



# Newman Foundation, Inc.

*Inspiring the future of Catholic leadership*

An apostolate of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington

February 2024

## NFI commemorates founding members

On the Feast of All Soul's, Nov. 2, 2023, the board and supporters of the Newman Foundation gathered to commemorate the foundation's past, present and future.

Father Larry Hehman, a member of the NFI advisory board, gave a short litany of the faithful departed who were instrumental in the creation of the Newman Foundation in 1973. He singled out Father Elmer Moore, the founding chaplain who pastored Catholic UK students at the Newman Club. The club that met at a parish in downtown Lexington became the Newman Center, then the Newman Center/Holy Spirit Parish.

In addition to Father Moore, Father Hehman commemorated Paul Oberst, Ward Griffen, Bob Hillenmeyer and John R. Gaines. "May they rest in peace," Father Hehman intoned.

Tim Wills, also a member of the board of advisors, highlighted endowments that were established in the past, and continue to reap benefits both for students and for the community at large. The Rose Cooper Gault Endowment began as a fund that provided formation for elementary and high school members of the Newman Center/Holy Spirit and with the permission of Mrs. Gault's family has expanded to provide funding that will foster leadership

development for Catholic students in the diocese.

The work of former Newman Center/Holy Spirit pastors Fathers Hehman, Dan Noll and Tom Farrell persuaded the administration of the University of Kentucky of the value of a Chair of Catholic Studies. That chair was created as a result of a contribution of \$500,000 from Dr. Carol Cottrill and her husband Tom Rolfes, long-time supporters of the Newman Foundation who passed in 2017 and 2021, and a state program called "Bucks for Brains," which

also called for matching donations. The funds created the Cottrill-Rolfes Endowed Chair of Catholic Studies, with Dr. David Hunter as the first chair. Dr. Philipp Rosemann was appointed to the chair in January 2022.

Dr. Rosemann came to the U.S. from the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, where he served as the chair of philosophy.

The Chair of Catholic Studies is in UK's department of philosophy and the chair stands for a tradition of learning in the Catholic Church, Dr. Rosemann said. "The Church encourages man's endeavors, including art, culture and science," he said.

Doctor Rosemann will continue to look for places in the Catholic community where he can make

contributions; he is teaching Introduction to Catholic Studies in UK's current semester.

Bishop John Stowe agreed with Dr. Rosemann who said that many students seem to be part of a "lost generation."

"But we have something to offer them in that regard," he said. "In the mind of Pope Francis, synodality, the ability to walk together toward the future, is a good model for campus ministry. Students need something to which they can belong. Loneliness is part of their lives; Francis said they are longing for mission."

In this post-Covid society, Bishop Stowe said, "We're a place where young people can create community which empowers them to go out in mission."

President-emeritus Jan Swauger thanked supporters for joining together to commemorate the past and present of the foundation and described the board's efforts to create a statewide network.

*"We're a place where young people can create community which empowers them to go out in mission."*

**Bishop John Stowe**

**Save the Date**  
**April 12, 2024**

**Father Elmer Moore**  
**Lecture Series**

**Dr. Philipp Rosemann**  
*Chair, Cotrill-Rolfes*  
*Chair of Catholic Studies,*  
*University of Kentucky*

**"The Future of the Faith:**  
*What can we learn from the*  
*implosion of*  
*Irish Catholicism*

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Fr. Tom Farrell

Tim Wills

Dr. Maria Bane

*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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## **Bishop Stowe**

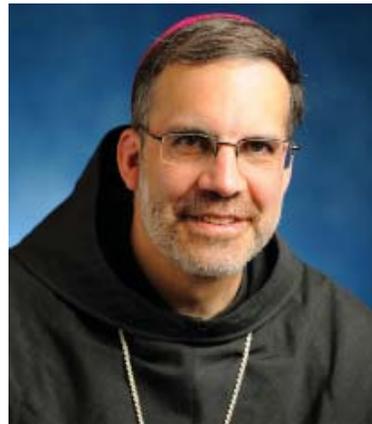
As the Newman Foundation concludes its golden anniversary year, it is fitting to celebrate the accomplishments of the five decades of supporting campus ministry, first at the University of Kentucky and more recently at institutions of higher education across the Diocese of Lexington. Chief among these accomplishments has been the firm foundation of campus ministry centered at Holy Spirit Parish and the establishment of the Cottrill-Rolfes Chair of Catholic Studies at the University of Kentucky. Both highlighted accomplishments are themselves in transition: a renovation underway at Holy Spirit, spearheaded by Father Steve Roberts and is now being led by Holy Spirit's new pastor, Father Anthony McLaughlin. And the Chair of Catholic Studies now has a new occupant, Dr. Phillipp Rosemann.

There is a new energy within the Newman Foundation as smaller campuses across the diocese are accepting the support and doing what they can to reach Catholic students and anyone who is interested in our mission, at various other universities and colleges.

From the University of Pikeville to Georgetown College, from Centre College to Union College in Barbourville and on many campuses in between, the Newman Foundation wants to promote living a vibrant faith as a key component of a student's college career.

Just as the Newman Foundation came to life in the early days

of implementation of the Second Vatican Council, this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year coincides with the Synod on Synodality underway in the universal Church. Beginning with local synod sessions hosted in the diocese at the outset of this process and leading to the major gathering of bishops and other delegates in Rome during this past October, a key concern that



*Bishop John Stowe*

continued to surface was the desire of older generations to hand on the faith in a meaningful way to younger generations whose world and experience is so dramatically different than their own.

