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**IN THIS
ISSUE**

A Message from Fr. Hock

“NOW THIS IS THE MESSAGE THAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM HIM AND PROCLAIM TO YOU: GOD IS LIGHT, AND IN HIM THERE IS NO DARKNESS AT ALL.” 1 JOHN 1:5

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is hard to be Catholic. The greatest tension is being able to freely live out our call to holiness in today's world. That is never easy, but with so many forces working against the basic and great commission to go and make disciples of all nations it has become extremely difficult. One of the marks of the enemy's presence is a sense of darkness, heaviness, anxiety, and fear. Life just feels very heavy and dark right now. It is so taxing on us personally, as family, and as the Church.

It is easy to lose hope when everything is so bleak. Every conversation, every encounter, every day of work is marred by negative outlooks. It is easy to give up on ourselves and our communities. What is more, people feel abandoned by the Church – they feel unheard, unwanted or uncared for. Sadly in many cases, this is not just a sense they have, but a reality. This has led so many to eventually give up on God.

What is the answer?

In her time as a Loretto sister, Mother Teresa was sent to India to serve. She cared for children for many years as a sister of Loretto. On one occasion, traveling by train to a retreat, she heard the voice of Jesus say to her, “come be my light”. She discerned that to be her call within a call. She looked out at the darkness around her, the darkness of loneliness and pain, the darkness of being forgotten, the darkness of being trapped in a hopeless situation. She made a vow to Jesus – to love Him more than He has ever been loved.

When she dawned the now iconic white sari with blue pinstripes and walked into the midst of that darkness, by loving the people, by caring for the people, by getting to know the people, she became a beacon of light and hope for everyone she encountered.

This summer, we have been reflecting as a Newman Center on our call from God. We are here for one purpose – to be the light of Jesus Christ on this campus. To love Him more than He has ever been loved. As we prayed with this call, so many pieces came into alignment for the mission and future of the Newman Center. Being of singular focus has allowed us to make bold and exciting propositions to change some of the organizational structure of the Newman center. Being obedient to our call has opened the door to explore new possibilities for our facilities, sustainability and stability in an ever-changing culture, and opportunities for new growth.

The students of UNK so often live in loneliness and fear. Keeping faith in God in an environment they live in is tremendously difficult. They are so thirsty. As we continue to come to understand our call as a Newman Center, we become more readily that beacon of Christ's light which draws the students out of darkness to the wellspring of God's love and mercy. Our call is to love Jesus in each and every student like He has never been loved. In loving Jesus in them, we help them be cared for, wanted and known. Once they encounter that type of love, they are drawn toward their own call from God. It is in that way we help build the Kingdom of God.

You, our dear brothers and sisters, can help us in this mission – right where you are. Please consider joining us in prayer and financially. With your help, we can take the light of Christ into the darkness and help these wonderful children of God get to heaven.

God bless,
Fr. Hock

INTRODUCING THE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



Congratulations, Jacob!

After serving as a FOCUS Missionary at UNK for two years, Jacob Coatney accepted the position of Program Director in June. In August, he was selected as the Development Director for the Newman Center. He will begin his new duties in September.

Jacob has been married to his wife Maggie for a year and they welcomed their first child, Ambrose, at the end of July!

Originally from Pennsylvania, he studied Mechanical Engineering at Colorado State University before entering seminary in Denver for a year. He is an avid home brewer and has been brewing for five years. He also loves to make everything from wood projects like cornhole boards to custom leather belts. His love for craftsmanship stems from and is fueled by his love of prayer and intimacy with God. He is excited to be a living testimony to God's Divine Mercy and cultivate His desire for deep intimacy with each of us.

Jacob Coatney, Development Director
2714 8th Avenue | Kearney, NE 68845-4332
308.224.4326 | ncdevelopment.unk@gmail.com

Development Office Updates

I have begun using a new CRM database called eTapestry, which will allow the Newman Center to move forward in a much more efficient manner. This newsletter is the first publication in which I will be utilizing our new software to formulate a comprehensive mailing list.

Therefore, you may be getting the newsletter for the very first time! Because this is the first run using this database, I expect there will be some delivery issues. For example:

- some households may receive more than one newsletter
 - i.e. parent(s) with student(s) living at home
- couples receiving newsletters under each person's name
 - several people had the same address but I was unsure if you were a family unit, a couple or a parent/student household

PLEASE let me know if you experienced an issue with your newsletter or if you previously requested to receive a digital newsletter or requested to not receive a newsletter at all, please email ncfinance.unk@gmail.com and I will be happy to process your request.

Thanks and enjoy our newsletter! ~Monica



St. Teresa
Pray for us!

