



# Newman News

University of Missouri - St Louis

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## Director's Pen

By Fr. Bill Kempf

*"Do you know what?"* It was a question that a Trappist priest asked me, after I had poured out my heart, and fears, and struggles, and questionings about my discernment to the priesthood. Taking another puff from the cigar that he was smoking, he smiled a quiet kind of smile.

"No," I said. I wasn't being completely honest. His smile gave it away.

*"Try it again: Do you know what?"*

"Yeah, I think I do. I think you're gonna tell me that you can love me, that you do love me."

"VERY GOOD," he said. And he smiled some more. *"Now, what does that say about you?"*

"Ah, Vince, it says you're a pretty incredible guy to love a nobody like me."

*"Try again."*

"You see something in me that is loveable, and want me to trust that."

*"Ah, you're catching on."* And so it went. Every time, during the rest of that retreat, when he'd pass me in the hallways or on the way to chapel, he'd say, *"Do you know what?"* Sometimes, I'd forget, and say: "What?" And then he'd punch me on the arm. "Oh." Now I remember.

And then on the last day of the retreat, he dropped the bomb: *"Do you know what?"*

"You love me."

*"Good. Now what does that say about you?"*

"It says that I am good and that I am loveable."

*"Very Good! Now, if I, who am just a screwed up clam digger from New England can love you like that, then what do you think God must think about you?"* And he had me. By the grace of God, the message got through – the GOSPEL – the Good News – got through. And I then knew a grace and a freedom in my life because of that little ritual. Since that moment., that ritual has changed everything for me.

Though the words that I use to continue that little ritual in my ministry have changed to a heartfelt, "Whatup?" – it is still the same message that I am trying to pass on to another generation of human beings, and to another generation of Catholics. "Do you know how much you are loved? Do you know how much you matter, to me personally, and to the God who created you? Do you know how much the world needs you to trust that message and pass on the good news?" And in the conversations that Tracy, Bobby, and I have with the students, in the Masses, events, service opportunities that are lovingly planned and carried out, in the support that our benefactors provide to keep the ministry alive and thriving, the message we pass on is the same. "You are loved." "You are loved."

A student once wrapped up a letter to me with a wonderful thought that has stayed with me since that day. I repeat it here as my Lenten prayer for you all: "May you know love, from God, through me, to you..."

## Spotlight On: Departing Seniors

By Dan Sinnott



As another school year winds down, a typical college student worries about final exams, finding a summer job, perhaps moving back home for the summer, reuniting with old friends, and getting the most out of the summer before another school year sets in. A lucky few, or unlucky depending on your perspective, have a whole different set of worries. They worry about their *final* final exams, setting graduation plans, searching for a career, and starting a life outside of the comforts of consistent schooling. The Catholic Newman Center says goodbye to a group of such people every year, but that doesn't mean saying goodbye is any easier.



David Aubuchon has been a member of UMSL's Newman Center for two years, however he joined the extended Newman family

while attending school at Central Missouri State University. He originally sought out CNC "because I knew that I had a good time at the CMSU Newman Center." David continued his involvement at UMSL by helping with two Awakening retreats, leading a Luke 18 retreat, and participating in a whole bunch of social activities. He also has been a big help to the staff by volunteering his time and knowledge to help troubleshoot plenty of problems with the computer system. After receiving a BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice, David plans on attending the

Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy with hopes of another graduation in July of 2007. Meanwhile, he fills his time continuing as a security guard at Six Flags.



Kate Drolet arrived at UMSL as an eager freshman and immediately sought out a Catholic Mass on campus. Finding solace at the Newman

table at orientation, she began attending mass "and the rest is history." Kate was 'Awakened' in 2005 and helped lead in 2006, serving as a speaker and table leader. She also joined the ranks as a Newman officer this past school year, manning the SGA Representative and Outreach chair positions at different times throughout the year. She managed to accomplish all this while writing many enlightening commentaries in *The Current*, the University's newspaper, and kicking major butt on Newman's intramural teams. Father Bill's "engaging homilies and genuine interest in the lives of students" have made him an "amazing figure in [Kate's] college life." She also has "met some people at Newman who have been a constant reminder of God's love." After graduation Kate is heading off to Cincinnati to marry her "best friend." She is looking forward to also finding the perfect job and living in a house with a white picket fence for many years to come.

