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A Message from Fr. Hock

"THE EYES OF ALL LOOK HOPEFULLY TO YOU; YOU GIVE THEM THEIR FOOD IN DUE SEASON.
YOU OPEN WIDE YOUR HAND AND SATISFY THE DESIRE OF EVERY LIVING THING."

PS 145:15-16

Friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe, but the fall semester is nearly complete. The trees have dropped most of their leaves and the wind has brought a mix of warm air by day and cool air by night. Everyone is ready to be on break, but thankfully not from each other!

Starting back this fall, we had less restrictions than in 2020 but we still carried ourselves with caution. It was strange to see how everyone was adjusting to live together after everything we had been through in the last year. The students were eager to be with one another, but cautious about what that meant.

Our fall outreach was fruitful, bringing in a good new class of freshmen. We welcomed them with food and a carnival during the first week of class! The Knights of Columbus cooked for us while the students ran various games to win tickets. There was even a dunk tank!! It was a great encounter that lasted until 9pm Mass.

The semester seemed to be focused on retreat more than anything. We hosted 3 retreats this fall: our busy person retreat, koinonia and a retreat at the Cloisters on the Platte. The students have many opportunities to encounter Jesus in various ways during these retreats. It is so powerful to see them be found by our Lord, to be loved by our Lord.

Through our experiences of sacraments, adoration and retreats, the students have drawn close to one another as well. One very powerful experience happened during October. One of our students lost her mom to covid. As her mom was going through the process of dying, the students rallied around her. When her mom passed, the students rushed to comfort her and the family. We offered a Mass for her mom and the chapel filled to 70% capacity on a Friday afternoon. They bought flowers and signed a card filled with notes of support and comfort. Some of them were able to make it to the funeral Mass as well. It was so touching that these students showed love and support during such a difficult time.

Our bible studies and resident life have also gone well this fall. We have very strong small group discipleship going as well as 11 students living in the houses. The friendships are growing through these things, and they hold each other accountable to growing in the faith. One thing I am very proud of them for is their rally to support the philosophy department at UNK. The students value their education and desire to have the opportunity to study the humanities during their time at college. It is inspiring to see that their challenge to one another and their desire for faith has opened up their thirst for all higher things. It is fun to get into a philosophical discussion from time to time around the Newman Center, it reminds me of seminary!

Growing in authentic friendship is the goal of our mission. When we grow this way, our soul begins to thirst for more than this life can provide. We open our hearts to receive something more, to receive the grace, mercy and love of God. He gives those good things through sacraments and through the community.

May God continue to bless us in this mission! God bless all of you!

Fr. Hock



NOTES FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Some very exciting things have been happening at the Newman Center recently. We are very grateful for the ways in which God has blessed our mission and the work in front of us.

In March of 2021 a group of key parties including Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt, other diocesan leadership, Newman Center staff, and consultants identified several important opportunities to ensure the sustainability of the Newman Center at UNK for generations to come. In addition to outlining a plan to advance the Newman Center building project, the team initiated efforts to focus on and develop our business plan.

Since that time, we've made tremendous progress to strengthen organizational infrastructure and establish the Newman Center's development program. As a part of this work, the Steier Group was hired to facilitate a planning study to assess the feasibility of launching a capital campaign, which just concluded at the end of October.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone again who participated in the study. We have been blown away by the positive feedback and generosity of our friends and alumni, and are excited to share more about the results and our plan moving forward in the near future.

In the coming days, we will continue to work towards raising sufficient funds to move forward with the building project, as well as establish operational sustainability. If you have any interest in contributing to the Newman Center and its efforts, or want to learn more about what we are doing, please contact via email at ncdevelopment.unk@gmail.com or phone at 308-224-4326.

Over the past several months the UNK Newman Center has made significant strides in strengthening its development program and advisory board. The results of the Steier Group's Planning Study were encouraging in the broad community support that they revealed. Building upon this momentum, the Newman Center will continue laying a foundation upon which strong and lasting ministries can be grown, broad donor support can be garnered, and a future facility can be built.

Jacob Coatney, Development Director
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Activities and Events

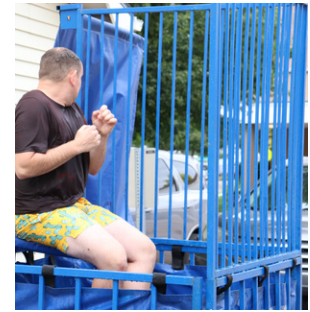
Blue & Gold



Welcome Week Fun & Games



Welcome Back Picnic



The Fall Busy Person's Retreat was held the week of September 26-30. We were blessed to have so many wonderful Spiritual Directors to pray for and with us!



