



Heart *Speaks to* HEART

Spring 2022 Issue 3, Volume XXI

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



EVENTS

SUNDAY MASS

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

Join us in person or online at
www.urnewman.org/streaming.

HOLY WEEK (PASCHAL TRIDUUM)

HOLY THURSDAY, April 14, 2022

Mass of the Lord's Supper
7 p.m., Interfaith Chapel River Level

GOOD FRIDAY, April 15, 2022

Service of the Lord's Passion
3 p.m., Interfaith Chapel Sanctuary

Stations of the Cross
7 p.m., Interfaith Chapel Sanctuary

HOLY SATURDAY, April 16, 2022

Easter Vigil
8 p.m., Interfaith Chapel Sanctuary

EASTER SUNDAY

Morning Mass
10:30 a.m., Interfaith Chapel Sanctuary
Followed by brunch Danforth Dining Hall

Evening Mass
7PM, Interfaith Chapel Sanctuary

DAY OF GIVING

May 5, 2022

We have 24 hours to raise \$35,000 to support Catholic life and formation on campus! Giving starts now, please visit www.urnewman.org/giving/dog today!

BACCALAUREATE MASS & COMMENCEMENT

Saturday May 14, 5:30 p.m.; Location TBD

Join us in person or virtually as we celebrate the Class of 2022! We are excited about the return of commencement to Fauver Stadium on May 13, 2022 at 11 a.m.! Please see the University Schedule at rochester.edu/commencement.

CATHOLIC JACKETS

With a generous donation to support publicity and outreach, we updated our collection of 'swag'. After tons of work on the design process, we received our new Catholic Jackets gear! Throughout the Month of February, we celebrated Catholic Jackets month, and shared these items with current students!



Beanie



Campfire or Travel Mug



Swag Bag

Do you want one?

Email us at catholicnewmancommunity@rochester.edu, and we'd be happy to send one to you!



FOLLOWING FRANCIS RASMUS: A Leader Transforming the Future

When Francis Rasmus learned about our Catholic Chapel and Center Campaign, he knew he wanted to help even though he wasn't affiliated with our community. So he did what he does best when wanting to make a difference, he made a leadership gift by establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) through the University of Rochester. Through the CGA, Frank will receive income for life from the University. The CGA is designated to Newman and will grow in the University endowment supporting the Catholic Newman Community forever. Frank says, "If you want to do something to help an organization like Newman in the future, and you need a secure stream of income now, learn about the benefits of a charitable gift annuity. You can do well, while doing something good for your community. This is what it is all about."

University of Rochester Charitable Gift Annuity

Make a gift of cash or stock to support Newman for the future. In exchange, receive a fixed income for life for one or two individuals.

Key Features

- Guaranteed fixed income; a portion may be tax-free for a period of years
- A charitable income tax deduction
- Avoidance of capital gains tax on donated securities
- Income can be immediate or deferred (typically at age 50 or older)

To calculate your rate, receive a personal illustration, or to learn more, visit www.rochester.giftplans.org, or contact Christopher Raimy at craimy@admin.rochester.edu or 585-275-9916.

Milestones of Generosity



I am thrilled to announce to you that we have surpassed \$5 million milestone in gifts and pledges towards our Catholic Chapel and Center! The \$5M milestone is amazing to me, and I want to thank each and every one of you so very much. And trust me, there is more excitement in the air around here!

It has been over ten years since the Newman Advisory Board first started to wrestle with addressing the physical needs of a growing Catholic Community at the University of Rochester. I remember that time being filled with excitement at the possibilities, long before we had any notion of having our own building or the financial support to achieve it. We knew that there was increased student involvement and that those students hungered for Catholic life. We knew the severe limits of not having dedicated Catholic worship space or office space for Chaplains to meet students for pastoral care. We knew we had student leaders and no place to effectively bring them together. The problems came into focus. We needed solutions which would enhance our liturgical space and provide room to offer confidential pastoral care to students, especially given the challenges college students were facing. These were 'good problems' as they showed growth! And honestly, it was VERY exciting to have the Newman Board stepping forward to brainstorm to find the solutions necessary to meet these challenges.

Six years ago, the University of Rochester came forward as a strong and willing partner to help Newman solve our 'good problems'. Then University President, Joel Seligman, told the Board, "What is good for students is good for the University",

encouraging the Board to move forward with plans to build a Chapel on the River Campus. And we set forth on a path that has taken us to places we could not have imagined. Through the labor of many, we can all share the utter joy in seeing this dream becoming a reality.

