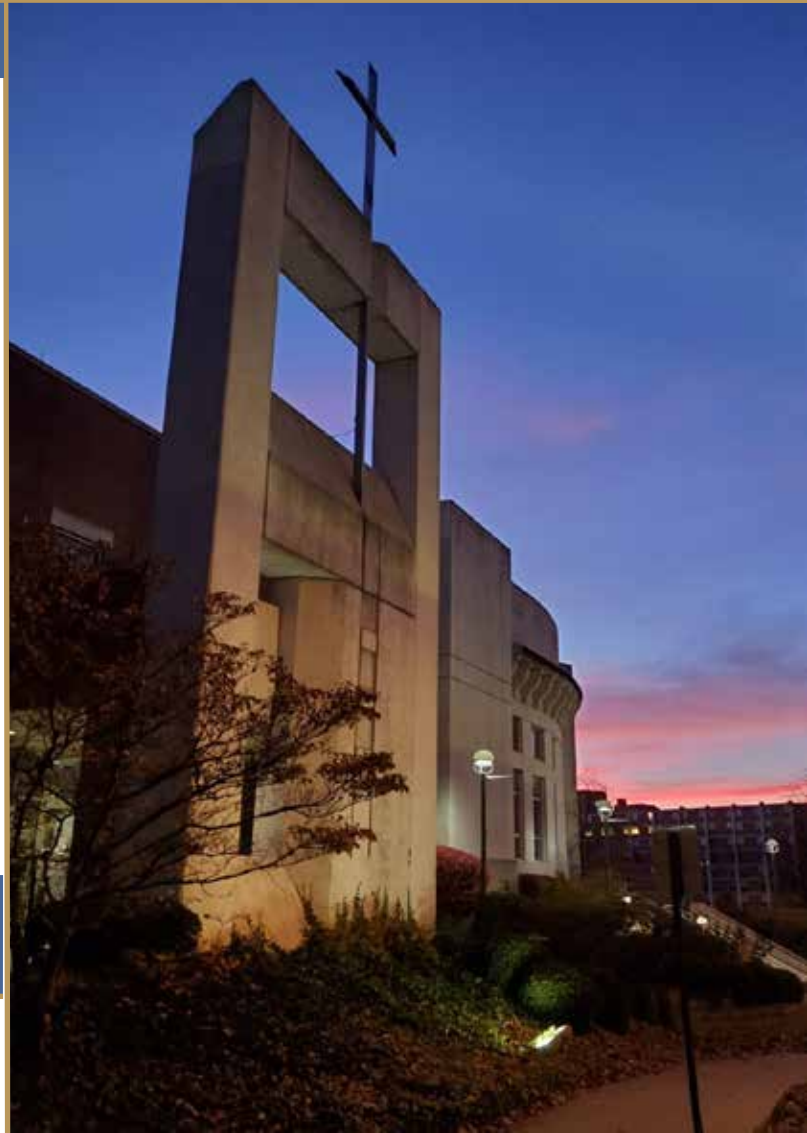




*GOD has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.*

*St. John Henry Newman*



## *Ad multos annos!*

Fr. Dan Merz celebrated 25 years in ministry on September 24. Bishop Shawn McKnight and many clergy, family, and friends were on hand to help celebrate this milestone. After the special Mass, a reception was held in Fr. Dan's honor in the Reynolds Alumni Center.



## **#GivingTuesday November 28**

We invite you to support for our Martha Trauth Social Justice Education Endowment. The endowment will assist all three parishes in Columbia with coordinating efforts for educating others on Catholic Social Teachings and how as Catholics we can better face issues in our communities. Catholic Social Teachings are integral to living out our Catholic faith.

*If you or your alumus from Newman has moved, let us know so that we can update our mailing list. You can update that information from our website, [comonewman.org/alumni/](http://comonewman.org/alumni/) or email [thomas@comonewman.org](mailto:thomas@comonewman.org).*

# WALKING WITH OUR LORD

Go for a walk? I love to go for a walk. It gets me outside—which I really need. It's good exercise. Last week, I went for a walk with a number of priest friends, and it was great camaraderie (don't tell them I said that). From Sept. 26 to Oct. 5, I got to do a lot of walking with 60 other friends when we went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There were a few Newman students who came, too. One of them, Emma, has spoken numerous times about walking in the footsteps of Jesus. And we've talked about how, now that we're back, we don't want to stop walking in the footsteps of Jesus.

