Mac Franks

My name is Mac Franks and I am currently a junior at western studying Electrical Engineering. I am a student athlete competing in cross country and track for the Vikings, and in my free time when I'm not running, I like to go out to eat at any kind of Asian restaurant. One of my favorite things about the Newman is that it provides a safe space for me to go and decompress during the hectic school day, and the missionaries and staff are so friendly.

Peer Ministry Team 2019-2020

Outreach
Sydney Fuller

Service
Juan Balmedina

Events
Kendra Baker

Admin
Ina Lagrandeur

Music
Ryan Hagmann

Liturgy
Rylee Orteza

PRAYER REQUESTS

Safe Summer Travels

Incoming Peer Ministry Team 2020-21

Outgoing Peer Ministry Team 2019-2020

WWU FOCUS Missionary Team

Physical and Mental Health for Students

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Day of Fall Classes
September 23

Fall Retreat

Spirit of Newman
November 7th
Bellingham, WA
On October 25-27th a group of students embarked on a weekend retreat put on by our FOCUS missionaries. The retreat was a beautiful time where the WWU Newman Center and the UW Newman Center gathered to learn more about what it truly means to be a disciple of Christ. There was time available for talks, small groups, and enjoying the outdoors! This retreat was held at Camp Casey and it most certainly allowed for awe and wonder of God through the talks, sacraments, and His beautiful creation of nature!
The winter retreat provided a time for students to look deeply into who the Lord has made them to be. The retreat itself focused on elements found in the Disney movie, *The Lion King*. This movie parallels many aspects of the Catholic faith. The weekend was filled with diving into what our baptism means, how to confront the lies the world tells us about ourselves, how to accept the Love of the Father, and finally what we are called to do as Catholics. This was done via student talks, small groups, and large group time. Huge THANK YOU to St. Mary Catholic Church in Anacortes for hosting us. It was beautiful!

1. Sr. Peter Miriam (Religious Sisters of Mercy) praying with a student during Adoration Saturday night.
2. During the retreat, there were bags available for students to leave notes of affirmation to one another. Pictured is freshman Emily Otero writing notes and dropping them into the bags!
3. Claire Henninger and Kendra Baker jumping for joy during Sunday group pictures!
4. Our whole group photo on Sunday morning!
5. Fr. Ross exposing the Eucharist Saturday evening for a night of Adoration & Confession.
This year we held the second annual Classy Christmas Party! Thanks to Fr. Ross, the students were able to start the night with mass at Sacred Heart, tour the sacristy, then head to the rectory for a Classy Christmas Party. This night occurs on the Wednesday preceding finals week of fall quarter and something the students enjoyed so much last year, we kept it around! It was the talk of the quarter and most definitely an event we will continue each year!
This past November we held our annual fundraiser, the Spirit of Newman. It was a HUGE success. Over 100 guests attended! The night was filled with a silent auction, dinner, dessert dash, live auction, and student testimonies. Among our guests were Auxiliary Bishop Mueggenborg, a number of priests, religious sisters (SOLT & Religious Sisters of Mercy), alumni, benefactors, and students. It was certainly a night to remember and full of laughter. With the help of everyone gathered we were able to raise $71,133.99!! This is huge and was an incredible help to support the growth of the ministry. We want to thank everyone again for their generous contributions and invite you to this years upcoming Spirit of Newman! Make sure to save the date of November 7th, 2020.
This year we have continued with our weekly Newman Night! At 5:30pm every week we meet upstairs in the Newman Center for Mass. Following mass there is a home cooked dinner and time to hang out and grow in fellowship. After this we have a speaker who presents on a topic for the night. Each night is different and we have had a variety of speakers. Just to list a few: Sister Mary Elizabeth (SOLT), Sister Moira (Sisters of Mercy), Megan Pepin (Dir. Of Young Adults), and students! The night ends with a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and during this time the sacrament of reconciliation is available for the students. It has been beautiful to watch 35-50 students attending Newman Nights. This has continued to be a night where students can easily invite their friends, and everyone loves a FREE dinner! We will continue with Newman Nights going into next year.

