

NEWMAN NEWS

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Derek Hayden leads a bible study at undCatholic.

A DAY ON MISSION

“GO FORTH and make disciples of all nations,” Jesus tells his apostles at the end of Matthew’s Gospel. But how do you do that in 2019?

The six FOCUS missionaries of undCatholic have a very difficult job to do. Imagine it: you are a recent college graduate, you are hundreds, maybe thousands, of miles from home. And you are trying to preach the Good News to the most distracted, busy, and anxious generation the world has ever seen. *What would you do? How would you do it?*

For 24 hours, we followed Derek Hayden, a FOCUS missionary at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, around the campus of UND to see.

We invite you to do the same.

Monday, 6PM: *The Bible Study*

On Monday night, Derek is down in the St. Therese Room of the Newman Center, with chips, salsa, and 5 college guys, asking about the high point of their weeks.

“These chips and salsa,” says one, to chuckles from the others.

This is part of an icebreaker called “Highs and Lows”. Each of the guys has to give their highest moment, their lowest moment, “and a God moment” from the week.

Besides chips and salsa, other “Highs” include a sibling’s wedding (“the sight of the bride and groom kneeling in prayer after communion was really moving”), and a better-than-expected score on a test. While light laughter and murmurs of agreement are common, the guys will get seriously excited for each other when the time is right. One guy shares that he and his girlfriend will celebrate their two-year anniversary on Friday and the room erupts in cheers.

“You got that rock yet?” Derek asks with a little more Kentucky drawl than usual and a wink so quick and flutter-free that you can almost hear it ding.

“Don’t have enough money for that,” comes the reply, with some nervous laughter.

“Get a ring pop!” someone shouts.

These guys have been in this Bible study for over 3 years now. They get each other and Derek gets them. So when he moves the group from the light icebreaker to the actual point of tonight’s Study -- a discussion of Sexual Authenticity -- no one squirms or looks uncomfortable.

Tuesday, 8AM: *Constant Prayer*

It is cold and wet and windy on Tuesday morning. Yet Derek and the other FOCUS missionaries are walking around the UND campus.

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JOHN HENRY NEWMAN: SAINT

converted to Catholicism in 1845, he lost his post at Oxford and the esteem of his former colleagues and students.

But Newman did not lose his genius or his wit. He was an extraordinary thinker whom the Catholic Bishops of Ireland called upon to found and lead *The Catholic University of Ireland*. He went to Dublin in the early 1850s to deliver 9 public lectures on the “Idea of a University”. *He viewed education as a moral, and not simply an intellectual, undertaking.* He argued that all of reality is one complex fact, and that there are no real separations between God, human beings, and the created world.

For his love of students, his care for their hearts and minds, and his foundational role in determining the Church’s view of education, Newman Centers on college campuses the world over are named for him.

He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 13th.

Why is the Newman Center called the Newman Center?

Who was St. John Henry Newman?

Newman was a man of the 19th Century. He was born in 1801 and died in 1890. Baptized and raised as an Anglican, Newman attended Oxford University, then the crown-jewel of the Church of England’s universities. Newman became a tutor and a professor at Oxford following his graduation, both of which required him to profess faith in the 39 Articles (a sort of catechism) of the Church of England. When Newman

BOX CITY



“The Eucharist commits us to the poor.”

- Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1397.

A Cold Night

On the night of September 28, 2019, it rained. The temperature dipped to 43. And strong winds came out of the northwest. Like many nights in Grand Forks, it was not a night to be outside. As Sue Shirek, director of *Northlands Rescue Mission*, said, “It would be more comfortable to in front of a fireplace, and in your own bed. And as the night goes on you’ll wish you were somewhere else.”

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What a joy it is to share with you some of the things the Lord has been doing at the Newman Center! I am grateful to the many students who continually open wide the doors of their hearts to Christ, and who have answered His call in their lives. Please pray for our mission to ignite the fire of faith on campus.

- Fr. Luke Meyer, Pastor

Fr. Luke Meyer outside at Box City at the Newman Center.

LUNSETH

“We just want to help out the community,” said Phil Kraemer, Vice President of Operations at *Lunseth Plumbing and Heating*. **Lunseth was our Grand Tour sponsor for last year’s bike race.**



Kraemer and his wife attended the Newman Center when they first moved to Grand Forks, and have rallied support behind it for years. *Lunseth’s* executives all see the benefit of having the Newman Center on campus, and have generously given to support our mission. We thank *Lunseth* and all the corporate sponsors of our Bike Race. **Please support them with your business.**

The 35th Annual Bike Race will take place on April 25th, 2020.

NEWMAN HOUSE



The middle of Greek row is not the first place most people would look for the Eucharist. But inside the door of 2620 University Avenue, to the right, in a chapel dedicated to the Virgin Martyrs, is a tabernacle in which the Blessed Sacrament is reposed.

