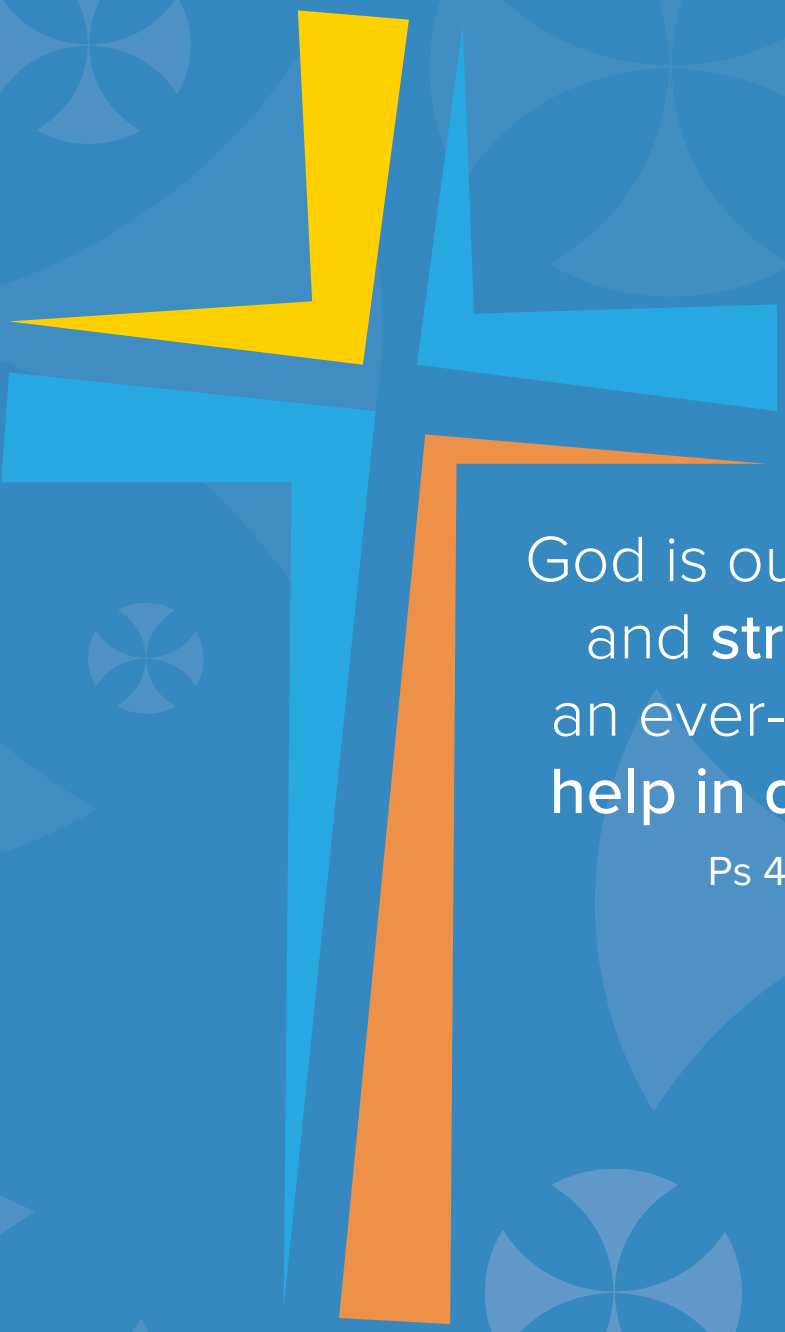


2019–2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# Newman

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



God is our refuge  
and **strength**,  
an ever-present  
help in distress.

Ps 46:2



UNIVERSITY of  
ROCHESTER

# Cool Thoughts



Sunday and Holy Water for Pentecost. We celebrated Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter via Zoom. We held weekly meditations (which still continue), an Agape Latte-esque lecture with Coach Jim Boeheim of Syracuse University, a virtual Baccalaureate Mass, building project town halls, and so much more—all created with countless hours of behind-the-scenes hours of planning. I have said on many occasions that this could never have been done without Sr. Leandra Kosmoski, Andrew Cirillo, and Darlene Giardina—our very capable and dedicated staff—not to mention our 10 student workers. And it could never have been done without YOU!

