



Heart *Speaks to* HEART

Spring 2020 Issue 2, Volume XIX

A Publication of the Catholic Newman
Community at the University of Rochester



A Place to Pray A Place to Gather A Place to Grow

Join our campaign to build a Newman Center at the
University of Rochester

- \$6.1m Project
 - \$5.1m for the building
 - \$1m to endow maintenance
- \$3.1m Raised
 - \$1.5m lead gift
 - \$1.1m in supporting gifts
 - \$500K for maintenance endowment
- 6,500 ft²
 - Dedicated Catholic Chapel
 - Pastoral care center
 - Multipurpose room and kitchen space



If you have questions or would like to see a list of naming opportunities, please contact:

bcool@admin.rochester.edu

(585) 275-8523

www.urnewman.org/building



Cool THOUGHTS

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In light of the current Coronavirus pandemic, the last few months and the next few have been and will remain challenging for all of us. As we continue to find the “new normal,” I do want to reach out and see how you are doing, where you are doing it, and what might we be able to do to help? Additionally, I wanted to share with you a couple things.

First, you and your family are in my prayers. I lift you up for peace, courage, and hope. As I said in my Instagram post some weeks back, “it is faith and reason which will get us through this.”

Second, Newman continues to operate. In mid-March, Sr. Leandra, Andrew, and I all moved off campus with the closing of the Interfaith Chapel, and we rushed to set up home offices as a way to not only bring faith to students, parents, and alumni at a critical time but to find ways to reach out, support, and expand our ministry. Prayer is and remains critical during this time!

Since that time, we have worked to support the many international and graduate students who remained on campus along with keeping connected with others who had gone home (all over the world). Worry and anxiety were continual themes over the past semester, and the pandemic only exacerbated the situation. Newman continues working to make certain each student knows we will support them and be their “Home Away from Home,” through whatever this situation may produce.

As I have with all our students, I want to share with you the following contact information. We remain here in Rochester and are ready to serve any and all; wherever they may be. Name it, and we can most likely help! My colleagues and I, as they say, can be the “ears and noses on the ground” and a resource here in Rochester.

Our personal contact and WhatsApp information:

- Fr. Brian Cool
 (585) 202-8426
bcool@admin.rochester.edu
- Sr. Leandra Kosmoski
 (585) 278-6030
lkosmosk@ur.rochester.edu
- Andrew Cirillo
 (315) 527-7352
acirillo@ur.rochester.edu

I want to make certain you are aware and invite you to participate in all our online programming—Mass will continue in a virtual format and please be on the lookout for additional events throughout the summer months. You can view our planned events on our calendar on [page 7](#).

Our public events all have the same [video link](#), so it is quick and easy to join us each week! You are most welcome and encouraged to participate with us.

Finally, I want to ensure you that we are doing everything in our power to continue bringing Christ's message to a campus and a student body in disarray and bewilderment. We remain boldly committed to Christ's saving message, something very challenging and difficult given the circumstances. That is why I am asking you to consider contributing to the Newman's Annual Day of Giving on June 4, 2020 (please see the ad on the back cover)! Students find themselves in need now, and any support at all will assist us in providing pastoral care and support to all who call Rochester home.

Until we meet again in person, let us pray for one another!

Peace,

Rev. Brian C. Cool '06W (MS)

J. Nelson Hoffman '55 and Joan Dutcher Hoffman '55
 Director of Catholic Newman Community Pastoral Care

Online NEWMAN

Catholic Community at Rochester

Since the middle of March, when the University of Rochester was physically shut down to avoid the possible spread of the pandemic, Newman adapted its focus and went virtual!

Dubbed "Operation Newman Online," the staff and student leaders put together a plan that has since brought virtual ministry to more than 460 people on Zoom, over 3700 people on Facebook, and hundreds more on Instagram.

Below you will find messages of gratitude from alumni, parents, and friends, among other social media efforts to take Christ directly into offices and homes across the globe.



