



# Newman News

St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center - Fall Semester Newsletter - November 2022



Outdoor Mass at a FOCUS-organized camping trip this fall with students.

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## Pastor's Corner

A Message from  
Fr. Chris Markman

Greetings and Blessings!

As I write, the first semester of school is in full swing, and I've now been here for almost 3 months already! For those of you who don't know, this summer, Fr. Luke was moved to Sts. Anne and Joachim in Fargo, and I was moved here to Newman from 3 small rural parishes in our Diocese. It has been a lot of new things for me - a steep learning curve - but it's great to be back at Newman after being gone for so long! (I studied aviation here 20 years ago for my undergrad.)

As you'll see in this edition of our fall newsletter, there are a lot of new things, especially new people, at Newman. We have a new FOCUS Team Director, a new Newman House Director, and a new Sacred Music Director...I've only ever hired a housekeeper before. Praise God some other people helped me along the way!

You'll also notice in this newsletter that we are adding a new structure to our newsletters. You'll get some words from me, along with a section on how we are "igniting the fire of faith" on campus here, "fanning that fire of faith" here at Newman, and then "sharing that fire of faith" beyond Newman and UND.

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## In Memoriam...



**Alma Virginia Pedeliski**

February 21, 1937 – September 17, 2022

Eternal rest grant unto her soul, O Lord,  
for her many years of service to the  
Newman Center.



# Chaplain's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

In my short time here I've already met some amazing students and faculty, heard some of their stories about how Jesus has touched their lives, and can't wait to share their stories with you in those first two sections. I'm also hoping for our third section that our alumni will be willing to share how it was that Jesus touched their lives at Newman, and how it is that He is still working through them in their lives today! If you have a story you'd like to share, please contact me at [chris.markman@undcatholic.org](mailto:chris.markman@undcatholic.org).

St. Augustine once said, our Lord is "O Beauty ever ancient, ever new." As Newman begins this new chapter in its history, please join me in entrusting it, and those here, to the truth, love and beauty of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



## Development Director

St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, on the UND campus (Grand Forks, ND) is accepting applications for a full-time Development Director to raise funds to enhance its apostolate through securing transformative support for new ministries and formative opportunities. Primary duties will include: strategy development, personal meetings with donors, database management, and assistance with special events. Successful candidates must possess outstanding interpersonal, written and verbal communication skills, an appreciation for the mission of the Catholic Church, and integrity - along with a great amount of enthusiasm. Travel will be required. Campus ministry, successful fund development or related experience is necessary. Please send a cover letter and resume to [chris.markman@undcatholic.org](mailto:chris.markman@undcatholic.org). The position will remain open until filled.



Igniting the Fire of Faith

## The Formation of a Mission

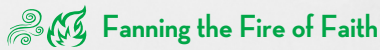
Being a new graduate and starting adulthood on your own can be a challenge, even more so when you are called to move far from home. "It is exciting but scary, crazy even, but you just have to trust in the Lord," Michaela "Mick" Moriarty said when asked what it was like for her as a new FOCUS Missionary. Mick spent one year in Boise, Idaho, before moving to North Dakota where she "instantly fell in love" with her new home and the community at St. Thomas Aquinas.

As the FOCUS Team Director, Mick is responsible for helping to guide this year's missionaries through this process so that they in turn can lead and guide students in their own faith formation. Mick and the team prepare for their mission with daily prayer and adoration. They meet weekly to learn how to share their faith and life experiences with the students. Then they go out on mission by spending time on campus each day reaching out to students. They lead and help teach students to lead bible studies. They challenge students to make their own choice to get to Mass, receive the sacraments, and pray often. In Discipleship groups, the missionaries form student leaders in virtue and life skills for college and life as an active Catholic into adulthood.

And in the end, they lift these students up to the Lord for Him to ignite that spark of faith in their hearts so it can spread to students all throughout campus.

