



# Pastor's Corner

Issue No. 3 – Spring 2024

Father Neal Hock

**“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.”**

– St. Teresa of Calcutta.

This academic year seems to be flying by! There are so many wonderful things to share with you! We continue to see growth in bible study participation, Mass attendance (450 communicants each week), and OCIA (14 students planning on entering full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter vigil)!

Numbers let us know the fruit, but the process of growth needs a closer look. Last fall, I told you about our rally cry of ‘radical hospitality’. That had a profound impact on our parish, transforming us to be more Christ like in how we encounter people in our day-to-day life. This spring, we desired to continue our growth, so we began to focus on another of our cultural virtues – personal excellence.

**Personal excellence is striving to do everything to the very best of our ability, ever seeking to grow and expand that capacity every day.** We look to our patroness St. Teresa of Calcutta for encouragement and guidance. Her sharing in Christ’s own thirst for souls leads us to give everything we have each day for God’s glory and the salvation of souls. **To grow in personal excellence, we formulated our rally cry: ‘small things, great love’.** We seek to do the little things each day with the love of Jesus Christ.

During lent, we have challenged the students to leave their phone with Jesus. As they enter the chapel, they leave their phone at the door so they may enter a silent exchange with the God of the universe who loves them. This creates a space for more divine intimacy and interior growth. Silence is the place of deep communion that our heart longs for, that our heart is made for. Leaving our phone with Jesus is a small thing that leads to great love.

This rally cry is quite simple, but very challenging. The fruit will be supernatural: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. The goal of Christian life is the body submitting to the soul and submitting to God. The reward is eternal life.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Teresa’s. Without you, our mission would be impossible. Please know of our continued prayers for your intentions. Know that you are an integral part of the St. Teresa family.

God Bless,

Father Neal Hock  
Pastor  
Vocations Director, Diocese of Grand Island



## Mission of Love

Betsaida Dominguez, Junior, Secondary Education, English



UNK It is the small things in life that stand out the most. Betsy Dominguez recalls getting a slow start attending events at

St. Teresa of Calcutta Newman Center. "I was kind of shy," she admits, "then, in the second semester of Freshman year I volunteered to help at an event." All it took was getting her foot in the door to see what a great community exists at St. Teresa's. Everyone was so welcoming and kind.

**"I believe everyone is on mission in life," Betsy continues, "my biggest mission is letting people know that they are deeply loved, even if they don't feel it, they are loved."** Students had done this for Betsy early on.

She was walking down the sidewalk, having a rough day, when, from a group of students on the porch she heard, "Betsy, how are you? How are you doing?" It made her feel important to them when they reached out. She believes that is important to tell others how much you appreciate them when you get the chance.

Betsy carries the welcome that she feels from the community at the Newman Center with her wherever she goes. **"We have the tendency to need to do really great things, or to have a really big impact, when simply doing the dishes or seeing someone that you've seen like 1000 times and smiling at them, opening a door, or calling them by name can be so much more."** She likes to be a part of "tabling", when

students from St. Teresa's reach out to other students on campus. Interacting with other students is important. Betsy talks about how beautiful encounters can be outside of her bubble. For her, it is about witnessing to the love of God, not changing someone's mind. Maybe the next time she sees them they will remember her, and know that they are loved.

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## Meet the Staff



**FR. NEAL HOCK**

*Pastor | Diocese of Grand Island  
Vocations Director*



**ALFRED SCHWALBE**

*Executive Director*



**SARAH BOFFERDING**

*Campus Ministry Coordinator*



**PATRICK O'NEIL**

*Business Office Associate*



**MADELINE RIESBERG**

*Campus Ministry Associate*

## JOIN OUR TEAM!

We are currently seeking remarkable individuals who are on fire with the love of Jesus to fill these positions:

- Marketing & Development Coordinator
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NEWMAN CENTER

[lopercatholic.org/iragifts](http://lopercatholic.org/iragifts)