SENIOR *Spotlight*

Finding Faith Through Adversity

Read some thoughts below from members of the class of 2020 on how this pandemic has affected their lives in the most intimate of ways, and how, nevertheless, through the struggle of it all, faith has remained ever-present and a constant source of hope in times of uncertainty.



Sylvia Conte '20

Biomedical Engineering
Westwood, Massachusetts

"Basically, we may all feel like the blind man in John's gospel, confused on the purpose of this suffering, unsure what will happen, and unable to see. But God is calling us to encounter Him every day in our lives, especially in our blindness."



David Rieth '20

Financial Economics
Tierra Verde, Florida

"So yes, I am still upset about losing my senior baseball season, and yes, I'm nervous for the coming months of this pandemic. But I have faith in God, and I trust He has a plan for us, as He did for his only Son."



Brenna James '20

Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan

"At the end of the Passion, Christ is buried, and on Earth, all seems lost. For three days, darkness looms and faith is tested . . . For us here today, although a pandemic is upon us, although we are separated by this plague, and although there is uncertainty in our futures, we can all practice this faith in the Lord."



Marcos Nascimento dos Santos '20

Mechanical Engineering
Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

"Do not be discouraged if it seems like your dreams are impossible, especially in the times in which we live. We as Christians receive God's grace through the Eucharist, through the sacraments, and through the community of church in prayer."



Jennifer Joseph '20

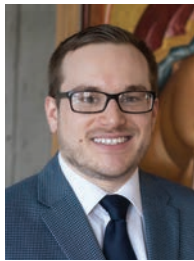
French and International Relations
Modesto, California

"With all the chaos ensuing in the world right now, I am tempted to despair. However . . . through Jesus we have peace and hope, and that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."



**Congratulations
to the Newman
Class of 2020!**

A WORD FROM THE BACK OFFICE



Greetings! It is the season of Spring, Easter, and Christ's glorious Resurrection. Summer cannot come soon enough, and a rather unorthodox Commencement celebration is on

the horizon. As usual, it is a busy time at the Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester, especially as we continually adapt to the restrictions placed upon all of us due to the Coronavirus pandemic. From grab and go dinners to grocery store runs to virtual Mass, meditation, and hangout sessions, programming remains in full swing, and our ministry is capturing the hearts of students, parents, and alumni across the country and the world!

It is during the spring that we are called as Christians to turn over a new leaf. Throughout this Lenten Season, we focused as a Newman Staff on promoting three motifs based on the traditional and biblical Lenten values of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We centered our messaging

upon *Witnessing the Word*, *Practicing the Faith*, and *Giving Hope*—most specifically through the streaming activities, virtual retreats, and dedicated prayerful practices that have taken place and will continue to do so during these seemingly endless days of reflection and introspection.

As the great Belgian theologian, Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., once asserted, "Therefore the fact that Jesus is risen never exclusively means that he was raised from the dead by God but, at the same time and just as essentially, that God gives him a community or church in the dimension of our history. It means at the same time that the exalted Jesus is actively present among us. This indicates the salvific significance of Jesus' resurrection for us." Jesus is and always walks with us through the hill and valley moments of our lives—it is a Christ of companionship that we are called to believe in and model in this mortal existence we call our common humanity.

If there is to be any good derived from this particular situation, it is that we have had the time and the energy to rejuvenate our faith

and to refocus our minds and hearts on the saving power of Christ's message. Through your prayers and support, especially for those students who have been uprooted, sent home, and quarantined, and those others who have been struggling to adjust to a new and virtual reality, our Newman Community has been able to survive and weather the storm! We have become holistic in our approach to ministry, offering all sorts of services and support to the student, the stranger, and the struggling in need.

Let us never settle for anything other than to walk like Christ, particularly as we band together as a global people to combat this deadly disease. It is difficult, no doubt, and we will stumble for sure, but there is no greater reward than that which realizes our faith as not only belief, but also an eternal reality.

