



Illuminations

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

Engaging Life, Proclaiming Faith



An Easter Welcome!



Seven students were welcomed into the Church at the 2025 Easter Vigil. Congratulations to Irene Berner, Jacob Fitzgibbon, McKenna Kelsey, Kenneth Krone, Hailey Smith, Zoey Snyder, and Kaylee Stanley, we are blest to have you! Rolla Newman would also like to recognize Dominick Pataky, Melesio Albravera, and Alec Gray, students also joining the Church this Easter Season.

Campus Ministry Update

Deacon Matt McLaughlin



Dear alumni and friends of Rolla Catholic Campus Ministry – it's amazing how quickly the semester has flown by! The Lord has truly made good use of this time to grow his flock and develop future leaders for his Church.

In between studying, intramurals, Bible studies, and social gatherings, our students ended February with our Spring Retreat. Small groups and faith talks from holy priests led to silent prayer, meditation, and adoration, where **students are given a chance to experience Christ personally.**

Thank you to Fr. Clark, Fr. Ritter, Fr. Schrader, and Fr. Samuel for help. Whether it's students traveling to Kansas, Rome, or Brazil on spring break; helping with tornado cleanup; or meeting alumni at St. Pat's, our

students stay engaged. **We were blessed to welcome ten students into the Church through OCIA**, and already a few more are asking: "Is Christ calling me to be Catholic?" Easter Wednesday saw our semesterly on-campus Eucharistic procession and adoration.

You can read more here and in our eNewsletter. **We have other efforts working as well, including an Alumni Council and a new branding effort.**

Please continue to pray for us and consider a gift of your time, wisdom, and resources to support our mission. There is ALWAYS more to do.

Your support makes the difference.

May God richly bless you during this Easter season and throughout the year!



Students sell baked goods to support A Simple House in KC.



Students help with cleanup after the March tornado in Rolla.



St. Pat's Alumni Dinner – March 15, 2025

Thank you to all who came to celebrate with us at the Annual St. Pat's Alumni Dinner. It was great to connect with old friends and share how the ministry continues to be a blessing to students on campus. The faith-filled community of students continues to inspire hope for the future on campus at Missouri S & T

and for the greater Church as these students go forth to live authentic Christian mission.

"The fellowship and the joy was there, it was real, absolutely real," said Rick Szevery, a Rolla Newman Center alum and speaker at the event. He shared stories and reflections from his time in college.

Other speakers at the event included student Caroline Buechter, Development Coordinator Garren Gray and Deacon Matt McLaughlin. Alumni and friends of the Newman Center were also invited to an Open House and tours of the Rolla Newman Center Building. You are all welcome to join us again next year for this annual event!



"What started here has stayed with me my entire life."

– Rick Szevery

Spring Break 2025

Service, Mission, and Pilgrimage

*Serving with **A Simple House** was one of the most impactful experiences of my life! We were able to serve the homeless and poor while attending daily mass, praying Liturgy of the Hours, and praying with and for all those we served. I was surrounded by so much joy and was able to encounter God's love like never before! I'm so thankful for this experience and can't wait to continue to serve my brothers and sisters in Christ in the ways **A Simple House** has taught me!* - Caroline



Students spent the week serving the material and spiritual needs of the homeless and poor families.

Kansas City



"It was awesome, such an incredible experience learning about the saints and Church history!"
- Trent

Rome

Three students and one alum from Rolla Newman Center joined students from the St. Thomas More Newman Center in Columbia on a Pilgrimage to Rome over Spring Break. While in Rome, they stepped through the jubilee holy door at the Basilica of St. Mary Major and ascended the steps from Jesus' scourging from Jerusalem on their knees.

The pilgrims, Trent and Kole Kirks (brothers) and Madisyn and Ryan Maschler (also siblings), were also able to visit Assisi and the churches where Saints Francis, Clare and Carlo Acutis are buried.

"I've been a part of so many different teams and organizations my whole life and nothing could ever compare to the sense of community I felt."
- Asia



FOCUS Missions partners with hosts all around the world to provide Catholic mission trips to serve the needs of their communities.

Three students from Rolla Newman Center served through the organization Mission Brazil in

Brazil



Rolla Catholic Newman Center
P.O. Box 833
Rolla, MO 65401

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Development Message

Garren Gray



Sometimes, I forget the power of Christian community and forget why we exist, until I am reminded of the impact of Christ in our relationships. This is most evident and real when I see **the kindness, understanding, and love that is present in the life of the Newman Community.** Nothing in this world can substitute for or replace the impact of Christ in the lives of our students. In the midst of both the fun and games and the hardships and sufferings of college life, it is always the presence of Christ that fulfills and drives us forward every day. God is so good!

This year we had a good time at our second annual St. Pat's Alumni Dinner. Thank you to all who came to celebrate, your presence is such a huge

gift to the community here in Rolla. We hope you can return next year for another best ever St. Pat's.

This summer **we are starting an Alumni Council to engage our alumni community, plan events, and support the work of the Newman Center.** If you are interested, please contact Deacon or myself.

We are kicking off a new monthly giving program to sustain our growing ministry. **We need your help! Your prayers, participation, and your donations directly impact the lives of our students.** For each student at Newman, we spend \$100 each month to provide for the building, the staff, and the programming needs to offer retreats, faith talks, bible studies, and much more.

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the Club!*



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