As a leader and manager, financial considerations were extremely high on my list of concerns during all of this (and they remain so). Businesses, and even parishes, were shutting down. Making payroll

So, how have you been doing? Since the pandemic, which has swept across the world, these words really take on a different meaning, don't they? All of our emotional, physical, financial, and even spiritual lives look very different as do the hours, days, weeks, and months we have experienced.

**“As the end of the year report demonstrates, I am personally once again very moved by the ongoing support and confidence YOU place in our ministry.”**

On March 11, 2020, the Newman Community heard that routine University of Rochester operations were shifting significantly. Students were being sent home to take classes online. The Medical Center, academic schools, and partner organizations like Newman were following New York State mandates by moving into lockdown. I have to admit it was a very frightening time. New York City was hit particularly hard by the Coronavirus, and the impact was rapid and significant, leading the nation in infections, hospitalizations, and, sadly, deaths. Uncertainty was everywhere!

and adjusting budget responsibilities with unknown resources were alarming tasks, especially keeping in mind the staff and student workers deeply committed to their vocation and to Christ. But a commitment was made in light of Newman's overall responsibilities to serve and to trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We only needed to better understand the impact of the virus upon our ministry and those we serve—and we have done so and will continue to do so as our particular situation unfolds in the coming months.

It was critical and essential that the deep hope offered by Christ find a voice and be shared with our Newman family. We took our Masses online, we sent students, parents, alumni, and friends many emails, texts, and phone calls. We mailed out palms for Palm

As this end of the year report demonstrates, I am personally once again very moved by the ongoing support and confidence YOU place in our ministry. It makes all the difference, and I am happy to share that our Catholic ministry not only remained strong

but indeed grew! Catholic Mass was the first religious program that returned to on-campus status within the Interfaith Chapel, as well as one of the first activities approved in the University's Restart and Recovery initiative.

**Newman now is actively preparing to fully open in just a few days.** We have also been training 10 new Stephen Minister caregivers, our largest group ever, who are preparing to become peer ministers to students who have the same emotional, physical, financial, and spiritual challenges each one of us navigates. They have committed to over 50 hours of special instruction to help others deal with anxiety, stress, loss, fear, depression, and a host of other concerns as they come back to campus and face the new realities of university life. This is one of many ways

Newman is deepening faith, preparing leaders, serving the vulnerable, and facilitating personal development.

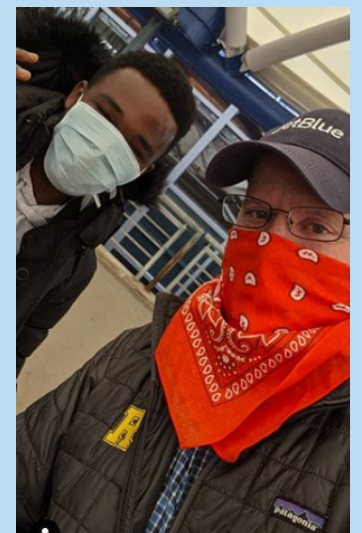
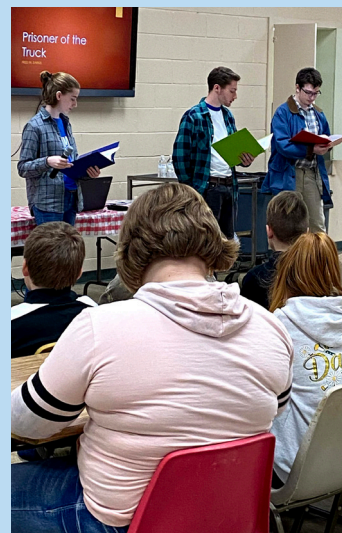
St. Paul said to the people of Philippi, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (4:13)." Fear, doubt, hopelessness, and even uncertainty have no place in the Christian life. Thanks to you, they certainly don't at Newman. We are strong and ready for a bright year ahead, because we live in Christ!

Peace,



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

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





# A Word from the Back Office



from all over the world. Your communal presence and kindness illustrated in this here annual report demonstrates your shared vision in the mission that Newman takes to heart each and every day—offering quality faith experiences that enlighten the soul and bring the practitioner, the student, closer to Christ and the Gospel message of love, justice, and mercy.

