



# Heart *Speaks to* HEART

Spring 2021 Issue 2, Volume XX



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



# EVENTS

## Sunday Mass

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. or 7 p.m. (7 p.m. Mass ends on 05/16/21 with start of summer break)

Join us all semester and summer long for our vibrant Sunday liturgies at [www.urnewman.org/streaming](http://www.urnewman.org/streaming). For more information on all of our regular events, please visit our calendar at [www.urnewman.org/calendar](http://www.urnewman.org/calendar).

## Christ on the Margins: Meet Hidden Women of Scripture

ICYMI (in case you missed it)—this past March, the weekly Who's Driving Your Bus? Prayer Experience invited the Women of the Well to put on a dramatic interpretation of a few of those feminine voices in the Bible often portrayed in a negative light. Visit [www.urnewman.org/events/meditation](http://www.urnewman.org/events/meditation) to view how these contemporary women shed a new light on these stories of old, embracing God's all-encompassing, loving, and merciful being.

## Newman Networking: Alumni Panelists in Engineering, Humanities, Music

If you missed our latest edition of Newman Networking, featuring Angela Drahts '07, '09W (MS), David Heid '13E, '13, '15 (MS), John Kreckel '09, and Zamantha Lopez '13, you can find the video at [www.urnewman.org/networking](http://www.urnewman.org/networking). Originally airing April 9, these alumni from the fields of engineering, humanities, and music joined forces to give advice and offer insight into the job world to undergraduate students.

## Judith Johnson O'Brien Women in the Church Endowed Lecture

Thursday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Sponsored by the University of Rochester's [John Henry Newman Chair in Roman Catholic Studies](#) and [The Bernardin Center](#) at [Catholic Theological Union](#), Newman seeks to offer the first annual Judith Johnson O'Brien Women in the Church Endowed Lecture. Named in honor of former University President G. Dennis O'Brien's wife, the lecture will feature renowned journalist and writer Olga M. Segura. Her talk, entitled "Birth of A Movement: Why the Catholic Church Must Join the Fight for Liberation," is free and open to all. To register for this exciting virtual event, please visit [www.urnewman.org/events/lectures](http://www.urnewman.org/events/lectures).

## Day of Giving

Wednesday, May 5 (24 hours)

Want to give back to Newman on the University's largest annual Day of Giving? On May 5, Newman will celebrate this time-honored tradition by seeking to reach over 300 participants to raise some \$33,000 in matching gift funds from some very generous alumni supporters! To give early, please visit [www.urnewman.org/giving/dog](http://www.urnewman.org/giving/dog) today. Otherwise, be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks on how impactful your gift can be toward sustaining our mission and ministry! Thank you as always!

## Baccalaureate Mass

Saturday, May 16 at 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to join us at [www.urnewman.org/streaming](http://www.urnewman.org/streaming) for our culminating liturgy of the Academic Year, where we seek to celebrate the accomplishments and sacrifices of our graduating students. Invite family and friends virtually for what hopes to be a well-deserved event for those who have endured so much in their final year of study! To submit encouraging thoughts and prayers for our graduates, please send your messages to [catholicnewmancommunity@rochester.edu](mailto:catholicnewmancommunity@rochester.edu).

## Supporting Our Flock



Newman is beyond excited to announce that **Breanna Dauphine**, a lifetime resident of Rochester and recent graduate of Nazareth College, has joined the Newman Staff as the new Program Assistant for Campus Ministry! Prior to graduating with her bachelor's degree in Religious Studies this past December, she served as the Assistant Faith Formation Coordinator and Youth Mass Music Coordinator at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece, New York. At Our Mother of Sorrows, her work

concentrated on the successful direction of Vacation Bible Schools, planning and leading Family Faith Formation, assisting in youth ministry activities/events, leading the teen/young adult ensemble, and planning music for the monthly Youth Mass.

Thus, Breanna comes to Newman with a wealth of ecclesial and worship-related experience, assisting us in our transition from "pandemic mode" to one in which we rebuild our fellowship and programming efforts through Alternative Spring Break and the Yes Pa Program. With Newman's expansion in recent years and a completed Building Project on the horizon, we are most overjoyed to welcome her to this community in a professional capacity and look forward to the expression of her many gifts and talents with our students. Next time you see her in person, give her a quick "hello" and "congratulations" or send her an email at [bdauphin@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:bdauphin@ur.rochester.edu).

