

2019 Father Elmer Moore Memorial Lecture

The Newman Foundation hosted Father James Bacik as the speaker for the 2019 Father Elmer Moore Memorial Lecture. Father Bacik, a pioneer in campus ministry and 30-year pastor of Corpus Christi University Parish in Toledo, Ohio, addressed “Bridging the Gender Divide: A Christian Perspective” for about 50 people, including Bishop John Stowe, at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church on Friday, Nov. 9.



Father Jim Bacik

Gender, Father Bacik said, is one of many things, including politics, class and education, that creates division in society.

The gender divide leaves both men and women lacking in areas of their lives. While women might be affected by a largely patriarchal society that makes it difficult for them to reach their potential professionally, men often lack in areas of intimacy and have a lesser degree of relational connection with family and friends.

Although progress has been made, much of which can be attributed to Title IX, the federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activities, long-standing gender stereotypes are still present, Father Bacik said.

He recommended *Wisdom's Feast: An Invitation to Feminist Interpretation of the Scriptures* by Barbara Reid for a perspective on the Bible that is not patriarchal.

“And how does this relate to the church?” Father Bacik said. He hopes that the church can lead the way with partnerships and by being faithful to what Jesus taught.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, about 30 people—ministers, faculty and students— from eight of the 12 colleges and universities that partner with NFI gathered for a workshop facilitated by Father Bacik.

“How to Build and Strengthen Your Campus Ministry Community” was an interactive presentation that encouraged participants to share ideas, successes and ways that they can improve their ministries.

Each person received an outline that

included the fundamental points of emphasis in campus ministry: community, appropriating the faith, forming the Christian conscience, fostering personal development, educating for justice and preparing leaders.

Father Bacik asked participants to connect with someone they did not know and identify things their ministries do well and things they would like to improve.

Representatives from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, said they take advantage of the educational resources that are available to them by inviting university professors to speak to CCD classes; Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, is working to enhance the relationships they have with faculty and staff and Union College in Barbourville is promoting its presence in an area with a very small Catholic population by distributing t-shirts that

promote their presence on campus to parents, faculty and staff.

“What we should be about is moving to where the action is,” Father Bacik said.

Answering an evaluation following the workshop, participants said they enjoyed gathering with other ministers to exchange ideas and information. One participant commented, “I enjoyed seeing folks from so many different campus ministries gather in one place, exchanging ideas and seeing students share in exploring the topic of campus ministry



Alanna Singer (center) describes activities at Eastern Kentucky University. Story and photo by Margaret Gabriel.

Greetings from the President

Dear Friends of the Newman Foundation,

As 2019 comes to an end, the Newman Foundation (NFI) has been blessed with another successful year through its mission to enhance and initiate campus ministry programs across the diocese. We hope this newsletter will provide a snapshot of some of the activities that have been supported by your investments.

This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Father Elmer Moore Memorial Lecture Endowment Fund. Fundraising for the endowment was spearheaded by Marc McEllistrem in July, 1999. Marc passed away in the summer so it is only appropriate to honor Marc for his vision in creating a lasting legacy for Father Moore. We are grateful for Marc's years of service and leadership as a board member and a loyal supporter of NFI.

To continue the celebration of Father Moore, the Foundation planned several events throughout the year to honor his memory. In April, the foundation's annual dinner included a “toast” by a panel of folks who worked with Father Moore during his tenure as pastor at UK Newman Center Holy Spirit Parish. The panel consisted of Fathers Larry Hehman and Walt Bado and Mary Parlanti. Their reflections and stories evoked many memories and put smiles on the faces of the attendees. The panel was accompanied by several video clips from Father Moore's adult classes edited and

introduced by Charlie Knapp.

In November, Father James Bacik was the speaker for the Father Moore annual lecture. His theology and his spirit closely resemble the likeness of Father Moore's thoughts and personality. Father Bacik served for many years as the pastor of Corpus Christi University Parish in Toledo, Ohio, and helped build the campus ministry program at the university. His program is widely recognized and serves as a model for many other campus ministry programs.

In 2020, the Foundation plans to celebrate Saint John Newman and his impact on campus ministry. We hope you will be able to participate.

On behalf of the NFI Board, I want to thank you for your continued support. Your donations are invested wisely and are greatly appreciated. There is still much work ahead, but we are excited about the possibilities. Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Jan Swauger

Save the date
April 17, 2020

Celebration of Saint John Newman
with Bishop John Stowe
near Lexington, Ky.

