

FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Newman

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Calendar

Nov 16 - Third Sunday Supper
Dec 4 - Newman Night
Dec 7 - Christmas on Campus
Dec 8 - Midnight Mass
Dec 8 - Last Day of Class
Dec 9-11 - Reading Period
Dec 10 - Newman Bowling
Dec 12-17 - Exams



Weekly at Newman

Sunday Mass - 10:30am & 7:00pm
Daily Mass - M&T 12:30pm, Th 5:30pm
InstaMass - Wednesday 9:00pm
Women's Bible Study - Monday 6:30pm
Men's Bible Study - Tuesday 6:00pm
Newman Night - Thursday 6:00pm
Rosary Group - Thursday 7:00 pm
OCIA - Thursday 7:15pm
Adoration - Friday 5:00pm

*Your gift changes the lives of students with the
gift of the Catholic faith.*

*Caroline Butler
Executive Director of Student Life Advancement
caroline.butler@rochester.edu 585-276-7423*

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Catholic Newman Community

Year-End Giving

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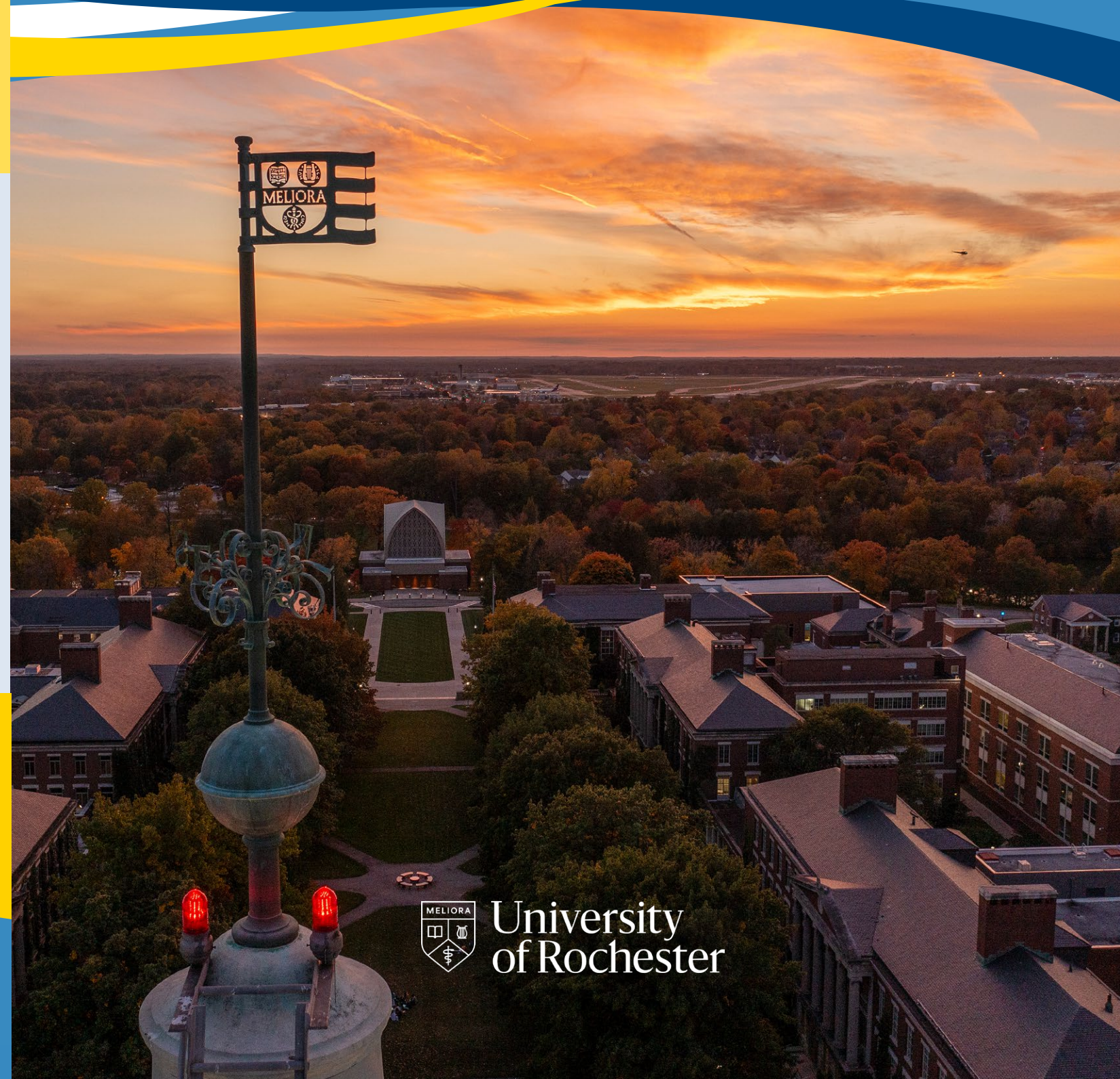


