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As I write this column, the news reports tell me that it is unlikely that Pope John Paul II will survive the day. Like the rest of the world, I find my heart reflecting on the impact of this man's life. He is the only Pope I have prayed for by name in every Mass I have celebrated. For the students who come to the Newman Center, he is the only Pope they have ever known alive. (I, fortunately or unfortunately, can boast of five...) His passing will mark a significant moment in the life of the church and the world.

What gives me greatest pause to reflect is that most of the CNC students were not alive when he became Pope, nor when he was shot in 1981. The solitary scene of him meeting in the prison cell with the man who tried to assassinate him is not emblazoned in their consciousness as it is in mine. Scenes from the World Youth Day in Denver are also not a part of their consciousness. They are not the generation that came back singing 'We are One Body', by the artist Dana. Theirs is not John Paul's papacy in its prime, but his leadership in the declining years of his body.

Yet what remains constant across the generations of his papacy is the universal affection of young people for this man and of this man for young people. Our students admire him, look to him for support in their journey, and are captivated by his holiness of life. He is to them the 'loving presence of the Good Shepherd.' Or, as one Italian youth said, he is "everyone's grandpa." This generation knew in 'Il Papa' a presence of God through the obvious and visible love of the Pope for them.

As he is making his final journey 'home' to the God who called him to life, I can't help but realize there is a challenge for the Newman Center in that remarkable presence. Just as the young adults of this age found a 'home' in the love of the Pope for them, I pray they'll find a home in the love of the staff at the Center. And just as the Holy Father exhorted them to holiness of life, I pray they will hear that same invitation in each encounter with our community. Finally, I pray that this man who did so much to foster the presence of the church in the world, will inspire our students to be that same welcoming, loving presence here on campus.

They say the Pope will die today. My heart is torn. I will miss his courageous witness, and the piercing gaze of those steely blue eyes. I will remember always the close up of his face as he said Mass in the TWA Dome, when his eyes had been closed and he looked asleep. Then they flew open, and you realized he had not been asleep, but in fervent prayer to his God. I will miss his outreach to so many nations for so many years. But, as my uncle, Fr. Walter Boul said to me often: "It's the day that we were born for." May his soul find its way home – to the day he was born for – when his earthly pilgrimage is over. Amen. Alleluia.

CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER
8200 NATURAL BRIDGE RD.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63121
314-385-3455 (FUL-FILL)
FAX: 314-385-1523
www.umsl.edu/~newman
cncumsl@aol.com

~Fr. Bill Kempf

Alumni Spotlight: BARB TOULSTER

The Newman spotlight falls again, and taking center stage this time is Newman Center alumna and board member Barb



Toulster. Barb is an alum in two respects: an alum of UM-St. Louis and of the Newman Center. She attended

both between 1972 and 1978. She is currently serving on the Newman Center's Advisory Board.

Barb grew up local to the UM-St. Louis community. She attended St. Ann Parish Grade School and Corpus Christi High School before attending UM-St. Louis. Barb majored in Special Education and spent much of her time at the Newman Center. She recalled the Newman Center being very crowded as it was one of the only hangouts on campus. Barb recalled, "The other Fr. Bill was here at the time. We had a great time. My friends and I would go over for mass or confession."

During her first year of college, Barb

invested her time in the community by working at Normandy Hospital as the Visitor Coordinator. Barb moved her way up the ranks and became Director of Volunteers. Thirteen years ago, Barb had the opportunity to work at DePaul Hospital. Barb had always wanted to work in a Catholic hospital. On her very first day, she knew she was in the right place with the Crucifix hanging on the wall above her desk. As the Director of Volunteer and Auxiliary Services at DePaul Hospital, Barb manages over 450 volunteers, performs non-medical training for employees, is a member of the hospital mission awareness team, and organizes special events such as hospital week, family picnics, and Christmas festivities.