Students do a lot of walking on campus (a lot more than I do). At Newman, we're inviting them constantly to the student center, the dorm/apartment, or to Newman. They can step with Christ before them...or with Christ at their side...or even with Christ behind them calling them to turn in repentance to follow His lead, not their own. We need to keep walking, because He doesn't want to leave us where we are. He wants to take us somewhere, with Him.

Will you let Christ take you deeper with Him? Will you walk with Newman as we walk with Christ, walking with students? The number of students in bible studies, in leadership, in discipleship has grown again this year. Spiritual multiplication is happening. And we need your support to keep it going, to keep walking firmly in the footsteps of the Master and no one else. The New Evangelization is here. I see it happening before my eyes, and it gives me great hope for the future. Your gift helps to grow that hope.

This year, Newman has a new (full time!) Associate Pastor, Fr. Andrew Auer, who comes to us from the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Fr. Andrew comes with a big heart for campus ministry and a zeal to accompany students in their walk with the Lord. It's been a gift to see the interactions between him and the students. God has been good to us.

I pray that you know and experience God's goodness to you. And I hope you will share that goodness with us through **your prayers, your outreach, and any financial gift you can share with us**. We will put it to great use in this work of the Lord on the MU Campus! Blessings on your walk with the Lord!

Peace and All Good,



Fr. Dan Merz, SLD  
Pastor



/CoMoNewman

## NEWMAN WELCOMES FR. ANDREW

The four years on a college campus can be the most influential years of a person's life. And it has become my privilege to serve the students at Newman during these pivotal years. Alongside the daily work of our normal parish life, the youth and energy of Mizzou's campus bring a lot of life and hope into our wider Catholic community – here in Columbia, in the state of Missouri, and all the places we'll send our disciples of Christ when they graduate. I love journeying with young people as they make their transition from childhood to mature, Christian adulthood – to be the hands, feet, mouth, and heart of Jesus to the world.



This is my first time living in Columbia. I'm not an MU alum, but I've always been a Tiger fan. I grew up in St. Louis, and entered seminary right out of high school (for those asking, I went to Vianney). I studied for three years at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis before moving to Rome where I studied for four years. It's the greatest blessing of my life to be a priest, and the Lord gave me that grace in May of 2019 when I was ordained beside my six classmates in St. Louis. After four years of parish life, the Archbishop of St. Louis released me to serve here at Newman beginning this past summer. What a gift to be here. I love the traditions, the academics, the sports, and the eagerness in young people to be formed as a disciple of Christ. And it is a battleground! However, Jesus is doing profound things in the hearts of our students here, and I'm so grateful to know folks like you support our important work. M-I-Z!

Fr. Andrew

## FAMILY WEEKEND 2023 / HOMECOMING 2023

On September 10 we hosted a luncheon with our extended Newman families here at the Newman Center. Over 140 of you were in attendance and we enjoyed great food and fellowship. We saw some faces that were familiar and a few faces that were new.

We also had more than 60 alumni and friends join us for a Homecoming Tailgate in the Newman Courtyard as the Mizzou Tigers took on the South Carolina Gamecocks, October 21st. We enjoyed great weather, a wonderful parade, and we really enjoyed a Tiger win!



Back row from l to r: Carter Vinson, Joseph Heaney, Jenna Gruender, Jeremy Miller, Fr. Andrew Auer, Pres. Mun Choi. Front row l to r: Julia Hejkal, Erin Johlle, Olivia Dreyer, Clare Campbell



“Teach us to give and not count the cost.”  
St. Ignatius of Loyola

I am relatively new here in the development/advancement role but I can already tell that Newman is the sort of place where friends and connections are made that last a lifetime. We are a parish AND a campus ministry and both benefit immensely from one another.

I do not think it could be better said than this quote from one of our long-time campus ministry supporting families, "Newman plays a huge role in keeping young adults attached to the Catholic faith from which so many have drifted. While I know Newman is a full parish and we need to serve parish needs, there will not be parishes if we let the young adults drift away. Newman Center's mission was aimed at college students and we just want to help keep that alive and thriving."

Thomas

SAVE THE DATE

seek<sup>24</sup>  
focus

January 1-5

NEWMAN ALUMNI living in the Saint Louis area or attending SEEK - we plan to host a get-together. Watch your email for details.



## Thank You to Our Sponsor: Knights of Columbus Council 7231

Proudly serving St. Thomas More Newman Center since 1979

Thanks to your support of our activities in 2022-2023 the Mizzou Knights Council gifted over \$10,893 to 18 causes including our very own Campus Ministry.