- Fr. Bernard Kimminau
- Fr. Jonathan Sorensen
- Fr. Andrew Rosa
- Fr. Neal Hock
- Fr. John Norman
- Mother Margaret Mary
- Fr. Jose Chavez
- Sr. Maura Therese
- Fr. Scott Harter
- Sr. Joseph Andrew
- Fr. Josh Brown

Koinonia was held
NOVEMBER 5-7
IN LEXINGTON.



Halloween Party & Pumpkin Carving

*"Faith in action is love, and love in action is service."
-St. Teresa of Calcutta*

A group of our students volunteered their Saturday morning to serve with Habitat for Humanity. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community. Here's a small glimpse into what a joy it was!



JPII Newman Center UNK Day of Ignatian Spirituality Monday, October 18, 2021

UNO, UNL & UNK Newman Center students joined together for a one day retreat at the Cloisters on the Platte.

FOCUS Missionaries: In Their Own Words



Nicolette is a third year missionary from Napoleon, ND. It is her first year at UNK, where she serves as the Team Director.

Why did you decide to do FOCUS?

“My senior year of college I had an encounter that made me realize the Eucharist was the body and blood of Christ. After that point, I knew it was my mission to make that known to the world!”

Alfred and Nicolette welcomed their sweet baby girl, Amalia in August.

We love having their family as a part of the LoperCatholic family!



Alfred is from Beulah, North Dakota and although this is his second year as a FOCUS missionary, it is his first year in Kearney. He was voted the team member most likely to cook a fancy meal and firmly believes that only 0.05% of people floss regularly.

What saint do you relate to the most and why?

“St. Jerome. He was a pretty knowledgeable, no-bull sort of guy. But he was also known to be intense, harsh, and sarcastic.”

Megan is in her second year of mission with FOCUS and we have been blessed to have her on our campus both years! She is from Smithville, Missouri and her favorite thing about Kearney is the people! She is a fan of St. Andrew, trying new foods, and unanimously voted the team member most likely to eat something off the ground!

Why did you decide to do FOCUS?

“I had given engineering a try and even though I could do my job there and do it well, there was something missing. Although we didn’t have missionaries on my campus, I had a beautiful transformation through Jesus in college that changed my life and I wanted to share that joy and love with others too!”



Tori is a second year FOCUS missionary from Fullerton, CA. She has served at UNK both years and we love the joy she brings to our campus! Her favorite thing about Kearney is the people and she has a soft spot for brunch at Good Evans!

Why did you decide to do FOCUS?

“While in college the Lord guided me strongly into a deeper relationship with Him, especially through my friendships. The missionaries I met inspired me by their life lived for the Lord. They loved me with a love I know only comes from a lived experience with Jesus Christ and I desire to share that same love with others!”

Garrett is a second year missionary from Hammond, Louisiana. So far, what he has enjoyed the most about the Good Life is the people and the sweet corn! He was voted the team member most likely to break out in song, and the most spontaneous!

What saint do you relate the most to and why?

“St. Peter because he was so stubborn willed and prideful, yet Jesus still did so many amazing things with him.”



Alumni & Student Spotlight ~ Hinze Family

I am so thankful to be a part of the community surrounding the UNK Newman Center. It is the central meeting place for many of my friends, and I find myself there most days whether it be to study, pray, eat, or hang out. It has also led to a deepening of my faith – not only from attending bible studies and retreats, but also being able to discuss matters of my faith with like-minded students. In all, the Newman Center is a unique and wonderful part of the UNK experience, and I am glad that it gets to be a part of my history as well as my parents'.



Jackie Hinze

College life can be a roller coaster of ups and downs, yet I have found the Newman Center to always be a welcoming and supportive community. Each person here is on their own personal and spiritual journeys, and it has been a great experience to learn and grow alongside them. Being at the Newman Center has shown me how to live my faith in a real and honest way. Our work at Newman has helped me to develop a sense of meaning and purpose that can only be found helping others. It's nice to be part of a group that is invested in enriching the campus community.

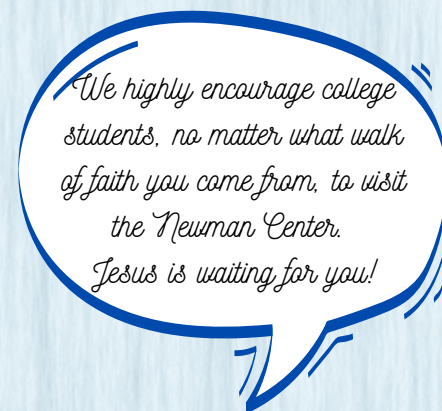


Maddy Hinze

The Newman Center community has played such an important role in our family that we carry on the tradition to our twin daughters, Maddy and Jackie. They have found their 'home away from home' at Newman.