Thank you all for your prayers and support as usual and may God continue to bless you,

Andrew Nicholas Cirillo '12
Campus Minister for Advancement

Making Character More Accessible

Last summer, Newman was awarded a considerable grant to expand its ever-influencing St. Sebastian Society. Through the generosity of local entrepreneur and nationally recognized character educator, Frederick W. Sarkis and his wife, Helen, Newman's St. Sebastian Society has been chosen to become the main face of Fred's Yes Pa Foundation, a free national character education program. Over the course of five years, Fred and Helen will provide \$100,000 to expand the web-based program into one of more regional, and hopefully, national prominence.

Since Yes Pa's inception in 2002, Fred has brought the program to numerous schools across the country, emphasizing the importance of "... integrity, determination, and enthusiasm as the keys to happiness and success." By his estimation, Fred's program, which is based on his 2003 autobiography,



Prisoner of the Truck, that details the lessons he has learned throughout his life, has reached tens of thousands of students internationally, in nearly a dozen countries.

With the program's move to the Newman Community, Fred and his family hope to see the program expand to other schools in the area, allowing his message and lessons to be disseminated exponentially!

The staff and students of the St. Sebastian Society, who have been utilizing Fred's program in prisons and grade schools since the mid-2000s, are extremely grateful for this grant and the opportunity to bring the values

of respect, integrity, and resilience to our future generations!

For more information on the program and to download its free resources in English and Spanish, please visit the website www.urnewman.org/yespa.

Additionally, please stay connected by following Yes Pa on its social media channels:

- Facebook: [@yespafoundation](https://www.facebook.com/yespafoundation)
- Twitter: [@yespafoundation](https://twitter.com/yespafoundation)
- LinkedIn: [Yes Pa Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/yes-pa-foundation)
- Instagram: [@yespafoundation](https://www.instagram.com/yespafoundation)
- YouTube: [yespaprogram](https://www.youtube.com/yespaprogram)



Find Us Online!

Join us on our various social media channels to learn more about our community and the various events we sponsor.

Facebook: [@newmanatur](#)

Twitter: [@ur_newman/@frbcool](#)

LinkedIn: [Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester](#)

Instagram: [@ur_newman](#)

YouTube: [Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester](#)

Events

Due to the recommendations from the University of Rochester, Diocese of Rochester, and government officials, all of our spring events have been moved to an online format.

SUNDAY MASS

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m.

Our community continues to persist during this uncertain time! Join us for a live Mass. Streaming is available on Zoom by clicking [here](#) or through Facebook Live ([@newmanatur](#)) or Instagram Live ([@ur_newman](#)).

GUIDED MEDITATION

Every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Each Tuesday, join Sr. Leandra Kosmoski, s.s.j., as she traverses the wide world of prayer and contemplative meditation. Streaming is available on Zoom by clicking [here](#).

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Saturday, May 16

Join fellow family, friends, and alumni at our virtual Baccalaureate Mass to celebrate our University graduates at 4:30 p.m. Streaming is available via our regular [Zoom link](#) or through Facebook Live ([@newmanatur](#)) or Instagram Live ([@ur_newman](#)).

DAY OF GIVING

Thursday, June 4 (24 hours)

Join us as Newman takes part in the University of Rochester's Annual Day of Giving! Support our ministry in these trying times by giving [here](#). Thank you!

Alumni Panels, Virtual Retreats, Movie Nights, and other activities are in the works—stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!

Fall 2019
End of Semester Events

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DAY of GIVING
6.4.20

**ONE
UNIVERSITY.**

FOR YOU. FOR ROCHESTER.
FOR THE WORLD.

#RochesterGives

Support the cause at
www.urnewman.org/giving/dog

Cover photo: Spring blossoms in front of Rush Rhees
remind us that there is beauty even in difficult times.