

Pastor’s Notes: UTC Newman Center

August 16, 2020

Starting this Sunday, we will be hosting the UTC Newman Center weekly Masses here at the Basilica. They have asked to use the Basilica, in particular, because the Newman Center is not large enough to accommodate the students with all of the coronavirus precautions, especially social distancing. Since 2015, Fr. Blatchford has been the Chaplain of the UTC Newman Center, collaborating with Dcn. Brian Gabor, the Director. Because of its proximity to our parish and the clergy from our parish staffing the Newman Center, there has been a growth in a relationship between the Basilica and the Newman Center that has borne much fruit. Now that Fr. Blatchford has been transferred to another assignment, the Bishop has seen fit to continue this relationship in that he has also named our new Parochial Vicar, Fr. Valentin Iurochkin, as the Chaplain to succeed Fr. Blatchford.

The Newman Center serves our young people at a very critical juncture in their life. It is at this time that many ideas are formed or confirmed, and a personal life of faith is either accepted or rejected. Thus, campus ministry is one of the most important evangelical tools the Church has at her disposal. In addition to the Director and Chaplain, there is also the presence of missionaries on the campus. The Fellowship of Catholic University Students – FOCUS (focus.org) is a ministry that was developed specifically to evangelize college students by their peers who take a relationship-based approach to win souls to Christ, build them up in faith and knowledge, and to send them out to go and do likewise. To quote from their mission:

FOCUS is a Catholic collegiate outreach whose mission is to share the hope and joy of the gospel with college and university students. Trained in Church teaching, prayer, sacred Scripture, evangelization and discipleship, FOCUS missionaries encounter students in friendship where they are, inviting them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and accompanying them as they pursue lives of virtue and excellence. Through Bible studies, outreach events, mission trips and one-on-one discipleship, missionaries inspire and build up students in the faith, sending them out to spread the good news and to live out the Great Commission: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations (Mt. 28:19).

If you would like to support the work of the Newman Center, please get in touch with Fr. Valentin or Dcn. Brian Gabor. In particular, we are trying to develop a list of UTC Newman Center alumni to support the great work done there. Please spread the word about our effort to support this ministry, and if you would like to give to this ministry, you can find information on the UTC Newman Center website (newmanconnection.com/locations/detail/3229).

Rev. J. David Carter



*Dcn. Brian Gabor, Director
UTC Newman Center*