1. Fr. Ross and Ina barely fit in the back of the room during this Newman Night talk!

2. Each night ends with a holy hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament and Fr. Ross hearing confessions.

3. Megan Pepin, Dir. of YA Ministry talking to Newman students about transitions!

4. Sister Moira Debono from the Religious Sisters of Mercy talking to the students about the Sacraments!

5. Two thumbs up for delicious dinners made by two amazing volunteers each week!

6. The Newman Center hosts a Friendsgiving each year. We had over 50 students join us this year!
This spring quarter the quarantine pushed all of our offerings for students online! Newman Night was no different. We were BLESSED to be able to bring in some extremely talented speakers and share time with one another even if it was via a screen. We were able to hear the talks from speakers and then utilize small groups within Zoom. If you would like to see some of the talks, simply check them out on our website! They are found here: www.wwunewman.com/newman-night

**NEWMAN NIGHT**

**SPECIAL GUEST:**

**SARAH SWAFFORD**
National Catholic Speaker

**JOIN US!**
MAY 20 – 6:30PM – ZOOM

SEND US A DM IF YOU NEED THE LOGIN!

**Spring Newman Night Talks**

- Sr. Karolyn
  - Hearing the Lord’s voice
- Fr. Martin Latiff
  - Principle and Foundation from the Spiritual Exercises
- Damien Fisher
  - Creating Direction in Times of Chaos
- Chika Anyanwu
  - Conversion
- Fr. Agustino Torres
  - Encounter with Christ vs. Ideological Ministry
- Sarah Swafford
  - Emotional Virtue

**Virtual Newman Nights!**

WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM – ZOOM

**NEWMAN NIGHT**

SPECIAL GUEST:

**CHIKA ANYANWU**
National Catholic Speaker

**JOIN US!**
MAY 6 – 6:30PM – ZOOM

SEND US A DM IF YOU NEED THE LOGIN!

**NEWMAN NIGHT**

GUEST SPEAKER:
FR. AGUSTINO TORRES, C.F.R.

**JOIN US!**
MAY 13 – 6:30PM – ZOOM
Students were asked to share a few words about the WWU Newman Center and their personal experience. Here is what we received:

**SARAH MAC (SCHROEDER)**

Western Washington University Newman Center has impacted my life in many ways. I was involved for just over 5 years and within that time I was a peer minister of music, involved and led bible studies, went on retreats, lived in a catholic house with many women from the Newman Center and participated in many community events. All of these experiences truly changed my life. I learned the deep truth of who I am and how loved I am by our Father. I grew and healed in my faith more than I thought possible. I am ever grateful to the Newman Center for giving me lifelong friendships, a community of love and support, and the opportunity to grow in my Catholic faith. I will always hold the Newman Center close to my heart and never forget the immense positive impact it had on my life.

**LUKE WALL**

God has revolutionized my life through the Newman. I entered the community freshman year and was welcomed with open arms. This is truly a community of faithful Catholics that love God and neighbor. In the two years since, God has worked wonders in my life and granted me innumerable graces through the Newman Center, such as developing a prayer life, growing a true appreciation for God in the Sacraments and Scripture, and growing in virtue. Through the Newman, I’m able to call some of the finest men and women I’ve ever met dear friends. Thanks be to God for the Newman Center!

**ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**

I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience within the Newman this year. The creation and participating in a ladies bilingual bible study has been one of my favorite memories in college thus far. I have had the opportunity to learn more and grow in my faith while also building amazing friendships with others. The fall retreat, women sessions and daily virtual rosary that were held continued to spark the passion of wanting to experience a closer relationship with god. I am grateful I have this community to learn from, grow with and seek support through my journey with god, in college and through a pandemic.

