

NEWMAN NEWS

NOTES ON A LIVESTREAM
How we put Mass online
PAGE 2

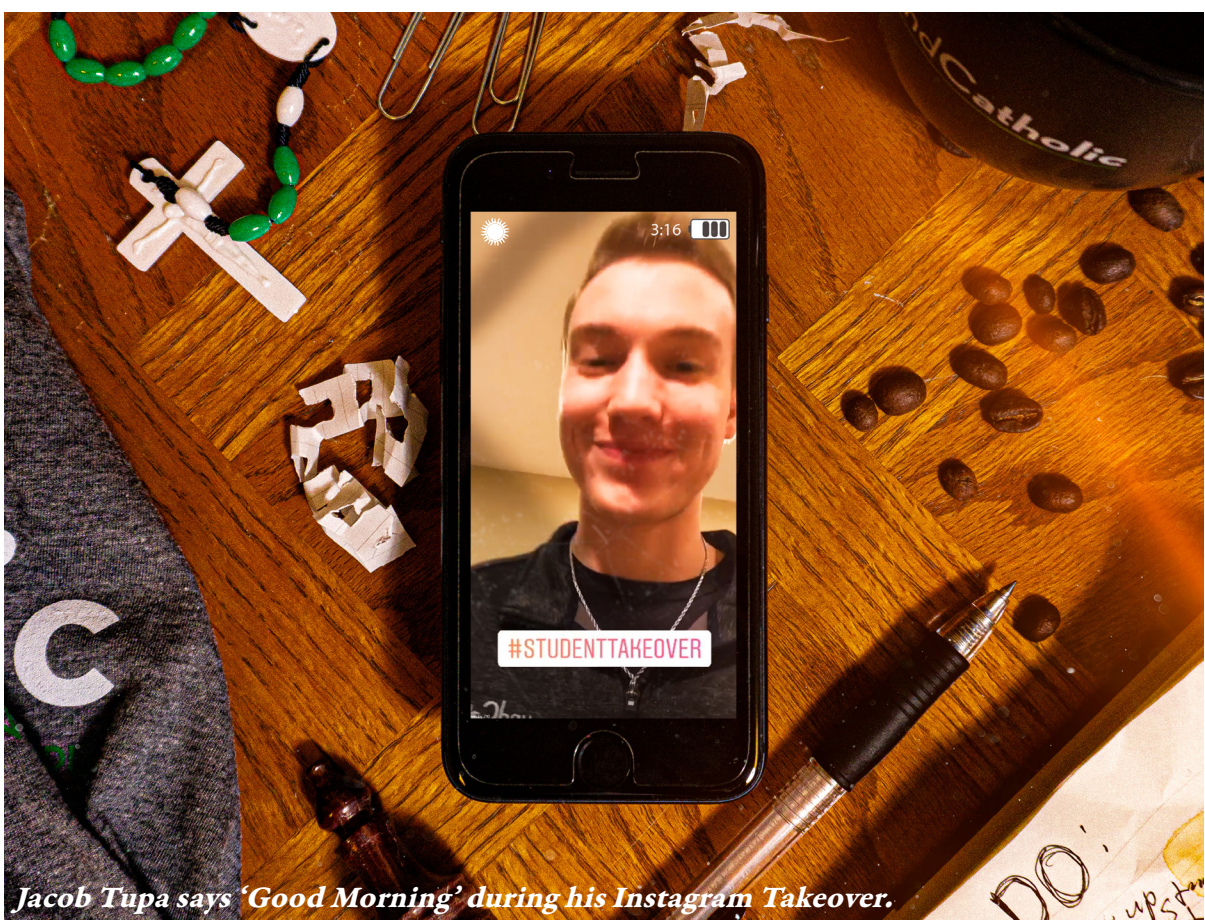
FOCUS
We say goodbye to our team director
PAGE 4

STUDENT TAKEOVER
#BibleStudies
PAGE 1

NEWMAN HOUSE
Best shoveling on Greek row.
PAGE 4

A WORD FROM FATHER
Help us ignite the fire of faith on campus
PAGE 3

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Jacob Tupa says 'Good Morning' during his Instagram Takeover.

STUDENTS TAKEOVER

Bible Studies reported 100% attendance. Over a dozen people prayed Morning Prayer with Fr. Luke. Discipleship meetings took place daily.

All of this is what happened when students staged a #StudentTakeover of undCatholic.