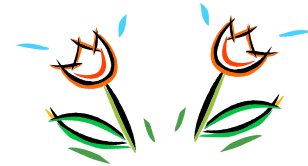
Working in volunteer services for over twenty years, Barb knows the importance of volunteering in your community. Barb generously gives her time to many Advisory Boards: St. Jane Catholic Community Services, Archdiocesan Catholic Disabilities Ministry, Vincenzian Service Corps, Health and Stewardship Ministries at her home parish, St. Peter's in Kirkwood, and the UMSL Newman Center. Barb is also a Eucharistic Minister at her parish. In her free

time, Barb enjoys taking walks with her husband Kevin, bowling, sewing, reading, spending time with her seven nieces and nephews, and anything else that keeps her busy.

When asked what advice she would like to give to UM-St. Louis and Newman Center students, Barb answered, "be radical." She says to challenge yourself to do the unexpected and go out of your way – just as Jesus did. "Be radical like Jesus," she says. She also wants students to realize the importance of faith in your life. "Make faith the first thing on your 'to-do' list everyday. Your whole life can be one long prayer if you work at it"

Barb certainly lives her faith through all her volunteer work, her dedication to the Church, and her energetic personality. Barb truly is a blessing to the Newman Center community.

~Tracy Van de Riet



Lent and You: A Twilight Retreat

On Friday, March 11th, over a dozen students from the Newman Center gathered at the house for a Twilight Retreat. This semester the retreat was lead by our campus ministers, Bobby and Tracy. The main theme of the retreat was "Lent and You".

Students were greeted at the house with a nice dinner of homemade soup and salad.

The Simple Path
 The fruit of silence is prayer
 The fruit of prayer is faith
 The fruit of faith is love
 The fruit of love is service
 The fruit of service is peace.

After a yummy dinner, the group proceeded with an evening of spiritual retreat. Throughout the evening students were able to reflect on the meaning of silence, prayer, faith, love, and service in their life. The focus of the retreat came from Mother Teresa's prayer *The Simple Path*.

Bobby and Tracy prepared some reflection time as well as some activities to go along with the prayer.

I found the activity about service very moving. First, we all reflected on what we could do for the remaining weeks of Lent. Then, we wrote our Lenten promise on the paper cross in the middle of the floor. After, writing our Lenten promise, we all were given a nail to keep close as a reminder of the promise and Christ's sacrifice and service for us. Overall, I would say that the retreat was very moving and motivating to all that attended.

~Amy Barker

Social Justice Week: April 9th-15th



The Catholic Newman Center sponsored the first annual Social Justice Week on UMSL's campus from April 9th – 15th. Every spring, we traditionally put on "Homelessness Awareness Week." For 2005 however, we decided to broaden the horizons of Homelessness Awareness Week, and instead make it a week that focused on multiple social injustices in our society. The week raised awareness among UMSL students to the many social injustices in our world as well as motivated them to work for change.

We kicked-off the week with a Day of Interfaith Service for Collegians (DISC) sponsored by Faith Beyond Walls and Interfaith Partnership. All faith groups from Saint Louis University, Washington University, Fontbonne University, and Webster University, and UM-St. Louis were invited. Approximately fifty volunteers worked to revitalize the

City of Kinloch.

Each day of the week focused on a different social injustice. There was an activity or speaker on campus each day as well as informational tables designed around that day's topic. See "Social Justice Week Activities" for more information.

The week ended with an Urban Plunge Retreat. Students were given a "work site" for the day, volunteering their time and talents at a non-profit organization in the city. They used public transportation to and from their work site, as well as found their own food on a limited income, all of which was designed to give them an up close and personal urban poverty experience as well as take them out of their comfort zone.

~ Bobby Wassel

Social Justice Week Activities

Saturday, April 9
Kick-Off Event
DISC Day

Monday, April 11
Fair Trade and Labor

Tuesday, April 12
Capital Punishment
*Speaker and Viewing of
Dead Man Walking 7pm
in the Pilot House*

Wednesday, April 13
Environmental Awareness
Campus Clean-up 2-4pm

Thursday, April 14
Homelessness and Poverty Awareness
Speaker 7pm in the SGA Chamber and outdoor ShantyTown experience to follow

Friday, April 15
Urban Plunge Retreat

Upcoming Events at the CNE

Family Mass

Sunday, April 24th

"Mom, I'm going to Newman, I'll be back later!"