So, reaching the \$5 million dollar milestone, is truly awe inspiring. Our \$6 million fundraising goal is right in front of us, and we can grasp it with every schematic design phase meeting, every new donor sharing their gift and even second gifts from early donors. There is great momentum born from the generosity of so many.

I know that God will provide because generosity begets generosity, and God has been generous beyond measure.

Personally, this journey has been and remains an incredible source of hope and strength. In football terms, we are in the red zone and the goal line is within reach. I know that God will provide because generosity begets generosity. And God has been generous beyond measure. During the month of April, the design committee and the Newman Building Committee will be finalizing programming space, the building layout, detailed design and align costs to our budget. And with each passing day, each meeting and each hour, the excitement grows as we move closer to Easter and the new life it brings. The joy and the life Christ's resurrection will bring through this Catholic Chapel and Center to our students, this University, and indeed future generations, is more excitement that I can personally hold.

As always, with gratitude and Easter Blessings!

In Christ,

Rev. Brian C. Cool '06W (MS) '21 (Ed.D)

J. Nelson Hoffman '55 and Joan Dutcher Hoffman '55
Director of Catholic Newman Community Pastoral Care
bcool@admin.rochester.edu
(585) 275-8523

Blessed to Be in this Time and Place



Alumni donors like Erin and Greg Briggs not only are thrusting the Catholic Chapel and Center toward its fundraising goal, they seemingly are turning over the first shovelful of dirt.

The Seattle couple – 2005 UR graduates and former Newman Center regulars – pledged \$114,200 over five years, pushing fundraising to \$4.8 million, within 20 percent of the \$6 million goal, and placing a fall construction plan within reach. With the Briggs' generosity, you can imagine the Rev. Brian Cool donning a hardhat, the ordained version of Bob the Builder. "Can we build it? Yes we can!"

The Briggs' major gift will help to fund a center with a worship space, meeting rooms, multi-purpose room for gatherings and a kitchen. The Center will be erected adjacent to dormitories along Wilson Boulevard.

"Erin and Greg have been incredible supporters of the Newman community since graduating," Rev. Cool said fondly of the couple. He is thankful for their generosity, but dwells more on memories of the young couple that studied engineering, regularly attended Mass, and frequently participated in activities. Greg arrived from nearby Greece, N.Y., pursued a degree in computer and electrical engineering, and became a mainstay of the student choir; Erin Dunbar, a chemical engineering student, hailed from a small Long Island town, Brookhaven, and brought together Newman colleagues with her cooking skills.

Erin Briggs said their donation provides for UR students of this generation. They are thankful for what they experienced at Newman. "It has been a process," Erin said. "I grew up without a lot and the world of having 'more than enough' still feels foreign. We are blessed to be in this time and place ..."

The Briggs balance their giving against the needs of their five children, ages 15 to 5. They describe their lifestyle as frugal, joyful and appreciative of the natural beauty surrounding their home.

"We have always tried to tithe a full 10 percent of our income, dividing that between our local parish and other cause," she said. "In this mindset, donations to charity are not another expense, but something that was never really ours to spend for ourselves. It also helps to try to live simply. We aim to eat together at home as much as possible, to 'make do' when we can and to plan for

extras because the gradual buildup to a family trip or special event is part of the experience."

Cool said the Center's fundraising drive has moved close to the finish line. He still needs to raise the remaining funds, get final approval from the University, finalize its architectural plans, then start construction, perhaps by October. He hopes the pandemic and supply chain issues won't push construction costs higher.

On top of their major gift, the Briggs also joined the George Eastman Circle of givers. They pledged \$1,500 for five years to pay for annual programs at Newman. "Greg and Erin know the importance and impact of Newman ministry at UR," Cool said. "As students, they were young leaders in our ministry. They were crucial in building a stronger Catholic community."

