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It is one of the most wonderful sounds I am able to hear. It is the sound of voices as they echo through the halls of the Newman Center, up to my second story office. Laughter mingles with longer periods of quiet chatter. Conversations ebb and flow as more people walk through the doors, sometimes changing the course of the interactions, other times adding another voice to the mix. People move about the house, and the echoes shift from the kitchen to the dining room, to the front office and back again. As I become aware of that wonderful sound throughout the house, a smile steals across my face. For I know another generation is learning how to 'share the secrets of the heart.' And I know that the Newman Center is being faithful to its mission to prepare people "for their active roles in the church and in the world."

There are a number of ways to measure the success of the mission of the Newman Center (and the church). One way is to ask what is the quality of the conversations. When a student who usually is pretty quiet feels safe enough to share a struggle at home, it is a success. When another student felt it important enough to continue to meet with their director from the Busy Person's Retreat on an ongoing basis, continuing the conversation begun in early October, it is a success. When people learn to listen to another's heart in a conversation, forming that bond called friendship and trust, we are doing exactly what our mission calls us to do.

Of course, the ultimate conversation the Newman Center fosters is the one with God. When 12 students decide to spend an hour on a Friday afternoon at Mass, instead of 'gearing up for the weekend', I am hopeful that THE conversation is happening. When 15 students are already planning our annual Awakening Retreat that won't happen till the end of January you sense how important God is in their lives. They plan and work hard and long because they have met the living God on their own retreat experience, and now want to introduce their peers to the friend they know.

Our Catholic faith tells us that the nature of God is conversation. It is the Father who speaks himself in love to the Son, the Son who breathes back the love so powerfully, that that conversation between Father and Son is called Spirit. Our Triune God is all about relationship, all about the sharing of self, the giving and emptying of the self into the other. As often as we enter into communion with another human being, as often as we share 'the secrets of the heart', we enter into the mystery that we call God.

So I listen to the sounds of the conversations as they echo through the house to my office and I smile. And I find my own internal conversation, the one that I have with God called prayer, filled with a sense of gratitude and wonder and awe. I breathe a prayer of petition that the wonderful noise will continue long after I head home for the day. And I thank God for all the students who invite me to the holy ground of their lives through that gift and grace called conversation.

~Fr. Bill

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Alumni Spotlight: Aaron Costello

Imagine that you live in West Virginia. You are living in the center of the Appalachian Mountains. Everyday you go out and serve the underprivileged people living in these mountains. Everyday you set aside time to pray and listen to our creator through nature, people, and service. To many this is something we can only imagine but for Newman Center alum, Aaron Costello,



this is reality.

After graduating last May from the College of Business, Aaron headed east to West Virginia. Where he became a volunteer staff member at a cozy little place called Nazareth Farm. Nazareth Farm is a Catholic community where they focus on four main principles: prayer, service, community, and simplicity. At Nazareth Farm, Aaron assists in helping to repair homes throughout the rural parts of West Virginia. Aaron participated

in Newman's May Service Trip to Nazareth Farm two years ago. He was so inspired by Nazareth Farm and the work that happens there, he decided he would commit at least one year of his life to the farm.

In Aaron's down time at the farm, he loves to visit the community members of the farm and to work in the woodshop. We all hope to see him out at the farm when we go on the annual May Service Trip!

~ Amy Barker

New Faces at Newman

Every fall as the new semester begins, the Newman Center is again bustling with activity and students. The students catch up with old friends, talk about who did what over the summer, and wonder how long does everybody have until graduation and what to do after that day comes. The UMSL Newman Center has always been great at bringing the congregation back together along with a couple new faces each year. This year though, we seem to have more than just a couple new faces.

This year, like many others before, we have had our usual beginning of the year social activities: Welcome/Welcome Back Student Dinner, Volleyball & Ice Cream Social, the Great Getaway, Volleyball Intramurals, and of course weekly Mass. Like before many who attended these events were long-time Newman people. What's new though is that our attendance has increased significantly and almost half of the people showing up have been new students and it's been awesome!

The new faces around the house include Francesco from Italy. He joined us for Volleyball intramurals and Soup with Sister on Fridays. I think one of our best conversations has been trying to explain baseball and the World Series to him.

A benefit of having larger numbers of new students included having enough players at the Volleyball & Ice Cream Social to keep two full teams playing for hours. We completely filled up the house for our Welcome/Welcome Back Dinner and had about ten more people come to the Great Getaway than we have had in years past. The increase of students at Sunday mass at the Bellerive Chapel actually forces some students to sit up front rather than just sneaking into the back.

New faces at the Newman Center mean that new friendships have been made here. It means that as time goes on and new students replace those that graduate, the nurturing community here at Newman will continue.

~Jess Kuenzel



Great Getaway participants gather for a group photo to prove they were there.



Students partake in a yummy meal at the Newman Center to kick off the Fall semester!