Rob and Jen Hinze
Jackie Maddy Zach and Kaela



The Newman Center community is very near and dear to our hearts. Our story began at the Newman Center, back in 1996. Rob responded to an ad in the newspaper that the Newman Center was looking for residents. He applied, not knowing that his new place of residence was going to change his life! He lived in the yellow house for 2 years, in his second year Jen applied to live in the blue house. As residents we became friends and were involved in many activities at the Newman Center. We attended mass, bible studies, and our favorite retreat, Search. So many fun memories and lots of great friends were met along the way at the Newman Center.



1997 Rob and Jen 2021

The most influential people we met at the Newman Center were Sr. Marcia Guest and Fr. Art Faesser. Sr. Marcia was our resident director and helped us with our marriage preparation classes. The Newman Center meant so much to us, its where we met and where we were married in June 1998. Fr. Art, the resident priest, presided over our marriage.

Office of Vocations

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A

Seminarian?

Pastoral Formation takes a seminarian beyond the classroom and the seminary community to direct an ongoing interaction with a wide variety of people and circumstances to grow in the call to ministry.

Seminarians are given opportunities to develop the gifts and skills needed to become true servants of God's people through:

- *Assisting with religious education classes in local parishes*
- *Visiting residents in skilled care/assisted living facilities*
- *Serving at a ministry kitchen*
- *Ministry centers*
- *Hispanic immersion weekend*
- *Inner city weekend*

Emphasis on Christian service is basic to a man's preparation for priestly ministry, is valuable to formation and contributes to the seminarian's human and spiritual development. Seminarians are provided support and guidance from seminary staff and guest speakers to develop the skill of theologically reflecting on their ministry experiences in the light of the Gospel.

*Four
Pillars of
Formation*

*Intellectual
Human
Pastoral
Spiritual*



Seminarians Trevor Fisher and Noah Huddleston are pictured during their summer Totus Tuus assignment.



A Newman Center's Impact

ON SEMINARIANS

Question to seminarians: How did the Newman Center play a crucial part in you answering the call to the priesthood?

During the last year of my collegiate experience at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln I decided to go see what all the hype was about at the Newman Center. At that time I wasn't interested in Catholicism, I was simply just searching for some other meaning in life and what my purpose was. The reason for this search was that my track and field career was over, and I was lost. What I found at the Newman Center was other young men and women that were very relatable and were going through some of the same problems I seemed to be having at the time and who were also experiencing similar joys in life. It was my first ever exposure to devout young men. I couldn't believe how radically different they were than me. Then after a while and naturally getting to know some people, to my surprise I was invited to a bible study.

It was also my first exposure to what priest's lives are like outside of administering the sacraments. I was very surprised as the associate pastor at the time accepted an invitation from another Newman Center goer and I to go goose hunting. I will never forget the experience I had. It let me see that priests do have personal lives and just because they are priests, God doesn't ask them to stop doing everything they love in life. My experience at the UNL Newman Center was definitely short and sweet. But, it definitely gave me a fundamental understanding of what holy Christian life looks like. And perhaps it could be argued that it was the very catalyst to set me on the path that I am currently on today.



Samuel Ogden
PRE THEOLOGY II

I found the Newman Center to be crucial for my discernment.

The Newman Center at UNK is where I definitely fell in love with Christ. Before going to the Newman Center, my faith was unimportant and boring. By being inserted into the loving community at the Newman Center at UNK, I learned of the transformative love of God. The Newman Center opened my eyes to the beautiful truths of the faith. I can sincerely say that I would not be discerning a priestly vocation if God had not used the Newman Center at UNK to radically change my heart.



Noah Huddleston
COLLEGE IV

The Newman Center at UNL was paramount in my discernment to the seminary. While there I was challenged to grow in faith by an amazing community. Newman is a very special place where you can feel God's love in a very tangible way both in the Sacraments and in the people. UNL's Newman Center has directly affected the vocations of countless people called to the priesthood, religious life, and marriage. Newman Centers are full of future saints being formed to transform the world in all areas of life. The Newman at UNL is quite literally heaven on earth and I would not be where I am today without it.



Kaelob Marx
COLLEGE III

Vocations Awareness Week

For Vocations Awareness Week, Vocations Administrative Assistant, Amy Lowe had Traveling Crucifixes sent to each of the Catholic Schools in our Diocese.



Julie Brown, from St. Agnes Catholic School, wrote: Here are some pics from Vocations Week. We held a panel w/ priests, our former nun, deacon candidate, married couple & a single gal. We have passed the cross from class this week & next week it starts traveling home w/ a student. It's beautiful- thanks for sharing it w/ us.



These are the Schiff sisters taking home the Crucifix for the first week. All 3 of them say they want to be a nun!