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The Catholic Newman Center at the University of Nebraska Kearney is honored and proud to have served to faith formation needs of students for decades. The need for faith formation and vocational discernment has never been greater, particularly given the numerous challenges that college students face today. As such, the UNK Catholic Newman Center is exploring opportunities to strengthen its ministry presence and impact at the University of Nebraska Kearny. The Newman Center's leadership is excited about what that may entail but is not yet prepared to make announcements, pending further due diligence that is needed. We envision that in the coming months the Newman Center will likely be in a position to share more about its plans. Thank you for your patience.

Holy Week



I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity to enter the Church this past Easter at the Newman Center. It truly was an incredible experience, especially because I was surrounded by such a wonderful community not only as I was confirmed, but also in my journey leading up to that moment. My journey to the faith was filled with many challenges, joys, sadness, and everything else in between, but is one that I will be forever grateful for. I am so thankful for the Newman Center and the role it took in helping me open myself up to the Lord and His Church!

-Kaitlyn Becher



St. Gianna Banquet



After a long time of not being able to gather, we were finally able to welcome students, alumni, and friends of the Newman Center to safely come together and celebrate at the St. Gianna Banquet. It is a true gift to have such a vibrant community. The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and great conversation. Thank you to everyone that came to the Banquet and to everyone that contributed to it's success, through your time, talents, treasure, or prayers. We hope to see you next year!

St. Gianna Beretta Molla, Pray for us!



Summer at the Newman Center

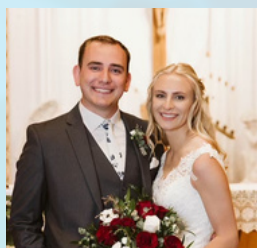
Welcoming Our New Staff



Scott Moser joined the staff in late August, taking over as Program Director.

Hailing from Clearwater, NE, Scott is the youngest of 7 kids in a very close knit family. He graduated from UNL in 2020.

He is currently pursuing a master's degree at UNK while working for both UNK and the Newman Center. He loves playing sports, being outside and connecting with diverse groups of people.



Nicollette and Alfred are our newest FOCUS missionaries. They are originally from North Dakota and both graduated from North Dakota State University, Nicollette holds degrees in Psychology and Human Development and Family Sciences, and Alfred has a degree in Animal Biomedical Sciences. Nicollette served her first year with FOCUS at Boise State University, and after they were married in 2020, Alfred joined her to serve his first year in Boise as well.

The Schwalbe family has recently grown, as they welcomed their first child, Amalia, at the beginning of August! They are so excited to be back in the mid-west and share with students the truth and joy of the gospel!

Summer Activities



Community meals have continued over the summer. Our summer residents have been preparing a meal each week for the students that are spending their summer in Kearney. We are excited to have all the students back in August and fill the dining hall with joyful conversations and shenanigans. It is a great blessing to be able to continue build up our community over the summer when so many students are out of town.

Our office space will look a little different this year! In July, the Newman Center rented an additional house for Administration. It will provide office space for Monica, Business Administrator; Amy, Vocations Administrative Assistant; and Jacob, Development Director. In addition, the basement has rooms that will be utilized as quiet study space for students, bible study rooms for FOCUS and a music room for the musicians to practice for Mass. The brick house will serve as Formation Offices for Fr. Hock, chaplain; Scott, Program Director; and Kendall, Community Formation Director. We are grateful to have a little more space as we have outgrown our facilities. We are excited to welcome you into the new office space and look forward to utilizing it to better serve our students!



Student Spotlight

A major part of my summer has been spent working the night shift as a nurses' aide at CHI Good Samaritan hospital in Kearney. It has helped me explore the healthcare field and learn more about many different professions, and I'm excited to continue learning much more! But more importantly, I've been able to learn so much about compassion, empathy, and serving others in their most vulnerable moments. I've also been busy training for the upcoming wrestling season with my team, and I've had the opportunity to help out with several high school wrestling camps around Nebraska. In my free time I've been able to do a lot of reading and go back home to spend time with my family.



Believe it or not, I'm very excited to begin this school year! I look forward to the routine and rhythm of classes and practices. Another thing that the school year brings is an enlivening of our Newman center. A new school year brings students back to Kearney which means more students around Newman, including new Newman Center members! This is exciting because we're able to have daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, retreats, and great community time. This is so special because everyone who's part of the Loper Catholic family is pursuing Christ and holiness, together. With everyone pursuing the same goal, there is so much personal growth and growth in our community that takes place. We run towards the Lord and heaven together, and that is the part of the Newman Center that I love the most. I look forward to welcoming the joys and trials of a new academic year with the UNK Newman Center.

-Joseph Reimers

Alumni Spotlight

I am about to finish a summer of service at Christ in the City and begin my sixth year in the seminary at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. I will be starting Theology III this fall and preparing to be ordained a deacon this upcoming spring. It has been a while since I have been a student at UNK and attended that Newman Center, but that place continues to impact me everyday. The Newman Center is where I first heard God's call to the priesthood and it was the place that gave me an incredible foundation and the confidence to take the next step and enter seminary. Seminary has brought an incredible amount of love, joy, and happiness to me by seeing how present the Lord is in my life and every single person around me as well.