Are you a parent or family member who hears this very thing up to five times a week? Maybe, instead of going to mass with you on Sunday morning, your son or daughter has taken up the 8:30pm mass at the Newman Center. You may also be curious as to why your college student is there so often. What is so special about this Newman Center and who are these people they are always talking about? Well, we have the perfect opportunity for all your questions to be answered.

The UMSL Catholic Newman Center will be hosting a **Family Mass** and

Open House on Sunday, April 24th. The Open House begins at 7:30pm. The Newman House will be open for all to gather and enjoy some fun finger food. You will be able to take a tour of the house and meet the entire Newman community. Around 8:15, we will head on over to the Belerive Chapel for Mass.

The Catholic Newman Center has become a second home for many of us students. The community at the Newman Center is incredible. We hope you can join us so that you too can become part of the community.

~Julie Schneider

Whistle Stop Reunion

Friday, May 6th

The Newman Center will host its 4th

Annual Whistle Stop Alumni Reunion on **Friday, May 6th at 7pm** at the **Whistle Stop Train Depot** located at #1 Carson Road in Ferguson, Missouri. All UMSL and Newman Center alumni, friends of Newman, and current students are invited. The Whistle Stop will have its always delicious sandwiches and ice cream treats available. The Newman Center will provide the entertainment. Please come and reconnect with old friends, page through the old photo albums, and eat some yummy treats!

Mark your calendars!

Check out our website at www.umsl.edu/~newman for more upcoming events!

A Final Farewell ***And Words of Wisdom from Our Seniors***



Every year several students from Newman graduate and move into the “real world.” Glenn Frei and Claire Schneider graduated in December. Glenn and Claire have already moved away from the St. Louis area to start their careers. Claire has moved to Garmisch, Germany to work at a ski resort for the next eighteen months. Glenn has moved to Le-Grange, Georgia to work as a USDA compliance officer at the Callaway Gardens Butterfly Dome.

Seven Newman students will be graduating in May: Patti Curran, Jenny Heinz, Theresa Herbig, Jan Mayer, Mike Rogan, Jordan Steffen, and myself. These are very diverse students and they will be going in all different directions after graduation. Patti will be living in Georgia, hopefully employed in a Human Resources position. Jenny is planning to work in St. Louis in the Graphic Design field. Theresa is planning to teach in a Catholic school in St. Charles. Jan is planning on attending graduate school at UM-St. Louis in Organizational Communication. Mike will work for Habitat for Humanity as an Assistant Site Coordinator. Jordan is planning to work for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network as a financial representative. As for myself, I am planning on coming back to school at UMSL for a second bachelor’s degree in elementary education with the desire to go into school counseling.

When looking five years into the future, these students have even bigger plans. These plans are very distinct in nature and in location. Claire is planning to travel over the next few years and have some fun. Glenn is planning to go to graduate school somewhere in the U.S. Patti is planning to be married, living in

Georgia, and working in the Graphic Design field. Jenny is planning to work in the St. Louis area and continue establishing her name in the design field. Theresa is planning on finishing her master’s degree and teaching full time. Jan is planning to be married and employed in the field of communication. Mike is planning to work for a non-profit agency in the St. Louis area. Jordan is planning to make billions of dollars doing something that will maintain his balanced life and will deepen his relationship with God. Lastly, I am planning to work in the field of education, working as a school counselor after I get my master’s degree.

All of these students have had a wonderful experience at Newman over their years here. They have found a community in which they can share their lives and faith. Most of the seniors have shared remarks either about their experiences at Newman or wishes for future Newmanites and the Newman Center. Glenn says about his experiences at Newman, “It’s been a fun 3 ½ years.” Patti’s wish for the Newman Center is, “I hope that the Newman Center continues to grow and help others grow.” Jenny tells a wish she has for Newman in the future, “I hope that in the future, Newman will have many more students involved in all of the activities that they have.” Theresa says, “I want to thank everyone that has impacted me and that has challenged me over the years. Keep on living your faith and challenging others to do the same.” Jan says, “The CNC is a great place, I met a lot of wonderful people here and I wish the best to everyone.” Mike’s wishes for future students are, “I hope that future students find a relaxing and comforting place just like I did.” Jordan’s wish for Newman students is in the form of a poem:

Listen to God, Turn off the TV
Listen to God, Turn off the radio
Listen to God, Don’t go to the movies
Listen to God, Throw away the advertisements
Listen to God, Follow the commandments
Listen to God, Pray
Listen to God, Follow the Church
Listen to God, Make it home
Listen to God, Be at peace forever

The Newman Center has affected this group of seniors in very different ways. I hope that all future Newman students can find the kind of community that I found when I came to Newman. The kind of community that you can pray, worship, laugh, and cry with. This is one of the most wonderful groups I have ever been involved in.