Jess Kuenzel had her sights set on the Newman Center during her senior year of high school, when she saw Fr. Bill at an UMSL Open House



(Fr. Bill had been placed at Jess's parish when she was younger). She went to Newman Mass because she promised her parents

she would and then quickly joined choir and never looked back. Jess was a busy person during her days at Newman. She was the Newman Center's work study student, an officer, on the Awakening planning team many times, volunteered regularly with Habitat for Humanity and Child Center of Our Lady, and was a fixture at social events during her years at Newman. She enjoyed "being in the moment" during her time at Newman. She "loved the conversations in the kitchen or the downstairs office about everything and nothing that proved once and for all that the house was a black hole of time." Seeing as she graduated in December, Jess is already a working woman in the labs at Mallinckrodt. She extracts and purifies Thallium that is then used for testing.

Seniors leave every year, taking only our free dinners and leaving us with a legacy of student participation from which future classes can learn. The Newman Center thanks them for their example and their service. May God continue to bless them as they venture out into the "real world."



## **What is RCIA Anyway??!!**

*By Brian Skubic*

What is RCIA anyway? RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults, is a series of classes that the Catholic Church offers for anyone interested in learning more about the Church and its practices. RCIA participants are also given the option to become a full member of the Church during the Easter Vigil. RCIA is held for the St. Ann Parish and the Newman Center community at the Newman Center on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Each session has a different theme. One week we talked about Mary. Another week we discussed Jesus or the liturgical year. The varying topics allowed for a lot of discussion and opportunities to really delve into each topic. Fr. Bill, Fr. Vic Barnhart, (Associate Pastor at St. Ann Parish) and Brother Kevin Stephens,

(a Dominican Brother studying at Saint Louis University) facilitate the classes.

On March 4, the catechumens traveled with our sponsors to the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica for the Rite of Election. Auxiliary Bishop Herman presided over this exciting event.

This year, we have four class participants that will be receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil on April 15. Mikie Rachman will receive the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Rebecca Miller will be receiving Eucharist and Confirmation. Liz Uthoff and I will be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. During the remainder of this Lenten season, we ask that you keep us in your prayers as we work towards becoming full members of the Church.

### **Newman Center Wish List**

- Black and White Laser Printer
- \$.39 and \$.24 Stamps
- Riding lawnmower
- Paint brushes

**Keep your  
eyes  
peeled!  
Online  
giving is  
coming  
soon!**

## **Buzzing into Spring Break**

*By Amy Barker*

Students all around campus and the Newman Center are counting the weeks, the days, the hours, and the minutes until spring break arrives. For many college students, it is a time to relax without thinking about schoolwork and it is also a popular time for college students to take road trips.

This year, a handful of Newman students have decided to take a road trip to New Orleans. Campus Crusade for Christ, a Christian organization on campus, has arranged a service trip to New Orleans to help rebuild

New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. We will be cleaning out homes, schools, and churches that were flooded. Students will work with other groups from different universities for one week. The group will depart on March 25 and return March 31.

As for students who aren't engaging in the service road trip, the Newman Center will also be providing Alternative Spring Break service opportunities around the house and in the community. On Tuesday, March 28, students will work on beautifying the

grounds of the Newman Center and cleaning up our pond in the backyard. On Wednesday, March 29, we will head downtown to St. Patrick's Center. St. Patrick's Center works to provide opportunities that effect permanent change in the lives of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We will be serving lunches for the homeless at the Shamrock Club and bagging up emergency food kits for those in need.

No matter which service events students decide to participate in, it promises to be a fulfilling experience.

## "Made to Shine:" Awakening 2006

By Kate Drolet

As Marianne Williamson once wrote, "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

"It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, 'who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?' Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.

"We are all meant to shine, as children do. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others"

From this powerful quote, we created our theme for Awakening 2006; "Made to Shine!"

Seventeen retreatants learned to live this message at Newman's annual Awakening Retreat, held this year at Camp Wyman in Eureka, Mo.

Students gathered from around St. Louis and the state of Missouri to awaken their hearts to the love of God. Six student-led talks about various aspects of faith, spirituality and growing with the Lord helped retreatants explore their own relationships within their religious and secular lives. Opportunities for Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass and peer connection furthered this exploration. The team of students who organ-

ized the retreat tried to convey the theme, "Made to Shine," in each of the weekend's activities.

Newman Center students and staff planned this retreat for several months, and we appreciate all the support (spiritually and physically) from St. Ann and community members. Retreatants ended the weekend with a

renewed outlook on faith, service and a realization that we are all "made to shine."



Awakening 2006 Retreatants show they are made to shine!

See more pictures from Awakening 2006 on Page 5!

