



Newman Foundation, Inc.

Inspiring the future of Catholic leadership

An apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington

August 2022

Strategic planning addresses spirituality

In 2018 the Newman Foundation, Inc., created a plan that would guide its activities for the coming five years. Beginning with defining NFI's vision and mission, the plan goes on to delineate the organizational goals that will enable NFI to achieve the objectives needed to reach those goals.

Early in Patrick Murphy's tenure as NFI president, he realized that the strategic plan created in 2018 needed reviewing and updating and that the process called for more time than could be spent in a bi-monthly board meeting. On Saturday, April 9, the board of trustees met at Sts. Peter and Paul School in Lexington for a strategic planning retreat.

After determining that the day needed to begin by focusing on the spiritual aspect of the foundation's work, Patrick invited Deacon John Brannen, pastoral associate of Pax Christi Church and a member of NFI's board of advisors, and Ursuline Sister Pam Mueller, NFI vice-president, to lead and facilitate the morning session.

Sister Pam referred to the relatively

brief morning session as "speed-dating with the Holy Spirit," as the board broke into groups to reflect on Scripture readings that focused on the call to service, transformation, mission and sustainability.

Deacon John and Sister Pam posed a variety of questions and told the groups that it wasn't necessary to answer all the questions, but to listen to the Holy Spirit and focus on the questions to which they were drawn.

After reading the story about the woman at the well in the fourth chapter of St. John, for example, groups were asked to reflect on their own encounters with Jesus and what or who impelled them to say "yes" when they were asked to serve on the Newman Foundation board. Answers included the desire to share their gifts and the opportunity to share those gifts. One participant said, "When you open yourself to the Spirit, the Spirit comes rushing in!"

The morning's third session called for the small groups to reflect on St. Matthew's account of commissioning the

disciples, which led reflections about the need for unity and the amount of work that can be accomplished when people work together.

Session Four, titled "Sustained," started with the Acts of the Apostles, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, prompting discussion about evangelization. One group discussed the need to use action as a way to sustain faith; another said sharing vision and passions enables the board to focus on NFI's mission.

"Overall, there was a wonderful spirit among those who participated," Sister Pam said. "I think the morning spiritual side of the retreat went well using the synodality method. People seemed to enter into some real reflection on their own and were open to sharing in small groups as well and in the larger group. I know I feel much closer to those who attended and hopefully the spirit of our common call was sparked into flame."

Sister Pam and Deacon John both found the day beneficial and hope to see the fruits of the board's labor moving forward.

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Ministry enhances faith development

Bishop John Stowe, OFM

As we look forward to a new academic year, we pray that a semblance of normalcy continues as the coronavirus becomes less of a threat even if it remains present. I am grateful to all of the supporters of the Newman Foundation for your investment in the faith development and pastoral care of our college students at the fine colleges and universities operating within our diocese. Of course, the University of Kentucky has the most developed Campus Ministry through Holy Spirit Parish and all of the ministries provided there. Eastern Kentucky University is blessed to have St. Stephen's Chapel, a place of worship and gathering for Catholic students with a dedicated campus minister to accompany them in their journey of faith. Jesus Our Savior Parish in Morehead is surrounded by Morehead State University with a

campus minister eager to engage the students.

But we are also grateful that Father Rob Adams continues to bring students from the University of Pikeville into St. Francis of Assisi Parish there; they provide a new energy and devotion for the parish community. Father Jesuraj in Middlesboro continues to welcome students from Lincoln University across the border in Tennessee; they are engaged in parish life at St. Julian's, which is the closest Catholic parish to Harrogate, Tenn. Barbourville, Berea, Danville and Georgetown also welcome college students to the parish and are delighted to have them there.

We cannot underestimate the



Bishop John Stowe

importance of the college years in faith development. Many of the concepts that young people have taken for granted as part of their faith will be challenged in the courses they take, they will be exposed to lifestyles and values quite different from the ones with which they were raised, and they have big choices to make about their own lives, futures, careers and values. We strive to have a

meaningful presence in the university environments, to create opportunities for students to come together and form community with those who share their faith, and to engage their intellects and help them grow in understanding of their faith. It is inspiring to see what these communities can do and to build on the enthusiasm and energy of these students so full of hope and life.

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NFI Advisors are individuals who have ministered on college campuses or friends of the foundation who have agreed to provide advice and insight to the foundation.

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We are trying to capture readers' email addresses in order to more efficiently and cost effectively communicate with our friends. Please email newmandirector@gmail.com so we can include you on this list. Please include your name in your email. Thanks for helping us go green!

AUGUST 2022

President's Message

Greetings to NFI Supporters,

This first year as the president of the Newman Foundation, Inc., has been an eye-opening and exciting adventure. I have had the opportunity to make many new friends along the way during this past year.