As a final wish from this senior to all of the others graduating this year: Congratulations! I hope that you all are very successful and happy in whatever avenue you choose in life. Good Luck!



~Angie Burton

Staff and Officers:

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Bobby Wassel

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Awakenings 2005:

Be Still and Know that I Am God - Psalm 46:10

The weekend of January 28-30, seventeen retreatants, fifteen team members, and myself trekked out to Todd Hall in Columbia, IL for the Newman Center's annual Awakenings Retreat.

I went on the retreat with the urging of my good friends, but growing up going to Catholic schools all my life, I was pretty sure that this retreat wasn't going to be much different than anything in my past. In fact, I was the furthest from my Catholic faith than I had ever been my whole life when I was asked to go.

Throughout the past year, I had been in serious disagreement with some of the church's stance on many issues. Plus, my experience at the previous college I had attended left me with a negative feeling. This made it very easy to find faults in my religion. In my mind, this retreat would determine if I wanted to even be considered a Catholic any more.

Well, if you couldn't guess, I am very much still a Catholic. The Awakenings Retreat showed me that my religion is much more than a hierarchy of bishops,

priests and cardinals. It gave me a chance to connect with people who really are brilliant examples of those who live and love their faith, but are not pompous or condescending when discussing it. This was extremely refreshing for me.

The talks that were given helped me not only to reflect on my life, but also to tune into what sort of things others have gone through. I was assured that the church wanted me to bring my own unique views to the community. I also witnessed firsthand that things don't always end up the way *we* think they should, but we just have to trust that God does have a reason for everything. It is up to us to accept those changes and be aware of how God is telling us to deal with those new situations while finding out valuable truths about ourselves.

I hope that all of my fellow awakeners found a new truth about themselves and that each one can accept and grow from it. I know that I have. It's hard to believe that all we had to do was be still...

~Jess Liermann

Newman Center Wish List

- Lawn furniture
- Used or Empty Ink Cartridges or Toner
- Gift Cards to Home Depot, Office Depot, or any grocery store
- New living room chairs
- Optical Mouse (6)
- Portable CD/Radio/Tape Player
- \$.37 stamps



A rockin' good time was had by all at the 2005 Awakenings Retreat!

We really appreciate your support of the Catholic Newman Center. Here is a breakdown of how your future gift assists us in our ministry. Thank you for your continued support!

- A donation of: \$25 will provide seasonal Liturgical Study Guides for our students.
- \$40 will provide the registration fee for one student attending our Awakenings Retreat.
- \$50 will provide a meal for twenty students at a Twilight Retreat.
- \$75 will provide breakfast and lunch for students volunteering with Habitat for Humanity on the first Friday of every month.
- \$150 will completely pay for one student to participate in the May Service Trip to Nazareth Farm.

_____ Yes, I have included my donation of \$_____.

_____ No, I am unable to provide a monetary donation at the time, but I am willing to volunteer my time.

_____ No, I am unable to donate at this time.

Please use the enclosed envelope to
mail this form to:
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8200 Natural Bridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63121
We are grateful for your support!



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Catholic Newman Center-UMSL
 8200 Natural Bridge Road
 St. Louis, MO 63121
 314-385-3455
 314-385-1523 (fax)
 Cncums@aol.com



Mark your calendars...

**Whistle Stop
All-Years Reunion**

Friday, May 6

7pm - 10pm 

Whistle Stop Train Depot

#1 Carson Road Ferguson, Mo.

**Calling all Newman
Parents and
Relatives...**

**You are invited to our Annual
Family Mass and Open House!**

Sunday, April 24

**Open House: 7:30pm at the
Newman Center**

**Mass: 8:30pm at Bellerive
Residence Hall Chapel**

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.