### About FOCUS

FOCUS stands for Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Recent graduates apply to be a part of FOCUS and are then assigned to colleges and universities all throughout the country as missionaries. Their goal: win the hearts of college students, build them in the faith, and send them to the world. Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the University of North Dakota's Newman Center is blessed to have 4 missionaries on our campus helping to inspire and equip our students for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization.



## Growing in Faith at the Newman House

Following the path that God has laid out for her life, Rebekah Baker has landed at UND's Newman House for Women. Rebekah graduated from the University of Mary in Bismarck with a degree in Theology and Catholic Studies and has three years of experience with FOCUS Summer Projects. This summer while packing to leave Summer Projects in Georgia, two different FOCUS Missionaries texting her at the same time about the position at the Newman House led her to apply for this job. It was meant to be!

As the new Newman House Director, Rebekah manages everything from making sure the student residents finish their chores to minor house repairs. "I love when some of the girls stop in my office with theological questions," she says. She is happy to provide the residents with a healthy community to live in where they can be honest and open with each other. She hopes to give the students a sense of identity and strength of faith as they go out onto campus each day. Because of support through the Newman Center, the women who live at the Newman House are growing in their faith and sharing their faith with other students on campus.

**"I love when the girls stop in my office with theological questions."**  
- Rebekah Baker, Newman House Director



## Two Lives Become One at Newman

### The story of the Jerome Family

**As it happens sometimes, two college students meet, fall in love, and choose to get married, starting their own little family. There is much more to the story when it happens at the Newman Center!**

Courtney Jerome, then Metzger, began her college career at the University of North Dakota as a faithful Catholic, but didn't really find her own way at the Newman Center until a good friend convinced her to attend Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas and then join a FOCUS Bible Study. Hunter Jerome, on the other hand, chose UND over a Catholic university to "challenge himself in his faith" while in a more secular environment. He also found the Newman Center

through friends and was in the same FOCUS Bible Study that Courtney joined. During their time at Newman, they each began "a lifelong relationship with Jesus".

Courtney and Hunter both sought to grow in their individual relationships with Christ while forming their relationship with each other. After having a "beautiful wedding" at St. Thomas Aquinas, Hunter and Courtney began their mission together as FOCUS missionaries at UND. Their formation through FOCUS gave them the opportunity to "live life in a radical way and to be radical with other people" and helped them "build a great foundation for married life".

Hunter Jerome emphasizes that growing in their faith while at the Newman Center and working in the faith as FOCUS missionaries have together been a real privilege. These experiences encouraged them to find ways to bring the faith into their home. Courtney sees her faith as "something that was given" to her and she looks forward to giving that same gift to their two little boys. The Jeromes choose to make the sacrifices necessary to spend time at Mass and in Adoration with their children to lead by example. **The community that they found while at the Newman Center has brought them friends that they will have for life, and in life, as they help to raise the next generation of youth in the faith together.**

*Thank You!*

Matt Komprood of  
Fritz Nelson LLC for  
your financial support  
of the Bike Race 2022.

"[The Bike Race] is always a fun event," says Matt, who has participated in the ride many times. The joint fundraiser has been raising money for the Newman Centers at both Grand Forks and Fargo for 37 years. Matt believes the event is important in connecting students at the two campuses.

We are also very grateful to the entire Komprood family for their gifts of time and talent to St. Thomas Aquinas parish and Newman Center. Matt Komprood can be found almost every Sunday singing or playing the organ at Mass. He also served as the Business Manager for the Newman Center and presently serves as the "unofficial" parish photographer. His wife Sarah is invested in the lives of the students as a member of the faculty at the University of North Dakota and also helped in starting the Pro-Life Student Organization on campus. Their son Michael is an altar server while his sister, Emanuela serves as sacristan.

"You can really see how any resources and time that we give reflects in the lives of students", says Matt. "As freshman they can show up kind of iffy and shy in their faith. You can really see their growth by the end of four years."

When asked why he chooses to give, he simply answers, "It's my church!"

