



Newman House, 400 Murray Hill Road, Vestal, NY 13850  
(607) 798-7202

October 2019

Dear Parents, Friends, and Alumni,

All Newman centers have good reason to celebrate this year. On October 13, Pope Francis canonized John Henry Newman, a great English theologian (first an Anglican priest, and later a Catholic priest and a cardinal) whose writings inspired the establishment of Catholic centers in universities throughout the world. The students at Binghamton University's Newman House hosted Douglas John Lucia, the new bishop of Syracuse diocese, who celebrated Mass at our chapel on the Vigil of the canonization event. I am happy to start my 5<sup>th</sup> year as the Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry here at Binghamton University during this festive time for Newman Centers everywhere. I am a sister of St. Joseph of Albany with a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Pastoral Care. I feel blessed to have an opportunity to serve the Newman House and to lead the Catholic student community (including your daughter or son) toward its mission: *"The Binghamton University Newman House serves the Catholic campus community in building a Christ-centered life among the students through worship, service, social activities and enthusiasm for the Gospel"*.



Every Sunday we have a Mass at 5 PM in our chapel. Since last year, an additional 7 PM Mass has been added on most Sundays because of large student turnout at the 5 o'clock Mass. Four priests from the neighboring parishes take turns

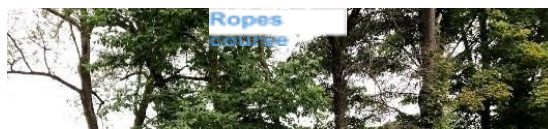
volunteering their time to say these Masses. Our calendar of weekly events includes "Eat, Pray, Love" during which students share a meal, pray and socialize. There were two retreats organized this year: 1) "Leadership Retreat 2019" which brought the members of the students' e-board together before the beginning of the school year; and 2) "Who Am I" Retreat that was designed to help the participants to understand the choices they make. In April, Newman House hosted bishop emeritus Howard Hubbard who gave a talk entitled "Gospel Message More Relevant than Ever". During the school year, students help to run retreats for the Confirmation classes from some of our local churches. We have now seven candidates for RCIA and their classes are underway.



We provide students with opportunities for community service: helping at the local Soup Kitchen and at a Mobile Food Pantry, making blankets and rosaries for people living in nursing homes. During the winter break, seven students went with me to Beaufort, NC to work for 10 days cleaning houses flooded when Hurricane Florence hit the area. During Spring Break, four students went with me to Queens, NY to help at outreach places and soup kitchens. At that time, we also visited the United Nations to learn about the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) to address issues in support of the public good. In September, we helped creating food packets at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ithaca Mobile Pack to mail them to Syria to feed children or whole families. In the spring, the Newman House sponsored a very successful blood drive.



Because many students consider the Newman House to be their "home away from home", we gather our community for fun, social events throughout the year. We host an annual Thanksgiving dinner, Christmas and Mardi Gras celebrations, a Super Bowl party, and receptions after Sunday Mass. In the fall, students go apple picking and do a corn maze. The freshmen do a ropes course. Our intramural volleyball team is very successful. Once a month, we have a Catholic Trivia night. The students participate in many ecumenical activities as well. For example, we joined Challah for Hunger (organized by Hillel, one of the most active organizations of Jewish students on campus), to raise money



and awareness for anti-hunger initiatives. In an effort to bring various faiths together, Hillel, Newman House, and the Muslim Student Association (MSA) joined one another one Sunday in April 2019 to visit multiple houses of worship for the sixth annual Interfaith Trip. Our students also participated in an interfaith Shabbat dinner on the campus. We invite you to download the new app available for iPhones (search for Newman House at Binghamton University) to find out more about various events for our students.

Although the ministry at the Newman House has been partially supported by the Diocese of Syracuse Hope Appeal, the Diocese had challenged us to raise \$30,000 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, a significant portion of our operating budget. As a New York State institution, Binghamton University funds are not available to support the Catholic Church here on campus except for small grants from the Students Association for organizing on-campus events. A number of our students gave a few mission talks at the neighboring catholic churches and raised \$7,000. Last summer we organized our second Golf Tournament to bring awareness to the community about the Newman House – this event brought us \$4,200. I am happy to report that the contributions from the alumni and parents following last year’s fundraising campaign amounted to \$19,000. We are extremely grateful to all of you who have supported us. We will need your continued support to meet the \$30,000 goal next year.

In my previous letters, I mentioned that the Newman House building is now over 60 years old and needs continued maintenance and renovation. In the early spring, we were forced to replace the heating/AC system because the old one was unsafe (\$12,600). We also replaced four windows in the social hall and painted the hall (\$3,900). We will need to replace the large windows in the chapel and its entrance door later this year.

As you can see, we rely on your support as we strive to attract more and more students and inspire them to continue to practice their faith away from home. The future of the Catholic Church is in their hands! Please visit our website and Facebook pages for more details on our activities.

In closing, I ask you again for your help in the following three ways:

- First, I ask that you to keep our community in your prayers. Together, we are stronger in our mission to continue to serve the Catholic students at Binghamton University.
- Second, I ask you to prayerfully consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Newman House this year. Please send your check to the Newman Foundation at 400 Murray Hill Rd., Vestal, NY 13850, or use our website: <https://newman.binghamtonsa.org> to make a secure online donation.
- Third, I invite you to use our website to register as a parent or alumni of the Binghamton University Newman House. Doing so helps us to build our community and keep our mailing list and contact information current.

Yours in Christ,

Sister Rose Casaleno, CSJ, MSW

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