Our Newman Foundation is

really a microcosm of that desire. Some original members of the Foundation have been called home to the Lord, others are joyfully sharing the wisdom of their years, but the desire remains to make sure that the Catholic faith is represented in compelling ways on the college campus and that young Catholics are exposed the breadth and depth of our tradition and the very best that our faith has to offer.

The Synod was called by Pope Francis to help all of the membership of our global Church to have a voice and to discern together where the Holy Spirit is guiding us at this moment in our history. Where it will lead is known only to the Spirit at this time, but we can be sure that by engaging students of college age, we are contributing to the health and strength of the Church's mission today and for the future.

## MSU student leads fellow students

As Hannah Phirmann moves to the next chapter of her life she will take along many life lessons from her four years at Morehead State University. She will graduate with a degree in mathematics, with minors in physics and biology, and is applying to several graduate schools—some closer to home than others—to pursue a master’s degree in data analysis of molecular biology.

A senior at MSU, Hannah serves as the president of the university’s Newman Club. When she first arrived on the campus as a freshman, she wanted to continue hands-on involvement in her parish, as she had as a student at Bishop Brossart High School in Alexandria, Ky. “I saw a sign that said, ‘Newman Dinner,’” she recalls. Hannah was unsure about the “Newman” reference but looked it up and found that the Newman movement connects college and university students with the Catholic Church. At that first dinner, Hannah felt she had found a home, particularly since she was moving from the culture of heavily-Catholic northern Kentucky to eastern Kentucky with a the sparse number of Catholics.

About 25-30 MSU students are members of Jesus Our Savior Church which is in easy walking distance of the campus in Morehead. Hannah estimates that students don’t always go to the same Mass but when they do, they sit together.

Attendance at Mass is just a sliver of Hannah’s involvement with her faith and her church. “I really enjoy our retreats the most,” she said. “We have one per semester. And I like our service projects. In October we did a service project at Mount Tabor Monastery [Martin, Ky.]; we helped the sisters rake leaves.”

As president of the Newman Club, Hannah leads most of the studies for the group, exploring the Rosary, the sacraments and “looking at God in everyday things,” she said.

In preparing for and creating curricula for the study groups she leads, Hannah consults with Darrinda

Marriner, the director of MSU campus ministry; her mother Rebecca who is a long-time catechist; and reviews videos on YouTube.

Hannah publicizes the Newman Club on social media, at activity fairs on campus and through campus outreach. “We made goodie bags every week for the football team, the band and the dance team and we pray with the team before the game.”

The MSU Newman Club joins with the Baptist and Methodist campus ministry groups for trivia nights and potlucks. During finals week the campus ministry groups join to serve pancakes from 10 p.m. to midnight, giving weary students a much-needed study break for sugar and carbohydrates.

“We try to be as inclusive as possible and all things have an open invitation,” Hannah said.

Wherever she decides to attend graduate school, Hannah will look for opportunities to practice her faith by becoming involved with the Catholic community.

“I’ve even pictured myself as a campus minister,” she said. “Not as a profession, but certainly as a volunteer!”

*As she completes her senior year at MSU, Hannah has taken a hiatus from her service on the NFI board of trustees. NFI thanks Hannah for her service and wishes her well as she receives her degree.*



## NFI provides start-up grants

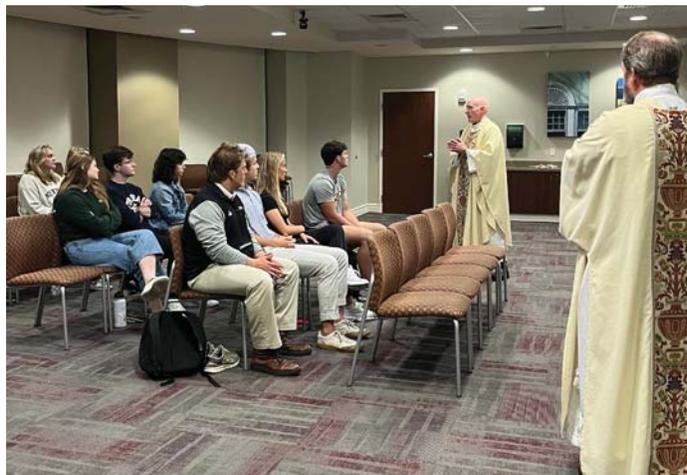
In its annual budget, the Newman Foundation includes \$500 start-up grants for each of its campus partners, including Centre College in Danville. The grants are intended to enable students and campus ministers to hold promotional events where students can gather at the beginning of each semester.

Board member Christina Garcia is a professor at Centre College and serves as a liaison between Ss. Peter and Paul Church and the Newman Club of the college, where she teaches

biology, chemistry and molecular biology.

Christina reports that the Centre College students used its most recent start-up grant to host a St. John Newman Feast Day Cookout on October 15 and to purchase materials for Bible studies and other formation experiences.

“Last year, we used the money to buy one of Bishop Barron’s video series. We’ll re-use it this year because we have a crop of new students!” Christina said.



*Father Danny Schwendeman, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Danville (center) regularly celebrates Mass for Catholic students at Centre College.*

# 2023 Season of Creation

The during the 2023 celebration of the Season of Creation (September 1 through October 4), the Laudato Si Commission of the Diocese of Lexington collaborated with the Department of Youth, Young Adults and Campus Ministry to sponsor a tree-planting at Hisle Farm in Fayette County. Under the direction of Chris Barton, the founder and president of Green Forests Work, over 50 high school and college students planted nearly 3,000 trees and prayed together during Mass that was celebrated by Bishop John Stowe.



**Newman's legacy:** Our inspiration, 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.

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