



ANNUAL REPORT

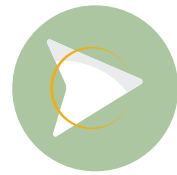
2021-
2022

**Newman
Catholic
Campus
Ministry**



Catholic Diocese
of Cleveland

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of Campus Ministry,

On August 1, 2021 I was appointed Director for Newman Catholic Campus Ministry. The ministers and I thank Fr. Vince Hawk for his leadership over the past three years. We wish him well in his new parish assignment.

I am pleased to share the good news of Newman Ministry as we continued to work with ever-changing COVID protocols on our campuses. We continued to develop 44 student leaders across all of our campuses and saw a 60% increase in student-led programming. We also offered a Spring Speaker Series on the Four Marks of the Church; One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. We returned to in-person Mass on all of our campuses.

We thank each and every one of you for keeping us in your prayers. I'd also like to thank the Newman Campus Ministers for their efforts as our campuses adjusted to a "new normal." The Newman Campus Ministry Team looks forward to meeting the needs of our campuses in a post-Covid world.

Please continue to keep us and our students in your prayers.

Grace and Peace,

Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski

Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski, D. Min.

Director, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry



Joann Rymarczyk-Piotrkowski, Director

SEVEN CAMPUSES SIX MINISTERS 44 STUDENT LEADERS



University of Akron
John Szarwark



Case Western Reserve University
Steve Perry



Ashland University
Nate Ediger



Cleveland State University
Sarah Rose



Baldwin Wallace University
Sarah Jesse



Oberlin College
College of Wooster
A.J. Hoy

Seven Chaplains



Rev. Christopher Zerucha
University of Akron



Rev. Joseph Previte
Case Western
Reserve University



Rev. John Mulhollan
Ashland University



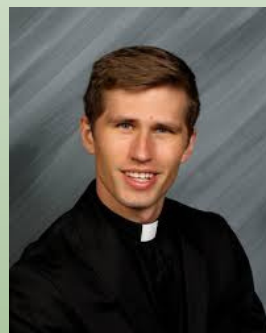
Rev. Philip Bernier
Cleveland State University



Rev. Charles Butkowski
Baldwin Wallace University



Rev. Richard Samide
College of Wooster



Rev. James Winings
Oberlin College

196 Newman Nights



Dinner's on at Ashland

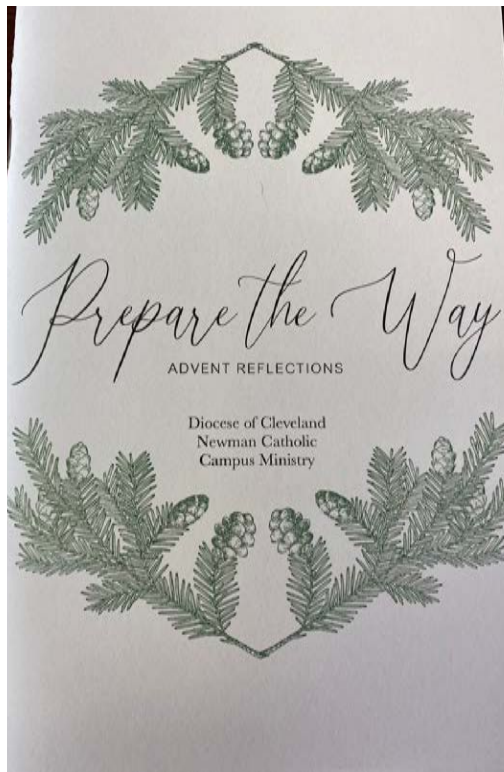
64 Student-led Programs



Case Catholic



Family Night U of Akron



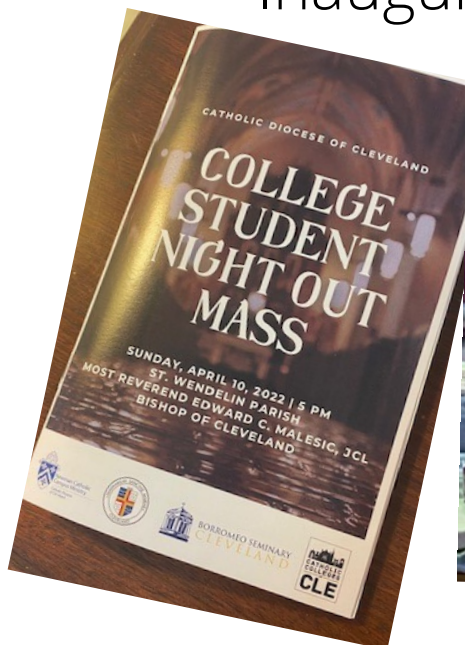
2nd Annual Advent Reflection Booklet
Produced by the Campus Ministers

