

EVENTS**Mass:** Sundays at 5 p.m.**Confession:** Sundays at 4:30 p.m.**Eat, Pray, Love:** Fridays, beginning at 5:30 with a prayer service which moves directly into dinner. RSVP to srrose@binghamton.edu**CONTACT**newman.binghamtonsa.org

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The Newman House

Welcome Back!

As we all start this brand new semester, there are some exciting events on the horizon!

This Tuesday will be the first meeting of the women's discernment group: an opportunity to come together and prepare a meal together at the Newman House, enjoy each other's company and discuss all the beautiful possibilities that God has laid out for us. If you haven't rsvp'd and miss this time, no worries, there are dates scheduled for more get-togethers in March and April.

Our GIM for the coming semester will be this Thursday, the 9th, at 6:00 pm, in the Union, UU103. Stop by, come find out more about what we do outside of mass, and tell us more of what you'd like to see in the future. And most importantly, free pizza!

February 17th-18th, anyone who is interested is invited to come along to this year's inter-collegiate retreat in Syracuse. As a group, we will be departing at 4:00 pm on the 17th and will be back on campus around 6:30 pm on the 18th. This will be a great break to get away for part of the weekend, and step back from the craziness of the semester routine—especially before Lent! Again, rsvp to Sr. Rose if you're interested!

And as always, we will be having our weekly Eat Pray Love sessions, adoration and praise and worship twice a month, fundraising opportunities, and much more. Make sure you follow our social media accounts to stay updated and if you're ever interested in getting more involved with our service, liturgical, or fundraising committees, contact Sr. Rose or stop by an Eat Pray Love and get to know us!

“Fear not that thy life shall come to an end, but rather that it shall never have a beginning.”

- Blessed John Newman

January 2017 Mission Trip!

Over the winter break, volunteers from our Newman community travelled to Baton Rouge, Louisiana on a mission trip to assist members of the community rebuild after flooding this past August. Many thanks to our Newman House VP, Megan Santa Croce, for doing a write-up to share the experience!



Building from the frame up: Mission Trip to Louisiana

During break, a small group of Newman House students took a trek with Operation Northern Comfort to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they assisted in building the walls of a house that was affected by the August flood. The house, receiving approximately four feet of water, was owned by a widow who couldn't afford flood insurance. Together, the group finished around 80% of the house walls, as well as some ceiling.

Up at 6:00am for breakfast, working on site by 7:30am, and finishing around 5:00pm, the group worked hard for the entirety of the week. Some had mentioned that it was much more labor intensive than the previous service trip to Pennsylvania, but was well worth the pay off. The group did an array of jobs, ranging from putting sheetrock up to spackling or sanding. The house, with dipping floors, crooked uneven windowsills, and angled walls, proved to be a big challenge, but with the help of the Adults of Northern Comfort, students learned quickly and worked hard to help build.

Of course, the trip wasn't only about work; but also about the spiritual connection that comes with helping someone. So nicely put by one participant of the trip: "When we help others, it just feels good." The trip encouraged the students each day to seek their highs, their lows, and where in each day they saw an act of God. This question is a question that I think is key to spiritual awareness. How often do we as Catholics think that way? How often do we see good and think, "Wow, what an act of God"? How often do we actively seek to find God in others and in our actions? This trip encouraged these ideas and thoughts and cultivated a much higher awareness of the presence of God in our everyday lives, as well as the presence of God within people.

For dinner one night, the members of the trip all went to "Mr. and Mrs. B's" house, which was a home that Northern Comfort had fixed months before we came. The family had received about 9 inches of water, and Northern Comfort assisted them in putting up the lower half of their walls to their home. The family, especially Mrs. B, came and sat with the group and shared her story. What was truly awe-inspiring was that she did not blame God for one second of what happened. She did not get frustrated or upset. She prayed and rejoiced in him asking for his help and guidance, which they received. This story touched everyone on the trip, reminding all of the participants that God needs to be loved every day and shown reverence, because of all the wonders of the world he has given us.

Finally, this trip showed the power of unification through God. Firstly, the group of students that went all said that they were not with their "typical" crew. This trip encouraged the students to step out of their comfort zones, meet new people, and create lasting friendships within the Newman House. Outside of the Newman House, there were other adults present who were Protestants, Baptists, or Methodists. And although beliefs may be different in certain respects, all came together as one unit to help a woman in need. Each and every one of us responded to God's call to help; regardless of which denomination got them there. In these tough times, the beauty of coexistence was truly touching, and reminds us that every day we are to love thy neighbor and to live in the Grace of God and answer his call.

The trip was truly an amazing experience for Sister, for the students, and for the adults. There is nothing more amazing than that gratifying feeling when you leave knowing you made a difference to someone. To close, I would like to quote the starfish story that was told by a member on the trip that truly embodied the trip's ideas and perspectives:

"There once was a grandpa and his grandson who were walking on a beach. There was a big flood, and there were starfish lining the beach as far as the eye could see. The grandfather, while walking, took starfish and threw them back into the ocean. The little boy said "Grandpa, why are you throwing the starfish back in? There are so many, you'll never get them all!", to which the Grandfather responded, "Maybe so, but for that one starfish, I just gave them everything."