Getting to know the board members better and sharing in their passion for our mission of providing financial support and initiating programs to enhance the spiritual, intellectual and personal development of college students has been wonderful. These students lend life and vitality to the church today, as they will in future. Today's world needs leadership with a moral perspective. As we encourage Catholic students to more fully explore and live their faith, that moral perspective will shape their lives and decisions.

This year included travel to meet some of the NFI partners in eastern and central Kentucky. We also traveled to northern Kentucky and reached out to people who are interested in expanding NFI's mission to the Diocese of Covington. Each visit increased my expanding awareness of the challenges that impact our mission. Some of the challenges were related to the Covid pandemic, but other concerns were related to under-funded and under-staffed operations. These campus communities need our help.

The Newman Foundation, Inc., can help with prayer and grants including those we award at the beginning of the academic

year and workshops and retreats. NFI can assist in the journey to continue hosting Distinguished Speakers and supporting the University of Kentucky Cottrill-Rolfes Endowed Catholic Chair of Studies.

The Newman Foundation, Inc., completed a day-long strategic planning retreat in April. During the morning session, board members focused on the spiritual aspect of our mission with activities led by Deacon John Brannen, a member of NFI's advisory board and Ursuline Sister Pam Mueller, NFI's vice-president. We celebrated mid-day Mass with Bishop John Stowe who joined us for lunch. After lunch we worked through exercises to re-focus our mission and the vision spelled out in our strategic plan.

So, you can begin to understand why this past year has been such an exciting journey and adventure. I love the idea of creating a compelling future with graduating students who are taking their place in the world with Catholic values, morals and ethics. Our world needs the solid leadership they will provide.

On behalf of the Newman Foundation, Inc., I hope you'll join me in donating to further the cause of developing future leaders with Catholic spiritual and moral values.

Thank you and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Murphy
President

Newman Foundation, Inc.

Mike Armstrong begins work with diocesan youth

The Newman Foundation collaborates with the Director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Diocese of Lexington. In May, the diocese hired Mike Armstrong to empower young people to be disciples of Jesus; draw them to participate in the life, work and mission of the Church; and foster the spiritual and personal growth of young people in their teen years through early adulthood.

Mike has worked in young adult ministry since he was 19. He is a former Methodist pastor and was confirmed as a member of the Catholic Church in 2020. Mike also serves as the director of the Don Bosco Center in Lawrenceburg, Ky., a ministry of St. Lawrence Catholic Church which partners with Lawrenceburg United Methodist Church to serve young people of Lawrenceburg and Anderson County and their families.

Mike plans to visit all of the programs that serve young people in and outside of the Lexington area and estimates that he is about halfway to this goal. He sees a need for support and connection for the young

people in Eastern Kentucky.

"There's a lot of isolation," Mike said. "There seems to be a need for unity, which is a great reason for people to come together in community and form relationships."

Mike is surprised to find isolation in many parts of the diocese. A graduate of UK, he is familiar with the Newman Center in Lexington and with ECU's St. Stephen's Chapel. He is learning about the needs of the smaller campuses of the diocese.

The challenge of developing ways for young people to be active leaders of the community is Mike's current challenge, he said. "The parish should be more than just a place to fulfill a weekly obligation to go to Mass," he said. "The need is there and must be addressed in a 'big picture' way."

Mike's wife, Vanna, is a native of Wolfe County, but his knowledge of the region is that of a Methodist. "I'm learning about the Catholic culture of Eastern Kentucky."

Mike and Vanna are parents of Connor (age 6), Lola (3), Mary (1) and are expecting their fourth baby in January.

Campus Spotlights

Eastern Kentucky University

Eastern Kentucky University campus minister Alanna Sininger reports that a group of EKU students traveled to Good Shepherd Church in Campton and spent a day in service to the parish and the Campton community working in their thrift store sorting donated items and helping to hand out food boxes. "It was important to our Newman Ministry to participate in a service project in our diocese and the Appalachian region as most of the students are not from around here and they got a better understanding and appreciation of our outreach to all, regardless of their faith.

"Through the donations of the St. Mark parish community and funds that we received from the Diocesan Annual Mission Appeal grant, EKU campus ministry plans to hand out thousands of packets of microwave popcorn to incoming freshmen during the 'Big E Welcome.'" Each packet will have a label with our CCM (Catholic Campus Ministry of St. Mark) logo, a QR code to register

with us and important information such as our address and Mass times. Alanna says reaching out to freshmen with food always proves to be effective!



Front: Abby Hooven, Zach Wentz, Daniel Arend, Justin Gagne Back: Alanna Sininger, Alexis Meyer, Phillip Smith, Sean Tolson, Lizzie Seyle.