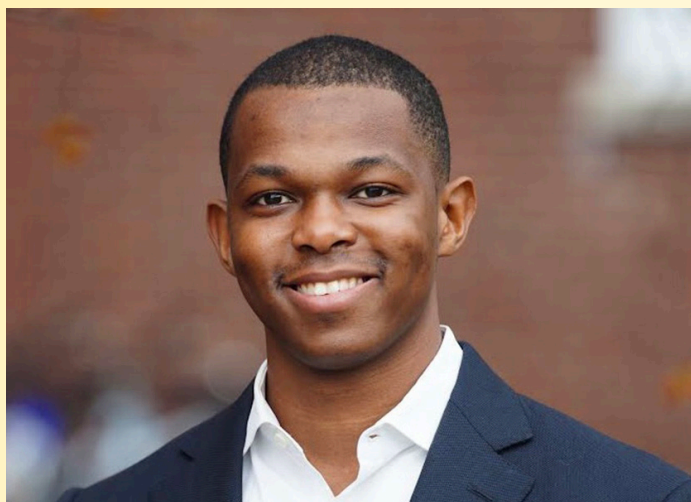
Erin was thankful for meeting Greg at Newman, and now she wants to provide for the next generation. I'm a fan of having Catholic 'oases' on secular college campuses; it's why we've continued to support Newman," she said. "I hope that when my kids are ready to consider college options, they don't feel like their faith needs will have to take a backseat to their educational needs at a critical point in their lives."

"We're happy to help contribute to a dedicated place for prayer and worship for students that can be distinctly Catholic." As the Interfaith Chapel is a shared space with multiple traditions, there is no distinctly Catholic space



Greg and Erin Diggs, with Raina (15), Peter (12), Molly (9), David (7), and Ellen (3).

A Bright Future Ahead— from Zimbabwe to Rochester to Rhodes Scholar



The Newman experience has helped me grow by giving me a sense of belonging.

Kudzai Mbinda usually wears a satisfied look from the last row of seats at the Newman Center. Yet his ever-present smile at Sunday Masses will be gone from the University of Rochester in a few months, and he'll trade the giant gold R on his sweatshirt for a different status – the R of a Rhodes scholar.

Mbinda becomes just one of 100 incoming students who will pursue graduate studies at Oxford University, the world-renowned research institute in Great Britain. Mbinda won a qualifying competition in his native Zimbabwe. He intends to earn a degree in energy systems, then an MBA, and apply his knowledge in an industrial leadership role in the Zimbabwean economy. A chemical engineering major from Harare, Mbinda becomes the first UR undergraduate since 1965 to earn a berth at Oxford. He credits his experiences at UR's Newman Center with guiding his path.

"Newman has helped me develop my faith as a Catholic, which has had a positive impact on all other aspects of my life," Mbinda said. "This development happened through fellowship at Sunday Mass, and through interactions with the Newman community at different events like coffee hours after Mass and the small tasks and projects I've been asked to help with." Newman also helped ease one of the greatest challenges for him and fellow international students – providing a sense of home.

"The Newman experience has helped me grow by giving me a sense of belonging," he said. "As an international student, different members of the Newman community have helped me in many different ways, particularly during the academic holidays and the pandemic period when we could not go home."

His faith tradition began with his father, who raised Mbinda as a Catholic. "My Catholic faith was reinforced through my primary and high schooling, which I completed at Jesuit schools. I'm not sure about the exact origin, but I believe someone in my ancestry converted to Catholicism when the European missionaries were spreading the faith in Zimbabwe."

As Mbinda matured from boyhood into scientist, he confronted the disconnect between his faith and science. The Bible reckons the world is about 6,000-year old; science estimates our world is about 4.6 billion years old.

"In my opinion, the two complement each other," Mbinda said. "Science is great at identifying patterns in the world and explaining how and why different systems behave the way they do up to a certain point. After that point, it becomes harder to scientifically explain the origin and the way the world works and that's where I believe religion's role becomes important – explaining the supernatural. Obviously, science is constantly evolving and becoming better at understanding and manipulating different systems and parts of the world, but how did all this come to be?"

Before he leaves, he is willing to impart some advice to his Newman colleagues. "I would advise them to find different ways to be involved with Newman beyond attending Sunday Mass," he suggested. "Small involvements with the community help to bring some structure to life as a student and give me an opportunity to pause during a busy semester."

Newman director Fr. Brian Cool said he has grown fond of Mbinda, just as he does all his seniors who will transition to greater challenges.

"For the past four years, Kudzai has been more than a reflective presence at Mass," Cool said. "Always ready to assist, he is bright, humble and generous as he sits in the last row each week at Mass. I am certain he sits there not because it is fashionable, but because he always puts others before himself. His future is bright because he truly seeks the mission of his life united with Christ, which St. John Newman reminds us of."

