

FULL CIRCLE



FALL
2011

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Letter from the Director

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It's hard to believe that the 16 weeks of the semester is quickly coming to an end on December 9th. Maybe because of my longevity here it seems that each semester goes by quicker. But as with all semesters this one has been a time of favor and grace from the Lord. Countless students benefit from the many programs of the Blessed John Paul II Newman Center. Because of the generosity of our benefactors we are able to offer many opportunities for spiritual growth education and formation.

The end of the semester always signifies the beginning of the holy season of Advent. With the beginning of the new liturgical year the Church in English speaking countries has adopted a new translation for various parts of the Mass. We have already been exposed to that. Our students have been prepared for this change since the end of September when the various proper parts of the Mass were taught to be sung. In the 4 weeks prior to Advent, Stephen Cavill, our liturgists and musician, went through the various parts of the Mass and explained once again for the students what they were, how they were important and how the new translation would impact them. Now is the time for the implementation.

The important point for me in the new translation is that it would put us into deeper unity with the words of the Mass throughout the world. By reflecting the original Latin, it will unite us as one Catholic family throughout the world. Because our students come from so many different countries they will see the same similarities wherever they are. The season of Advent brings us face to face with the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas. Sometimes it's easy to get wrapped up (no pun intended) in gift giving, parties, baking cookies and buying gifts during this season. A profound mystery though lies in the feast of Christmas. The Incarnation is celebrated to remind us how extremely important it is that God become one of us to share in our humanity and to transform our humanity with his divinity. What an incredible gift we have been given by God in the person of Jesus Christ. The challenge of Christmas and throughout the year is to live as Jesus lived. In our culture and society today this is a formidable task.

Advent helps us to reflect on the importance of that task and to focus on what is essential in following Christ. It is a period of expectant waiting to see how our Lord is born again into the fabric of our lives. Thank you to our benefactors, to our staff, and to our students for the many ways that we see the Incarnate Lord become present in this holy place. May you and your families be blessed during this Christmas season with good health and many gifts in the year to come.

Sincerely,



Rev. Patrick M. Marshall
Director and Chaplain



Vocation Discernment Group

One of the most important aspects of the Newman Center's mission is for each young person. To be reflective of how they can share their faith in the careers that God's calling them to, in the world and in the church. It is a privilege to see how many young people from here take their faith and integrated into their careers. We have been blessed in abundance of priestly and religious vocations during this time.

The Reverend Mr. Thomas Boharic, Newman alumnus was ordained to the diaconate at the end of October in preparation for ordination to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Chicago in May 2012. I was fortunate to concelebrate Deacon's Tom ordination Mass and it was with humility that I saw this young man whom I knew as an 18 year old accept Holy Orders from the Church. Tom will make a great priest for our local church.

We're also privileged to have had Deacon Patrick McConnell with us this past year and a half. Patrick served at the Newman Center last year as a seminarian and became very involved with the students and the center. He decided that he would like to spend his Diaconate training here. What a blessing he's been to our community. Deacon Patrick will be ordained as a priest for the Diocesan of Superior, Wisconsin in June 2012. Deacon Patrick enjoys the great respect and enthusiasm of our young students as they see a young man just a few years older than them called to ordination.

Fred Cabras, a student that graduated from the university last December entered the postulancy of the Capuchin Franciscan Friars in August of this year. Fred was active in our discernment program and now feels that he is called to the Franciscan way of life. Megan Zerwic, a health Science student, entered the Sisters of Life this past August and is now in the postulancy for that special community of Sisters based in New York protecting life from conception to natural death.

Two more young men who have been in our discernment program have already committed to entering St. Mary of the Lake seminary in Mundelein next fall. In addition to them, there is another student who is discerning if

this will be his calling. Two of our alumni are discerning entering Mundelein Seminary next year. We continue to have over a dozen students who are interested in priestly and religious vocations.

We pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life at every Mass, during the week. One of the privileges I have is witnessing so many of the weddings of our Newman alumni. I recently returned from a trip to Dubai to marry Karl Jackson and Karen Guerrero who met at the Newman Center while they were students here in 2005.

What an exciting experience that was! I presided at George Totleben and Carmen Mora's wedding in September at St. Mary's church in Riverside. George was very active from the time he was in the beginning of his freshman year at the Newman Center. He works in the area of Psycho Therapy. There are many others that I could mention beyond those that I have mentioned. I have been privileged to baptize many of children from Alums, Newman alumni, and witness their marriages. Our family continues to grow from infancy on!

In addition, it's wonderful to see so many of our students enter into their chosen careers and interface their careers with living their Catholic faith. We have Newman alumni who are doctors and nurses, who are physical therapists, and occupational therapists, who are lawyers, and engineers, who are social workers and care givers, who are teachers and architects and many more besides. The Newman Center is truly a blessed place to be and I am honored and humbled to serve here to continue to watch how the Spirit of God blesses this place and those that come through it.

Please continue to pray for us each day.



Rev. Patrick M. Marshall
Director and Chaplain

The Integritas Institute for Ethics



The Integritas Institute for Ethics has had a busy fall and has put together a full docket for the Spring Semester as well. Integritas' program, for now, consists of three main foci: 1) its annual conferences in business ethics and bioethics, 2) its once per month distinguished speakers series in medical ethics/bioethics and in business ethics, 3) its ongoing chaplaincy to emerging professionals in the UIC community. In coming years, Integritas looks to expand its reach into publishing and into other schools and colleges at UIC.

In Fall 2011, Integritas hosted its annual conference in business ethics, "The Ethics of Debt: Owing and Lending in the Great Recession." Over 300 UIC business students participated in interactive presentations on the ethics of lending and borrowing in the midst of economic crisis and uncertainty.

Among our speakers, Mr. Dennis Quaid brought over forty years in bankruptcy law practice to bear on the ethical reasons for, and challenges to, the 'fresh start' in discharge of debts as enshrined in the Federal Bankruptcy Code. Dr. Philip Ashton, from UIC's College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, presented his research on the emergence of the mortgage crisis in the Chicago context and what lessons can be learned therefrom.

Senior Fellow, Sean LaBat, keynoted the conference by casting financial relationships as a spiritual concern in an overview of St. John Chrysostom's homilies on wealth and poverty. Integritas continues the dialogue on ethics throughout the year in its regular speakers on medical and business ethics.

Integritas has hosted speakers on such topics as spiritual support for parents and child patients in

pediatric oncology, health care as human right and medical practice in a missionary context. Integritas has continued its partnership with the UIC College of Business Administration in hosting the CBA's annual honor code presentation for new and ongoing undergraduate business students. Dean Robin Brierton and Professor Anthony Pagano underlined the role of dishonesty in business practices in facilitating the economic collapse of 2008. In Spring 2012, Integritas anticipates hosting presentations on such topics as ethical negotiations to facilitate building of institutional structures in face of community opposition and relative corporate responsibilities to shareholders as compared to the larger community in which the corporation resides.

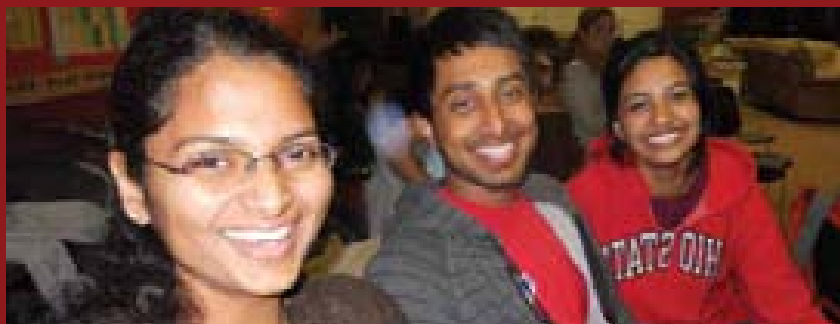
Integritas builds on Blessed John Henry Newman's vision of church service in the midst of state and secular institutions of higher learning. Integritas upholds the principal that all decisions, including business and medical decisions are, in the end, spiritual decisions.