With classes moved online and dormitories closed for the rest of the semester. It looked as though the life and ministry of the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center was about to slide to a standstill.

While Father Luke and the staff prepared to start streaming Masses online (see "Notes on a Livestream", pg. 2), members of the student board proposed a #StudentTakeover to keep the community of the Newman Center together through the COVID-19 lockdown.

At the center of their takeover was a social media platform called Instagram.

Continues on Page 3...



BIKE RACE



Fr. Cheney & Fr. Luke

We are so grateful for the tremendous support we received for the annual Newman Bike Race!

Dozens of riders from all over the country participated in our "remote" Bike Race. Even though NDSU won the overall competition, Fr. Luke edged out Fr. Cheney in the Pastor matchup. And we livestreamed the whole thing on Facebook and YouTube.

Next year, we look forward to including remote riders again in the Bike Race. So start training now so we can show the Bison whose boss!

Notes on a Livestream

How Mass continued when everything else stopped.



John Goerke moves the cameras for the livestream Mass.

“Thank you for making this so accessible and easy to watch! Bless you and the team for doing such a professional job!”

- Christine Naylor

“Amazing job with the streaming!”

- Mike Peterson

“We really appreciate the streaming quality of UND Catholic’s Mass!”

- Katie Hlucney

“We’re really building this plane as we learn to fly it,” said John Goerke at a staff meeting in April. The Newman Center had been streaming Masses and Morning Prayer online for almost a month. And we had just added a third camera.

When Bishop Folda first suspended the public celebration of Mass, we grabbed every iPhone, iPad and Dewalt battery pack we could find and brought them to the chapel. Within a few days we realized that streaming from everyone’s phones was not a long-term solution. The video was grainy. The sound was spotty. And it was hard for some of our parishioners to follow along without the hymnal.

Within two weeks, people began noticing a difference. First, Fr. Luke downloaded a free trial of a program called ‘Wirecast’. This allowed us to smoothly cut from one camera to another, and to broadcast simultaneously to both Facebook and YouTube. (Later, for

the Bike Race, Wirecast let us broadcast to the NDSU Facebook and YouTube pages as well.) When the trial ran out, we purchased Wirecast for \$800.

Something similar happened with the cameras. We moved from cellphones and iPads to special “PTZ” cameras, which allow us to zoom in to the little details of the Mass: the fracturing rite, the lighting of incense, the cantor singing. We hoped these details would help bring people closer to the Mass as they prayed from home.

Since the beginning of the lockdown, we at the St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center have invested our time and resources so that we could bring a beautiful and prayerful

Mass to our students and parishioners stuck at home.

Now, we need your help to raise money for our video production. It cost us \$6,800 to bring everything online. Make a donation today to support our sharing of the sacramental life of the Church with those who need it most.

When you donate to undCatholic, write “Livestream” in the memo line to help cover the costs of video production.

Thank you.



Matt Komprood and Nathan Peasland in the choir loft.

“In all things we can be grateful. Grateful for our students, our parishioners, our chapel, and most of all for the love of Christ that brings life to all of it. The fire of faith burns on campus because Our Lord wills it to. In all circumstances.”

- Fr. Luke Meyer, Pastor



Fr. Meyer prays in the chapel.

Continued from Page 1 :

Instagram is a website that began as a way for people to share pictures with each other. See a really beautiful sunset and want to show your friends? Instagram. Make a delicious dinner and want to brag about how good it looks? Instagram. Unlike Facebook, Instagram is made to work best on a cell phone, not a computer. So it has become the default website for college students.

We at undCatholic started using Instagram a few years ago. And the most useful feature for us (by far) has been the “InstaStories” -- short videos taken throughout the day that are linked together and viewed in quick succession. Father Luke has used this to update our community about the day-to-day happenings at the FOCUS conference, or about his Bike Race training. This time, though, it was students who ran the show.

The first student to stage an Instagram Takeover was Jacob Tupa. His first video showed him eating breakfast and praying the daily readings from the Magnificat. “I’ve been big on the intercessory prayer lately. Been talking to Luke (one of the FOCUS missionaries) about that,” Jacob says directly to the camera.

Abby Skibicki also staged an Instagram Takeover. “The way I start out my weekday mornings,” Abby whispers into the camera, “is by saying hello to some of my favorite friends: the women in my discipleship chain.” She turns the camera around and there, on her laptop screen, are half a dozen other women from the Newman Center, faces in a grid on the screen. “We all log into a Zoom call at about 7:30 in the morning and spend a holy half hour together, so that we can give our day to God, and to just keep each other accountable, and to grow in fellowship.”