Right now I am finishing a summer at Christ in the City, a formation program that helps young Christians grow in their identity as a son or daughter of God while also encountering the homeless, remaining present with them, and giving them a place for their voice to be heard. This program has impacted my life in so many ways and has helped me realize the true dignity God bestows upon every single person He creates.

Answering God's call has changed my life in the greatest way possible. He has shown me how to love, cry, be joyful, share happiness, and to walk with so many people who come from various places in life. If I hadn't gone to seminary I never would have had the chance to encounter Christ in so many different people and places, as well as different aspects in my life. I owe a big thank you to the UNK Newman Center, Fr. Neal Hock, and Fr. Jose Chavez, for encouraging me to discern a vocations to the priesthood and for seeing Christ in me when I failed to see him in myself.

-Chas Canfield

Office of Vocations

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

Seminarian?



Human Formation focuses attention on the individual's development of character and personality so that he can become for others a bridge to Christ by becoming more the person God has called him to be.

A team of formators collaborate with the Dean of Students in the work of student life. By fostering community life in the dormitories and participating in many aspects of daily student life, the formators have a unique vantage point to observe, guide, correct, and encourage progress and growth in each seminarian. The effectiveness of each formator is enhanced by the combined resources and cooperation of the team.

The Human Formation program strives to help seminarians prepare to become:

- *A generous man of communion*
- *A man of solid moral character*
- *A mature man able to form mutually enriching friendships*
- *A responsible steward of his body, material possessions, and the environment*
- *A man of integrity, comfortable in leadership, and willing to collaborate with others*

*Four
Pillars of
Formation*

*Intellectual
Human
Pastoral
Spiritual*



All pillars of Formation are integrated into Human Formation. Common experiences of seminary life are also incorporated into the total human formation picture:

- *Athletics*
- *Individual health & wellness programs*
- *Community living*

Office of Vocations

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GRAND ISLAND

SEMINARIANS 2021-2022

"Be the apostle of the divine Eucharist, like a flame which enlightens and warms, like the angel of his heart who will go to proclaim him to those who don't know him and will encourage those who love him."
St. Peter Julian Eymard

St. Paul Mack
Vocations Director

Oliver Carfield
Miranda Gleason Seminary
Philology III

Sam Ogden
Conception Seminary College
Philosophy II

Liam Murphy
Conception Seminary College
College III

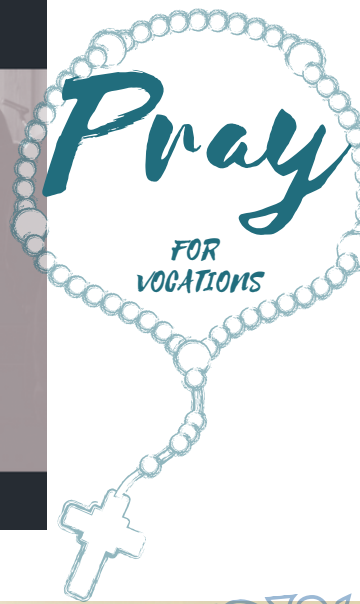
Noah Middleton
Conception Seminary College
College III

Kaleb Marx
Conception Seminary College
College III

Thomas Fisher
Conception Seminary College
College III

Adam Burt
Pastoral Year

Please Join Us in Praying for Vocations
For more information: www.givocations.org | (308) 234-1539 | vocations@gidiocese.org



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF GRAND ISLAND

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 laborers for your Church, fellow laborers 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.



Kelan & Miranda (Ketteler) Schumacher
July 3, 2021

Marriage takes three to be complete. It's not enough for two to meet. They must be united in love by love's Creator, God above. A marriage that follows god's plan takes more than the two of you, it needs a oneness that can be only from Christ.



Spencer & Emily (Speicher) Noble
May 29, 2021



JJ & Regan (Taubenheim) Clark
April 10, 2021



Ethan & Maaika (Mestl) Schilz
June 12, 2021



Heath & Emily (Zvolanek) Fink
June 12, 2021

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

You're Invited

TO JOIN US IN PRAYER AND FINANCIALLY AS WE CARRY OUT OUR MISSION OF "JOYFULLY SPREADING THE LOVE OF GOD IN TRUTH AND CHARITY TO ALL WE ENCOUNTER"

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 TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE DARKNESS AND HELP THESE WONDERFUL CHILDREN OF GOD GET TO HEAVEN.
GOD BLESS,
FR. HOCK



Venmo

For more information, contact:
Monica Musil, Business Administrator
2714 8th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845-4332
308.234.1539



Donorbox



Have you moved?



Did you get married?



No longer want the newsletter?

[E-mail changes to ncfinance.unk@gmail.com](mailto:ncfinance.unk@gmail.com)