Integritas facilitates that unity of spirit with professional duty via programs for regular prayer and liturgical observance on both sides of the UIC campus. This Fall, for example, Integritas hosted an All Saints liturgy as well as a blessing of water and medical instruments. The Senior Fellow also stands available for individualized support and counsel on spiritual and ethical matters.

The Institute, as always, asks for your prayers and support for the coming semester. May you have a blessed Nativity and New Year.

Rev. Sean J. LaBat
Senior Fellow, Integritas Institute

School of Catholic Thought



The Fall semester has been a busy one for our new School of Catholic Thought in every area of its endeavors. As the newest branch of the Blessed John Paul II Newman Center, the School has formed a Board of Directors under the direction of Bishop Joseph Perry, an Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Bishop Perry's able leadership has allowed the Board to chart a course for the future that should prove to be educationally sound and fruitful for the development of a new generation of Catholic leaders.

In addition, I am forming an Academic Advisory Council consisting of top-notch scholars and professors from all over the country who will advise me and Fr. Marshall about the direction and program of the School.

We are pleased to announce the addition of two new faculty members of the SCT who bring with them an intimate knowledge of the Catholic intellectual tradition as well as specialized knowledge of their academic fields.

Dr. Daniel Toma has been appointed Associate Fellow for the Natural Sciences and Dr. Richard Cross has been appointed Associate Fellow for the Human Sciences.

Richard Cross has been a university professor for a number of years before entering into a private practice. Daniel Toma is an Associate Professor of Biology at Minnesota State University who specializes in behavioral genetics. He lectured for us on November 17th, on the topic of "Intelligence: An Alternative Framework of Biology and the Sciences."

His lecture was a huge success. In the spring, we expect Dr. Cross to visit us and lecture on an appropriate topic in human psychology. We are blessed to have our Newman Theology Group this year that meets Monday and Tuesday every week during the semester.

Our FOCUS missionaries and several highly committed students are enjoying working their way through the themes suggested in reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church, themes such as the Trinity, the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

In the second semester we will cover the sacraments, morality, and spirituality. Father Marshall and I have been involved in outreach to the University of Illinois through private meetings with faculty and staff as well as hosting social events such as a Wine and Cheese Reception in late October.

We feel confident that as faculty and staff of the university get to know us better, many fruitful connections will result.

We are reviving an old friendship between the Center and the College of Education that will help current students as well as Catholic high school teachers achieve certifications required by the Archdiocese Office of Catholic Schools.

Kenneth J. Howell Ph.D.
Senior Fellow, School of Catholic Thought

Christian Leadership Formation

The Christian Leadership Formation (CLF) programs at the JP2 Newman Center are comprised of various ministries that allow students the opportunity to put their faith into action. These programs can be divided into opportunities for community, education, service, and spirituality. The strength of our CLF programs is that they are student-led. Our ten-member student board works together to plan and implement the various programs and ministries that we offer the Newman community. In this way, we are empowering students to become the future leaders in their parishes after they leave UIC.

Our Newman community has had many successes this semester already. Our students enjoyed community and fellowship at our Newman Halloween Party, participating in a pumpkin decoration contest and a costume contest. Students have enjoyed the educational opportunities like the event A Greater Love, in which three speakers discussed sexuality and healthy relationship and several students gave personal testimonies about chastity.