Students praying with the crucifix



Vocations Panel at St. Agnes

Sacraments and Celebrations

Institution to Ministry of Acolyte for Deacon Candidates was held on May 8th at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in North Platte.

Let us continue to pray for these men, as they are in their final months of formation before being ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in May of 2022.



Lee Trautman (Christ the King, Gering),
Ron Glaser (St. Michael, Spalding),
Matthew Lonnemann (St. Mary, Grand Island)
Paul Nordhues (St. Theresa, Ericson),
Mark Bowman (St. James, Kearney)

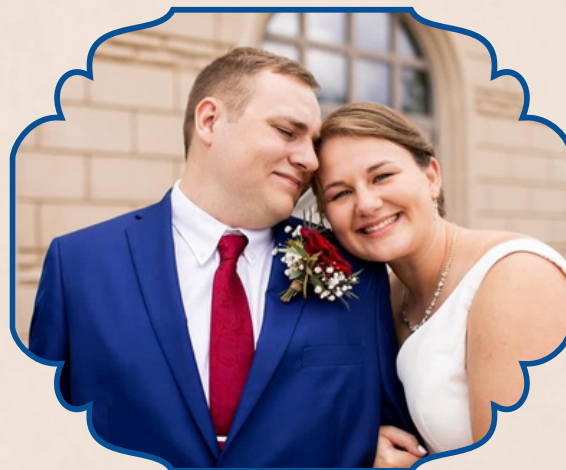
Lord, I pray for all those in formation for the permanent diaconate and for their wives. Let them be conformed to your love and become true ministers of your mercy. Amen.



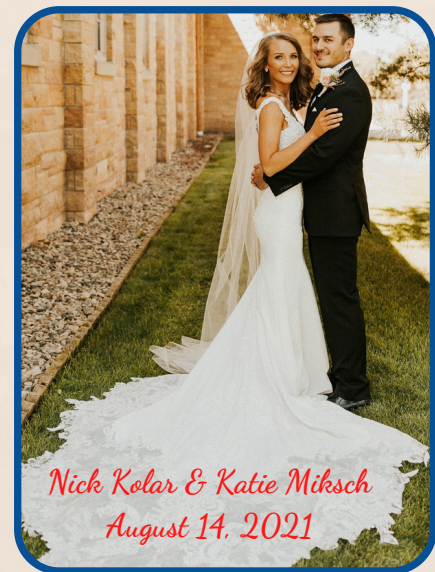
Sr. Guadalupe



Marissa DeWispelare served as a Varsity Catholic FOCUS missionary at UNK. She entered postulancy with the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln in the fall of 2020 and became a novice in October 2021. Please pray for her as she continues her journey into religious life!



Marc Wagner & Claire Rasmussen
July 3, 2021



Nick Kolar & Katie Miksch
August 14, 2021

Do you have a reason to celebrate? If so, please send details (including pictures) to ncfinance.unk@gmail.com

Faithful and loving God,
Bless those who care for these children and
grant them your gifts of love, wisdom, and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling
love, and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence and
establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Amalia Brooke



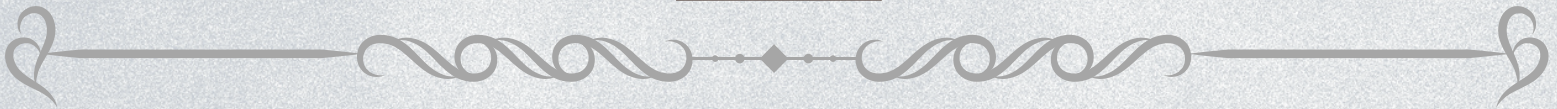
Alfred & Nicollette Schwalbe



Charlotte Olivia



Garrett & Ahnika (Lutz) Bradley



Saturday, October 2, 2021

Eli O'Dea was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church



Newman Center Apostolate
817 West 27th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

You're Invited

TO JOIN US IN PRAYER AND FINANCIALLY AS WE CARRY OUT THE GOAL OF OUR MISSION - GROWING IN AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIP. WHEN WE GROW THIS WAY, OUR SOUL BEGINS TO THIRST FOR MORE THAN THIS LIFE CAN PROVIDE.

BECAUSE EVERY DONATION ADDS VALUE TO OUR MISSION, WE WANT YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERING EXPERIENCE TO BE AS EASY AS POSSIBLE. JUST SCAN ONE OF THE QR CODES BELOW AND WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN CONTINUE OPENING HEARTS TO RECEIVE THE GRACE, MERCY AND LOVE OF GOD.

MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS US IN THIS MISSION!
FR. HOCK



Venmo

For more information, contact:
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nc.development.unk@gmail.com



Donorbox



Have you moved?



Did you get married?



No longer want the newsletter?

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