

Newman News



St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Community
Fall 2018

To connect and inform our Faith Community

Upcoming Events

Las Posadas

December 13-21

Communal Reconciliation at St. Laurence O'Toole

December 16

Christmas Liturgies

December 24-25

Mission Trip to Panama World Youth Day

January 18-27

Ministry Behind the Scenes - Fr. Rob Spaulding

Many times, significant work and ministry happens “behind the scenes.” This edition of *Newman News* highlights some of the important ministry in our community that many of us don't regularly see. These ministers are living the words of Jesus, “*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,*” Mk 10:45.

One of the ministries you will read about, the Ministry of Presence and Friendship, is a result of the past year of study and prayer about the future of St. Paul's Newman Center. You might remember as we were having community meetings regarding our facility needs, smaller groups were meeting to address the pillars of our faith community: 1) Worship and Prayer, 2) Formation and Gathering, 3) Campus Student Ministry, and 4) Direct Service to the Laramie Community.

As we were seeking to identify the best way to serve the Laramie community, again and again, we encountered the reality of isolation. We know that the poverty of loneliness can be as difficult as material poverty. The Ministry of Presence and Friendship is a way for members of St. Paul's to share life and love with our brothers and sisters experiencing isolation in Laramie. Look inside this edition for more information.

In the spring edition of *Newman News*, I shared with you the results of the facilities assessment performed by the architectural firm MBA. “We estimate that renovating the facility to current standards would cost between \$4.5 and \$5.5 million. This would not include any additions; just working within the existing building footprint,” (Facilities Assessment, p. 24). With this information and the advice of Bishop Steven, we began moving forward with the process of designing a new facility.

You haven't heard much lately, because most of the work has been “behind the scenes.” MBA is preparing and refining renderings to be used for an external capital campaign. PartnersEdge has been analyzing our financial data to prepare a financial impact assessment of a new facility. I've been working with Bishop Steven to determine the best time to begin fundraising. Because this project will require support from the entire diocese and beyond, we need to coordinate our fundraising efforts with other diocesan projects.



Pedestrian level NE view sketch

[cont. on page 2]

Behind the Scenes [cont. from page 1]

I hope that seeing this early-stage rendering renews the excitement in you. It has been a delight to work together listening to God's Spirit as we build faith and build space at St. Paul's. Thank you for your ministry of presence to one another in this community as we strive to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. As we prepare to celebrate the Incarnation, please consider inviting someone to join you for our Christmas liturgies.

Quiet Presence Gracing our Community-Myra Belser

“Goodness, I never thought that playing in the dirt could be called a ministry,” remarks **Karen Gabriel** who has been planting and maintaining the flower barrels and boxes at the parish entryway for the last few summers. “It’s just good ole fun! I love picking out the flowers. I’m not much on mixing tons of different colors or flowers. And as you have probably have noticed, geraniums have graced the back entryway each year. Most often, petunias have been my other choice. They are so colorful and showy. They like our Wyoming summers and seldom get so leggy as to become unattractive.”



Karen Gabriel tending geraniums

“Gardening, watering, and digging in the dirt are pretty mindless. It gives me a bit of time of think, reflect, and just be. Besides, I get to work in cahoots with the TOP gardener.”

Jay Johnson said “yes” to the invitation to begin the ministry of sacristan. In this ministry, Jay helps to prepare for our weekend liturgies. He cleans the holy water fonts, sets the lectionary for the readings, brings the chalices and linens to the credence table, and prepares the bread and wine. Jay also attends to the candles in the Blessed Sacrament chapel making sure that everything is in place. This ministry is helpful every weekend, but especially when we have a visiting priest. It is a great comfort knowing Jay will be there to attend to any need.

Jay quietly slips in the back door, performs his duties then slips back out. “I prefer this ministry where I don’t have to be in front of the community,” he chuckles.

These two individuals exemplify doing small things with great love to serve our parish community.