# Cool Thoughts



Exactly one year ago as I write, the president of the University of Rochester wrote to all students, staff, and faculty that the University would be shutting down and sending students home. Soon after, the pandemic swept across the globe and infections, illness, and death came upon us in seemingly never-ending waves. It still does, although the waves do not seem as high or strong as they once were. However, the world has inevitably changed. We have changed. And the Church has changed too.

When the academic year opened this past September, our students were so thrilled to be back on campus. They came back to their “home away from home.” As we navigated a campus with many restrictions, the University Administration and Newman Staff worked hard to put in place protocols that would be essential. With great pride, these largely have worked, and campus is doing the best it can in a very challenging environment.

One anniversary since the pandemic started and nine months since students have been on campus, the painful reality of a year of fear, stress, and losses is taking its toll—especially on the young minds, hearts, and spirits of those we serve here at Newman. They seek, as human persons crave, the companionship of friends and a deep desire to share their energy, passion, and talents with others. To give you but one example, students are not allowed to conduct service opportunities. Service is not just about helping others. Providing service to others develops oneself, hones one's

gifts, and lifts up the human heart as one sees the work they do making a true difference on campus, in the community, and in the world.

Last fall, I told our students that we will get through this and that we are building resiliency—indeed we are. But today, as light at the end of a long tunnel begins to warm the earth, our human hearts, and our campus, the Church and Newman in particular need to be thinking about the rebuilding necessary to be Christ for others. The world changed and so must the Church if we are to meet the challenges that will be in front of and within those of this current generation.

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Newman has always done this. We remain on the front lines, working with the next generation of leaders of our Church and the world. We have been working with our future leaders who will bring the faith to campus and beyond. And they are eager as ever and ready to take on this new challenge with love and mercy. Thank you for your prayers, blessings, financial support, and kind encouragement. These make a difference and will make a difference as we build a new ministry in the coming months—one that is more dynamic, engaging, and impactful than the one we have today. For as St. Paul said, “There is nothing love cannot face; there is no limit to its faith, its hope, and endurance.” (1 Cor 13:7).

Be safe and well and have a blessed Easter season!

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

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

# Student Athletes

When the pandemic hit last year, many of our student-athletes on campus were devastated. With practices, competitions, and championships canceled, many seniors had a rather abrupt and disheartening end to their collegiate athletic careers. However, the University got creative and since the fall has enabled student-athletes to compete in ways that maintain safe standards yet offer competitive play and the honing of varied skills. Similarly, Newman also re-engaged with our student-athletes to keep them connected to their faith and foster deeper leadership among them and their peers. Read their stories (as part of the University of Rochester Athletics' "[How I Got Started](#)" series) below to learn more about our stars!



## Jennifer Carson '21

### Softball (Utility)

Mechanical Engineering Major

Milford, New Hampshire

#### **You are majoring in mechanical engineering. Why does that appeal to you?**

I have wanted to major in mechanical engineering since my first year of high school when I took my first engineering class. I've always enjoyed math and science classes, and engineering draws from both of those while also allowing some creativity. My goal is to use my degree to work in the sports engineering field designing and analyzing equipment.

#### **What role has your faith played in your athletic career?**

Faith is a great way to center yourself as a player. In sports it's really easy to get caught up in the game and get down on yourself when you make mistakes. When you play with your faith in mind, remembering that you are made in God's image, and remember Jesus's undying love, it's a lot easier to remember that at the end of the day, a sport is just a game and you're meant to be having fun.

## Kudzai Mbinda '22

### Track and Field (Sprints)

Chemical Engineering Major

Harare, Zimbabwe

#### **Why did you choose chemical engineering as your major?**

Growing up, I was always fascinated by how different raw materials are converted into useful products, and I enjoyed math and science classes. Chemical engineering allows me to merge these two interests in a captivating way.

#### **Are you involved in any campus groups tied to your studies?**

I am part of the Chem-E Car team: we research, design, and create a model car that is powered by chemical reactions.

