



Newman Foundation, Inc.

Inspiring the future of Catholic leadership

An apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington

December 2022

NFI enables student activity in SE Kentucky

The Newman Foundation recently received this message from Father Prashanth Lobo after the grant committee awarded a start-up grant for his work with Catholic college students in southeast Kentucky.

"I just wanted to thank the Newman Foundation for all the help you have been to our small Catholic community on the University of the Cumberlands campus. With the grant money that you provided to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the beginning of the academic year, I was able to bring students together and provide some food for the gathering. I started a Bible study every Thursday and it is going okay. I want to make it a regular Bible study on Thursday and I am expecting that more students will join us in the future. So far the numbers have not been great but I'm still hoping it will become better.

"I also was able to give the students a gift card for Christmas and take them to a restaurant to eat. Newman Foundation help has been a real value for the student ministry. The plans that you have for us to build our ministry looks really great. I hope to get back with you very soon. Let us together work in building up our community and bring every student to the presence of Christ. Once again thanks for all the help."

Father Lobo was recently elected to the Newman Foundation Board of Trustees. We look forward to his insight and contributions. Please see more information about him on page 3.

Upper picture: Father Lobo has dinner with students at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Williamsburg. Lower picture: University of the Cumberlands students participate in a service project.



Results: IGC Day of Giving

The Newman Foundation was successful in its effort to raise both funds and support through #igivecatholic on the Day of Giving on November 29. Donations from I Give Catholic are added to the foundation's unrestricted funds which are used to provide start-up grants (like those described by Father Lobo in the story on this page), grants for such projects as mission trips and professional development.

Through the I Give Catholic Peer to Peer pages, NFI was able to add a few new donors, which is always a secondary goal

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of IGC.

In the coming year, NFI plans to create a standing committee that will encourage and provide professional development for campus ministers and networking opportunities for Catholic students. As NFI expands its mission to include the entire state of Kentucky, in addition to the Diocese of Lexington, the contributions will enable the foundation to move forward with that expansion.

Although NFI (and 20 other churches, schools and diocesan groups) created a strong focus encouraging generosity for

the Day of Giving, donations are valued the other 364 days of the year, too.

If you made a donation through I Give Catholic, thank you! If you missed the day, it's not too late to making a contribution using the envelope included with this newsletter. Your contribution will enable the Newman Foundation to continue its mission of encouraging, creating and strengthening leadership skills in Catholic students throughout the state of Kentucky.

When those students graduate, they will be grounded in their faith and experienced in the leadership skills that will benefit the entire community.

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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.

Please email

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!

Welcome new NFI Board members

Christina Garcia grew up in Elizabethtown, Ky., and attended Catholic schools from K-12th grade. She attended Centre College, majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and then went on to receive a PhD from the Department of Cancer Biology at Vanderbilt University. After working in Houston and Raleigh, N.C., she returned to Centre College, to teach in the Biology and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology programs.

During and after college, Christina served as a leader for youth ministry programs and actively participated in campus and young adult ministry. She is a chorister at Ss. Peter and Paul, and has served as a co-advisor for the Newman Club on campus. In the summer of 2022 she took on the role of the campus minister for Centre College. Christina enjoys baking, hiking and takes an occasional ballet class.

Father Prashanth Lobo is the pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in Williamsburg and St. Boniface in Jellico. He was ordained under the religious congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in India in 2016. He worked as an associate pastor at Holy Cross Shrine in Nandgad, India, for two years before moving to the U.S. in 2018. He arrived in the Diocese of Lexington in 2019 and was assigned as the associate pastor of the Newman Center/Holy Spirit Parish. Father Lobo currently provides ministry to students at the University of the Cumberlands and Union College in southwestern Kentucky and has agreed to supervise the campus minister for the region.

Colin Lynch grew up in Lexington, attended the University of Mississippi, then returned to Lexington joining Lynch and Lynch CPAs in January, 2022. He attended Christ the King School and Lexington Catholic High School. He received his undergraduate and master's degrees in accounting from Ole Miss.

Colin and his wife, Devin, were married in 2018 and welcomed a baby boy, Keegan, to the world in September of 2022. They enjoy gathering with friends to watch their alma mater, Ole Miss, play football in the fall. Colin also enjoys competing in the Memphis in May World BBQ Championship every year, where the top BBQ pit masters from around the world meet.

John Nicholson has many years of experience in fundraising, business administration and public relations and has many gifts that he is willing and able to contribute to the Newman Foundation. He has familiarized himself with the NFI Strategic Plan and, through meetings and conversations with Jan Swauger and Patrick Murphy, has learned about the foundation's history, ministry and mission.

John lives in Georgetown, Ky., and is a member of St. Peter Church in Lexington.

Kip Perkins is a University of Kentucky graduate who lives with his wife, Stephanie, in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

He was active at the Newman Center/Holy Spirit Parish during his years at UK. "The Newman Center liturgy, ministry and parish staff changed my life during my UK college years and offered me the chance to minister to others after graduation," Kip said.

Kip continues his relationship with Minister to Students Keven Steele, talking with him periodically about campus and student ministry. Kip is a member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Fort Thomas and has served as the coordinator of religious education for CCD.

Kip and Stephanie are parents of two daughters: Liz, a freshman at Highlands High School and Annie, a freshman at UK.

He is looking forward to his service to the Newman Foundation.

