

Newman Foundation, Inc.

University of Kentucky

March 2001

Newsletter

A Look Back

by: Willie O'Connor, 2000 President

- Granting funds to numerous and highly deserving Local Parish and Diocesan programs.
- Enabling student Catholic leaders-of-tomorrow to acquire knowledge, to fundraise, to serve others as volunteers, and to team-practice skills that will last a lifetime.
- Providing the diverse parish/university community a forum to deepen our spirit by listening to and sharing discussion with Distinguished Speakers from afar.
- Accepting the generous ongoing and new support of Fellows and Founders.
- Getting to know each other better in an Irish flavored socializing environment.

.....these are just some of the activities in which I had the privilege and honor to participate with you during the past year.

With the tireless and cheerful help of Terrice May and then Tracy Parker, and with the donation of time and energy of Board members, staff, students and volunteers NFI formed an ever evolving, growing and changing human "family of friends" with the common goal of fulfilling with our best efforts the Mission of the Newman Foundation. To us all is entrusted the stewardship of not only monetary funds but guiding the investment of a much larger living resource of intellectual, physical and spiritual capital of many

talented women and men. This abundant but nevertheless limited "basket of gifts" requires considered distribution among a wide variety of current and future projects befitting the goals and activities of the busy and thriving foundation we have inherited and must sustain.

Because of the wisdom and foresight of a talented and inspired group of lay Catholic leaders and friends of the late Fr. Elmer Moore, decades later the Newman Foundation remains fortunate and grateful to dwell within our own Newman Center/Holy Spirit Parish. We sincerely thank Father Tom Farrell who continues to provide the facilities, guidance, and prayers for us to promote and carry forward today and for the future Cardinal Newman's Idea of a University here at UK.

"Go Reamh mile maith agaibh"...a thousand thanks to one and all for helping me throughout the year; and I am sure you join with me in welcoming our capable new President for 2001 Mr. John Dauer. Finally, please continue to be generous with donating your support to NFI. I look forward to continued participation, God willing, in this wonderfully diverse organization.

In With the New

I am pleased to take over the position of President of the Newman Foundation, Inc. (NFI). In addition to my new role here I currently manage a commercial printing company in Lexington. I have been married for 15 years and have two wonderful children ages 13 and 11.

I have been affiliated with the Newman Center since I attended college at UK in the early eighties. I have been a member of the board of trustees for the Newman Foundation for over five years.

In that time I have seen tremendous growth in NFI programs and participation by board members. I only hope that I continue to promote and advance the mission of NFI and all the wonderful programs established by my predecessors. The current board consists of dedicated, devoted and knowledgeable professionals.

We look forward to serving you and our community.



A look at the January 2001 Trustees Dinner Meeting hosted by Willie O'Connor



2001 New Board Members
Back row from left: Malkanthie McCormick, Kristy Maggard, Rose Lucas, and Samye Miller
Front row: Ernie Renuad, Fred O'Bryan and Vic Parlanti

Intern's Corner

by: Michael Bratcher

London, England is half a world away from Lexington, Kentucky.

That's where I spent two weeks of the Christmas break with other UK students studying the British Media Systems in and around the city of London. I enjoyed every minute of my stay in the beautiful city of London, and learned a great deal about the British culture.

We have started a new semester here at home, which has called for some discerning on the part of us students. In a homily a few weeks ago, Fr. Tom Farrell asked a question of the congregation, "What are you going to do for the rest of your life?" This is a question that college students hear often. We carry it with us as we move through college with a quest to reach the end - graduation day.

My own discernment has led me to the field of education. In mid December I took the GRE (Graduate Records Exam) in order to pursue a master's degree in education next year. I applied to graduate school here at UK, and currently await my interviews with the college of education in the next month. At the same time, my year as intern at Newman Center continues to unfold, and challenges me to serve in many different ways.