**RACHEL WIECHELMAN**

The Newman Center has had such a great impact on my life in college. One of my favorite moments at the Newman was when I was leading a bible study. We all shared personal triumphs and struggles with our faith and every story had an impact. I also enjoyed the Theology of the Body (TOB) retreat. It presented me with information that I did not know before and helped me learn more about how God works in our lives. The last thing I will mention about the Newman is the lifelong friendships I have made over a glass of water and a personal invitation.
Sarah Kerby

Three years ago I entered the doors of our beloved, worn house of the Newman Center and little did I know how such an insignificant action at the time would change my life for the better. The Newman is more than being a part of just another club, it is being a part of family that is striving for the same heavenly gates. The community cultivates a place of love and faith, teaching one another how to struggle and strive through the good and the bad. There have been so many memories formed within the Newman, from early bird hiking and boardwalk jumping to adoring Jesus in the most blessed sacrament at all hours of the night. I have been so blessed to encounter such loving people and pray that I will continue to encounter them for years to come.

Rylee Orteza

The Newman Center has really helped me make my faith my own. I have always yearned to know more about my faith but have never needed to know how to articulate it until coming to college and interacting with peers with a wide variety of experiences ranging from no faith to maybe some extreme views. This has strengthened my faith to a point where I can without a doubt know that Jesus is God and the Catholic Church is the One True Church. Now I am in a Peer Minister role at the Newman Center and can sympathize with those in leadership roles in the Church and how decisions we make can impact the salvation of souls. The Newman has been an invaluable resource of knowledge, friends, and most importantly Sacraments that keep me striving to be a Saint and bring as many people as God wills with me.

Juan Balmedina

The Newman Center has made, and is continually making, a huge impact on my college experience. If I told my high school self that I would be a part of an amazing Christ centered community, I would’ve thought I was crazy. The Newman allows me to dive deeper into my faith by providing all of the necessary tools I need to have a deep relationship with Jesus Christ, and the Newman provided me with the ability to meet great FOCUS missionaries. They have helped me start my own bible study. The Newman Center transformed me into one of the leaders of our community and helped me lead a number of Service projects that included helping the poor, and they were able to equip me in my faith journey of becoming a leader by providing a lot of great talks centered around our faith. I’m truly grateful and thankful to be a part of this fun and loving community who was able to show me what truth, beauty and goodness is all about.
Ellen Golden

My time being involved in the Newman Center has been nothing less than a formative experience. Through this community I have been connected to people and opportunities that support my growth in the faith: I attended and led my first Bible studies, started a position as a staff for the Agape Service Project, and travelled to multiple Catholic conferences around the country. Not to mention that I have been blessed with friends and memories that will last a lifetime. Whether it be taking the ferry to Shaw Island to plant daffodils with the Religious Sisters of Mercy, spontaneous movie nights, trips to the beach, or even a nearly 30-hour bus ride to Phoenix together, these are friends that continuously push me to grow, ground me in life’s more chaotic moments, and bring indescribable joy to my life. I will forever be grateful for these experiences, and I pray that others will be able to encounter the same joy, love, and hope that I have found here.

Justin Hecht

This February, I had the opportunity to give a talk at the Newman’s winter retreat on lies we fall for as Christians and our true identity in Christ. This was pretty cool for me, because one year prior at last year’s winter retreat (my first ever), I had a radical encounter with the Lord in Adoration and confession after many lies had been keeping me from Him for a long time. So this full-circle experience made this year’s retreat extra special! We also got to check out a few saint relics during this retreat and, like all others, grow deeper as friends with each other.