The Newman House is home to 17 young women, living an intentional charmism

of sisterhood, hospitality, and scholarship. It is a Catholic housing option for female students of the University of North Dakota. For women who want to grow in their faith during their college years, the Newman House has been an indispensable haven, and a shining example of Catholic community in the middle of a secular campus.

Learn more at newmanhouse.org

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In addition to their own personal prayer, the missionaries spend time each morning in prayer together. On Tuesdays, they take a rosary walk around campus, then they have a holy hour in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Tuesday, 10AM: Building Up Students

In addition to Bible studies, FOCUS missionaries spend some of their days meeting one-on-one with students. This is called “Discipling”. The idea is to, as St. Paul urged St. Timothy, teach the faith to reliable people who will in turn teach others. Discipling seems to be working for Derek. The first man he meets -- Luke -- will graduate in December and is already committed to be a FOCUS missionary at another campus in the Spring. The second man he meets -- Ben -- leads a Bible study on campus. For two hours they pray, talk, and laugh. It is striking how warm their meetings are, a testament to the joy of that comes from the Gospel.

Tuesday, Noon: Family Time

On Tuesdays from noon to 3, Derek goes home for a weekly “date” with his wife. We don’t tag along. He takes this three hour break because he will be at the Newman Center well past 10PM tonight.

Tuesday, 3PM: Unexpected Work

We head with Derek to Archives Coffeeshop just down the street. He intends to call all the people who have applied to join his upcoming mission trip to Belize. *He won’t be able to*



While talking at Archives, Derek invites a student to Mass.

do that for another hour. He orders his coffee, opens his laptop, plugs in his cell phone, and ends up standing 20 feet away, talking to two male students at a high table.

One of those students is in the Bible Study that Derek runs. After 10 minutes at that table, Derek greets two female students who are both on the Student Board at the Newman Center. Now, sitting down at his workstation, lukewarm coffee in hand, he greets a young lady on a nearby couch who recognizes him from Welcome Week. They begin talking about the stresses of the day, then the difficulty of planning work and relaxation, then the role of prayer, and *soon Derek is talking to her about coming to Mass and adoration at the Newman Center.* She enthusiastically agrees and Derek gives her some Bible verses to pray with for the rest of the week.

Win, Build, Send: A Coda

We leave Derek, and the UND campus at the end of the work day. Derek stays. At 8PM he has another Bible Study, a new one, full of some guys who are involved in Greek life here at UND. We agree that it would be best not to photograph this Bible study. These young men are just starting to hear the Good News, just beginning to realize that Jesus desires a relationship with them. It is a time when they are hopefully being won over by Him.

FOCUS trains its missionaries to follow as closely as they can the way Christ shared the Gospel: Win, Build, Send. Leading souls to Christ. Helping souls to grow in Christ. Commissioning them to go and do the same. Whether by weekly evening Bible Studies or a chance conversation in Archives, *Derek and all the missionaries help us ignite the fire of faith on campus.*

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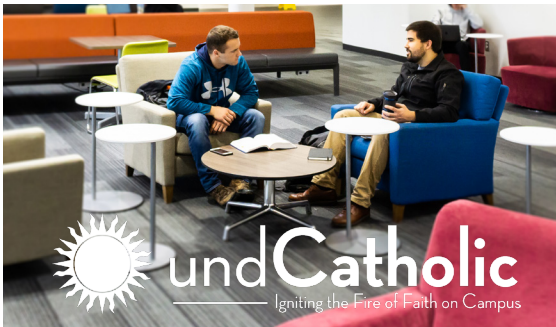
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**If you only had one day...
...how would you preach the Gospel?**



Taylor listens to Sue at Box City.

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Two dozen students from undCatholic were sitting on the lawn of the Newman Center, surrounded by a “Box City” — makeshift shelters made from cardboard in which the students were going to spend the night.

The Poverty of Grand Forks.

Grand Forks has the highest rate of metropolitan poverty in the state of North Dakota. While students from undCatholic have regularly volunteered at *Northlands Rescue Mission* and have given food to people begging on the street, Social Chairs Maddie Pullen, Taylor Sagen, and Emily Sears wanted to do more.

This fall, they planned “Box City” to both raise money for *Northlands* and give students a chance to experience what it is like to be homeless for a night.

You Did It To Me

At first, Megan Guggisberg was reluctant. When Fr. Luke Meyer announced Box City after Mass, she initially thought about skipping. But then she remembered her students.

There are 122 homeless students in the Grand Forks school district. Some of them were in Megan’s class of eighth graders at Valley Middle School. “Why would I not do something that

would create empathy with people that I work with on a regular basis?” said Megan. She went to Box City and then stayed up without napping the next day, to experience the sort of day her students have.



Monica tapes her box open.

Andrew Schelonka came to Box City and was reminded of the great Catholic tradition of service to the poor. “I think that’s a huge part of Catholicism, reaching out to those who are most vulnerable. You see it in Matthew 25, where Jesus says, ‘**What you do for them you do for me.**’”



You can watch a video version of this story called “You Did It To Me” on our YouTube and Facebook pages.