If you are interested in becoming a Mizzou Knight visit:  
[MizzouKnights.org](http://MizzouKnights.org) or email [MizzouKnights@gmail.com](mailto:MizzouKnights@gmail.com)

# RETREATS

## AWAKENINGS

Student's experience God's love in a powerful way at Awakenings, a retreat held once each semester by students for students. It's an opportunity to meet new people and build relationships. Awakenings is held at Cross Pointe Retreat Center at the Lake of the Ozarks. Fellow students give talks and lead discussion groups.

## BUSY PERSONS

During this retreat, students meet with a spiritual director for 45 minutes each day and commit to 30 minutes of personal prayer each day while still going to classes, work and all of their other life commitments.

## COR ad COR SILENT RETREAT

Cor ad Cor is a retreat focused on receiving and responding to God's call. Participants are encouraged to step back from decisions and focus on their relationship with God. This retreat is open to colleges-age students of junior, senior and graduates. Participants will hear talks from spiritual leaders, then spend time in quiet reflection and prayer.

## FRESHMAN IGNITE

Ignite is a 2-day retreat for incoming freshman students each fall. Participants will meet other students who want to live out their faith in college, while learning more about the Newman Center and how they can get involved in their faith community on campus.

## SEEK

Held each year in January, (at different locations around the country each year) Newman takes a large group of students to the SEEK Conference, hosted by FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). Students get to participate in Mass, Adoration and hear from some of today's most dynamic Catholic speakers.



*Justin Francka ('25) is a Mizzou agribusiness business management junior from Jefferson City, MO. Through the (Busy Persons) retreat, I was able to receive daily spiritual direction from Fr. Hakeem, O.P., which helped me to know myself and Our Lord on a*

deeper level. College is a unique phase of life filled with many exciting opportunities and sadly, can be a time of confusion for many concerning their identity as beloved children. Consecrated religious remind us of our identity in a truly unique way as they are living now, what we all hope to live in Heaven. The need for spiritual mothers and fathers is immense, and having these holy men and women on campus was a tremendous gift.



*Madelyn Ramos ('28) is a Mizzou student studying special education from Saint Louis, MO. My Awakenings experience was very different than I expected. I originally dreaded the idea, but after talking to other people at*

Newman who went before, I slowly started to become more excited for the experience. That excitement wasn't for nothing either, because I had a really fun time at Awakenings hanging out with friends and the Lord. By the end of the retreat, I felt very happy and at peace going home with so many memories with people I love there.



*Erin Johlle ('24) is a senior and a special education major from Arlington Heights, IL. The busy persons retreat was a great opportunity for me to be challenged and encouraged in my prayer life. My spiritual*

director was so intentional with our time together, and I am so thankful for the love and support of the religious men and women that led us through the retreat week.

# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## MIKE & MICHELLE DREYER

Our family is truly filled with gratitude for the ministry offered by the Newman Center at St. Thomas More Parish. It is very evident to us that many students are being spiritually engaged and transformed at Newman! We recently learned that there have been non-Catholic brothers and sisters that have come into the Church, or are on their journey into the Church, due to the positive spiritual outreach of the Newman students, Newman FOCUS Ministry, and the priests.

To our delight, our daughter Olivia has met the majority of her close friends through Newman. She has attended and assisted in hosting the Awakenings retreats, SEEK, and numerous other events that are held weekly that continue to help and inspire Olivia on her own journey deeper into the Catholic faith.

Because we are so thankful for the relationships and faith-building events that our daughter has experienced at the Newman Center, we are excited to contribute financially (and spiritually!) in support of the Newman ministry that is available to MIZZOU students - both Catholic and not yet-Catholic students - at the Newman Center!



Nov.  
28



Scan to  
Give Online



## #GivingTuesday

Will you help students reach our goal of \$20,000 for the Martha Truth Social Justice Education Endowment? Tuesday, November 28, 2023. Counting will begin November 19 and end December 3. If giving online indicate that your gift is for the Social Justice Education Endowment.

Pastors from the three Catholic parishes in Columbia have agreed to work together in raising funds for a position housed at Newman that will help coordinate efforts towards social justice education for our students, our parishioners, and the broader community about Catholic Social Teaching. Your contributions to the Martha Truth Social Justice Education Endowment will help us move towards this goal. There are multiple opportunities for service work around campus and town as well as several avenues by which to help educate others about Catholic Social Teachings and bring awareness of different social and social justice issues within our communities.

Please prayerfully consider a gift. If you would like to be a matching gift sponsor (no gift is too small) contact the Advancement Office at 573.449.5424, ext. 205 or email Thomas Rose at [thomas@comonewman.org](mailto:thomas@comonewman.org). Thank you in advance for making #GivingTuesday a success.