Jay Johnson preparing the lectionary for Liturgy

Ministry of Presence & Friendship

“What is a need in our community that is not being met?” This question guided the investigation and prayer of the pillar #4 group this past year as they worked to identify ways for St. Paul’s to provide direct service to the Laramie community. One result was the creation of the Ministry of Presence and Friendship. This ministry is less about doing and more about being. As we made our stewardship of talent commitments in October, 55 parishioners signed-up to bring companionship and care through this ministry.

Beginning this ministry requires much preparation. We need to identify coordinators and develop training for the ministers. We also need to fulfill diocesan requirements for safe environment instruction and completion of background checks. Then we hope to work with local helping organizations like the Soup Kitchen, Interfaith Good Samaritan, and the Epson Center to learn the names of those who would benefit from this ministry.

As we prepare for the Christmas season, may we take time to be intentionally present to one another. In the Incarnation, God took on flesh in Jesus and now continues to take on flesh in us.



As those seeking assistance wait to consult with Chris Aneiros, our Charity Outreach Coordinator, Brenna Fankell and Julia Cathey spend time listening and offering empathy. In most cases, these individuals not only experience financial poverty, but spiritual poverty, as well. This ministry of presence restores dignity and reassures them that they are not alone.

Campus Ministry - Wyatt Overton

Wyatt Overton is serving as Campus Ministry Intern. He wears many hats as he discerns his vocation. His gentle leadership is making a difference not only in his life but in the lives of the students with whom he ministers.

As an intern at the Newman Center I mostly help Lillie with Campus Ministry events, but I also lend a hand with other miscellaneous tasks around the church. I accepted this position after my plans to attend seminary fell through. I wasn't sure what God wanted me to do long term, but I knew I could serve Him and this community by working in Campus Ministry.



*Campus Ministry Intern
Wyatt Overton*

One of the best things I've experienced this year is the emergence of some awesome small group communities. Last year, after coming back from winter break, Lillie and

I discussed the direction for Campus Ministry. Through prayer, we realized we had both felt called to focus more on building smaller, intentional faith communities to support our church body as a whole. With that, small group ministry began. It has been a truly incredible experience to see our students form real and intimate relationships with each other, focused on God.

I've found that I've been growing in humility through this position. I've seen my own weakness and brokenness in some really profound ways, and somehow God has been using that brokenness to help others grow closer to Him. I was convinced my brokenness would detract from the gospel, but to my surprise it actually has been used to display it more clearly.

As I've grown in my awareness of my brokenness, Father Rob and Lillie have been a huge help to me. They've been a constant source of love and support. When the weight of the world and the pressures of life begin to take a toll, they are always there with compassion and love, encouraging me and showing me my goodness. I've been truly blessed by them and this whole community.

Expanding Space -Myra Belser

Blessings abound! This summer we had the good fortune to acquire a property at 1816 Garfield. As our ministry and facility needs are growing, this purchase gives us flexibility to fulfill our future needs.

Initial cleanup inside and out was successful compliments of Newman students and able hands from UW's BIG Event. Mike Morin, the parish maintenance coordinator, organized and worked side-by-side with these university students who cleaned up years of debris that transformed the outside areas of the property.

Removal of plant overgrowth and necessary indoor repairs are underway. We are currently discerning the best use of this property and welcome your input.



*Students, Ethan McCauley & Joe Adams, helping with
demolition*



Renovated Bathroom



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University Catholic Community
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Liturgy Schedule 2018

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Monday December 24
4:00, 7:00 & *10:00 p.m.
*note time change
Tuesday December 25
10:00 a.m.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph

Saturday December 29
5:00 p.m.
Sunday December 30
8:30, 11:00 a.m.

Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Monday December 31
5:15 p.m.
Tuesday January 1
10:00 a.m.

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday January 5
5:00 p.m.
Sunday January 6
8:30, 11:00 a.m.

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Saturday January 12
5:00 p.m.
Sunday January 13
8:30, 11:00 a.m.