Several highly competitive volleyball games were played at the Ice Cream and Volleyball Social held in September.

November Month of Service



Looking for ways to help others in need, but don't know where to begin?

This fall, the staff and students of UMSL are teaming up to serve the St. Louis community through the annual November Month of Service, sponsored by the Office of Student Life, the University Program Board, the Student Government Association, and of course, your very own Catholic Newman Center. The goal of the Month of Service is to introduce (or reintroduce) UM-St. Louis students to the concept of community service through a series of organized one-day service projects in hope that it will foster the desire for continuous service to the community.

This year the service projects involve: caring for kids at the St. Vincent's

Home for Children, spending a day repairing dilapidated homes with the Beyond Housing organization, and working at the Christian Service Center, an organization committed to helping needy individuals get shelter, food, and an education. As part of our co-sponsorship, the Newman Center will again be presenting its annual Hunger Awareness Week from November 15th-18th. Activities include: information tables set-up in the Millennium Student Center, soup lines in the cafeteria on campus, and an OXFAM Hunger Banquet, where students can get a personal look at the unequal distribution of food in the world. Please feel free to join us for any of these activities as the Newman Center students continue to learn the value of serving others!

~Bobby Wassel

Month of Service Highlights

- **EVERYONE CAN SERVE: Monday, November 1 Service Kick-Off in the Pilot House 2-3pm**
- **CARING FOR KIDS: Wednesday, November 3 St. Vincent Home for Children 3-6pm**
- **BUILDING A COMMUNITY: Saturday, November 13 Beyond Housing 9am-2pm**
- **FEEDING THE HUNGRY: Tuesday, November 16 Christian Service Center 1-3pm**
- **Hunger Awareness Week: November 15-18**
- **Oxfam Hunger Banquet Thursday, November 18 at 12:30pm in the Pilot House**
- **Soup Lines in the Nosh to benefit local, national, and international anti-hunger organizations November 15 and 16 11am-1pm**

How Busy Were You During the Busy Person's Retreat?

During the week of October 3rd-7th, seven students added the Busy Person's Retreat to their hectic schedules. On Sunday, October 3rd, the students met at the Newman Center to have a delicious dinner followed by an orientation session about the week ahead. Spiritual directors Sr. Linda Hylla and Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez led the orientation. Each student met with their spiritual director to establish a tentative schedule for the week and to discuss the first assigned Bible passage.

Each retreatant was asked to spend 30 minutes each day meditating on and praying over a scripture passage independently. Each student then met with their spiritual director for

30 minutes a day, Monday through Thursday to discuss the assigned Bible passage. During the sessions, the retreatant discussed their prayer experience with the passage and what they thought about while reading the passage. At 7:30pm each evening, common prayer was held in the Newman living room.

Prior to the retreat, several students believed the retreat might be a distraction or create more work for them in their already busy week. Another factor in deciding to participate in the retreat was, for many participants, their last opportunity before graduating.

When I decided to sign-up I thought


that this retreat would be an enlightening experience and it would give me a chance or an excuse to slow down and get a reality check of what is important in my life. During the week while waiting for my sessions, there was a lot of time to catch up with old buddies and socialize, which I enjoyed.

I learned during the week that even though it was just one hour a day, it was a valuable time in prayer with the Bible. This helped to reinforce the commitment I already had to it. I learned a new way of prayer that I will definitely continue practicing for the rest of my life.

~Angie Burton

Newman Wins with Intramurals!

Newman Wins!!! That was what members of the Newman Center heard on a regular basis in September and October. Our UMSL intramural volleyball team was one of the best this fall. The team finished with a 13 and 3 record. Members of the team included Newman Center students Glenn Frei, Jess Kuenzel, Mike Rogan, and their friends from around campus. The team exhibited their skill and teamwork on the court, which resulted in their playoff appearance. The first round of which, Newman won quickly. In the semi-final round they faced one of the best teams in the league. The match was a tight game throughout, with their opponents winning Game 1 and Newman rallying to win Game 2. The third and final game of the match was a close game all the way to match point. In the end, however, Newman was defeated.

The victorious team eventually went on to win the overall championship. This sea-

 son was an improvement from record impossible rise the Catholic Newman Center as perennial top contender in volleyball.

With the volleyball season now over, what are Newman students going to do when looking to compete with their fellow students? The answer comes in the form of intramural soccer. This season is very important because the Catholic Newman Center team is the reigning indoor soccer champion. In their championship season, Newman was catapulted to victory in the final game with the help of Newman Center Director Fr. Bill Kempf.

This semester's league will no doubt be as competitive as ever, but as long as the Newman team works hard and has fun, winning is very likely. Perhaps the return of soccer ace Fr. Bill will even occur this season.