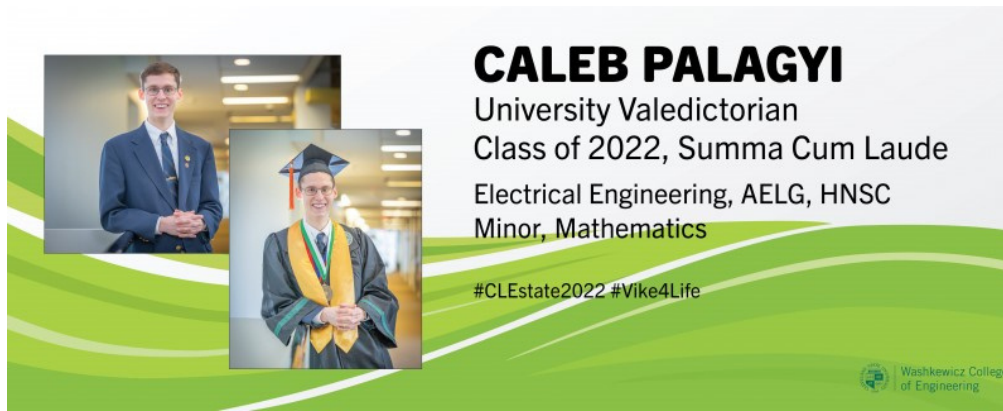


Lenten activity co-sponsored by Newman Campus Ministry, Office of Ministry to Young Adults and the Vicar for Evangelization using Mercy in the City by Kerry Weber

Collaborations

Inaugural College Student Night Out





Newman Campus Ministry member, Caleb Palagyi gave the following Valedictory Address at the Cleveland State University 2022 Commencement.

Since we began our time, here, at Cleveland State University, each of us has made countless journeys to and from our campus, none of which would have been possible without bridges. The Innerbelt Bridge, the Valley View Bridge, and the Detroit Superior Bridge -- many of Cleveland's bridges are the only means by which we could make our trek to campus. These bridges were built by someone who decided that the journey must be made easier for the next traveler; a decision made only after facing the same difficult path, reaching the destination, and then choosing to turn around to help others who came after.

Each of us here finds ourselves in the same situation; we have overcome numerous obstacles during our college journey, and we are just moments away from the destination -- life after graduation. This leaves us with a decision, "Will I turn back and build a bridge for another?"

The easy choice is to focus on oneself and to just keep trying to make it across the next seemingly impassable path to the next destination. For some of us, that may be graduate programs, for others - entering the workforce; these future decisions come with new sets of challenges. Most of us have been told at least once to keep moving forward and eventually all of these difficulties will be in the rearview mirror and you can forget about them, right? Not quite. I ask that you take the time to step back, reflect and look behind you.

You will find that there are more than just the vestiges of the struggles you overcame, but people who are grappling with the same exact challenges you faced. You'll see your friends, your siblings, maybe even your children, fighting the same battles you did. And just like you, they are searching for a guide who has the knowledge that one only acquires by overcoming hardships, who builds bridges for others, and who out of generosity empowers all coming after them to fearlessly face the next challenge. Graduating from Cleveland State has given us the opportunity to be that helping hand to those in need.

Some people here today have already taken that first step to mentoring the traveler behind them -- by student teaching in local schools, engaging clients in music therapy, or working as a tutor in the Writing or Math Learning Center. Or maybe, it was as simple as going home and helping a sibling, a neighbor, son, or daughter with that homework problem that just seemed too hard until you explained it in a new way.

As Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "Never worry about the numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you." No matter how small that first step might have been, it made that person's journey just that much easier. (2:25)

Many of my bridge builders are here today. Thank you to my parents, family, and girlfriend for their support and patience, and for reminding me that there is more to life than engineering. Thank you to the priests and teachers at Saint Ignatius High School who showed me that "a Saint Ignatius education exists not to make you BETTER THAN everyone else, but to make you better FOR everyone else." And to my high school Science Olympiad coaches and to CSU's Newman Catholic Campus Ministry for "giving me the tools to answer the question, 'What does God want for me?'" and for forming me into the engineer I am today and the teacher I hope to become in the future. Lastly, thank you to my CSU Washkewicz College of Engineering professors, Mr. Rarick, and Drs. Dong, Gao, Chu, and Stankovic for making "Engaged Learning" not just a tagline, but an authentic, tangible experience over the last four years.

Class of 2022, as you sit anxiously waiting to walk across this stage today, take the time to reflect on who your bridge builders have been. Think about who has helped form you into the person you are now. And after you leave here today, having finally earned what we all have worked so hard to achieve, go out into the world and thank those bridgebuilders in your life and strive to become a bridge builder yourself.

51 Service/Philanthropy Projects

CWRU Labre

Completes 35 Runs

CWRU Labre is a homeless outreach ministry at Case Western Reserve University. A student-run volunteer organization that drives around Cleveland on Monday nights, delivering food to the unhoused. Students say that the program is about more than just food. "It's about the relationships we forge during the nights of service." The typical year is two 15 week semesters. Students exceeded one run per week, taking food to the unhoused a total of 35 times this year.