I cannot offer each of you enough gratitude for your collective generosity to our organization, but I can without a doubt assure you of the confidence that we as a staff have as we move forward into the 2020–21 academic year. Let us not lose trust in the precious gift that our Christian faith places at our fingertips—the ability and necessity to hope in times of hopelessness. After all, “. . . the Lord, your God, is with you wherever you go” (Josh 1:9).

God’s blessings upon you and yours—  
stay safe and healthy,

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

It is quite strange to think that the world in which we now currently reside is the “new normal,” a reality that so many of us never dreamed of or thought possible! After more than five months of quarantine, treatment, contact tracing, and research, it seems that the malediction of the Coronavirus is a permanent fixture that we will never be rid of (at least not without a vaccinal remedy). However, it is our Catholic Christian faith that teaches us never to despair, for hope always wins the day—or in this case, the year or how ever long it takes to subdue COVID-19.

It is our belief in the miraculous Resurrection of Jesus Christ that propels us toward living a life without the overwhelming influence of sadness and doubt, notwithstanding the inevitable moments of gloom and uncertainty that have and will continue to enter our lives in time of war, famine, disease, and hunger. It is the glorious Resurrection that teaches us to be resilient and assured that the saving power of God will reign victorious in our hearts, our minds, and our souls. And here I use the pronoun “our” in a deliberate way, for we, humanity, are God’s most precious gift to the world, and thus our hope in the Kingdom of heaven must always be a collective hope. For as famous Swiss theologian, Hans Urs von Balthasar, states, “Hope must never be individualistic: it must always be social.”

To rally off this point in yet another direction, I want to thank you all for your common hope in and support of our very own Newman Community. Collectively, you carried us through the storm, so-to-speak, allowing us to adapt quickly and virtually to continue offering liturgical, spiritual, and prayerful activities to hundreds of current students, their parents, alumni, and friends

## Join Us Online!

Connect with us to be engaged with all that is happening at Newman and meet other alumni, parents, friends, and staff.

**Facebook:** [@newmanatur](#)

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# What Our Students Are Saying About Our Ministry

Every day, our students represent their faith and their leadership through the many activities and ministries that Newman offers.

Take a look and see how some of our 75 student leaders value their relationship with the Catholic community on campus and learn more about what our students do, and how it changes their lives and others!



## E-Board

### Alydia Meinecke '21

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As a member of E-Board, I learned how much the staff and community care for the students here at the University of Rochester. I saw firsthand how much joy Newman dinners, events, day trips, and Masses can bring to a person. I am grateful for the opportunity I was given to play a role in brightening someone's day.



## Alternative Spring Break

### Basil Gaji '22

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The Alternative Spring Break trip has been an opportunity for me to grow in my spiritual life—serving people in need and reflecting on the Gospel. I have been on ASB twice. I ended up attending a second time as I realized that I was ministered to as much as I ministered to others. Plus, it's a great way to get to make new friends.



## **Stephen Ministry**

Eric Ciocci '22

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Stephen Ministry is a place for students to talk one-on-one with another student about something that may be troubling them. It's similar to therapy, only the Stephen Minister offers no advice, leaving the students a confidential and free environment to express whatever it is they'd like to. Offering this kind of program at college is extremely beneficial because this time in students' lives is often a challenging one, so it gives students a place that they can turn to and discern their aspects of life that may need it, with someone to listen.



## **Kairos Retreats**

Michael Taylor '20

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Kairos has been an integral part of my Newman experience at the University of Rochester. It provided me an opportunity like no other to disconnect from the chaos of campus life and focus on my relationships with God and my brothers and sisters in Christ.



## **Music Ministry**

Paige Van Haute '21

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Being the Assistant Music Director means I get to enhance the liturgy through thoughtful music and that I get to help build a community within Newman. Being part of the music ministry here at Newman has allowed me to connect with God through music and provided me with a strong group of friends I know I will have for a long time.



## **St. Sebastian Society**

Patrick Hill-Junke '21

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It has been such a blessing to be a part of the St. Sebastian Society. I am so grateful that I am able to give back to the greater Rochester community and help those that are less fortunate than many students at the University of Rochester. The St. Sebastian Society is a group of Rochester varsity and club athletes that put on many events and programs with the ideals of giving back to the less fortunate as well as promoting spirituality and leadership.