## Upcoming Events at the CNC...Please Join Us!

### Social Justice Awareness Month April 3-28

Our events for Social Justice Awareness Month include a viewing of *THE LIFE OF DAVID GALE* and a discussion on Capital Punishment on **THURSDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7 P.M.** in the Pilot House. We will be hosting a discussion on **JUST WAR DOCTRINE** on **TUESDAY, APRIL 11 AT 7:30 P.M.** at the Newman Center. For the third week of SJAM, we will be discussing genocide and watching *HOTEL RWANDA* on **MONDAY, APRIL 17 AT 7 P.M.** in the Pilot House. Our final week's theme is Homelessness and Poverty. Our annual **SHANTYTOWN** will be on **THURSDAY, APRIL 27** from 9:30 p.m. to dawn the next day. We will sleeping outside of the student center to raise awareness of the plight of the homeless. On **FRIDAY,**

**APRIL 28,** we will be participating in an **URBAN PLUNGE**, an experience of inner-city life in which students are challenged to live as the working poor for the day.

### Newman Garage Sale Saturday, April 29

Are you a yard sale junkie? Then we have the event for you! **April 29th from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m.,** the Newman Center will be holding a yard sale. This will be an awesome and fun-filled day! Everything must go and everything is on sale!

All items included in the yard sale will be donated from within the community. The sale will help raise funds for the Newman Center. We would love for everyone to donate items to this event to make sure our selection is huge!!! Donations will start to be collected on April 17th, so start cleaning

out those closets.

If you are interested in donating items or need more information, feel free to contact the Newman Center at 314-385-3455.

### Cinco de Mayo Alumni Event Friday, May 5 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Calling all alumni of UMSL, alumni of the Newman Center, and friends of the Newman Center! We will be hosting a happy hour alumni event on **FRIDAY, MAY 5** at the **NEWMAN HOUSE** from **6:30-8:30 P.M.** Please join us for a Cinco de Mayo themed evening of food, drink, and fellowship!

## ***Conversations and Controversy: An Interfaith Dialogue***

*By Bobby Wassel*



Recently, Interfaith Campus Ministries along with the Catholic Newman Center put on an educational series where representatives from the various religions speak about what their faith thinks on current “hot topics” in our society. The panel discussion was entitled “Conversations and Controversy: An Interfaith Dialogue,” and as expected, the series has sparked both conversations and controversy.

The first in the series of three, held on February 2, saw representatives from the Jewish, Islamic, Protestant, and Catholic faiths giving an

overview on their religions’ basic tenets. Each faith’s history, rituals, traditions, beliefs on the afterlife, and hierarchy were discussed to a room full of twenty five enthusiastic students. It was a great way to kick off our three-part series, and it left people wanting to know more about each religion.

The second panel discussion focused a little more on the “controversy” part of the title; Sex and Religion. It was aptly named “Find out what the SECTS think about SEX!” Again, representatives from the different faiths answered questions on their religion’s views on pre-marital sex, birth control and homosexuality. As you can imagine, it sparked some lively conversation and debate. The twenty five stu-

dents who attended learned a great deal, and many misconceptions and stereotypes were challenged.

And it’s not too late to join us for these lively discussions! Our third and final part of the panel discussion will focus on how the different faiths reconcile Stem-Cell Research and morality. The talk will be at 12:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 in the SGA Chamber of the Millennium Student Center, located on the third floor. All are welcome to attend what promises to be a very eye-opening conclusion to “Conversations and Controversy: An Interfaith Dialogue.”

**Check out our website!**  
[www.umsl.edu/~newman](http://www.umsl.edu/~newman)

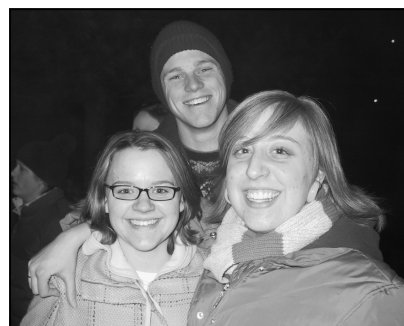


Everyone joins in Fr. Bill’s rendition of “Brown Eyed Girl.”

### ***Awakening 2006 Pictures***



The retreatants get down on the ground for an icebreaker on Saturday morning!



Amy, Dan, and Jess enjoy the bonfire at this year’s Awakening Retreat.

### ***Staff and Officers:***

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**Mark your  
calendars for our...**

**Cinco de Mayo  
Alumni Event!  
Friday, May 5  
6:30pm  
Newman Center**

**Msgr. Bill Lyons Open  
Miniature Golf  
Tournament  
Sunday,  
October 15  
Par-Tee Recreation Center  
8424 N. Lindbergh  
Contact the Newman Center 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.