Students are living the Corporal Works of Mercy and Catholic Social teaching by participating in our monthly service trip to Our Lady of the Angels, where we distribute food to poor neighbors. All of these examples of faith in action are possible due to the deep personal relationship that students are developing with Christ through opportunities like our monthly

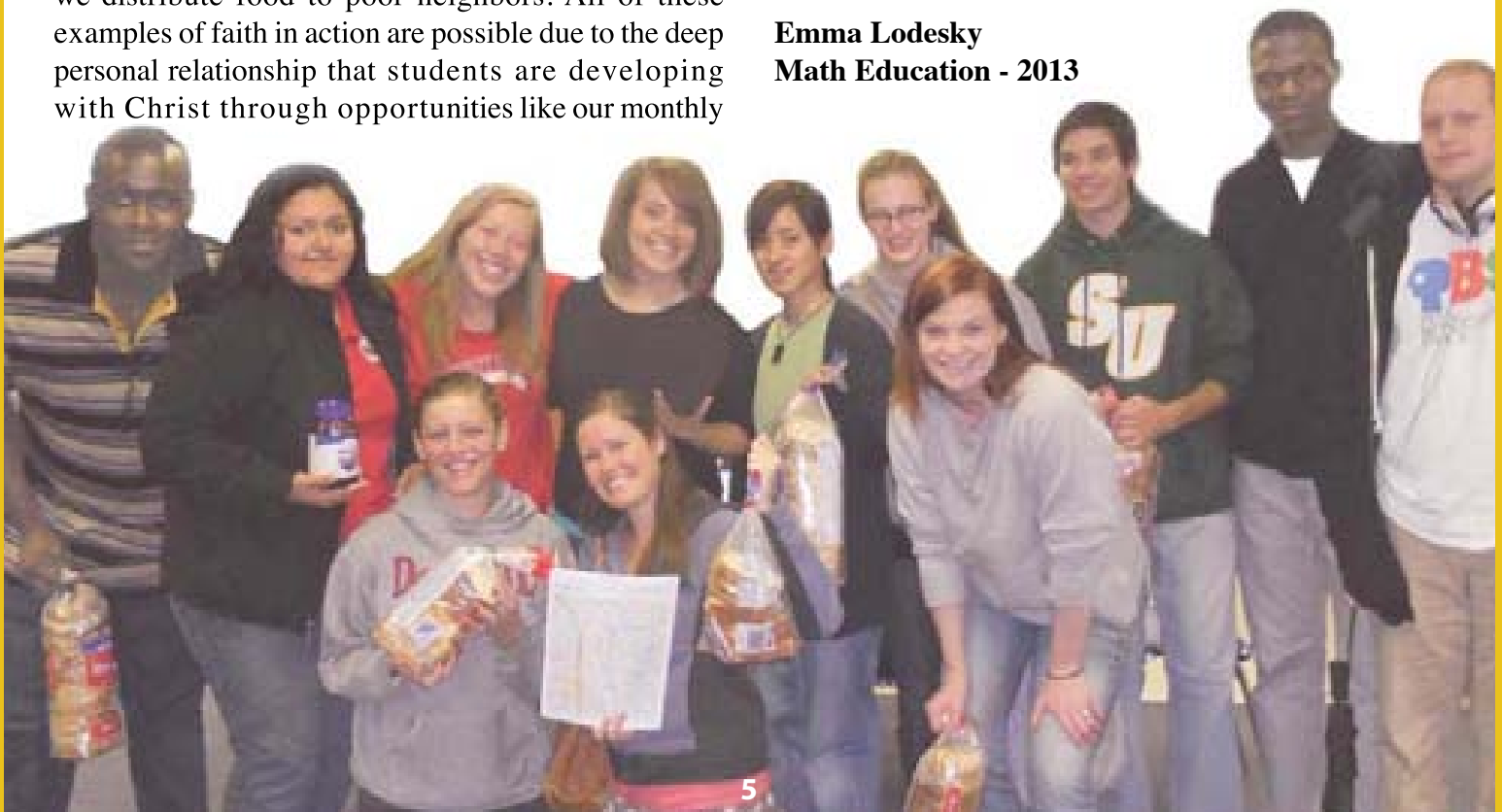
Candlelit Adoration, in which students praise and worship our Lord through song, scripture, prayer, and silence. It is this focus on the Eucharist as the source and summit of our faith and our life that makes our many CLF programs successful.