# Newman by the Numbers

## Putting in the Time

Perhaps the greatest gift that our Newman students can give is their time. This year, our amazing students spent over 14,000 hours of their time with Newman: leading, organizing, and participating in activities, prayer, and lectures, going on trips and retreats together, and selflessly volunteering their talents to serve those in need. These volunteer hours include but are not limited to the following:

### Kairos

4120 Hours

46 students each spent 100 hours on training, planning, and retreats.

### Stephen Ministry

900 Hours

15 students each spent 60 hours on training, events, and one-on-one sessions supporting students in crisis.

### Music Ministry

1950 Hours

15 musicians each spent 130 hours practicing and playing at Mass.

### E-Board

200 Hours

8 students each spent 50 hours attending meetings, events, trips, and volunteering.

### Alternative Spring Break

1200 Hours

10 students each spent 120 hours volunteering at spring break sites.

### St. Sebastian Society

5,850 Hours

45 students each spent 130 hours planning and attending meetings and lectures, all the while providing service to the vulnerable, growing in faith, and becoming stronger leaders.

## Congratulations, Class of 2020!



# Preaching the Gospel: Our Seminarians

**Listening to the Word of God has always been a pivotal part of our Newman Tradition at the University of Rochester.** From internalizing the Word at Mass and other liturgies to living it out across campus and throughout the world, our students have brought the Gospel values of love, peace, and justice with them wherever they go! And it is no mistake that some of these students internalize the Word so much, that they decide to proclaim it for a living!

Over the 58 years of Newman's permanent existence on this campus, and the over 90 years of Catholic presence period, some dozen or so men have been called to the priesthood. Read below for more information about the latest class of seminarians in dioceses and seminaries across the United States, and their unwavering commitment to the Good News, especially in light of the current events across our nation and our world!



## **Steven Lewis '00**

**Hometown: Greene, New York**

**Saint John's Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts**

**Seminarian for the Diocese of Rochester**

I recall a couple people over the years at my home parish in Greene, New York, having suggested I pursue the priesthood. It had been in the background for years. I recall when studying for the MPA

that it was a management degree for government jobs (which I had at the time) and non-profit jobs (which would be practically relevant to the administration of parishes, should I pursue that route).

In 2013, my plan was to get a job, forcing me to sell my house, and then figure out the whole vocation thing. This was not God's plan. This became evident as a job I applied for in Green Bay, Wisconsin, called me for an interview. I had an almost comic difficulty in making it to Mass on Sunday, which involved trips to three churches. Pope Benedict announced his abdication on the morning of my interview—talk about distracting. And the landing on the flight back to Rochester was the most harrowing I have ever experienced. Rather than be frightened, I was laughing. I saw in it God's hand, that God's plan for me was elsewhere.

Seminarian life is explicitly focused on formation in intellectual, human, pastoral, and spiritual dimensions of life. In practice,

the day-to-day is not greatly different from student life at the University. There, classwork is explicitly about intellectual formation, perhaps internship opportunities correspond to pastoral formation, and time at Newman and personal prayer correspond to spiritual formation. Having worked in higher education, the human element is present implicitly in the other areas of campus living. The seminary is just more intentional about it all, for understandable reasons.

Our introduction to homiletics course was my most enjoyable so far, and rather unexpectedly so. With a career in technology, there was a lingering doubt about how comfortable I might be with the more public aspects of priestly ministry. I have found joy in the creativity involved in writing homilies, comfort in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in this format (at least in practice), and hope that the grace of ordination can only build on a gift I was not sure I had.

I am most looking forward to celebrating the sacraments as a priest (God-willing), especially Holy Mass. (The encounter of God through the sacraments points especially to the truth of God as highest good as well.) As far as where that ministry happens, I am at peace to leave the decision to the bishop, in due consideration of the needs of the diocese.





