

# lopercatholic quarterly

## St. Gianna Beretta Molla Banquet

The Third Annual St. Gianna Banquet will be held on Friday, April 17th at the Younes Conference Center. The evening begins with Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by Social Hour, Dinner and Program. This year's featured speakers will be student Treyvon Bokoskie and alum Fr. Kevin Vogel.

Registration is \$30/per person and is due by April 8th. You can register online at <https://donorbox.org/st-gianna-beretta-molla-banquet>

*Canceled*



## 1st Annual #iGIVECATHOLIC is a success

Goal \$7,500.00 | Raised \$8,635 | Donors 37

UNK is blessed to have FOCUS missionaries. The missionaries on campus have been amazing at evangelizing to the students. It truly amazed me when I was first getting to know some of the missionaries on how they were simply living their life for Christ. I had the opportunity to be in a Bible Study, and eventually lead a Bible Study through FOCUS, as well as go to SEEK. FOCUS has done so much for our campus and they have not only impacted my life, but countless other students. The FOCUS missionaries truly want to bring students into a more intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus. Overall, the stewardship and core of what the Newman Center is to have each student become fully known and fully loved. I don't just hang around the Newman Center because it is a random activity I picked up in college. I hang around the Newman Center because it is like a lighthouse to a raging sea. Christ is the Light and He is at the center of everything the Newman Center does. ~ Grace Vinton, Sophomore



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*"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know." Psalm 139:13-14*

*"But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." Romans 5:8*

## Greetings from the Catholic Newman Center at UNK!

We have focused our year on the theme of being *fully known and fully loved*. During the year, we have discovered that indeed God does fully know us and fully love us. We have also discovered: fully knowing and fully loving our neighbor is tough. God makes it look so easy! Our response to God to know and love Him and to know and love our neighbor carries with it a heavy cross. Relationship is a lot of work and sacrifice, humility and patience, honesty and integrity. We have discovered weaknesses and wounds, strengths and gifts, success and failure. The road through life for one desiring eternity is truly the way of the cross.

On this journey, many things have happened along the way. Wonderful stories of conversion, overcoming worldly vice, gifts of grace and virtue. In the fall, we opened with a bang. Our opening barbeque was the largest we have had in recent memory. Students were able to interact with each other, meeting our staff, FOCUS missionaries, residents and student council. This led into a great September which was highlighted by our fall busy person retreat. We had 65 students participating in the retreat, which is held right here at the Newman Center. Our theme was 'fully known' and the students were able to spend a week being known by God. October, the month of the rosary, also found us on retreat. Koinonia #12 was held at Camp Comeca with St. Thomas Aquinas as our patron.

This year also saw our 'Thirsting for Christ' events have great success. Our guest speakers were able to help students see the love of God working in their lives in a full way. Sacramentally, we have been blessed to have adoration 58 hours a week throughout the year. Mass is offered 9 times a week with 7 hours of confession offered. The students definitely take advantage of having a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament so close to campus.

Our spring semester has been going quite smoothly thus far. Spring busy person mirrored the experience of the fall with 60 students participating in the retreat which had the theme of 'fully loved'. Our spring break pilgrimage to Rome was unfortunately cancelled due to the outbreak of Coronavirus. Although sad, the students will be able to find something fun to do over break.

We would like to thank you for your support of the Newman Center. This is a place that changes lives. The only reason we exist is to bring people to Jesus Christ, He is the center of all we do. Know you are in our daily prayers!

God bless,  
Fr. Hock



CHRIST BLESSING LITTLE CHILDREN.

FULLY

*Known*

FULLY

*Loved*

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PICTURED L TO R  
BACK ROW:  
Fr. Hock  
Lacey Heimes  
Nick Rock  
Jacob Coatney  
Jacob Nore  
Trenton Chramosta  
Jonathan Drozda  
Marissa DeWispelare

MIDDLE ROW:  
Melissa Schumacher  
Sydney Acklie  
Megan Burghart  
Kelsey Cooper  
Halley Gaucher  
Makayla Irwin  
Jessica Braun  
Theresa Werner

FRONT ROW:  
Sarah Rock  
Allison Blum  
Maekayla Ward  
Nadia Pinon  
Sarah Juranek  
Morgan Mumm

Over the New Year, I had the opportunity to attend the SLS20 conference in Phoenix, Arizona. I had no idea what to expect, whom I would meet, or what my mind, body, and soul would experience during the week. SLS stands for Student Leadership Summit and was founded by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). There were thousands of Catholic college students at the conference who all had the desire to know God and strengthen their relationship with Him. It was amazing that thousands of us gathered from across the nation to be with God for an entire week, when it can be hard to plan a coffee date with a few girlfriends on most days! That was something special! God brought us all together, despite our circumstances, to lead us to a virtuous and faith-driven life. He wanted us to be there to witness His love and truth, to grow alongside each other so we would be confident in our faith, and spread the Word of God! I met so many wonderful and loving people who have the same burning desire for His love.

During the conference, I was able to meet Father Mike Schmitz, which was very humbling. If you are not familiar with Fr. Mike, he offers weekly homilies on [bulldogCatholic.org](http://bulldogCatholic.org) and appears in regular video messages on Ascension Presents. Through these, he has answered questions I have had and helped me apply my knowledge to my faith throughout my faith journey.