Whether it is a small faith-sharing groups, outreach with Moveable Feast, the local Catholic Action Center, or Habitat for Humanity, the students of the Newman Center have joined in the work of making a better Lexington. We have learned first hand how important it is to participate and become involved in both the church and the community that surrounds it.



Michael in front of Big Ben on his recent trip to London, England.

With help from other staff members, students are able to get involved in the many programs we have here. In fact, we operate on this basis. If students want a program started, we help them start it. We want students to feel a sense of ownership in the community, and to know that the life and vitality of any parish is largely in their hands.

The students, staff, faculty, and other parish members continue to work together in order to gain a fullness and more rich relationship with our God in 2001.



Newman Center students who attended the National Catholic Student Coalition. (NCSC)



Students that recently participated in a Spring Retreat at Camp Andrew Jackson sponsored by the Newman Center.

Students Attend New Years Conference

by: Ron Montavon

From December 28, 2000 to January 1, 2001, ten University of Kentucky students attended the 16th annual National Catholic Student Coalition (NCSC) conference at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky. This conference was different from past NCSC conferences in that it included the Catholic Campus Ministry Association and the National Association of Diocesan Directors of Campus Ministry. Over 700 people attended, creating the largest gathering of Catholic Campus Ministry in the United States.

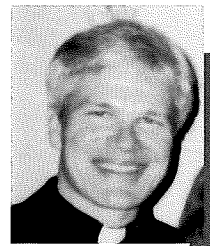
Throughout the conference, we attended various keynote presentations and workshops. Among topics presented were social justice, appropriation of the faith, vocation life, and church leadership. These were delivered by bishops, priests, sisters, campus ministers, students and other lay persons of the church. We all enjoyed the conference and were able to bring much of what we learned back with us to the Newman Center.



Kentucky Host Team at the NCSC: UK, EKU, Morehead State, and Murray State University

The Call of Service

By: Father Tom Farrell



I can think of no more fertile field for sowing the seeds of vocation than at Newman Center, a place where many of the students live with the ever-present question, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?" We give them food for thought, and clear direction.

We, the members of the staff, whether in homilies or in small faith sharing groups or in RCIA sessions or private conversation, speak of vocation as something that we share, all of us, by virtue of baptism. We share the same call to give of our selves in service that is rooted in love, and propelled by it.

On a recent Sunday, when the second reading at Mass described the attributes of love (love is patient, love is kind, etc.), two Catholic physicians who worship at Newman Center spoke at every Mass on Medical Mission Ecuador, not simply to raise funds for a good work going on in a third-world country, and not just to give students a way to participate in it, but also to introduce them to a remarkable way in which committed Catholics are putting their love of God and neighbor into action. We promote vocations (assuming that every vocation flows from the call of Christ to serve), by giving the students role models who render service in unique and generous ways.

We give them more than role models. We give them opportunities to get their feet wet in the world of service. We encourage, challenge, invite, recruit, and just plain ask them to serve in different ways during the Sunday liturgy (They always respond). We invite them to join the citywide effort to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Lexington each year (Our student body is always well represented). We involve them in the new Catholic Action Center, an outreach center for the needy in the inner city (They give of themselves, and they receive). We alert them to the need for drivers at Moveable Feasts, an interfaith effort to provide nutritious meals for people living with AIDS (Our students volunteer). And we offer alternative spring break service trips (an Indian reservation in New Mexico, a soup kitchen and homeless shelter in Washington, an Appalachian plunge, a Miami Habitat building site, and a school and orphanage in Jamaica), that give the students an experience of service they never forget.