## Jacob Kasak '17E

**Hometown: Orangevale, California**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary, Denton, Nebraska**

**Seminarian for the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP)**

I decided to enter the seminary because I was unsure whether I had a priestly vocation. In other words, I wanted to rule it out as an option, but at this point the priesthood looks like God's plan for me.

every evening except Saturdays, we observe complete silence from 8 p.m. (after chanting Compline) until 8 a.m. after Mass the next morning.

So far, my favorite class has been Natural Theology, since it studies God insofar as human reason can grasp the divine. It gives me beautiful topics to meditate on and discuss with Our Lord when I do my daily mental prayer (meditation). Actually, I also love my Modern Music class, which is the technical name for our weekly polyphonic choir rehearsal for the liturgy. We sing choral works written largely for equal voices written by a wide variety of composers.

I do not really have any plans for post-ordination. The Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter staffs parishes all over the world, so I could be a parish priest at any one of our apostolates as long as I can speak the language. Now that I am studying Spanish, the possibilities might be expanding into Mexico and South America for me.

During a typical week in the seminary, we chant four of the eight hours of the old Divine Office on class days, starting with Lauds at 6:20 a.m. The classes we take cover various branches of philosophy and theology. We take scripture, spirituality, doctrine, liturgy, Latin, church history, and Gregorian chant classes. Towards the end of the seven-year program, we take homiletics, the confession practicum, and a class on how to celebrate Mass. We have a mandatory recreation period every day following lunch and an optional one after supper. The work schedule varies. Jobs range from cleaning restrooms to serving food at meals. Finally,



## George Bastedo IV '16, '18E (MA)

**Hometown: Clyde, New York**

**St. Mark Seminary, Erie, Pennsylvania**

**Seminarian for the Diocese of Rochester**

I started considering the priesthood while I was in graduate school. The big thing that got me thinking about it was that people (some that I knew and some that I did not) kept asking me if I had ever thought

about the priesthood. I was resistant at first, but when I met with one of the vocation directors for the Diocese of Rochester, he said something that put me at ease—"just because one enters the seminary, doesn't mean that he's signing on the dotted line to become a priest." There is still plenty of discernment that happens while at the seminary, especially in the first few years.

I eventually decided to try teaching, since that had been what I wanted to do since I was at least in junior high school. During my year of teaching, I was struck by the overwhelming amount of secularization in the public schools, which only made me want to enter the seminary even more. So, over the summer I submitted my resignation and started preparing for the seminary.

Monday through Friday are class days. We start with Morning Prayer and Mass at 7:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at 8:00

a.m. After that, most men have morning classes, lunch at noon, and then possibly afternoon classes, depending on the day. We have Holy Hour with Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m., and then dinner at 6:00 p.m. Saturdays are typically the most open for us. On Sundays, we have Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Then we have Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by brunch. After that, the rest of the day is open.

My favorite class so far is a tough choice to make, but I think I will give the edge to Logic. Having studied mathematics for my undergraduate degree, Logic was right up my alley, and I found it interesting to study other logical systems that I did not learn about in my degree program.

As I just finished my first year in seminary, I have not given too much thought to what specifically I would do after ordination. With the number of priests that we have right now, the default assumption is typically that one will go on to work in a parish somewhere. I could possibly see myself doing some teaching though. Of course, I would be more than happy to do whatever the bishop asked of me.

## Pray for Our Newman Seminarians

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# Newman Center Project

Our deepest thanks goes out to these donors who made a gift to the historic Newman Center Project, which will significantly enhance Catholic student life and programming at the University for generations. For more information, please visit, [urnewman.org/building](http://urnewman.org/building).

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Eugene and Gloria Ulterino  
Janice and Joseph Willett  
James and Jeanette Zavislan

## George Eastman Circle

We send our gratitude to all those who have made 5-year pledge commitments within the 2019–2020 fiscal year, those of which transform Newman's ministry by providing stable and annual programming support through the University's George Eastman Circle. For more information, please visit, [urnewman.org/giving/gec](http://urnewman.org/giving/gec).

Courtney Astemborski  
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Bo Wang and Linh Phan  
Paul and Susan Wegman  
Rev. Peter Wehrle

## Wilson Society

Newman's long term sustainability is critical and we acknowledge with deep affection those who have included our ministry in their estate planning through the University's Wilson Society. For more information, please visit [urnewman.org/giving/planned-giving](http://urnewman.org/giving/planned-giving).