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Community at the
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<http://www.urnewman.org>

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University
of Rochester

How A New Semester Begins



Orientation Fair- Ethan Seman '27, Thomas Lynch IV '28, Alyssa Cisneros '26, Fr. Brian Cool

The first week of classes may mark the visible start of a new semester, but for the Catholic Newman Community, the real beginning happens weeks earlier in offices of the Interfaith Chapel. Before the first student steps back on campus there is already a hum of activity as staff and student leaders gather to shape the year ahead.

It all begins with a staff meeting led Chaplain Fr. Brian Cool, joined by new Campus Minister Jennifer Hughes, and a dedicated team of student leaders. Together they lay out the vision for the semester: calendars are filled, events are brainstormed, and roles are assigned. This session is about more than logistics; it is about discerning how to create a true spiritual home where students can encounter Christ, grow in faith, and find community with one another.

Building the Foundation

From the first meeting the work of outreach begins. More than 160 incoming first-year students are already pre-registered with Newman and receive letters of introduction and welcome from our Executive Committee members. These letters from student leaders provide more than information by offering a heartfelt invitation into a faith community that will walk with students during their Rochester years.

Parents, too, are reminded that Newman is a partner in supporting their sons and daughters as they navigate the challenges and joys of college life as faith and intellect grow together.

Orientation & First Week

Students arrive to a campus already alive and in motion. A full calendar of Welcome Week and early semester events awaits, blending joy, faith, and friendship:

August 20 – Resource Fair

Newman joins more than 60 campus groups, offering students the chance to meet our staff and student leaders, learn about retreats, service projects, Newman Nights, small groups, and sign ups to get involved. In one afternoon more than 100 students register to take their first step into Newman life.

August 24 – First Sunday 10:30 AM Mass

The heart of Newman life begins here. Returning students reunite and new students encounter the welcoming spirit of a community built on prayer and belonging as they fill the lower level. The 7:30PM Mass begins the following week.

August 27 – InstaMass (Wednesday, 9 PM)

A student favorite, this midweek liturgy drew more than 40 students for worship, music, and reflection that was followed by fellowship and snacks.

August 28 – Annual Jenga Jam Tournament

A cherished Newman tradition! Students gather for food, giveaways, and the ultimate tower-building challenge. Beneath the laughter and friendly competition, new friendships are formed that last far beyond that first week.

Faith That Grows Beyond the Calendar

Through these gatherings and personal interactions, recruit student and builds the foundation for over 100 programs to come this year. The Catholic Newman Community continues to be more than just a club or campus activity. It is a living presence of the Church, offering students a space to pray, serve, and belong.

What begins in planning meetings, personal letters, and welcome events blossoms into a vibrant ministry that forms hearts and minds for Christ. Alumni, parents, and friends can be proud that the seeds of joy, faith, and service sown as students arrive are already bearing fruit that is nurtured by the Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester.



Jenga— Mia Maurizio '28, Steven Hinton '27, Michael Riddell '26, Drew Kaczmarek '29, Domenic Rini '27, Levis Li '26, Ian Roman-Rodriguez '29

Mack Center Construction Taking Shape

May-June: Site Preparation begins



July-August: Foundation Complete



September-October: Steel and Timber Go Up



November: Enclosed for Interior Work



Hard Hat Tours

Fr. Richard Miserendino, E'07



Tim Guide, '25, M'26, Building Committee



Megan Henry, building supporter



Dean Emeritus Kevin Parker and Jean Baric Parker



Bob Cummings, Advisory Board Member and parent of Ryan, MS'09, PhD'13



From Camino to Campus: Jennifer Hughes Begins Her Ministry at Newman

The Catholic Newman Community is delighted to welcome Jennifer Hughes as its new Campus Minister this semester. Jennifer brings a rich blend of experience, creativity, and faith to her ministry, along with a deep passion for walking with students on their journeys of discovery and belief.