#### **What role has your faith played in your athletic career?**

I attended a Jesuit high school, St. George's College in Zimbabwe, for my first four years of high school. The Jesuit philosophy of AMDG (translates to "for the greater glory of God") is one that was instilled in me from an early age and is my greatest source of motivation to practice and compete to the best of my abilities.



## Christopher Bushnell '23

### Swimming and Diving (Backstroke/Butterfly)

Microbiology Major

Manlius, New York

#### What led you to the University of Rochester?

University of Rochester caught my attention through a representative that came to my school. I reached out to Coach Emily Wylam and Assistant Coach Cam Dwyer regarding the swim program. It was easy to seriously consider Rochester with its academic reputation, stately library, and active campus. I'm very happy and fortunate to study here at Rochester.

#### What role has your faith played in your athletic career?

Faith has played a large role in my athletic career. It is a huge "shoulder" to lean on during times of stress, anxiety, or doubt. Often, athletes have big goals for themselves which require dedication long before a competition. My faith has helped me stay rooted and reflect on my passions, such as swimming, keeping me dedicated to the sport and my team/community. My faith has been there for me when I am tired, but it is also there in times of success. At the end of a race or season, I can always thank my coaches, family, friends, and God for guiding me to where I am today.



## Alizah Ayon '22

### Softball (Catcher/Infield)

Psychology Major

Santa Fe Springs, California

#### What was different about the game on a college level as opposed to when you played at Santa Fe HS in California?

College-level softball is more competitive than at a high school level; most tough schools we played in HS did not play in our league or we would only see them in playoffs. Also, all the girls I play with in college love the game just as much as I do—which I do not think I could say at a HS level where most girls are just trying to get out of PE.

#### How has Newman affected your college experience?

I am involved in the Newman Community and it has positively influenced my college experience. I have had the privilege of being a part of a great community here on campus and have had the opportunity to meet some incredible people. I've also had the fortunate opportunity of being a part of multiple Agape Lattes, sponsored by Newman's St. Sebastian Society, here at Rochester. These lectures have been both inspiring and some of the best memories I have here at Rochester.

## Joseph Rende '22

### Baseball (Infield)

Political Science Major

Babylon, New York

#### What led you to the University of Rochester?

For as long as I can remember I wanted to play college baseball. On top of that, I always wanted to attend a highly academic school. I was fortunate to combine my baseball and academics to get into a "reach" school of mine. When I first visited campus, I was blown away by how beautiful it was. It was just a no brainer to come here, and I haven't looked back since.

#### Do you plan on working with any campus groups tied to your studies?

I am not really fully tied to any groups related to my studies, but I am actively involved in a campus group called St. Sebastian Society with the campus priest, Father Cool. It is a group of Varsity student-athletes dedicated to serving the Rochester community. Father Cool is the man. He and I have developed a really close relationship over the last few years, and he has been a shining light for me and my experience here at Rochester.



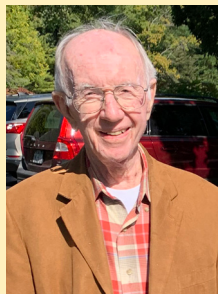
# In Memoriam—*Requiescant in pace*



Newman is deeply saddened to announce the death of four of our community members in recent months. Each held a distinctive role in helping our ministry succeed, and we pray that each of them be united in holy embrace with the divine Trinity. We also remember their family and friends who may be struggling at this particular moment—may God grant them the grace and courage to work through their grief and remember their loved ones' witness to the Gospel.



We remember **Donna Salmon**, longtime friend of Newman, supporter, and advancement officer at the University of Rochester, who passed on December 8, 2020. Through her careful and detailed attention in her work, she advanced the mission of the University and Newman simultaneously.



**William "Bill" Pulsifer '50**, predeceased by his wife Barbara Pulsifer '52, entered the heavenly kingdom on February 16, 2021. An avid supporter of the University and Newman, along with his wife, they will be forever remembered for their incredible generosity toward the establishment of the University's John Henry Newman Chair in Roman Catholic Studies and the Newman Building Project.



We also remember **Jacquelyn "Jackie" O'Neill**, loving wife of M. Donald O'Neill '54, who entered into eternal life on December 17, 2020. A caring and compassionate woman of faith and family, she will be remembered for her service to the nursing profession and her entrepreneurial spirit.