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Distinguished Speakers Program

John J. Collins, Holmes Professor of Old Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Yale Divinity School and a leading scholar on the Dead Sea Scrolls, will explore “What are Biblical Values?” in an evening presentation in Lexington on Tues., March 10, 2020; he will present on the same topic at another location in the Diocese on March 9 or 11, 2020. Prof. Collins teaches a popular Divinity School course by the same name; the course and this presentation critically examine notions of biblical values that are brought up in politics and public debates.

The program is working with the diocesan *Laudato Si'* Commission to provide a panel presentation on Pope Francis's encyclical about care for creation; the commission was created by Bishop John Stowe to educate, infuse, and implement the encyclical throughout the diocese. A February 2020 date and location for a presentation are being arranged, and a late March/early April 2020 presentation is also under discussion.

Katherine Yunker

Grants Committee

The Grants Committee evaluates grant applications and makes recommendations to the Newman Foundation board. We concentrate our resources in the Catholic Diocese of Lexington and particularly support Newman Centers, clubs, and affiliated groups.

In 2019 the Grants Committee started a second round of startup grants to student organizations at nine of our twelve colleges and universities totaling \$4,500. These are relatively unrestricted grants to support their organizational efforts. In addition we've made \$1,500 in other grants since the start of the semester to support the Newman mission.

The committee encourages Newman organizations in the Diocese of Lexington to go to newmanfnd.org and apply for funding for their projects.

David Elbon

Finance Committee

The committee is responsible for creating NFI's annual budget, reporting on budget performance, and monitoring the investment of the organization's funds. Part of the organization's funds are earmarked, such as the Father Elmer Moore Memorial Fund. These funds were created with a specific set of guidelines and objectives, which support the overall goal of the support of Campus Ministry in the diocese. The monies from the Father Moore Memorial Fund are used for the promotion and presentation of an annual lecture by a theologian, philosopher, or commentator whose work is in good accord with the full range of Catholic thought on theological issues. This fund has been in existence for over 20 years and supports speakers like Father Jim Bacik. Such speakers are in keeping with the kind of thought that inspired Father Moore's lectures and books and are suggested by our Distinguished Speakers Committee.

If you have questions about these funds, how they can be used, or about the committee, please reach out to a board member.

Rahul Karanth

A Thought from Bishop Stowe

On Pentecost Sunday this year, the Diocese of Lexington launched a pastoral plan emphasizing the need for Evangelization, Sacramental Ministry, Unity and Communion, Faith Formation and Stewardship. Within the priority area of Evangelization, our first goal is to engage youth and young adults more effectively in the life of the church. This was the most frequently heard need in the listening sessions that occurred in all the deaneries of the diocese and it aligns beautifully with Pope Francis' vision of the church, especially the recent synod on youth and young adults.

The Newman Foundation, named for the recently canonized Saint John Newman of England who was an intellectual and deeply committed to faith formation, has extended its reach throughout the diocese to assist in making a Catholic presence known and felt on every college and university campus



throughout the diocese. In some of these places there are very few Catholics, but the Church is reaching out to invite, welcome and encourage them to live their faith and be part of the community. Offering small grants that allow parishes with college campuses to begin an outreach, the Newman Foundation is helping the diocese reach young adults at a critical time

in their life: as they are being formed intellectually and making decisions for the pathway of their life.

The Newman Foundation works hard to share the joy of the Gospel and the rich traditions of the Catholic faith with students, faculty and the whole college community. Your support can help these ministries to grow, help young people find their place in the Church, and further the witness of our presence in central and eastern Kentucky. I am grateful for the commitment to our campuses that the Newman Foundation has demonstrated.

Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv.

Cottrill-Rolfes Chair of Catholic Studies

For twelve very happy years I was privileged to serve as the first holder of the Cottrill-Rolfes Chair of Catholic Studies at the University of Kentucky (2007-2019). Established in honor of the late Carol M. Cottrill, M.D., and John Thomas Rolfes, M.S.W., the Chair was funded by an endowment to the university from the Newman Foundation, Inc., with a generous donation from Carol Cottrill and Tom Rolfes. The aim of the chair is to provide courses in Catholic Studies, defined as “study of the history, literature, philosophy, music, culture, ideology, politics, institutions and traditions of Roman Catholics” (Memorandum of Agreement with The University of Kentucky). An additional endowment from the Newman Foundation, Inc., was created to support research activities of the Cottrill-Rolfes Chair, including public lectures for the university and wider community.