Jennifer’s academic background includes degrees in Psychology and Art (B.S.), Art Therapy (M.P.S.), and Theology (M.A.), a path that beautifully reflects her lifelong interest in the intersection of creativity, healing, and spirituality. For more than nine years, she served in Faith Formation and Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Rochester. She accompanied young people and their families as they grew in their relationship with God and discovered how faith could bring meaning and direction to their lives.

A pivotal experience that shaped Jennifer’s calling to campus ministry came in the summer of 2024, when she completed the 490-mile French Route of the Camino de Santiago. Along the pilgrimage, she encountered God in the unexpected, learned



to listen deeply to others, and renewed her own sense of spiritual purpose. “The Camino affirmed my desire to accompany others on their spiritual journeys,” Jennifer reflected, “and deepened my trust in God’s work.

As she begins her new role at Newman, Jennifer is eager to create spaces where students can ask honest questions, wrestle with doubt, celebrate joy, and grow in faith wherever they may find themselves along their path. Her compassionate presence and creative spirit promise to enrich the life of the community in profound ways.

Outside of ministry, Jennifer enjoys working with soft pastels, reading, and sharing meaningful conversations over coffee. She looks forward to getting to know students, staff, and community members alike as she joins the Catholic Newman Community in its mission to form hearts and minds for Christ.

Bridging Distance with Faith, Love, and Food

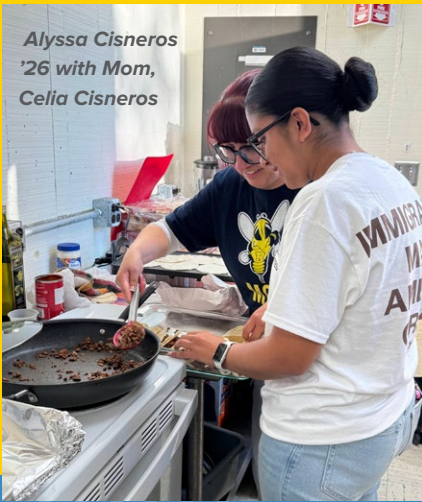
This Meliora Weekend, the Catholic Newman Community experienced a heartwarming reminder of the bonds that faith and family create no matter the miles between. During our weekly Thursday Newman Night dinner for more than 30 students, Alyssa Cisneros (’26), who is double majoring in Neuroscience and Music, received a surprise that left everyone smiling: an unexpected visit from her mother! Celia, traveled all the way from Texas to be with her daughter for Meliora Weekend in her senior year.

For Celia, it was her first time back on the University of Rochester campus since Alyssa’s initial college visit four years earlier. Since then, Alyssa has made the long journey north on her own, building a second home within the Catholic Newman Community. Over the past three years, she has become a cornerstone of Catholic life on campus, serving with dedication and joy as both a Director of our Music Ministry and a member of the Newman Student Executive Board designing programs that engage students.

Celia’s surprise visit was made even more memorable by her generosity. She didn’t just show up, she cooked for more than thirty students! Bringing a touch of Texas warmth to Rochester, she

brought with her ingredients from her home to donate and prepare home-cooked meal of tacos and soup as a surprise to all members of the Catholic Newman Community gathered that night. The dinner quickly turned into a celebration of love, laughter, and family, with students gathering around tables filled with food, joy, and even a few happy tears.

The evening served as a beautiful testament to the power of faith and family, reminding everyone present that God’s love is often revealed through the people we hold most dear and in surprises that make a difference. The Cisneros family’s reunion was more than a surprise, it was a living example of the community and grace that define Newman life.



Cool Thoughts

A New Home Rising For a Growing Church

In late August, the foundation was poured for the Joseph P. Mack Catholic Center and the William and Mary Carpenter Family Chapel, the new permanent home for Catholic life at the University of Rochester. The Center and Chapel will offer sacred spaces for prayer, learning, hospitality, and worship as an enduring sign of hope and presence at the heart of the University. When doors open this Spring 2026, the Center will give birth to an anticipated 20–25 percent increase in student participation, which is a testament to the deep and growing hunger for faith on campus.