**Regina Brown**, loving wife, and mother of Thomas '08 and Travis Brown '09, passed away on March 11, 2021. Her love of her children, their extracurriculars, and her loyalty to her multiple volunteer faith ministries will never be forgotten.

## #OnThis Day—A Holy Week Throwback

Check out these photos from Holy Weeks years gone by! Recognize anyone?





# A Word from the Back Office

Spring is in full swing on the University of Rochester campus, and Easter is upon us! Christ has risen, the pandemic has seemingly met its match, yet we remain a world divided! Racism and acts of violence endure even despite our best efforts to enact policy and regulations that seek to break down barriers and offer words of reconciliation, hope, and forgiveness, instead of terminology that accentuates otherness, difference, and division. And maybe that is exactly where we are going wrong—allowing the hateful spite that sometimes lives within each of us to grow, germinate, and pollinate our very realities and interactions with those whom we call friends, community members, and even fellow classmates. It is this negativity and pessimism toward those who act, live, and do things in a different way or capacity than us that can sometimes stem into the hateful rhetoric or actions that our country and the world are now experiencing all too often.

But what does our theology teach us about all this? What do the Gospels, the divinely revealed and transformative words of Jesus Christ, say about these no longer random acts of violence, hate-speech, and maltreatment of each other and our common home, the Earth? Our theology, our Christ, our faith teaches us to believe in a message that places as a primary focus the beauty of creation in all things, animate and inanimate. Our world, created in the divine image, offers us the greatest and most palpable example of the Spirit, alive and well, the all-encompassing arbiter, advocate, and guide that seeks to enable in us the good that inherently embodies our divine existence. In the prudent and pertinent words of the late American feminist theologian Catherine Mowry LaCugna, “The mystery of existence is the mystery of the commingling of persons, divine and human, in a common life, within a common household . . . Living from others and for others is the path of glory in which we and God exist together.”

Newman, amidst the pandemic and the sickness, death, and guilt it has placed upon all our shoulders, has strived to maintain that “common household” imagery that God so desperately calls in each of us to participate. We remain a “home away from home” for some 1,600 Catholic students on campus, offering free and deliberate access to those tenets, practices, and virtues of our tradition that seek love, mercy, and relationship between ourselves and those not within our immediate religion, team, class, age, family, clique, or any other socially constructed group. The Newman Community, as throughout history, has served as a hub

for budding expression, loving laughter, caring compassion, and hope-filled grace that unites our one, human family within the Trinitarian, divine plan of loving acceptance.

If there were any time in history to be a united front, to work toward justice and integration, to bond together in community and solidarity in finding a solution to this pandemic that has kept us separated, isolated, and apart, that time is now. The time is now to listen to that divine Spirit that invades our hearts and minds, that drives our soul toward “Living from others and for others . . .” Only then can we concentrate our human endeavors on imitating the divine; only then can we focus on rebuilding the world and our relationships upon the foundations of love and acceptance. After all, LaCugna states, “Confessing faith is incomplete unless it becomes a form of life.” Let us say yes to our divine “call” and live out the Gospels today, here and now!

In the light of Christ and with ultimate thanks for your generosity,

**Andrew Nicholas Cirillo '12**  
Campus Minister for Advancement

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Connect with us on social media to enjoy our latest updates, postings, and events!

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

**Instagram:** [@ur\\_newman](#)

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

**Catholic Newman Community  
at the University of Rochester**

Interfaith Chapel  
1045 Joseph C. Wilson Blvd.  
Box 270501  
Rochester, NY 14627

Cover photos: Newman takes part in the most solemn and holy time of the liturgical year, the Easter Triduum.

## Lent 2021 - Into the Desert

*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.*

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

You can still support our Spring Lenten Appeal today at  
[www.urnewman.org/giving/annualappeal](http://www.urnewman.org/giving/annualappeal)

## Day of Giving

**A one-day campaign to make life better**

Make Newman better on May 5, 2021 by  
donating at [www.urnewman.org/giving/dog](http://www.urnewman.org/giving/dog)

**Make a gift today at [www.urnewman.org/giving](http://www.urnewman.org/giving)**