new name for the weekly “Catholics on Campus” meeting. A group of about fifty students gathers every Wednesday evening in Bishop Newell Hall for a time of prayer, learning, discussion, and

fellowship. Topics covered have included Mary and the saints, the liturgy, marriage, theology of the body, and the history of the Church.

A highlight was welcoming speakers Clareesa and Ryan King from Casper, who shared about their marriage discernment and what it has looked like to follow the Lord in their marital life together.

As the student musical team has

solidified and improved over the course of the semester, Cowboy Catholic also has featured three “Praise & Adoration” nights, with musical worship and Eucharistic adoration.

The students who meet at Cowboy Catholic are willing to dig deep into their faith, ask hard questions, and share vulnerably with one another. Each Wednesday with these students is a blessing

Sunday Supper: Feeding Body and Soul

Towards the end of the summer, the Newman Center staff made the hard decision of changing the format of Sunday Supper to a meal for students only, that would be offered every week. This decision was the result of our logistical difficulty with space, as our ever-increasing number of students has caused us to outgrow Bishop Newell Hall for these dinners.

Though we lament this change and continue to look for new ways to build bridges between students and residents, having weekly Sunday Suppers has allowed for greater consistency and a sense of peaceful welcome for students. Britt Benz agrees that this change has its advantages and disadvantages. “It’s unfortunate that we lose this opportunity to be with the resident parishioners but I have noticed more student interaction during these dinners since the change. Numbers seems to have doubled due to a welcoming and amiable setting for the students where they feel comfortable to linger and build

relationships. This paves the way for them to get involved with other campus ministry events.”

The simple meals allow for an enriched time of fellowship following Liturgy, as well as an increased sense of involvement and service for students, many of whom are helping prepare the meal, do dishes, and clean-up the hall following dinner. The students living in the Women’s house has cooked one Sunday Supper each month - from chicken enchiladas to a gigantic potato bar.

Our hope is that Sunday Supper provides an open door for students to get involved in campus ministry events, especially those who might be more hesitant to attend a Bible

Brotherhood Dinners Create Fellowship

When young men desire to share faith, or need a comfortable place to talk through life’s issues, the Brotherhood provides that opportunity. College-aged men are invited for a weekly dinner to connect with other men seeking Christ. Beyond sharing a meal and discussion, the Brotherhood helps with Newman needs, hosts football carpark, and plans campouts like the one below.



Brotherhood from left: Taylor Vignaroli, Zach Parsons, Patrick Rodgers, Britt Benz, David King, and Matt Jones.

Study or Cowboy Catholic. The sense of outreach and camaraderie amongst students is at an all-time high, and Sunday Supper is an integral part of this!

¿En qué puedo servirle?- How may I Help You? Hispanic Ministry - Sandra Loza

Outreach to our Latino brothers and sisters in our faith community has resulted in increased numbers of Hispanic families actively participating at St.



Paul's Newman Center. Over the past two years, parish leadership has been looking for ways to better minister to Latino students at the University and to engage the entire Hispanic community in Laramie.

St. Paul's has offered various celebrations in Spanish and tried to meet the needs for sacramental preparation. Unfortunately, because Father Rob was the only staff member able to speak Spanish, it was difficult to effectively minister to all the needs being presented.

This summer, recent UW alumna, Sandra Loza, was hired as the Administrative Assistant. Sandra is bilingual and has extensive experience working in Gillette with the Hispanic community. For Sandra, church is family. "It is where I can be myself and

surround myself with individuals who believe in the same principles. It is a place where I can ask for help, while also being able to help others. Being a Spanish-speaking parishioner taught me to be open to change. Mother Teresa once said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.' I am forever grateful to St. Paul's Newman Center and Father Rob for giving me the opportunity to 'do small things with great love.'"

As St. Paul's Newman Center's first bilingual Administrative Assistant, Sandra is helping to meet the spiritual, sacramental, and social needs of Hispanic families in our parish. Language plays an important role in the process

of faith formation of Hispanic Catholics. Being bilingual is creating trust that facilitates belonging and participation as we celebrate the diversity of our Catholic family.

Leadership at St. Paul's Newman Center has been working hard to provide and use bilingual resources which invite the

"Being bilingual is creating trust that facilitates belonging and participation..."

integration into parish life of Hispanic Catholics of all ages. Awareness related to immigration rights, a topic that is often overlooked, is being addressed. Most importantly, Liturgy of the Eucharist is being prayed in Spanish every Thursday!

A Close Encounter: Christ in the City

Since the initial mission trip in March, students are routinely devoting weekends to encounter and serve those experiencing poverty and homelessness in Denver with Christ in the City



Back row from left: Lillie Romeiser, Lindsay McCauley, Fr. Rob, Mady Lundblad, Wyatt Overton, Julie Cathey. Front from left: Kianna Olson, Catie McMorro, Brenna Fankell, Blair Mothersbaugh, Elizabeth Wiley, Serena Zwart-Schafer, Britt Benz, Aimee Gray.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Let us know what is happening in your life! We look forward to visits from alumni, parents, and friends. You are an important part of who we are and you are always welcome.

Homecoming Alumni Brunch

We were pleased to host and welcome alumni and their families for brunch on Homecoming weekend. A bonus to the meal was the Staff Banana Nut Bake-off. Alumni sampled and voted for their favorite. Director of Campus Ministry Lillie Romeiser's entry won bragging rights until the next staff cooking competition.



Bohnsack and Revell-Muggli Families

SimpleGive

Thank you for the many ways you support Campus Ministry. More and more donors are using the convenience and ease of electronic donations. Two regularly used options are:

- Click the "DONATE NOW" button on the home page of our website, newmancenter.org. You can quickly and easily make a credit card donation through SimpleGive
- Contact Sandy in the parish office sandy@newmancenter.org, 745-5461 to set up secure and easy automatic withdrawal from your banking account.