## A Glimpse of SEEK 2024

Thanks to friends and supporters of St. Teresa of Calcutta Newman Center, our students joined other students from across the country to attend SEEK 2024, presented by FOCUS, in St. Louis, Missouri, from January 1-5, 2024. As the pictures show below, the Spirit was alive and hearts were set **on fire!**



— Elle Brox (center)  
UNK Sophomore and Greek student



## DID YOU KNOW?

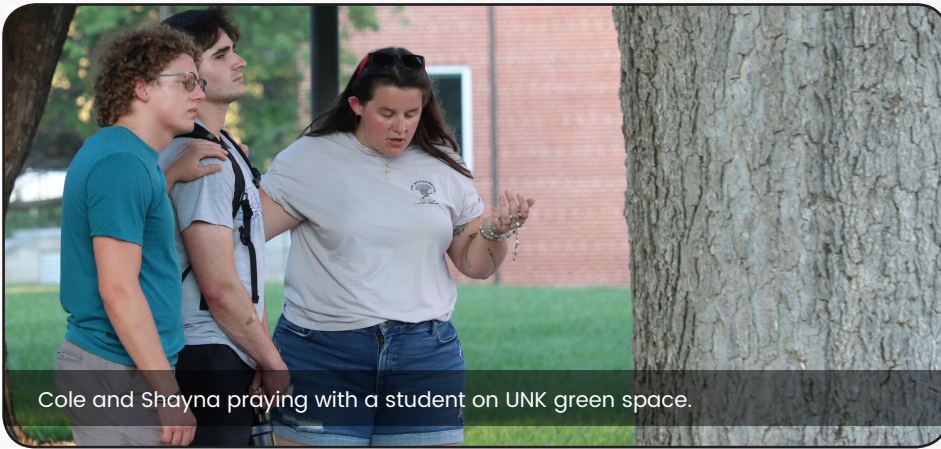
**86** LoperCatholic students  
traveled **575** miles  
to attend SEEK 2024!

Bible study attendees who go  
to SEEK are **6.5x** more  
likely to become a FOCUS  
Disciple after attending SEEK!

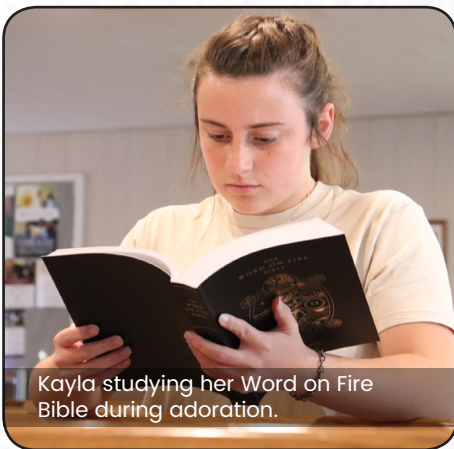
“I am thankful that I had an extra nudge from my older brother, Levi, and Shayna [FOCUS Missionary] to attend SEEK because all I can say is that it was simply life changing. Being with 20,000+ other Catholic college students reminded me that I am not done, and that Christ will always forgive and save us - no matter how many times we fail over and over again. I am grateful that I got the opportunity to experience this conference, the phenomenal speakers, grow in friendship with others, and most importantly rekindle my love for my faith.”



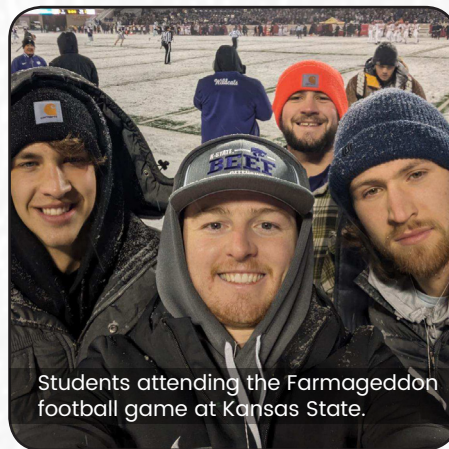
# Ministry Highlights!




Cole and Shayna praying with a student on UNK green space.