The Catholic Newman Center's continued participation in the intramurals program has also benefited other teams. On more than one occasion Newman players were asked about Mass times and other Newman events by opponents curious to learn more about the Newman Center. These relationships made on the court will hopefully continue on at the Newman Center.



~Mike Rogan

Fundraising is Fun-Raising!

A large portion of the Newman Center's budget is provided by the Archdiocesan Development Appeal. Every year, we are truly grateful for the ADA's support of our ministry on UMSL's campus, but due to the addition of further ministries supported by the ADA, the Newman Center budget has been cut by 7%. To make up this difference, daunting task though it is, the students and staff of the Newman Center have been participating in a wide variety of fundraisers.

In September, St. Ann's Parish held its annual Msgr. Sprenke Soccer Tournament, and several New-

manites volunteered to work the concession stand, selling food and drinks to the crowd. In early October, we barbequed for the 100th Anniversary Party of the Hunt House on Natural Bridge Road. Newman Students put their culinary skills to work as we sold hamburgers and hot dogs to several visitors. Finally, the St. Ann Men's Club invited us to help with their first Texas Hold 'Em tournament. We worked the bar, sold raffle tickets, and even got to deal the cards at the final table. Altogether, the events were a huge success, but we're not going to rest on our laurels!

Some of our upcoming fundraisers

include collecting donations at the 2004 Winter Wonderland at Tilles Park on November 29th, and sponsoring an "Eat at Chevy's" night, where restaurant patrons affiliated with the Newman Center request that 10% of their total bill be donated to the CNC. So if you are looking for a good dinner and a way to help the Newman Center, look for the date and time in the spring newsletter.

If you would like to help with any future fundraising events, or if you have any great ideas on how to help us out, just let us know!

~Bobby Wassel

Halloween at the Newman Center: What a BOO - tiful Time!!!

This Halloween, like so many others in the past, was a lively time around the Catholic Newman Center. Much time was spent and many preparations were made in putting together the annual Newman Haunted Garage. Jess Kuenzel headed up this year's planning and decorating. She and many Newmanites worked tirelessly in the weeks leading up to the event, cleaning out and then decorating the garage with all the scary essentials. When all the preparations were made, the always somewhat scary garage looked like a horrific and frightening place...perfect for kids to wander through! Despite the threat of rain on Halloween night, we had over 250 people attend! Afterwards, all the students who worked the Haunted Garage stuck around for some good food and fellowship. It was a tremendous success, and many thanks go out to all who made it possible!

In order to gear up for this year's Halloween Haunted Garage, the Newman Center once again held the annual Pumpkin Carving Contest and Halloween Party. It went off without a witch. Several students attended, many of which were new faces around Newman, that wanted to try their hand at some pumpkin artistry. After many seeds were spilt and pumpkin guts littered the tables, **seventeen** pumpkins were carved, more than any other year! Of course, Fr. Bill, Tracy, and I, as the staff of the Newman Center, judged all the pumpkins. It was a

tough choice, as there were many fun and creative designs, but in the end, Jordan Steffen's "Catface" won the best overall. His name is now "engraved" on the first ever Pumpkin Carving Contest trophy, which stands proudly in the Newman Center's foyer. Other prizes were awarded in a variety of categories including: Scariest Pumpkin, Most Original, and The One that Most Closely Resembled the Staff of the Newman Center (don't ask...). Afterwards, a group picture was taken with all the pumpkins...check out our website for other pictures from this fun event. A good time was had by all!

~Bobby Wassel



Students participate in the 4th Annual Pumpkin Carving Contest.



The Ghouls and the Goblins of the Newman Center come out in full force for the Annual Haunted Garage!

Newman Center Wish List

- Board Games (i.e. Cranium, Catch Phrase, current version of Trivial Pursuit)
- 13x9 casserole dishes
- Muffin Tins
- Lawn furniture
- New kitchen (flooring and countertop)
- DVD player

Staff and Officers:

Director: Fr. Bill Kempf

Campus Ministers:

Tracy Van de Riet

Bobby Wassel

Director of Mission Advancement:

Teresa Roberson-Mullins

President: Amy Barker

Treasurer: Mike Rogan

SGA Representative: Jan Mayer

Community Service Chair: Jess Kuenzel

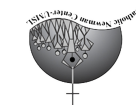
Fundraising Chair: Angie Burton

Social Chair: Julie Schneider





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Mark your calendars...

Alumni Mass

Sunday

December 5

8:30pm

Bellerive Residence Hall

Awakening Retreat

January 28-30, 2005

Todd Hall Retreat Center

All college-aged students are welcome. Call the Newman Center at 314-385-3455 for more information.

Mission Statement

The Catholic Newman Center serves the campus community at UM-St. Louis through liturgy, fellowship, prayer, and education. As a welcoming faith community, we offer service and leadership experiences, spiritual guidance and faith development, and recreational and social opportunities, forming people for their active roles in the church and the world.