Even before the new building, Catholic life at URochester is alive and flourishing! Over 220 students gathered for our very first Sunday Mass of the new school year. More than 170 first-year students have already registered with Newman, bringing our engaged Catholic community to just under 800 total members. In the first week alone, 100 students filled our Jenga Jam, Bible Studies, and Newman Night Meal, launching the semester with unmistakable energy and joy. Students are coming in record numbers!

In a campus culture marked by constant motion and digital noise, Newman has become a spiritual home where students encounter God and rediscover what is lasting, real, and good. Each Wednesday night at 9 p.m., more than 40 students gather for InstaMass, a liturgy that draws participants across academic years and majors into prayerful stillness and communion. Men’s and women’s Bible studies, weekly Adoration, and a growing Rosary group have joined InstaMass to become touchstones for many students seeking to anchor their lives in Christ.

Amid the distractions and uncertainties of modern life, students are rediscovering in the Catholic faith a clear and timeless foundation that is rooted in love, reason, and hope. The recent election of Pope Leo XIV, the first pontiff from America, has only deepened this sense of excitement. His call for young people to “walk in truth and rebuild the confidence of the human heart” resonates profoundly on our campus. Many students see in him a shepherd who understands their generation’s questions and who believes they can be protagonists in renewing the Church. His example has sparked prayer, conversation, and a joyful determination to live the Gospel with courage.

This year, that spirit of renewal is embodied in our largest OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) class in fifteen years with eleven students preparing to enter or return to the Catholic Church. Their testimonies of faith, curiosity, and conversion are deeply moving. Some first encountered Christ through Newman events, while others are finding a community that inspires them to become fully Catholic. All share a common longing for truth and meaning that they have found in the Catholic Church. Their witness is inspiring their peers and strengthening our entire community.

Catholic life at URochester is alive and flourishing!

The excitement has carried through the fall. During Meliora Weekend, hundreds of alumni, parents, and students gathered to celebrate this new and emerging chapter in Newman’s story. Catholic life at Rochester is not merely enduring, it is thriving. Guided by the Spirit, inspired by the witness of Pope Leo XIV, and rooted in Christ’s love, our students are proving that the Catholic faith continues to illuminate minds, heal hearts, and transform lives on the River Campus and beyond.

As always, I am so deeply grateful for your prayer, support and encouragement. It remains a blessing in my life to serve here at Rochester and the students who call Newman home.

Peace,

Rev. Brian C. Cool, '06W (MS), '21W (EdD)
J. Nelson Hoffman '55 and Joan Dutcher Hoffman '55
Director of Catholic Newman Community Pastoral Care

Remembering Ronald J. Paprocki, '69, MBA'77

A Legacy of Faith, Wisdom, and Leadership

The Catholic Newman Community at the University of Rochester gives thanks to God for the life and legacy of Ronald J. Paprocki '69, MBA '77, whose professional excellence and deep faith left an enduring mark on the University he loved. Ron's remarkable career began shortly after his graduation in 1969 when he joined the University staff in academic counseling and budgeting roles. Over the next five decades, he rose steadily through the ranks ultimately serving as Senior Vice President for Administration



Ron and Cathy Paprocki

& Finance, Chief Financial Officer, and Treasurer. In each role, he combined strategic vision with personal humility, a tinge of humor, and steady hand while guiding the University through transformative growth, economic challenges, and bold new ventures.

Ron was instrumental in shaping the modern University of Rochester. He oversaw the development of the \$100 million mixed-use project College Town, and he was the architect of the University's first Campus Master Plan. He also earned recognition as Rochester Business Journal's Financial Executive of the Year for guiding the University safely through the 2008 financial crisis. When the University and the Catholic Newman Community undertook the monumental project to establish a permanent home for Catholic life on campus, Ron once again stepped forward, this time as Chair of the Mack Catholic Center Building Committee. He served from the inaugural meeting in 2019 until his passing in February 2025, one week before the building groundbreaking ceremony. Ann Kubarek '84, Newman Trustee and building committee member added, "Ron's leadership ensured the project remained true to both the University's standards and Newman's mission. His integrity and faith anchored the committee."