Ashland Students Volunteer at Ashland Pregnancy Center

16 Ashland University students volunteered at the pregnancy center annual fundraising banquet and stayed for the speaker, Dr. Alveda C. King. Dr. King is from Atlanta, Georgia, and serves as the Chair of the Center for the American Dream at AFPI. She is the daughter of the late slain civil rights activist Rev. A.D. King and the niece of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King is the founder of Speak for Life, fighting for the sanctity and dignity of all life – from the womb to the tomb.



Oberlin Students Help Out at The People's Garden

Oberlin Community Services (OCS) is a responsive community-based organization that serves low-income and vulnerable community members. One service provided is The People's Garden, an on-site community garden, where everyone in the community can work together to grow fresh food.

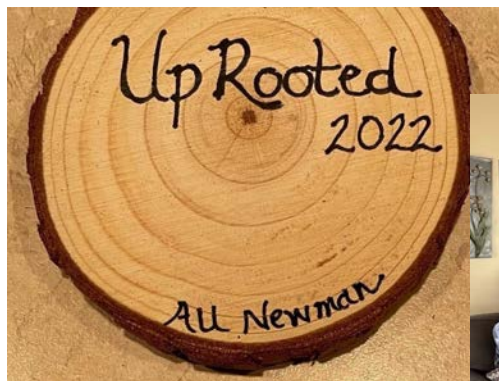


RETREATS



Baldwin Wallace University students participate in the 2022 Lenten Mini Retreat, "Light of the World!"

7 Campuses
9 Retreats
80 Students



Ashland Junior and Senior students participated in an UpRooted Retreat. They spent the day in prayer, fellowship and conversation about how the roots they planted during college will support them in their futures.

Campus Highlights

University of Akron

- 180 attended the the annual Ash Wednesday Mass and pizza dinner.
- Hosted the Inaugural Family Appreciation Night Dinner for students and their families that included a presentation and a meal.
- Two Akron students served as sponsors for RCIA candidates.

Ashland University

- Newman Campus Ministry hosted 24 in-person Newman Nights featuring personal witnesses from students.
- 16 students participated in Rooted: Freshmen & Sophomore Day of Reflection in the fall.
- 14 students participated in Uprooted: Junior & Senior Day of Reflection

Baldwin Wallace University

- Student led Bible Study was introduced and had small-group success
- Newman night topics included student witnesses or presentations on Missionary Discipleship: The Joy of the Gospel, What Catholics Believe: Catechism 101 and Praying with Mary in Advent.
- Students increased community service through partnerships with the Circle K Club on a blanket-making event and with St. Adalbert by serving at the Lenten fish fries.



Case Western Reserve University

- Student Led Labre Project service program received "Best Community Service Organization" award from Case.
- Began working with Evangelical Catholic to assist with formation of student leaders with 10 students entering the process.
- Lenten Rosary began after Newman Night, with 15 to 20 students staying to pray together, and continued after Lent.

Cleveland State University

- Two students completed the Rites of Christian Initiation on Holy Saturday.
- Newman student awarded Valedictorian and included Newman in his valedictory address.
- Students participated in weekly Bible Study, reflecting on the upcoming Sunday readings.

College of Wooster

- Students lobbied College of Wooster for a distinctly Catholic space through student petition drive. College is considering their request.
- Students worked with Campus Minister to plan ecumenical Ash Wednesday prayer service.
- Students planned and led service projects with the Oberlin Community Garden and with the Soup and Bread Project.

Oberlin College

- After relaxed COVID protocols, Sunday Mass returned to campus..
- Students welcomed a new chaplain, Fr. James Winings.
- Newman students planned and hosted an Advent Lessons and Carols program for the Oberlin community and followed that with Mass and a meal.

All Campuses

- 100% of Newman Campuses and the Catholic colleges in the diocese participated in the Synod on Synodality!

Grant Update

\$49,320.00 Awarded by Newman Foundation

Thanks to the generous support of the Newman Foundation these things and more were provided on our seven college campuses.

- Students from Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve and Baldwin Wallace Universities were all able to participate in Busy Student Retreats.
- Cleveland State University and College of Wooster ministries purchased video conferencing equipment so that students can participate in virtual speaker series and SEEK conference.
- College of Wooster and Oberlin College ministries were able to provide copies of "Being Christian" (Williams) , and "Christ Divided" (Walker-Grimes) so that students could participate in book studies according to where they are on their faith journey.
- The Director for Newman Campus Ministry and three Campus Ministers produced the second annual Advent Reflection Booklet.
- Ashland University ministry provided a First Year Student Initiative providing social activities, small group faith sharing, and fall retreat experience.
- The Cleveland State University ministry was able to provide a musician stipend for the academic year.



"God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about."

St. John Henry Newman
Canonized October 13, 2019