Molly S. Mungovan
Director of Campus Ministry

Service Projects

One of my favorite service events I've participated in this semester at the Newman Center was Sandwich Sunday. For this event, we gathered a large group of people after the 11am Mass and made tons of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to give to hungry people in the streets of Chicago. Once all of the sandwiches were made, several of us went out and brought them to people. This was the part that I enjoyed most because we took time to talk to the people we were giving sandwiches to. We got into some really interesting conversations, which was such a blessing because we were able to relate to the people we were serving on a more personal basis. It was wonderful to see how well this went, and it was such a beautiful way to serve Christ in the poor.

Emma Lodesky
Math Education - 2013



Koinonia Retreat

This October 7-9 we had our Newman Center Koinonia Retreat. Koinonia means “community” in Greek, so it is no wonder that on this retreat, God truly opened my eyes to see the depth of the meaning “community” and to witness the beauty as the community blossomed over the weekend. I realized on this Koinonia, JPK 6, how there is something special that occurs on this retreat – an overall opening up and revealing of hearts which then gives way to the opportunity of the participants to grow together and bond to the point of unity as one body in Christ – mirroring our theme of JPK6 of “We are the body”.

It was beautiful to see each person with his/her unique talents, and to see how together as one we glorify Him with the gifts He has given us. I was blessed to witness the coming together of the community, creating a place where love could grow and where His love flowing freely could light a fire to burn in each heart. It is in that flame that I saw God working and moving, softening hearts, humbling intellects and transforming His children.

JPK has been a blessing in my life and has brought me in to a deeper conversion with each retreat by seeing college students imitating the lives of the apostles, living and growing together, even if for just one simple weekend. So as the semester draws to an end, I thank God for the experience to see the Holy Spirit at work in our Newman Community through the Koinonia retreat – JPK6.

Deborah Happ
International Studies - 2013

My name is Andy Park and I was the Lay Director for the most recent Koinonia retreat, called JPK6. I have been on every single JPK retreat at UIC except the very first one. The first koinonia I attended was at U of I in Champaign. I had missed the one at UIC and my sister really wanted me to go on this retreat. At the time I was in a really bad relationship leading me down a path I didn't want to be on.

My sister begged me to go and even offered to drive me both ways and pay for me so I figured “What do I have to lose; this might even be good for me!” And so it was. It changed my life; it let me know that there are other people out there my age, who weren't socially awkward that believed what I believed, struggled with what I have struggled with, and had the same questions that I had.

I wanted to give back and being apart of the Koinonia retreat team for subsequent Koinonias was what I felt I was called to and so five Koinonias later I found myself leading and directing a Koinonia of my own. The community has kept me accountable and has helped me grow as a person, and although it's not the same experience for everyone I would strongly urge everyone to go and see what they can get out of it, because there truly is much to be gained from the experience.

Andy Park
Kinesiology - 2012



Liturgy and Music

On October 5th, 2011, we had a liturgical evening of reflection for students who participate in the liturgical ministries at the Newman Center. The event lasted from 6pm until 8pm and consisted of a pizza dinner, and then a group reflection in the chapel which lasted about an hour.

As I was preparing to lead the students through the evening of reflection, I wondered what I might say or what topic I might touch on to help them deepen their communion with the Triune God. Would I tell them to slow down? To not work so hard? To rearrange their priorities? I concluded that I could not tell them that they were too busy, or misguided in their priorities, or spread too thin. That was not my call. What I could bring their attention to was God offering himself to them in the midst of their everyday lives, however busy. The evening of reflection focused on Grace as God's personal self-communication. We reminded ourselves of six characteristics of Grace (Grace is relational, free, universal, bountiful, victorious, and liberating) and how we might open ourselves more to its reality in our lives. I think this was helpful to students because as they come to a better understanding of what Grace is, they are more able to recognize it and name it in their lives and in the

lives of their friends. The evening of reflection closed with a song that had the chorus, "A listening heart give us O God, that we may always hear your voice"—a fitting message for a sometimes distracted people whose God is always whispering to them.