Allison Lepp

Over the past year the Newman Center has provided me with a great community of friends and endless opportunities to grow closer to Jesus. A couple of my favorite memories of my time at the Newman Center include going on the winter retreat and participating in weekly bible study.
CLAIRE HENNINGER
Being part of the WWU Newman Center has impacted my time at college in many positive ways. When I first came to campus I wanted nothing to do with the Catholic faith or the Newman Center; however, by the grace of God, I was invited to join a community that is striving to follow Jesus and let His love transform their lives, and it is an incredible gift. Between bible studies, mass on campus, weekly Newman nights, retreats, and relationship with the people at the Newman, I have been able to grow in my relationship with Christ and begin to place Him at the center of my life. I can genuinely say that without this community my life would look very different. It is a huge blessing to be a part of it!

SEMINARIAN INTERN—MATTHEW NEWLAND
Being able to spend a few months with the WWU Newman Center was a highlight of my time in seminary so far! It was an incredible blessing to get to know so many college students who were on fire for their faith, especially since I myself am only a recent college graduate, and the same age as many of the students at the Newman. I saw the Holy Spirit at work in the faith of the students, and also in the evangelization and outreach efforts that are ongoing at the Newman Center. It was refreshing to see people take Jesus’ call to make disciples so seriously! My time with the Newman was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but even this brought many blessings; it was wonderful to be able to still participate with the community virtually, and my own faith was strengthened when I saw how God still was at work despite the challenging circumstances. I am profoundly grateful for the time I spent with the Newman. The students give me hope for the future of the Church in Western Washington; they are a sign that, even in the face of all the darkness in our world, the Lord Jesus still triumphs.
Student Voices Continued

Isabelle Stratford

Hi! My name is Isabelle, and I am a sophomore at WWU. One of the highlights of my year at the Newman center was going on a service trip to a convent on Shaw Island to help with some outdoor work, and spend time with the Religious Sisters of Mercy. Having the opportunity to interact with a strong, faithful community of women who are living out their vocations with dedication and joy has been such a blessing in my life. They have supported the Newman community over the past couple years through service opportunities, talking with students about the faith, and being present on student retreats. I have found in the interactions I have had with their community strong role models, wise counsel, and good friends. I am so thankful for the time they have shared with the Newman community!

Sydney Fuller

The Newman Center, as the center itself and as the community, was my home base after I started to pursue my Catholic faith intentionally in college. This place supported my efforts as a disciple of Christ in numerous beautiful ways. At the Newman, there is ample opportunity for spiritual growth due to the incredible resources available to students: the chapel, sacraments, fellowship events, speakers, Bible studies, Christ-centered friendships, and faith-based discussions. Additionally, I am blessed to have spent a school year ministering to the community as the outreach coordinator. My role allowed me to understand the behind the scenes action of the Newman’s apostolate, including all of the efforts of the body of Christ at WWU, to bring the mission of Christ from Heaven to Earth on campus. This position was undoubtedly a role that led to personal, professional, and spiritual growth during an integral time in my college experience. I am incredibly thankful for the Newman Center!
Bellingham was my first experience of the Pacific Northwest. Little did I know I would be transformed by the people in the PNW. One of the greatest groups of people were those at the Newman Center. I was privileged to work closely with Fr. Ross, Emma, and my team of missionaries to help form a home away from home for the college students. The Lord was beyond generous as we got to watch our community grow and see radical conversions of students. I’ve gotten to teach people how to pray, invite them back to confession, and tell them for the first they are a beloved child of God. I’m more convicted than ever that no place is too secular to prevent the

As I was driving home from Michigan to California after my first year as a missionary, I got a phone call. My regional director informed me that I was to be placed at Western Washington University for the next year. I was excited to find that Bellingham was a small town with beautiful nature in every direction. As I dove into my missionary work here, I have found great reward. I have seen great thirst for meaning and spirituality in the students’ life. While there have been many challenges to realizing the glory of God on this campus, every obstacle has given greater clarity of God's role in our lives.

