



# Newman Catholic Community

Serving Eastern Illinois University

December 2021

## Newman Notes

### A Phone Call From God . . .



Canoe Trip 2003

As I was getting ready for freshman year of college, a flyer came in the mail

for the Newman Catholic Center opening week events, and I packed it! From the very first Newman event I attended, I felt connected to a larger community. My parents were excited and relieved when I said I was spending the following weekend canoeing with other Newman Center students. From the beginning of my freshman year, the Newman Community was *my community*.

It was a phone call from God the night after my brother's wedding that had me return to Sunday Mass for the first time in over a year. It actually wasn't God, but a pretty brunette girl that had eyeballed me at the reception the previous night. For that, I am grateful. (Wife note.....Sorta true, this was 20 years ago, he had a cell phone I did not.) Upon my return to the Catholic Church, I must admit that I had some grumblings and misgivings about what the church was supposed to do for me and had not achieved for me in my formative years. My attendance to the Newman Catholic Center Mass revealed to me artifacts of the previous year that were quite different than what I had received growing up. I made up my mind that when I began my fall semester at EIU, I would give this Catholic thing another chance (and if that pretty brunette girl was still around that would be fine too).

Newman shaped our faith in action. From attending Mass

### GABRIEL ('06, '08) AND MARISSA ('06, '09) JERNEGAN GRANT

and events at Newman every day, there was always an opportunity to run into each other during those crucial days of starting a relationship.

Looking back at our undergraduate and graduate years, we participated in service trips, volunteered, and helped to create a warm and welcoming Newman Community. Our faith and sense of community grew as we joined the Knights of Columbus, After School Program, Haiti Connection, Phil's Angels, Young Catholic Scholars, Student Ministry Team and Small Groups. We made friends who understand the importance of faith in action on a college campus.

Students can come to Newman for a meal, a job, to jump start a car, have someone to talk to, receive a retreat scholarship, borrow a brownie pan, or maybe just use the whole kitchen. Newman was a place where we could pray (or in the words of Roy, plead your case to God throughout the semester) and encounter a friendly, warm and welcoming environment. In college, we needed a place to help us feel grounded.

We are now members of the permanent community and teachers at EIU. Seeing students in our classes that are part of the Newman Community continues to connect us. We are glad for them to have the support of Newman and be able to live their faith on *both sides* of Roosevelt Avenue.

We have two boys, ages 4 and 7. We want them to grow in their faith, but to also feel they are part of a community.



Gabe, Luke, Mark, and Marissa Grant



# Newman Notes

## 2021 Julian Hamerski Leadership Award Winners

### Anna Hemrich '22

When I came to EIU, I was so excited to start my classes as an accounting major and jump right into college. I didn't expect to be graduating four years later with a minor in religious studies and an entirely new perspective about my faith. I started the Catholic Scholars Program my sophomore year. This program



allows students to take theology classes at the Newman Center and obtain religious studies course credit at EIU. When I was approached about joining the Catholic Scholars Program, I was immediately on board. I have always loved being a student, and I was excited to learn more about the Church. The Catholic Scholars Program has of course taught me more about the Church and our faith, but more importantly, the program has *changed how I live*. I have developed a much deeper understanding and appreciation of the sacraments. I am starting to understand what it means to believe that the Eucharist is truly the source and summit of our lives. Developing this connection with the Eucharist has encouraged me to start attending daily Mass, which now brings me joy even at 7am. The love and grace I receive through the sacraments sustain me throughout my day, no matter what I have going on. I have fallen in love with this opportunity to encounter Jesus in such an intimate way. Learning about our faith and the sacraments in the context of a college classroom

has opened my eyes to the true meaning of grace and Christ's sacrificial love for us. This program has helped me realize that our faith is not something we just learn about or do. Faith makes us *who we are*.

### Brianna Bartosz '22



Looking back on my years at the Newman Center, I can truly see how getting involved has deepened my faith life. Previously, I was someone who went to Mass every week, and that was it. I was a "diet Catholic" only going to fulfill my Sunday obligation. My first Sunday as a sophomore, I was handed a registration card to fill out. On the back were

opportunities to join a small group and opportunities to express interest in volunteering with different ministries. I checked off a few that sounded interesting, turned in my card, and didn't think twice about it again. Later on that week, I got a text from someone who said they were going to be my small group leader, and asked if I wanted to meet to get to know each other. I also got emails about the other ministries that I had expressed interest in. This would be the beginning of the growth I would experience. I fell in love with serving my community and serving those in need. I became more and more involved, volunteering every opportunity I could and spending most of my days at the Newman Center.