Hannah Phirman is a junior at Morehead State University with a double major in mathematics and physics and has been an active member of the Newman Center during her years at Morehead. She is a trained sacristan, serves as a Eucharistic Minister and lector and has been working to recruit more students to the center. The Newman Center at Jesus Our Savior Parish hosts a weekly dinner followed by games and service projects; Hannah envisions adding events to the center's schedule, "so we can become much closer as Newman students."

Hannah's favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 12:2, "The Lord is my salvation. I am confident and unafraid. For the Lord is my strength and my might; he has been my salvation." She says, "It reminds me that the Lord is always by my side and I can accomplish anything I set my mind to with His help."

UK Selects Chair of Catholic Studies

The College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Kentucky welcomes Philipp Rosemann as the new Cottrill-Rolfes Chair in Catholic Studies. He will begin teaching in the Department of Philosophy in January 2023.

Prof. Rosemann has pursued high and varied academic ventures, from the time of his undergraduate studies at a German university, with triple qualifications in Philosophy, English Linguistics, and Islamic Studies. He holds a number of international degrees: an M.A. from Ireland, a Licentiate and Ph.D. from the Université catholique de Louvain, and, in 2020, a D.Litt. (the European “higher doctorate”) from the National University of Ireland. He is also an elected member of the Royal Irish Academy.

Upon completion of his doctorate, he taught at the Uganda Martyrs University, before going to the University of Dallas, where he was on the faculty for twenty years, with an interlude at the École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris. He established the publication series Dallas Medieval Texts and Translations, which has published twenty-six volumes to date under his oversight, with many more commissioned. Notably, these are not texts in the typical “canon” taught to previous generations, but texts that deserve wider attention, including texts by women and translated by women.

While at the University of Dallas, he led a successful initiative for academic exchanges with the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, which, in addition to bringing students from Mexico to Dallas for graduate studies, produced an annual conference held alternately in Dallas and Mexico City.

In 2018, he took the position of Chair of Philosophy and Head of Department at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. His list of publications is extensive: it includes six single-authored books, many of them widely reviewed as monumental, and nine co-authored or co-edited volumes. He writes in three languages.

Philipp Rosemann’s work is both profound and accessible. In addition to his studies of several medieval centuries of writings that were formative for Catholic traditions, he writes about the work of contemporary philosophers—especially Heidegger and Foucault, whose work has touched all disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences. His writing applies these philosophical approaches to central questions in Catholic thought and tradition, probing especially the condition of Catholicism in a modern, secularized world. Lately he has been working on topics related to religion and the environment.

His teaching explores questions such as the relationship between truth



Professor Philipp Rosemann

and time, the nature of language, the possibility of religious faith in the age of technology, mysticism as a source of religious knowledge, the impossibility of describing God, and many more. We welcome his invitation for us to engage in deeper reflection on faith, meaning, and the world around us.

Strategic Plan 2022

The Newman Foundation continues to look to the Strategic Plan when making decisions about the direction of its mission.

The plan was created in 2018 and in 2022 the board made progress in accomplishing goals that are defined for each of the foundation’s standing committees.

Upon its founding, NFI provided support for the Newman Foundation/Holy Spirit Parish, then expanded its

reach to include all of the colleges and universities in the Diocese of Lexington.

Elements of the Strategic Plan expands NFI’s reach to include colleges and universities in the Archdiocese of Louisville and the dioceses of Covington and Owensboro.

The nomination committee has worked to identify people from throughout Kentucky to serve on the NFI board.

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President's Message

Because of our mission to serve colleges and universities in Kentucky, the Newman Foundation operates on an academic calendar. But with the I Give Catholic campaign occurring so close to the end of the calendar year, I've found myself considering the goals that we've accomplished during the past year and looking to the future for ways we can expand our mission.

When I was asked to serve as NFI's president, I was aware that it was imperative that we take a look at the Strategic Plan that the foundation created in 2018. At a combined retreat and work session in April, we were happy to note that there has definitely been progress made in the plan, but that the COVID pandemic had stalled progress in some other areas.

A good, collaborative process enabled us to identify areas that

would allow us to continue progress in the last two years of a five-year plan.

As we move forward into 2023, I'm excited about the progress we've made to expand our mission beyond the Diocese of Lexington to one that includes the Archdiocese of Louisville and the dioceses of Covington and Owensboro.

Immediate past president Jan Swauger has done a great job scheduling meetings with the folks in other areas of Kentucky who share our interest in creating opportunities for students, as well as professional development for campus ministers. In 2023 we would like to create a standing committee that will address such development. We are also looking at ways to create networking opportunities for Catholic students throughout Kentucky. I've always been one to look at the bright side, and it occurred to me not too long ago that

the training we all got with virtual meetings during the COVID shut-down is experience put to good use as we work to connect people who are hours of travel time apart. In-person meetings can occur once or twice a year, but with telecommunication we can enable students and ministers from throughout the state to keep in touch. That won't be easy for me—I'm a hugger—but participants will be able to more easily share ideas without having to dedicate travel time that might prohibit such meetings.

Finally, I'd like to thank our readers for their support of the Newman Foundation. Working together we can assure that college-aged people are rooted in their faith, a faith that will serve as assurance that our communities will have strong Catholic/Christian leadership for years to come.

Have a blessed Christmas and happy New year!

Patrick D. Murphy
NFI President

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.*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