We promote vocations, last but not least, by speaking openly about them! At the Sunday liturgy that featured the call of Isaiah in the first reading, the conversion of Paul in the second, and the call of the Apostles (Peter, James, and John) in the Gospel, I used the opportunity to speak about vocations that are out there, in our own assembly. The call to marriage and family life, the call to priesthood and religious life, the call to lay ministry (as a hospital chaplain, music minister, or campus minister, for example). I tried to give the students tools for discerning their own call. "Talk to people whose career or vocation path you'd like to follow," I advised. "Let them share their wisdom and their stories and the lessons life has taught. Talk with married people whom you admire," I suggested. "Talk with people in ministry as well. And over and above all these talks," I counseled, "initiate a dialogue with God. Do what it says to do in the Gospel of Ash Wednesday (Go to your room, close your door, and pray to your Father in secret)." I encouraged the students to move in that direction, to spend time in solitude and silence and prayer, because I believe that in the context of prayer they are more than likely to "hear" God's voice. Like men and women of prayer in every generation, they will be graced by the experience of God's presence; they will be, like St. Paul, forgiven of sin and raised up; they will be, like Peter and the other apostles in the presence of Jesus, freed from fear, strengthened in faith, and enabled to walk in the path they're called to follow (Leaving many things behind, and moving in trust into an uncertain future). They will be better equipped, I believe, to say what Isaiah once said, in response to God's call, "Here I am, Lord, send me."

We sow the seeds of vocation in more ways than one at Newman Center. We trust the Spirit of the Living God, the Spirit of Jesus, to nurture and draw life from them. We trust, in the end, that we will reap what we sow. May God be glorified by the work of our hands!

News from the Newman Foundation Office

by: Tracy Parker, Office Manager

I have learned so much and met so many people in such a short time. I started during a slow period and wondered if it would always be so quiet. Then school started. Wow!

I've had to tackle numerous projects since I began in May that at first sight seemed overwhelming. I have come to the realization that this office runs fast, faster, and should have already been done. My goal is to know what's ahead and prepare in time. I guess surprise is to be expected your first year around, although I am very determined and think that the best way to learn is to just jump in and do it!

Everyone involved at the Newman Center has been helpful as well as the cooperation I have received from those on the Newman Foundation, Inc. (NFI) Board of Trustees.

There are numerous programs that NFI sponsors which you may not be aware; one of those, the Grants program supports Newman Center and Diocesan-wide projects which facilitate one or more of its goals of worship, fellowship and service. The Foundation also considers grants to Catholic clubs/groups which are associated with the Newman Apostolate.

In the past ten months I have written over \$10,500 in approved grants to various organizations around the state. As of February 15, the grants committee awarded another \$5200. If you would like to request a grant application or

for further information please contact me at 859-255-0880.

Another program that NFI sponsors is the Distinguished Speakers Program. The people on this committee are responsible for selecting and contacting outstanding speakers to join us here to speak on diversified topics of interest. In February, Elizabeth Anne Stewart visited us from DePaul University. While here, Stewart enjoyed a one-on-one dinner with students, staff and other people from around the city of Lexington. Subsequently, she gave a presentation later that evening on "Prodigal Father, Persistent Mother", followed by a workshop on Saturday entitled "The Hero Journey."

The speakers series is an opportunity for us to broaden our reach beyond the University of Kentucky and invite the public. All lectures are free and open to anyone who would like to attend.

Before I came here I didn't know a place like this Newman Center existed. It's doors are always open for you to join the festivities or ask for a helping hand. It's a place to discover what you or your student may be seeking. A shelter in the middle of a busy university that can easily overwhelm the young person or a haven for an adult to find peace and contentment. I hope to see you soon.

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Newman Foundation, Inc. Mission Statement: "Newman Foundation, Inc., is an independent non-profit corporation that seeks to deepen and integrate personal, spiritual, and intellectual development at the Newman Center, the University of Kentucky, and the Greater Community by providing financial resources, physical facilities and initiated programs. "

Please clip and mail to: Newman Foundation, Inc., 320 Rose Lane, Lexington, Kentucky 40508-3398

We can continue our success only with your dedicated support. Please assist us in sustaining our mission of providing the ministry and programs described in this newsletter by indicated your interest in additional information and/or through your financial support.

Yes, I wish to support the ministry of NFI with my
Enclosed tax-deductible donation in the amount of
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Last Name First Name

I would like a representative of NFI to contact
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