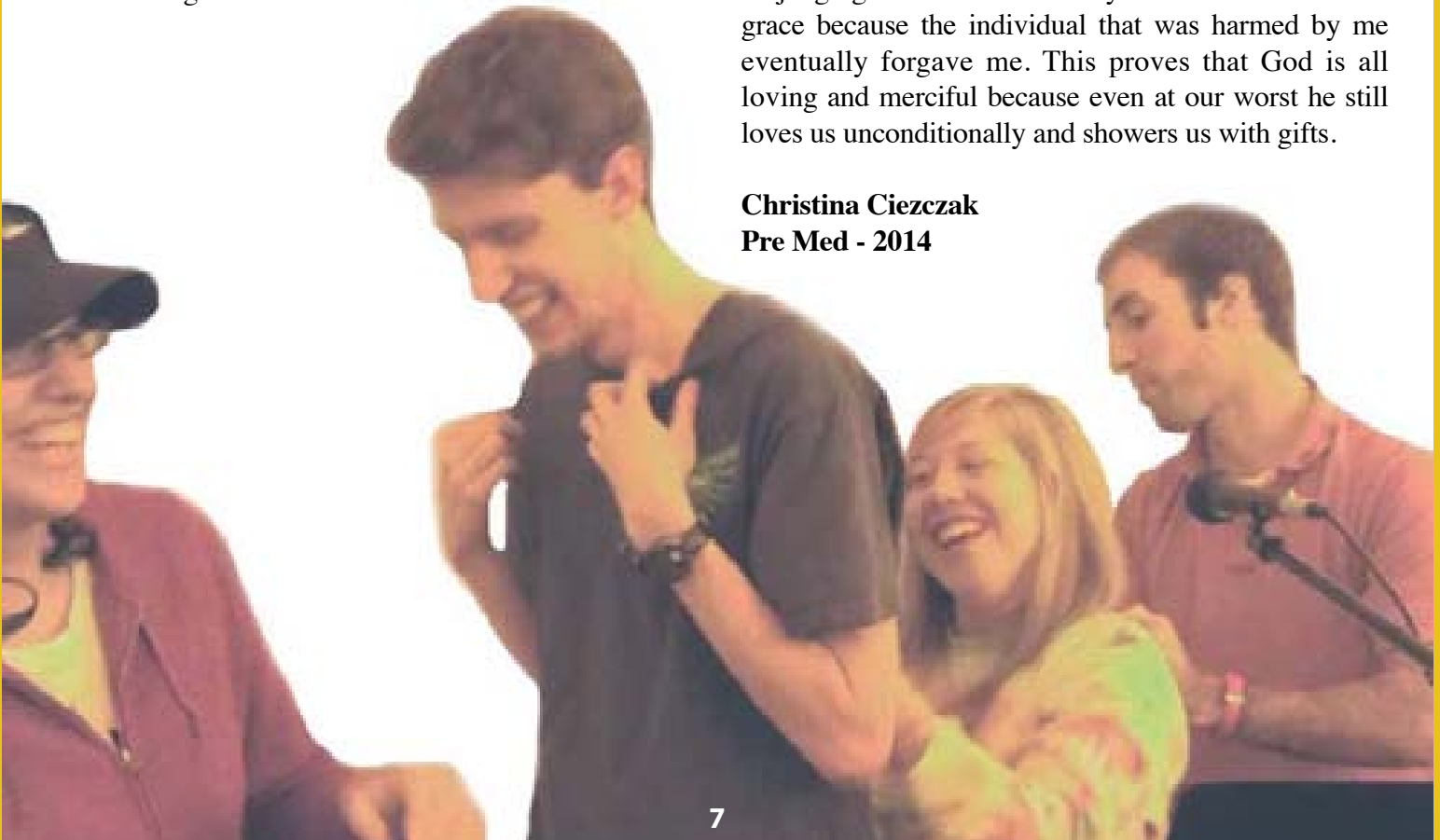
Stephen Cavill
Director of Liturgy and Music