Father Hock once told me, "Don't imagine Jesus as being hard to find. Look beside you. He is right next to you holding your hand, telling you that it will be okay. Have the confidence that He is with you to guide and protect you." As the week went on, that image flooded my mind, and my heart was opened completely. I experienced Him through prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, and through the people around me. Everyone attending SLS gave their hearts to God during the week together and opened themselves up to Him. It is hard to be vulnerable when you do not know what will happen in the process. I gave my all to Him during the week, and He showed up at my doorstep with the most loving embrace I have felt in a long time. He was there to hold my hand and walk me through my journey in life. Throughout the week, we had small group breakout sessions during which we spoke about what we learned during the day, and how we could apply it to our involvement in our own parishes back home. I thought about what I learned and became very excited to share my faith!

I had a long time to reminisce on what I experienced and learned during my week in Phoenix on our 27-hour bus ride home. I have always been proud of being a Catholic Christian, and had a deep desire to share the Word of God. SLS gave me the confidence that I needed to evangelize and bring my faith back to my community in Kearney. As a part-time secretary at Prince of Peace church, I am blessed to see the Faith Formation kids grow in their faith every Wednesday, and I am able to be a part of the leadership team for the Edge and Life Teen youth. I have so many opportunities to make a difference and share my experiences through my faith. SLS made me realize that I am not above or below anybody, and it is my responsibility as a Christian to spread the Word of God whenever I am able. Growth is hard, easy, and necessary all at the same time. It can bring us to our knees with our struggles, and it can lift us up in those very moments as we pray for peace. Doing what is vital for personal growth is so important. I have challenged myself to do something extra through my faith to help me grow every week since I have been back from the conference, and I am taking what I learned into my parish. As I continue to grow, I continue to pray, be humble, learn, and give back. God is so good, and He is standing right next to us waiting for our next adventure to begin! Where will you go next?

By:  
**Kelsey  
Cooper**



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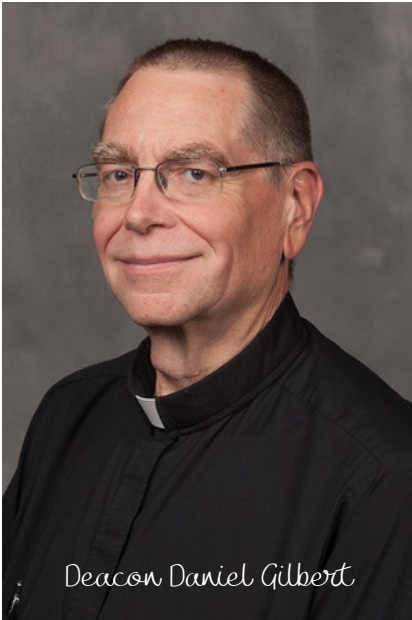
## Office of Vocations

Deacon Daniel Gilbert will soon be the Diocese of Grand Island's newest ordained priest. Daniel was born and raised in western Nebraska and is the oldest of 7 children born to James (deceased) and Lucille Gilbert. Upon graduating from high school, Daniel attended UNL and worked odd jobs before studying to become a certified radiologist. He worked in the field of Radiology for several years before answering God's call to the priesthood.

Daniel has also been an active participant in the Knights of Columbus. He held many offices, assisted with activities, became a 4th degree Knight, was part of the Honor Guard Corps, and was District Deputy for 4 years. He was named Knight of the Year for the state of Nebraska in 2006 and Deputy of the Year in 2011.

He was active in his home parish of St. Agnes in Scottsbluff, where he discerned to join the Diaconate program. He was ordained a Permanent Deacon in 2015 and ministered to St. Agnes and surrounding parishes. Recognizing the joy he gives and receives while ministering to the spiritual needs of others lead him to the seminary. Deacon Dan has been studying theology and preparing for his priesthood at St. Meinrad Seminary in Indiana for the past 4 years. Thanks to the graces God has bestowed upon him and his "yes" to God's call, Deacon Daniel Gilbert will be ordained a Priest on June 5, 2020. We hope you can join in the sacramental celebration at 5:00 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island .

Congratulations Deacon Daniel Gilbert! May God continue to bless you for your willingness to spend your life serving Him!



## Prayer for Vocations

O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, Saint Joseph, her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of labourers for your Church, fellow labourers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

DILLON SPIES  
THEOLOGY II

CHAS CANFIELD  
THEOLOGY I

JOHN ROHWEDER  
PRE-THEOLOGY I

NOAH HUDDLESTON  
COLLEGE II

LIAM MURPHY  
COLLEGE II

ADAM BAUER  
COLLEGE I

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## Farewell, Melissa

*Melissa Schumacher left the Newman Center in March. Melissa has been with us for almost 3 years and during this time has served in many different capacities ranging from the Office of Vocations to most recently the Program Director. Her knowledge, expertise and servant heart will be missed but we wish her the best as she moves on to the next season of her career.*

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

*To continue your Sacrificial Offering, you may do so by mailing your contribution to the Newman Center office or donating online at <https://donorbox.org/sunday-offering-2>*



All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality  
To how big we really are. To how little control we really have.  
To what really matters. To Love.  
So we pray and we remember that  
Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate.  
Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.  
Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.  
The birds are singing again. The sky is clearing, Spring is coming,  
And we are always encompassed by Love.  
Open the windows of your soul  
And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing.

*Excerpt from: Lockdown – A Reflection by Brother Richard Hendrick OFM*

## Newman Center Apostolate

817 West 27th Street  
Kearney, NE 68845

Return Service Requested



Palm Sunday  
11:00 a.m.

Holy Thursday  
Mass of the  
Lord's Supper  
7:00 p.m.

Good Friday  
Passion Service  
3:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil  
NO MASS

Easter Sunday  
11:00 a.m.

Live Stream  
Adoration  
8:30 - midnight

Holy Week Masses will be pre-recorded, then uploaded to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/newmancenterunk/> at the times listed above.