



Building Faith with Newman



Javier H., Deputy Grand Knight Council 7689
Elgin, IL, Sophomore, Physiology

About this time last year, I was not involved with Newman as much as I am now. I would just come to Mass every Sunday, but it wasn't until the after the Fall Gala that I began becoming more involved with Newman. At first it started with becoming a member of the Student Ministry Team, and then from there I starting becoming more aware and more interested in the different activities, such as retreats, Food for Thought, Sunday Fun Days, adoration, and several other ones which I am unable to recall off the top of my head.

Before I came to Newman I wasn't really involved with the church. In fact my parents and I would go to church maybe once a month if that. I just wasn't close to the church or God. Once I came to Newman, something just kept bringing me back every Sunday. Ever since then, I've been more involved with the church. Before college I wouldn't have imagined myself coming to Mass every week, let alone every Thursday when I'm in town. I also would not have imagined myself becoming an extraordinary minister or becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus.

This Newman Center provides a lot for us, not just students but the community. It provides us with staff who are friendly and approachable and who would be willing to assist us in any way possible. It provides a place to just get away from any school-related stress where we can hang out with friends, or just be in peace with our Lord. It also provides us with a community where people of the same, or close to the same age, share the same beliefs which is something that is really cool, especially on a college campus. Overall, Newman has become my second home here in Carbondale, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Kailey Z. Heyworth, IL
Sophomore, Environmental and Resource Geology

What hasn't Newman done for me that impacted my life? I can't pinpoint an event, but just a combination of everything Newman has to offer has changed my life for the better. I am a small group leader for a group of undergraduate students on west campus and I have absolutely loved being a part of that because not only am I helping others grow in their faith, but I am also helping myself grow closer to God, and helping to evangelize SIU. Without Newman and the people here I would not be where I am today in my faith at all. If you would have told me two years ago that I was on a student ministry team, leading a small group, and pretty much spending all of my free time in the Church I wouldn't have believed it, but thankfully that's where I am today.



A Newman Center is needed on a college campus because as much as students may say they don't need Church and God in their lives, they do. Most students deal with the stress of school, being away from home for the first time, trying to find themselves, etc. and without the rock of the Church and God, many can become lost. You are not only helping fund a church, but you are funding the faith life of so many students on campus. The money the Newman Center receives goes more than to just free food, events, and resources, it goes towards the relationship between God and the college students on campus.

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Mitch R., Council 7689, Pendleton, IN
Freshman, Theater and Mechanical Engineering

My first experience at Newman was what I marked as the true continuation of my Catholic faith on my own accord. It was the Thursday that I moved in, when I saw the Newman table set up in front of the Student Center. I knew what the Newman Center was and all, but at that point I wasn't the best Catholic. I had nothing to do that evening so I went to Thursday Mass and Food for Thought that first week. If it wasn't for that evening, I do not think that My faith would be as strong as it is now. Since then, I have become involved with many different groups through Newman. I participate in Food For Thought, Men's Morning Rosary, and Newman small



groups, as well as the intramural volleyball team. On top of that, I have served as a Eucharistic Minister and a Lector, and I joined the Knights of Columbus. The atmosphere at Newman is contagious. It is an amazing experience every Sunday to see Newman filled with so many young Catholic students that actually want to be at Mass! I come from an older farm town in the middle of Indiana, so it was a bit of culture shock the first Sunday seeing so many young faces, but I soon learned that the Newman community is truly one big family. Everyone is friends, and everyone I have met through Newman has been amazing. Without the community built at Newman, I feel that my faith would have just vanished when I got to college. Any time that I am feeling completely overwhelmed with school, I always have a place to get away in Newman, and even if the doors are closed, there is someone that I know through Newman that will open their heart and ears and help me through it. The Newman Center is an absolutely necessary part of campus. Without a Newman Center on campus, there would not be nearly as many young Catholics, just because of the sheer effort of finding a local parish and walking there. Thank you so much to all of our sponsors, and God bless! Without you, none of this would be possible. You truly are helping the spiritual health of our generation.



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