To emphasize the last point: **These are half a dozen college aged women voluntarily going out of their way to begin each day communal prayer.**

“I’m impressed to see the spirit of community still alive and well,” said Fr. Luke as he recalled the InstraStories.

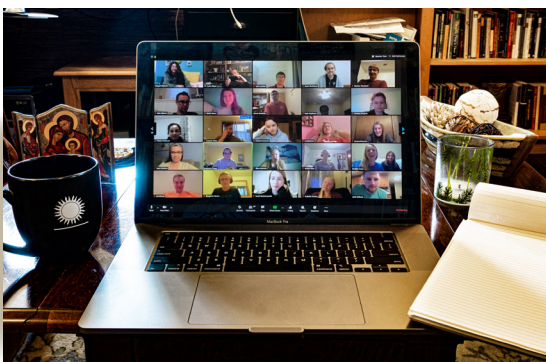
Abby Skibicki on Instagram.



Taylor Sagen began her Instagram Takeover (and her day) by praying the rosary. Emily and Maria Sears began their day with coffee and reading Scripture. Jacquelyn Blessum began with the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Throughout all the of Instastories, students were filming themselves going to Bible studies and discipleship, streaming daily Mass and praying by themselves.

“The mission has always been to ignite the fire of faith on campus. But it is now evident how brightly it was burning as things have moved off-campus,” said Fr. Luke. “Seeing the faith and community of the students grow (in unexpected ways) during this time has been the great surprise blessing of this semester.”



Fr. Luke holds a Student Board meeting on Zoom.

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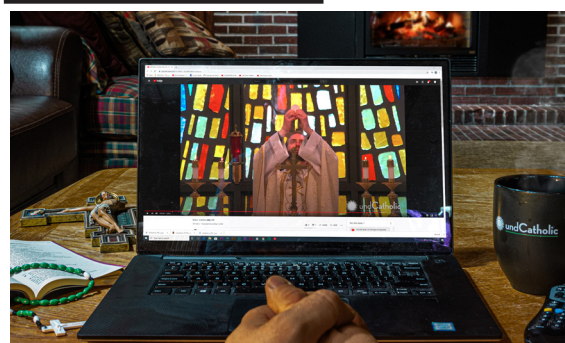
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What did it take...

... to move our ministry online?



NEWMAN HOUSE

We're thrilled to announce that the Newman House will be home to 19 women next semester! The Newman House provides faith-based housing for young women in the undCatholic community.

Residents share a handful of common meals each week, have access to a chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, and enjoy monthly

"Women's Nights" with a speaker and fellowship.

(The Newman House also has the most meticulously shoveled sidewalks of any house on Greek row.)

If you know someone who might be interested in living at the Newman House, have them contact House Director Traci Kulesa at traci.kulesa@undcatholic.org

ON TO NEXT YEAR...

We are looking forward to another great year for undCatholic. Fr. Luke has formed a new, 18-member Student Board and they have already begun planning for Welcome Week.

Next year, we will launch our Catholic Studies Program here at the Newman Center. We will also be unveiling a portrait of our patrons: St. Thomas Aquinas and St. John Henry Newman.

Next year we will be attending the SEEK 2021 conference in St. Louis, MO. A conference which gathers college students from all around the country to pray together, attend breakout sessions, and grow in fellowship.

If you want to support any of these endeavors, please don't hesitate to reach out. **Help us ignite the fire of Faith on campus!**

FOCUS



Madeline Carson

Luke Eicher

Spring, sadly, is a time for goodbyes. This year we bid farewell to Madeline Carson, who has served as our FOCUS team director for the last two years. And to Luke Eicher, a student who chose to become a FOCUS missionary after graduation.

It is safe to say that a significant number of UND students have met Madeline: she really pushed the team to spend a lot of time greeting students on the quad between classes. Personal invitation is a huge part of a thriving campus ministry, and Madeline had a passion for it. Luke has been a fixture of the Newman Center for the past 5 years, leading Bible studies and serving in the Knights of Columbus.

We'll miss them both next year. Yet we are excited to welcome Seyha Saumweber and Angela Gotcher to our FOCUS team of five for the 2020-2021 school year.