

Catholic Campus Ministry

The Diocese of Reno has been committed since 1965 to Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Nevada at Reno at Our Lady of Wisdom Newman Center and Parish. Newman occupies the original church (built in 1949) of St. Albert the Great Parish at 1101 North Virginia Street, surrounded by the official university campus. UNR had a student population of only 3,000+ in 1965. Pre-Covid 19 Pandemic, in March 2020, that population had grown to approximately 23,000 students. Demographically cultural Catholics comprise about 25% of the student population or more than 5,000. Our Newman Chapel seats fewer than 200 persons, but it has a thriving 9:30 AM Mass community which has the appearance of a normal parish including persons of all ages and many cultures from six of the seven continents. The 6:30 PM Mass is primarily university students and some adults who are attracted to a healthy and energetic 21st Christian Century theologically astute, inclusive and intelligent Catholic Parish. Wednesday evenings offer a variety of Catholic prayer styles: Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, *Taize Prayer*, *Lectio Divina* and Eucharistic Adoration.

The Catholic Services Appeal (collection) has subsidized the Newman Ministry. Without CSA funding, the efforts at Newman would likely founder. The tremendous success of campus ministry here is aimed at and very consistent with the vision described by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council (1962-65), and is inclusive and welcoming, intelligent and conscious of the great Catholic intellectual tradition, in addition to reverent worship, effective preaching and mature fellowship. The caliber of worshipers we attract gives evidence of our success. We preach by word and example, and always the Gospel first before institution or piety or personal preference!

A partial list of Newman Activities, Events and Fellowship which the CSA supports and for which we are most grateful includes:

- A Safe Place for university students and young adults who might be in need assistance with food and even shelter. Truly all are welcome here!
- All Sacramental Formation Processes and Sacramental Celebrations are provided.
- Retreats (Fall & Spring overnight retreats) for Newman Undergraduates and Graduates.
- Formation and leadership of the Student Coordinators who comprise our Newman Staff.
- All the normal Vatican II parish liturgies, liturgical ministries and pastoral ministries.
- The Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults (for the university community),
- General Operations of the Newman Center & Parish.
- Great staff availability (priest and lay ministers) for all enquirers.
- A full-time Parish Administrator who shepherds the administrative and financial dimensions of the parish.
- The annual bi-lingual presentation of *The Living Stations of the Cross*

performed in gratitude for CSA support in 5 or 6 parochial locations during each Lenten season. Even during the Covid-19 Pandemic, we presented a student-produced virtual performance, still available through our Newman website on *YouTube*. See www.olwnreno.com for the link.

- During our 18-month-long shutdown of public liturgies and activities, the students produced a weekly Proclamation of the Word (NOT Mass) for those desiring to hear the Sunday Scripture lessons proclaimed along with an instructive homily. See www.olwnreno.com for the links still available on YouTube.
- Developing the *Alpha Program* of outreach to the unchurched suggested by our former Bishop Randolph Calvo.
- Availability of our facilities for high school Confirmation Retreats.
- Facilities availability for overnight college organizations from out of town visiting Reno while they perform service projects.

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