Being a missionary at Western has been an adventure. Even from being from Idaho, I don’t think I have ever truly experienced the Pacific Northwest until serving here. Patience and community have been two of the most important things I’ve learned over my time here. The students of the Newman Centers pursuit of friendship and Christ have been something I admire and am grateful to participate in this year. To grow alongside and watch Christ change myself and others despite our own human weakness is something I will miss from WWU. I hope next year this community grows even larger, sharing with more and more students the gift of the Faith.
Praise be Jesus Christ! Fr. Ross here, and at the time of this writing… it feels a little strange to actually use my computer for something other than ZOOM! But what a year we have had here at WWU Newman—not the year that any of us wanted or planned for—with the global pandemic, but the Lord can most definitely bring good out of ANY situation and this was proven true for our Newman Center this year.

With this being my second year as Chaplain, our focus for our staff, missionaries, peer ministers and students was to KEEP praying, KEEP dreaming and KEEP building—not limiting ourselves to what we did or accomplished in yesteryear … but rather, rooted in prayer, allowing our horizons, dreams and ministry to expand to that of our Lords—as He desires salvation for not just our Newman Students, and not just our university … but God desires the salvation of the entire world! He thirsts for EVERY human heart!

Realizing that we all too often put limits on what God can do… on what God-sized dreams would actually look like… This year we began to implement the concept we called “adding a zero”. “Adding a zero” means exactly what it says… you add a zero to whatever your prior horizon was… meaning that instead being content with (let’s say) 5 student led bible studies… adding a zero to the 5 would dream of 50 bible studies… the same concept is applied to our outreach, our service, and even for our facilities and fundraising… all of which is important if God’s dream for the salvation of the world is going to be realized.

With two outstanding quarters (fall/winter) full of Newman nights, retreats, outreach and service under our belts, we— like the rest of the state— came to a grinding halt with the stay home order issued by the Governor. Our spring break mission trip to Peru was the first event to be cancelled and then came the realization that this whole pandemic thing wasn’t just going to end with spring break… and so we began the spring quarter in a new and virtual way: by moving everything online to Zoom and to social media. And what we found really shouldn’t be a surprise—and that is that we are social beings… created for and desiring communion. And so we saw tremendous engagement in our virtual offerings—Newman nights, Men’s & Women’s Session, daily rosaries and Morning prayer. A fruit of this new virtual environment was the fact that we were able to bring in many national Catholic speakers for our events—something which would have never been financially possible in a “pre-COVID” world.

Additionally, students who were quarantined in Bellingham had access to Sacred Heart Church in Fairhaven, which was open for private prayer 3 days a week—and it was so encouraging to see so many students make the effort come in on their own accord and spend time with our Lord.

How does one live without Faith, Hope and Love? These past few months have given us plenty of time to pray/ponder with this important question… and (in my mind) has made the case for Christ (who IS Faith, Hope and Love) all the more compelling… all the more convincing.

Fr. Ross
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

1. BECOME A PARTNER IN OUR MISSION BY DONATING MONTHLY! WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS.

ONE TIME SUGGEST DONATION OF $125, $250, $500, or $1,000.
$125 —> COVERS ONE NEWMAN NIGHT MEAL!

2. $225 —> COVERS FACILITY RENTAL FOR 3 MASSES AT WWU!
$500 —> COVERS THE FACILITY RENTAL FOR A RETREAT
$1,000 —> CAN COVER THE COST OF BRINGING IN 2-3 GUEST

Please feel free to give more or less than the suggested amounts.

3. DO YOU HAVE A TALENT OR ITEM YOU ARE ABLE TO AUCTION OFF? WE ARE PUTTING TOGETHER AUCTION ITEMS FOR OUR UPCOMING FUNDRAISER IN NOVEMBER! THIS AUCTION INCLUDES BOTH SILENT AND LIVE ITEMS. IF YOUR

How to Donate:

⇒ GO ONLINE:
www.WWUNEWMAN.com/donate-now

⇒ MAIL CHECK TO:
714A N Garden
Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact us!

⇒ E-MAIL: Emmafisher@wwunewman.com

Students at St. Mary’s (Anacortes) during the winter 2020 retreat.

Pray, always!