Brescia College

In addition to a "Welcome Service," Brescia College (Owensboro) campus minister and NFI vice-president Ursuline Sr. Pam Mueller has created a new space for meetings programs and socializing. It is a former classroom on the top floor of what used to be the Education Department and has been named "The Upper Room." Plans for the upcoming semester include working with students to provide additional service hours working with a neighborhood soup kitchen, reviving relationships with vocation directors with regular nights of "Soup with a Sister," and the strengthening partnership with diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. "At the same time I will be able to continue my ministry of 'intentional loitering,'" Sr. Pam said. "I'll be as present as possible to as many students as possible."

The Upper Room will also be available for Sr. Pam to meet with student leaders at Brescia.

Strategic Plan 2022

Continued from page one

After "speed dating with the Holy Spirit," during the morning, NFI board members celebrated Mass with Bishop John Stowe. Following the Prayers of the Faithful, Bishop Stowe said, "you're so far away," and invited the congregation to gather at the altar, lending an additional warmth and familiarity to the celebration.

Bishop John shared a box lunch with NFI board members before they dug into the afternoon's work, under the guidance of Gene and Marian Guinn, of M&G Coaching and Consulting.

Prior to the retreat, Gene and Marian had reviewed the strategic plan that was developed in 2018 and created a current business model and trend analysis which was distributed to the board for review before the retreat.

Based on the review, board members were divided into three groups and asked to create plans based on three pillars: infrastructure and leadership; fundraising and marketing; and programming.

The group that focused on infrastructure and leadership determined a need for an executive director, as well as a committed board. Yearly

orientation can clearly spell out board responsibilities; they identified a need for a strong advisory board and a clear way to measure success.

A fundraising and marketing plan should develop a plan for increasing donors and improving the donor base, including those who are interested in a planned giving approach. Visits to lapsed donors, they determined, could re-activate those who committed to major gifts a number of years ago. The expansion of NFI's mission into the entire state of Kentucky also broadens the size of the potential donor base which can be approached with an increase in publications and news stories.

The evaluation of the success of past programs can lead to the development of future programs that will support NFI's mission of developing

spiritual, intellectual, and personal development for Catholic students. In expanding NFI's service area, the board hopes to launch involvement in the dioceses of Covington and Owensboro and the Archdiocese of Louisville with introductory meetings via Zoom calls and in-person retreats. The small group also discussed the need to develop programs that can be offered to faculty, staff and parents of students.

By early summer, the NFI consultants will share a plan that consolidates the points that were created in 2018 with the progress that has been made in the last couple of years with the direction that was discussed during the strategic planning retreat.

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NFI to distribute start-up grants for 2022-23

Admit it, regardless of how long our school days are behind us, aren't we all hard-wired to think of late summer and early fall as a new start? From the time we were starting school, the crisp days of September and October have given an opportunity to start something new or take a fresh look at something in our life that has gotten stale.

NFI marks the beginning of the academic year as a time that we target a fundraising goal of \$6,500, an amount that will cover a \$500 grant for each of our campus partners.

Until this year, we have set that goal at \$6,000, but in the last year we added Lincoln Memorial University to our list of partners. Although LMU is in Harrogate, Tenn., St. Julian Church in Middlesboro is the closest Catholic church to the east Tennessee campus. The young people from LMU add vitality to liturgical and education ministries to the parish in Bell County on the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

A recent grant application from Father

Prashanth Lobo said "So many people are shocked to learn there is a Catholic church that is surrounded by the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg." He plans to use a start-up grant to increase the church's visibility in Williamsburg.

When a campus minister applies for a start-up grant, there's not much to

is spent on food. Anyone will tell you that nothing attracts college students like free food. Cookouts, pizza, soft drinks. Alanna Sinenger created a twist to the food at Eastern Kentucky University. She ordered microwave popcorn and affixed a label with a QR code to each bag. Students who scan the QR code will find the address and phone number of St. Mark Church and the Mass schedule.

At Centre College in Danville, the money has been used in the past to sponsor a beginning-of-the-year golf frisbee tournament. With refreshments, of course!

We ask for campus ministers to let us know how they have used their grant. We enjoy seeing the creative ways they

devise to attract students—of whatever faith tradition!—and often share those ideas between campuses.

If you'd like to help NFI get their campus partners off to a good start for 2022-23, tuck a gift into the enclosed envelope and drop it in the mail!

"So many people are shocked to learn there is a Catholic church that is surrounded by the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg."

the process. Some give an idea of what they plan to do with the grant; others tell us they're still in the exploration process. Most ministers spend their grant money to bring students together at the beginning of the semester. Although the cost of printing and advertising is often part of these efforts, much of the money

Newman's legacy: Our inspiration, Saint John 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. *Please see the envelope inserted into the newsletter.*

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