Grace Reflection

Grace is a topic that is not often discussed and not understood well. I was one of the individuals that did not understand grace very well and did not realize it. Stephen gave a talk one evening about grace that opened my eyes and defined what grace is. Grace is a never ending gift given to us, humans, by God. One thing that struck me was that even if we do not know or want to receive God's gift of grace we are constantly receiving it.

This fact truly affected me because I was able to apply it to my own life. Even at the lowest points in my life I was still being constantly affected by God's wonderful grace. Every time I make a mistake by becoming angry or judging someone incorrectly and I received God's grace because the individual that was harmed by me eventually forgave me. This proves that God is all loving and merciful because even at our worst he still loves us unconditionally and showers us with gifts.

Christina Cieczak
Pre Med - 2014



Men's Night Reflection

Between 15 and 20 men gathered together to hear a talk called, 'Men of Life.' and we covered why the Catholic Church takes a pro-life stance on issues such as euthanasia, abortion, and the death penalty. The talk was brief, but the discussion that broke out during the question and answer was filled with input. The issue clearly meant a lot to these men, and it was great to hear the way these men valued life. Afterwards, most of the men went bowling as a bonding activity.

Bryan Wilburn
FOCUS Missionary

The Mount Essay

It is a time each month where all of the UIC FOCUS missionaries and student leaders come together, listen to one of the missionaries give a talk on a specific topic and then together as a group we discuss. The mount is a time where we share in fellowship that fosters growth to be better disciples, disciplers, bible study leaders, evangelizers and overall better Catholics.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19), he said that to His disciples only

after He had invested in them, developed them as leaders and equipped them to go and change the world. In His three years of ministry, Jesus frequently took his beloved 12, stepped away from the crowds, brought them all together and prepared them in an intentional way, that they were so encouraged, that the love inside of them was uncontainable and compelled them to go out and share in this radical love, ultimately establishing the Church.

The talk given by Molly was exactly what I needed to hear to channel the fire inside of me inspired by the Holy Spirit and desire to fearlessly love everyone I meet and bring people to Jesus.

I am so thankful for this time set aside each month at the mount and see the sparks it creates within us. I am also grateful to have the FOCUS missionaries at our Newman Center to be our reliable team captains who give us the pep talks and teach by example in order to win the game – going to heaven and bringing others with us.

Thank you for your support and contributions to the Newman Center! I will be praying for each of you and ask for your continued prayers for all of the students, missionaries, and staff!

Deborah Happ
International Studies - 2013



Legacy of Second Vatican Council



The Second Vatican Council, also known as Vatican II, officially assembled almost 50 years ago, delivered significant change to the Roman Catholic Church. But a contemporary church leader says the changes were made for the sake of the world, rather than the church itself. Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, spoke at Student Center East last week on the legacy of Vatican II.

The cardinal's talk, the first public lecture presented by the UIC Catholic studies program, addressed the council's role in reassessing the position of the Catholic Church in the modern world and renewing liturgical practices and pastoral duties. Besides finishing the uncompleted work of the First Vatican Council, the second group had a missionary agenda influenced by war and divisions in the world during the first half of the 20th century.

Pope John XXIII considered that "if we're going to unite the world, then we have to talk to the world in a different way. Terms of scholastic philosophy and scholastic theology had become too rigid and weren't expressing human experience," said George, the first Chicago native to become archbishop of Chicago.