Dominican Republic trip, a lesson on life



“Poverty to that extreme has been something I have been fortunate enough to avoid in my own life and something most people only see, read, or hear about.”

—Evan Benz '22

*Above: From three feet into a nine foot latrine hole
Below: UR Students share gifts with children on the feast of Christ the King*



When Evan Benz packed his bags for a January trip to the Dominican Republic, he had no idea that volunteering would fundamentally change his outlook on life and faith. Benz, 20, was comfortable in his college lifestyle and studies at the University of Rochester, and he was a frequent participant in Mass and activities at the Newman Center. He and seven others arrived Jan. 3 in Don Juan, a village of 3,000 about an hour and 30 minutes north of the coastal capital city of Santo Domingo. The immediate recognition of poverty in the town – a crossroads dotted with small shops but no stop signs or traffic signals – was moving.

“Poverty to that extreme has been something I have been fortunate enough to avoid in my own life,” he said, “and something most people only see, read, or hear about. Riding and walking through the towns, villages, and roads felt like something out of a movie, and something I never thought I’d see up close.”

The routine was to rise for breakfast at 8, dig latrines from 9-12:30, break an hour for lunch, then dig until 4:30 in 80-degree weather. Often, backyards are tainted with feces, washed in by the rains. For this reason, the latrine projects is intended to alleviate that health hazard. UR students brought gifts to celebrate The Feast of Three Kings at the local parish.

Benz too received an immediate gift—a heightened awareness of how fortunate a life he has lived, and a deepening of his faith. “Being able to feel and see the lack of accessibility to healthcare, adequate living conditions, and clean food/water was humbling and inspiring,” said the business finance major from Lancaster, just east of Buffalo. “The way they hold onto and value their faith under such conditions is beyond impressive and assuring of my own.”

Benz returned home with a deeper appreciation of his role in his family, his university, and his faith community.

UR Newman Director to Fr. Cool always marvels at the selflessness students like Benz display on this trip for the past 13 years. Benz credited the Newman Center with helping him define his faith as an adult. “Although I come from a Catholic family, I was the first to attend Catholic high school, which I would say formed the foundation of my faith,” Benz said. “In college, I’ll admit my connection with the church has waned at times, but the presence of the Newman Community, and Fr. Cool specifically, has allowed me to stay in touch with my faith. They have an amazing understanding of student life, our needs, and our wants. The Newman Community does an incredible job on making traditional faith available and accessible to college students. Benz returned home with a deeper appreciation of his role in his family, his university, and his faith community.

Kairos Returns

#40 in person



Kairos Participants

Back Row left to right: Danny Kelly, Ryan Cacace, Gianni Notaro, Alicia Lawson, Julia Kubes, Uzoma Ohajekwe, Jules Koudouovoh, Emiliano Flores, Eric Ciocci

Front Row left to right: Sam D'Amico, Jordan Hetu, Darrian Hawryluk, Mara Heppard, Amelia Swan, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, Anapaula Avila



"Kairos had a great effect on me. I was able to unplug from the real world and focus on bettering myself and my relationship with God. I definitely feel closer to God and feel like I have achieved a higher version of myself."
—Darrian Hawryluk '25



"Thanks for the great weekend. I enjoyed Kairos. It was a much needed mental reset."
—Samuel D'Amico '23

"I am so grateful I was able to be a part of this retreat. The Newman community has been so kind and welcoming and I really appreciate your friendliness. You truly care about each person on our campus. Thank you for being here."
—Alicia Lawson '25



"The retreat was a nice break from school and stress. I loved hearing the different faith journeys and bonding with other Catholic students. The Notre Dame house was beautiful and reminded me of God's creation."
—Julia Kubes '25



"I am so glad I got the opportunity to lead and be a part of the Kairos 40 retreat 'The Road to Emmaus'! During the retreat, I recognized not only how I may better walk alongside God, but also that in faith we are here to walk alongside each other."
—Mara Heppard '24

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Website: urnewman.org

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

Interfaith Chapel
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Cover: Stained glass from the interior of the Interfaith Chapel. Photo by John Smillie.



FROM BEHIND THE MASK



Day of Giving | 5.5.22

#URGiving



*The LORD spoke with you face to face
at the mountain from the midst of the fire (Dt 5:4)*