Starting my junior year, I was invited to be a part of the Discipleship Team. This allowed me the opportunity for one on ones with a campus minister, which helped me shape my prayer life. We went through so many strategies and different ways of praying so that I could find what worked for my daily routine. My junior year also allowed me the opportunity to be part of the Catholic Scholars

Program, taking theology classes at the Newman Center. Because of this, I was able to learn about my faith on a deeper and more personal level. All of this takes me to my senior year here at EIU. I still spend most days at the Newman Center, continuing to volunteer and learn, doing it all to build a stronger connection with our Lord. The Newman Center has transformed my faith life, and I continue to learn and grow every day.



Anna (far left) and Bri (middle) at a student-hosted senior breakfast.

**Our Vision Statement:** To invite the EIU Community into transforming relationships with Christ and one another, empowering all to create a lasting impact in the world.



## Six Months In . . .

CATHERINE PORTER, CAMPUS MINISTER

"I really desire to grow." These are some of the most exciting words to hear as a campus minister. After having Alaina in my Sacramental Theology class this semester, I began to see her and her roommate at daily Mass each week. This beautiful commitment to engage in the sacramental life has filled her with the grace of the Holy Eucharist every day. The grace she has received stirred a desire inside her to commit to learning how to meditate on God's Word and grow as His disciple in many aspects of her life. So when she sat down in my office telling me she wanted to continue to grow *even more*, I smiled, giving thanks to the Lord for the grace that has awakened deeper faith within her. As we now begin to meet regularly to discuss prayer, it is a true consolation for me to witness Jesus' work in her heart firsthand.



Another student I meet with regularly, has suffered from an eye infection this semester, even causing her temporary blindness. Macy's many doctor appointments have pulled her away from her classes, roommates, and other commitments as well. The infection has impacted her life immensely. As we met and prayed together, I was deeply moved by her strength and convicted again of St. Paul's words, "for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Corinthians 12:10, ESV). Macy has faced so many moments of physical weakness, inconvenience, and suffering this semester. And yet, sitting with me sharing how she has seen Jesus work in this time, I was amazed by her strength in the Lord. For example, she is striving to use her "eye drop time" every two hours as a way to spend time in prayer throughout her day. It has been a grace for me to walk with Macy in this season of her life. I have learned so much from her about uniting our sufferings to the crucified Christ.

As I sit writing this reflection, I think about all of the stories like these two just from my first six months as a campus minister here at Newman. I am grateful every day for all God is doing in the students that I have encountered so far, and I am excited for all that is to come.

## A True Friend of Newman!

JEFF BOSHART (12/16/55–05/3/21)

Jeff: son, husband, father, grandfather, professor of art, Christian. These are some of the descriptors of who Jeff was. We add one more: *Friend of Newman*. Jeff's love for his faith had him and Karen (his wife) involved with Newman from the moment they stepped on campus at EIU. He sat on committees, led mission trips, and so much more in the life of our community. His desire to live faith deeply and to bear witness to faith created bonds of friendship with us. He combined this love with his passion and talent for art. He designed, crafted, and gifted the Newman Community with all of our liturgical fitments: altar, ambo, presider's chair, credence table, and tabernacle tower. These become a lasting legacy as we gather each day to pray.



"May the angels lead Jeff into paradise!" *Requiescat in Pace.*

## Introducing . . .

Just over three years ago, the Living Faith Society was created. This is our monthly giving program of \$10 or more. When donors choose to give monthly instead of annually, it allows us to plan, prepare, and proceed. Thank you so much to all of you who are currently part of this Society!



In January, we are changing the name and face of this program. We would like to introduce you to . . . the **Newman Mission Circle!** We want to be on mission together as the Newman Community. If you become part of the NMC, there will be opportunities for us to stay connected as we grow this mission together.

Each quarter you will receive a prayer book. We hope you use it daily, keeping our students and community in your prayers. You will be invited to be a part of our Newman Mission Circle Novena. We will contact you by email before the Novena begins. As a staff (and any students that wish to join), we will pray the novena for the nine days. We will ask you to join us and email us any special intentions you would like us to privately include in our daily prayers. Lastly, you will receive an update of important events happening here at Newman because of YOU! Without your generosity, much of what we are able to do, couldn't happen.

If you would like to know more about this program you can call Maureen at 217-348-0188, email her at [msmith@eiunewman.org](mailto:msmith@eiunewman.org) or go to [www.eiunewman.org](http://www.eiunewman.org) and click on Monthly Giving.



# Newman Notes

## 2021 Fall Retreats



Men's Overnight Retreat



Panther Awakening VIII



Women's Overnight Retreat



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@NewmanEIU



Find us on the Web!  
[www.eiunewman.org](http://www.eiunewman.org)

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