J. Nelson Hoffman† and Joan Dutcher Hoffman  
Glenn and Bridget Janus  
Margaret† and Peter† Kress  
Ann Kubarek  
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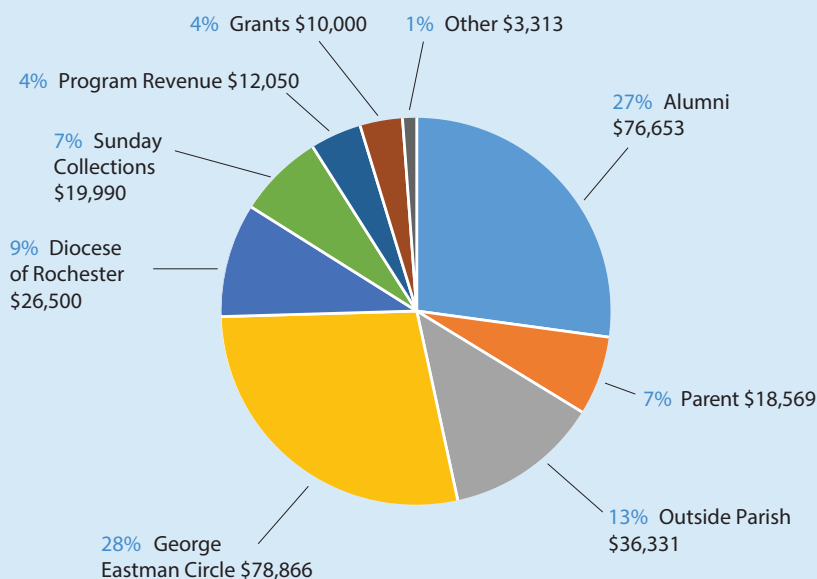


# Financial Report

Year-End Fiscal Results

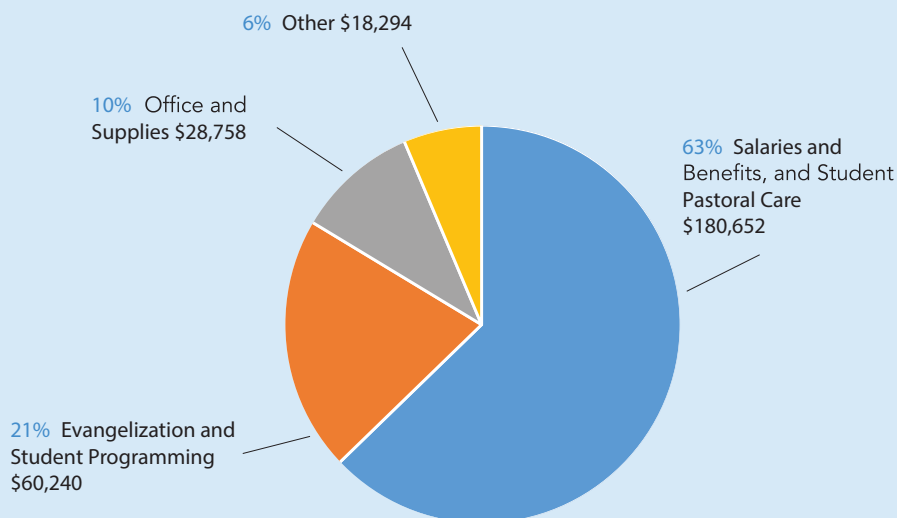
July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020

## 2019–2020 Operating Income: \$282,272



Nearly 70 percent of our annual income comes from alumni, parents, and friends. Just 3 percent of our income comes from the University.

## 2019–2020 Operating Expenses: \$287,944



## Our Team

### Advisory Board

- Sunil Abraham '00, '00
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- David Drahms '00
- Tyler Kieft '10
- Holly Krukowski '02N, '06N (MS)
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For more information,  
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at (585) 275-9916 or  
[craimy@admin.rochester.edu](mailto:craimy@admin.rochester.edu).

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Please consider sponsoring any of the below programs by contacting Andrew Nicholas Cirillo,  
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\$100

### A/V System Upgrade

\$500

### Fellowship, Retreat, and Liturgy Supplies

\$50

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