Along with all this professional accomplishment, Ron's heart was always grounded in faith and love. He was a proud graduate of Aquinas Institute, a lifelong Catholic, and loving husband to his wife Cathy for more than fifty-six years. Their home was marked by warmth, laughter, and hospitality as they raised their three children,

Krista Coleton (Peter), Ron Jr. (Maria Roemer), and Karin Howard (Jon) and welcomed their beloved grandchildren. Together Ron and Cathy modeled an enduring Catholic marriage rooted in mutual respect, joy, and steadfast love.

In one of their most meaningful gestures, Ron and Cathy commissioned the Marian icon, Our Lady Who Leads Us to Better Things. Ron chose this title to express his conviction that faith in

Christ continually calls us to something higher and holier. The gift of this sacred image, together with a new tabernacle, will inspire prayer and deepen the faith of generations of students who will encounter Christ within the walls of the Mack Catholic Center.

"Ron possessed incredible wisdom and a calm demeanor that grounded us throughout the challenging process," said Fr. Brian C. Cool, Director of the Catholic Newman Community. "In many ways, he was my confessor, always listening, advising, and helping me see that faith needs to inform every decision. His love for his wife and family, his commitment to the Church, and his devotion to the University inspired me daily. I am not only profoundly grateful for his friendship and his witness, but I am also transformed because of it. I miss him greatly."

"Ron had a gift for bringing peace to the room," reflected Ann Kubarek '84, committee member. "He reminded us that our goal was not just to construct a building, but to build up faith for generations to come."

Ron's legacy now stands in stone, glass, and timber as the Joseph P. Mack Catholic Center and the William & Mary Carpenter Family Chapel takes shape on the very campus he loved as a student, senior administrator, and Catholic volunteer. As future students gather to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle or beneath the gaze of Our Lady of Meliora, they will give thanks for the good and faithful servant whose life at URochester leads us still to better things through Christ.

Newman Leaders Greet the Class of 2029

Each summer, as high school graduates prepare to begin their college journey at the University of Rochester, a unique Newman tradition continues that bridges generations of faith-filled students. This year, Ethan Seman '27, Executive board President of the Catholic Newman Community, carried forward that long-standing custom by personally writing to every incoming Catholic student that welcoming them to campus and inviting them into the life of Newman.



Ethan Seman '27

For more than ten years, this letter from student leaders has served as a heartfelt introduction because it is one written by a fellow student who understands both the excitement and uncertainty of beginning college life. It offers a message of encouragement and hospitality, letting new students know that when they arrive in Rochester they already have a home waiting for them.

“Join the Newman Community filled with wonderful people.”

Ethan's message this year continued that spirit of welcome, inviting first-year students to "join the Newman Community filled with wonderful people." He described Newman as "a home-away-from-home" where friendship, faith, and belonging come together. He highlighted the energy surrounding the ongoing construction

of the Mack Catholic Center, the new home for Catholic life as an inspiring symbol of faith's enduring presence in the heart of the University.

As first-year students open their letters, often the first piece of college mail addressed personally to them, they are reminded that faith is not left behind when entering college. Rather, it grows stronger through connection. For returning students like Ethan, the act of writing these letters becomes a reflection of gratitude for all they've received at Newman and a chance to extend that same warmth to those just beginning their journey.

Throughout the fall, the impact of this tradition comes to life. First-year students arrive already familiar with Newman's weekly gatherings, from Sunday Mass and InstaMass on Wednesday nights to the beloved Newman Night dinners each Thursday. Many later share that Ethan's letter was their first introduction to a community that would become central to their college experience.

In a campus world filled with change and motion, this simple act of a student writing to another stands out as a beautiful reminder of continuity and care. It reflects Newman's mission to form relationships that bridge years, majors, and experiences, all while remaining rooted in Christ and animated by love.

As Ethan wrote to the Class of 2029: "Your presence is a blessing to everyone else in Newman." In that spirit, the Catholic Newman Community joyfully welcomes its newest members and celebrates the faith that connects them with community members across generations.



Thank you Luci Izzo & Ray Sherbinski!

We greatly appreciate you do for Catholic life here at Rochester, including sponsoring our Third Sunday Suppers from Polizzi's!