



Servant Leader

Changing lives in the Diocese of Lexington



Vol 1 Issue 4

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Fall 2007

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Union College

Barbourville, Kentucky

Union College is a small, liberal arts college located in Barbourville, on the edge of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains in southeastern Kentucky. St. Gregory Church in Barbourville ministers to the Catholic students at the college, which is affiliated with the United Methodist Church. While there is not a facility to house a Newman Center, the Union College Newman Club is active under the long-time (and volunteer) faculty sponsorship of Dr. Joni Caldwell. AMAP funds provide materials for Bible studies and special programs.

From a 17-year perspective, Dr. Caldwell writes about some of the challenges that college students face: "They are at such a vulnerable point in their lives, and are being exposed to so many conflicting ideas - especially those at non-Catholic institutions, which Newman Centers serve - and this at a point when they are expected to begin making decisions on their own. I can think of no time in one's life when guidance from Holy Mother Church is more needed... after all, it is on college and university campuses that the leaders of the community, nation, and world are being formed!!"



Having more frequent liturgies on campus is a very important evangelical tool, as well as a ministry to Catholic students on non-Catholic campuses. I have noticed that when a priest is available for a campus Mass, it draws the attention of faculty & staff members who live in Barbourville but who are not practicing their faith, or who are unchurched. Our campus Masses always draw the attention of someone who needs it! Usually we are only able to offer two: one at the beginning of the semester, and one at the end...My ultimate dream? To locate somewhere enough funds to build a small chapel, or convert one of the local houses into a real Newman Center!"

-Dr. Joni Caldwell



I hope you will enjoy this issue of the Servant

Leader in which, you will see stories that highlight our efforts to reach out to our young adults across the diocese. Campus Ministry seeks to bring together in Christ the students, faculty & staff, and the wider community at the colleges and universities in our region. Our goal is to help college students grow in their Catholic faith by providing opportunities to join together for Mass, liturgies, faith sharing, retreats, prayer and serving the needy through service and outreach efforts.

-Joan Root

Berea College

Berea, Kentucky



Berea College, a non-affiliated Christian college, founded in the 1855, was "the first interracial and coeducational college in the South". The college is unique in that no student is charged tuition and "admits only academically promising students, primarily from Appalachia, who have limited economic resources". Students understand that they will not only learn, but also labor between 10 to 15 hours weekly on the college campus and provides service to the community.

The 100 Catholic students make slightly more than 5% of the school population. Nearly one-third of the faculty, however, is Catholic. The Newman Club has been expanding over the years, as the Catholic student population has grown.

In the last five years, St. Clare Catholic Church has provided direct involvement with the students as both chaplain to the Newman Club members, and as a parish with gifts of welcoming and hospitality to the known Catholic students. This year for the first time, a priest has been provided as a part-time chaplain to the Newman club, and many new ventures are planned, including monthly Mass on campus at the campus Chapel, Eucharistic adoration, and vespers. In addition to liturgical activities, the club sponsors weekly faith formation opportunities for the students at the college. This year, the club will also sponsor its second Guadalupe procession from the college campus to St. Clare Catholic Church, with rosary and a Mass in honor of our Lady.



The church parishioners provide support to the students at various times throughout the year: a welcoming basket in the Fall; an Advent study basket before Christmas finals; an Easter basket before Spring break; and a congratulatory present for the graduates.

-Fr. Nick Pagano, Pastor St. Clare Parish

The Heart of Campus Ministry

Diocese of Lexington

Is this not precisely the mission of Catholic campus ministry? I am writing this on the feast day of that great doctor of the church, the mystic St. Theresa of Avila. Her words evoke in particular, the experience of the young adult entering that phase of life when they're learning to know themselves in new ways than ever before. Catholic campus ministry exists to walk that journey with them, leading them to an encounter with Christ along the way, nurturing that relationship, and supporting their discernment process.

The Diocese of Lexington has Catholic students attending college on twelve separate campuses scattered throughout our fifty counties. Through generous financial support for our mission diocese, the spiritual needs of these students are served through Newman Centers at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Morehead State University in Morehead, and Berea College in Berea. However, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Danville, and Barbourville all have a college presence that attracts our Catholic young adults and they too need a campus outreach effort even though a designated Newman Center does not exist.

Our outreach to college campuses must be expanded. With additional financial and formational resources, Catholic campus ministry can truly shepherd young adults through that transition from home and high school into college life right through graduation, keeping them engaged and growing in their faith. By educating them and nurturing their relationship with Christ through the offering of Mass, Bible studies, prayer and retreat experiences, Catholic campus ministry impacts their social lives, dating relationships, studies, and those major life decisions they will make as they prepare to graduate. Through the provision of leadership training, service opportunities, and fellowship with other Catholic students, these young adults are supplied the critical support they need as they begin to share their growing knowledge in evangelization.

There is no more exciting a journey than a spiritual one. To walk with a young person as they begin to know themselves in a deeper way and surrender their will and discern God's will in them is a privilege. By supporting Catholic campus ministry with prayer and financial resources, we can help the Catholic college students of our diocese put St. Theresa's words into practice.

—Joan Root, Diocesan Director



*"We can only learn to know ourselves and do what we can - namely, surrender our will and fulfill God's will in us."
-St. Theresa of Avila*



St. Stephen the Martyr Newman Center

Richmond, Kentucky

St. Stephen the Martyr is the Newman Center for the campus of Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond. The Newman Center is a ministry of St. Mark Parish in Richmond and is under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Jim Sychko who celebrates a weekly Sunday Mass on campus with 75-100 students in attendance.

Director of Liturgical and Collegiate Ministries Brian Neely moved cross country to join the staff in January 2007 and soon recruited a team of enthusiastic student to share their spring break by cleaning St. Stephen. During the

Phase I the students (1) performed a major clean-out of every closet, attic and cupboard in the building. (2) cleaned the air/heating vents throughout the building; and (3) painted the Reconciliation Room, Sacristy and the main hallway of the building. With generous donations, including AMAP funds, students pitched in over the summer for Phase II operations in the Sacred Space: (1) Installing a new ceiling; (2) Painted the walls, and (3) Replacing all the lighting. As funds become available, Phase III will include remodeling some of the Center's office/meeting space to better accommodate activities and study groups.

The fall 2007 term has seen the beginning of the training phase of Campus Renew, which includes leadership development for 6 student leaders who will comprise the "core group" for the future development of this ministry. In addition, a group of ECU students will travel to Texas A&M University to be trained as facilitators for "Awakening Retreats". Next fall, St. Stephen's will begin "Colonel" Awakening Retreats once a semester to incorporate traditional approaches to Catholic spirituality during a weekend of reflection, mediation and faith building.

—Brian Neely, Campus Minister



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