"Beyond that, the way in which the church related to other churches and organizations was too defensive." Years of council deliberations resulted in four constitutions — the

principal documents of the council, along with various decrees and declarations. The constitutions addressed reformation of the liturgy, doctrine of the church, scripture and divine revelation, and the relationship between the church and the world. The latter resulted in greater outreach and ministries.

Catholic bishops had a "new sense of mission" post-Vatican II; the contemporary impact of the changes depend on the individual, the cardinal said. "It's pretty clear to a lot of bishops that you have Catholics that are far more evangelical, far more missionary than they were before," he said.

While a majority of Catholics don't fit the evangelical mold, George cited young members of the faith for their efforts, with an attendance of over 1.5 million people at World Youth Day in Madrid this summer. "Nobody is Catholic on their own terms. It's a constant call to conversion," he explained. "There is no guarantee. That's why it is faith. You live in hope." George said he hopes the Catholic studies lecture series at UIC will "enrich the life, academic and cultural, of the university and will be a benefit to all of us."

Brian Flood (bflood@uic.edu)
UIC News

End of Year Giving

We prepare to enter the “Holiday Season” formerly known as the Christmas Season, a time when people think about families, giving, and their new year’s resolutions. The liturgical year comes to a close with the readings at Mass reflecting the end times and the need to prepare, for we do not know the time or the hour. There is a lot of preparation when something comes to a close; the day, we prepare for sleep and sometimes for the following morning, the week, similar to the end of a day, at the end of a month preparation for bills may be in order, and the end of the year is no exception with the traditional gift giving and added expense.

I would encourage you to consider the John Paul II Newman Center in your yearend preparation and in preparation for next year. The growth of our ministry is only possible through hard work and the generosity of our supporters. Your support allows us to keep reaching out to the students at UIC and help them grow in their personal relationship with Christ during our earthly pilgrimage, which will one day come to an end.

At the end of our lives we will account for everything, especially how much did we help to bring souls closer to Christ. A daily task we are all called to undertake just as we are called to take up our cross and follow Him. No gift is insignificant or unimportant and every gift is appreciated. Please remember the John Paul II Newman Center at the end of the year and for future giving.

Brendan J. Dempsey
Associate Director of Development

Catholic Studies

At UIC we recognize that the Catholic Church is an institution too important, both locally and globally, to exempt from academic study and interpretation. We also understand that religious identity is for many persons the aspect that defines them most clearly. Our courses therefore explore this tradition both macroscopically in historical surveys and microscopically in close readings of selected important texts.

The Schmitt Foundation, in supporting the creation of this program, wanted to promote religious literacy, which we take to mean an understanding of the power of religious ideas in culture and history. This requires recognizing that each religious tradition has its own understanding of the sacred and that the life of a religious community is the expression of that understanding. As our program expands we expect that diversity, both within and among religious traditions, will be an area of focus.

Our courses reflect our commitment to the study of religion in a secular academic setting. We teach with no other agenda than to try to present the tradition in such a way that its importance in the world can be understood by believers, other-believers, and non-believers equally. Guided by an interest in objectivity over advocacy, we see the classroom as an open forum for critical inquiry into the important moments and aspects of religious history. We invite you to explore with us.

Ralph J. Keen Ph.D
Chair of Catholic Studies

John Paul II Newman Center
at the University of Illinois at Chicago
700 South Morgan Street



Chicago, IL 60607
Phone: 312-226-1880
Fax: 312-226-2361
www.jp2newman.org

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WATCH FOR UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR SPIRITUS EMAIL NEWSLETTER IN JAN. 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

The John Paul II Newman Center bridges the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Church, as a living example of Catholic belief and service. The Newman Center convenes a conversation with all facets of Christian values, social justice and ethics in order to nurture the next generation of civic and Church leaders. The John Paul II Newman Center provides a Catholic community in which all are welcome and all are encouraged.

FULL CIRCLE

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