Kayla studying her Word on Fire Bible during adoration.



Students attending the Farmageddon football game at Kansas State.

**26** Bible Studies 

**52** Disciples 

**95** Students praying weekly holy hour 



**Meet our 2023-24 FOCUS Missionary Team!**  
(Pictured from Left to Right): Ethan Dingman, Christine Eberwein, Shayna Smits, Megan Krueger, and John Ostermann.



**“My Favorite Thing About The St. Teresa’s Chapel Is ...  
... the St. Thérèse of Lisieux Window!”**



“Much like her motto of ‘Small things, great love’,

St. Thérèse’s spirituality of ‘The Little Way’ has guided me into a deeper interior life - with trust and intimate love with the Father at the center of it. The image of St. Thérèse has served as a daily reminder to recognize my littleness and practice complete surrender to Jesus in all aspects of my life.”

*-Sydney Fisher, UNK sophomore and Bible study leader*

# The Simple and Ordinary Way

Megan Krueger, FOCUS Missionary Team Director



In her fourth year as a FOCUS Missionary at UNK, Megan Krueger is serving her first year as Team Director. "Being a team director is a really big

commitment", she explains, "I have to zoom out and make sure we are all moving in the right direction." The FOCUS team is definitely moving in the right direction. **St. Teresa of Calcutta Newman Center currently has 26 active bible studies being led by both missionaries and students.**

These bible study groups are attended by 211 students. There are also 52 students in discipleship formation, 8 of the leaders are students! This is a really great thing that has come from a small calling that God put on Megan's heart in her college years.

Megan attended the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. "We did not have FOCUS on campus and the school was full of mostly men. I had no one to walk with me as a woman of the faith," she recalls. This did not stop Megan from searching. Through the Newman Center, she heard about the SEEK Conference hosted by FOCUS and decided to attend. "I knew there was something there for me," she said. There was. Returning from SEEK, Megan started a women's bible study group at Rolla. **"The joy that came from sharing the little that I knew...and they were hungry for sharing the faith and learning...I knew that even the little I had to share had a great impact."**

Megan graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Management in 2020

and applied for a job...with FOCUS! Life walking with the students includes a lot of faith formation, but for Megan it is those in-between times that are special. Doing homework together and sharing meals is also important. She shares the goodness in the ordinary with students, saying, "Showing up on time for work can be the next best thing and it is showing your love for God. Becoming saints doesn't mean you have to go on campus and do great things. You may be tempted to do grandiose things, but stay focused on what God puts in front of you in the moment."

Looking back on the path God placed in front of her, Megan remarks, "Not knowing any FOCUS missionaries before I became one, I had a chance to experience my own poverty in that I didn't quite know what I was doing at first." Serving the students at St. Teresa's has taught Megan that sharing her weakness, her humanity, has been a greater gift to the students. **Sometimes, an act as simple as the gift of a homemade meal to girls on the volleyball team is showing them the great love of the Father for them.**



Megan with UNK Volleyball players Emilee and Lexi.



Tessa, Jacylan, and Megan at the UNK Soccer Team senior night.



Students and Megan on a mission trip to Belize in Summer of 2023.

**"The joy that came from sharing the little that I knew...and they were hungry for sharing the faith and learning ... I knew that even the little I had to share had a great impact."**

*“... but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.”*

Romans 5:20



Landon, junior, distributing ashes during campus mass.

## Ash Wednesday at St. Teresa's

The beginning of lent began with big offerings on campus for Ash Wednesday. This holy day is regarded as the most attended Christian service even beating out Christmas and Easter. The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors lent the backdrop seen here for the elevation of our lenten liturgy. **Mass at UNK's Student Union attracted 185 students, faculty, and staff with another 90 attending at St. Teresa's Chapel later that night.** With 10 hours of confession offered (7 hours offered on campus), many were reconciled to God through the radical availability of the sacrament.

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5:00 pm - Vigil Mass with  
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6:00 pm - Social Hour

7:30 pm - Dinner & Program

9:30 pm - Social Continues