No one can deny the central role that the Christian religion—and the Catholic tradition in particular—has played in the shaping of human history, particularly (though not only) in the Western world. The chair of Catholic Studies provides an opportunity for university students to learn about the contributions of the Catholic tradition in different historical and cultural contexts. Such knowledge is essential to basic cultural literacy; it is difficult, for example, to understand the history of Western art, music, or literature without understanding something of the history of the church that fostered so much of this culture. But Catholicism is also a global phenomenon, and the church remains a potent force throughout the world today. As Pope Francis and the recent Synod on the Amazon have reminded us, the Catholic tradition has always entailed adaptation to a variety of different languages and cultures. In my view, fostering this understanding of the cultural diversity of Catholicism is an essential task of the Cottrill-Rolfes Chair and an important contribution to the contemporary university.

One might question the role of

a chair of Catholic Studies within a secular, public university. In such a context the task is not to proselytize or propagate the Catholic faith, but rather to understand the phenomenon of Catholicism in all its many aspects. Although my own area of expertise is the history of Christian thought in its formative centuries, it is possible that a future chairholder may focus on the sociological dimensions of Catholicism or its place in contemporary American history or politics. A phenomenon as varied as Catholicism can be approached from a

variety of legitimate perspectives.

During my twelve years as Cottrill-Rolfes Chair I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with the staff of the Newman Foundation, Inc., members of the Newman Center and Holy Spirit Parish, and officials of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, including Bishop John Stowe, on programs and lectures of interest to audiences beyond the university. I have no doubt that the next holder of the Cottrill-Rolfes Chair will find a receptive and collaborative community both within and outside of the university to carry on this important work.

David G. Hunter, Ph.D

Campus Spotlights

University of the Cumberland is a small Christian college based on the Baptist faith serving approximately 13,000 students both online and on campus in the town of Williamsburg. While the Newman Center for UC has had a presence on campus in the past, the fact that Catholics make up less than one percent of the population of the town has allowed our Catholic community to create partnerships with the University in order to serve the Catholic population on campus. Our research indicates that a healthy number of Catholic students play on the UC lacrosse teams and with that information, our Newman Center has decided to “adopt” the men’s lacrosse team during their 2020 season. With a gift from NFI our group will provide a special Mass and blessing for the lacrosse team and coaches, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, before the start of their season in January. Members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, the parish in Williamsburg, will be front and center on February 22 for the opening game, cheering on the team and providing snacks and beverages during tailgate hour to guests before the game. OLPH members pledge to be present at two additional lacrosse games during the season. Additionally, members of OLPH have taken part in the University’s International Dinners that serve approximately 200 students every quarter by providing an opportunity for students to cook meals from their own countries and share with others. The goal of our Newman Center is to begin re-building a foundation rooted in relationship and equality as we look to building the type of connection with UC students that allows both groups together to walk a journey that seeks to deepen and integrate spiritual, intellectual and personal development.

Angelika Lewis-Bowling

Centre College is at the heart of Danville, Ky., and Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Church is dedicated to serving the students, faculty, and staff of the College. With over 1,400 students enrolled, the college’s largest religious denomination is Roman Catholic with over 250 students identifying as such. The college has a desire for all students to find their faith community in Danville and is open to working with all faith denominations to serve the college students. Thanks to NFI start-up grants we have a campus ministry budget, which enables us to participate in the campus Activities Expo, create a banner for advertisement, plan events like the Newman Canonization Cookout with the student- led Newman Club, and to provide a safe and quiet place (the Ss. Peter and Paul Catholic Center) for students to study with snacks, meals, coffee and free Wifi during final exam week. New this year is a twice-a-month daily Mass on campus, which we hope will aid the students in strengthening their faith in Jesus Christ during their college years. There is much work yet to be done, but we are confident in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and thankful for the Newman Foundation’s financial support in serving the students of Centre College.

Brigette Becker

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Bringing Christ's light to our community

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Newman's legacy: Our inspiration, Cardinal Newman, supported an educated laity and presentation of Catholic thought to Catholics and non-Catholics on campuses of higher learning.

Our mission: We are an independent non-profit corporation that seeks to deepen and integrate spiritual, intellectual, and personal development through the Newman Apostolate in the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, Ky., by providing financial support and initiated programs.

Our vision: We will promote, foster, and support a parish-affiliated, community active and campus-recognized Newman group on each of the campuses in the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, Ky.