



# 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Catholic Newman Center at UW

*Dear Friends of Newman,*

I am truly grateful for the last year. Throughout the year, we adapted to the changing dynamic of the campus and the life of our students. We had some phenomenal retreats prepared by the Peer Ministers that had a tremendous impact on the undergrad students. Several students from our ministry were positively influenced by their experience at the FOCUS Seek Conference in St. Louis, MO. Our student brother, Brother Michael Thomas, was instrumental in bringing levity and live music to many of our Newman events. Small groups continued to bring students closer to Christ and to each other.

Our Frassati young professionals and grad students' group is constantly growing! We hired Gizelle Gando, UW alumna and former Peer Minister, to help Father Chrysostom coordinate all the many Frassati events. Indeed, a lot is happening at Newman!

In the upcoming year, we especially want to be even more present on campus and reach even more students. I am confident that our new Peer Ministers: Elizabeth Lande, Shannon O'Neill, Tyler Turman, and Sean Curran, together with our new and returning FOCUS missionaries: Kaylee Murphy, Benita Bheemisetty, Franz Jet Paronable, and Nathan Lipinski, will truly impact the lives of many students this year!

I am immensely thankful for all the support we received last year. Your prayers and generous financial help enabled us to witness to so many people the love of Christ. You all are in our prayers!

In Christ, who is the Prince of Peace, I remain yours,

*Fr Marcin Szymanski OP*

**Fr. Marcin Szymanski, OP**  
Director



# FRASSATI: GRADS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



“Called to the Altar: What I learned from Evangelicals” a *Lumen* event ft. Matt Luby.

Last year we saw tremendous growth in our Frassati Young Adults, and there seems to be no sign of slowing down. People are drawn to authentic communities centered on Jesus, and our goal is simple: to be a community based around “being disciples together,” and a welcoming place for new people.

Over the last year, we grew 35% in our social media subscriptions, and our emailed newsletter grew from 418 subscriptions (June 2022) to 768 (August 2023); that’s 84% growth! This has translated into a steady stream of new faces at all our events, whether it be to our new evenings of *Praise and Adoration*, *Mass & Dinner*, *Lumen: Speaker & Pub Series*, or our trademark *Hike & Mass*. We also have expanding numbers of small groups, such as our *Pub & Board Game Night*, along with our traditional Bible studies. Our annual retreat sold out last Spring with some people sadly turned away, and our Christmas Party was a hit with over 200+ attendees, some flying from the East Coast specifically to attend. “There is no ‘Seattle freeze’ here” one person enthusiastically told me; “the best thing about Frassati is the community,” said another. Clearly, we have a good thing going.

What contributed to this growth was our newly launched independent website (with help from former PM, Megan D’sa): [frassatiseattle.org](http://frassatiseattle.org). We realized it was needed when we kept meeting people who held off joining our community because they thought it was only for UW students. Also, to keep up with our expansion, we hired another former Newman PM, Gizelle Gando, as part-time Assistant Director of Frassati. However, even between the two of us, nothing is possible without our volunteer leaders, especially our “Frassati Council” or volunteer board of directors. These were seven dedicated people who helped brainstorm and discuss the vision and trajectory of Frassati, and who also ran their own specific ministries/events along with their own teams of volunteers, plus helped on *ad hoc* committees for special events like the Christmas Party. These include Andrea Lim and Kristy Cooley on *Lumen*, Michael Fatina and Bruna Gabrielly on *Mass & Dinner*, Hung Nguyen on *Outdoor Ministry Team*, Conrad Reynoldson on *Social Events*, and Nick Holt on *Communications*.

We are looking forward to the 2023-2024 year, which begins with a retreat with a new Frassati council in September. We plan to continue to refine and polish what we already do, to introduce some new events like dances, and to expand our small groups. It’s going to be a great year!



Frassati had two softball teams this year compete in the CYO league.



Members of Frassati joined the annual Sea to Ski Competition in Whatcom Co.



Attendees of the Frassati Retreat titled, “Identity: Called to Greatness” at the Palisades Retreat Center.



Members of our Frassati community and Fr. Chrysostom pose during their snowshoe hike!

# FOCUS MINISTRY: SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

FOCUS missionaries returned to UW for their fifth year of ministry! During the 22-23 year, we focused heavily on building up a thriving community. We hosted Sunday brunch after the 10am Mass every week, game nights, prayer nights and many other activities to better build up a strong community for our UW students to share the faith with their peers and live out the joy of the Gospel. Students and missionaries led Bible studies, reaching over 100+ souls each week. This year, two students, (Jency Clement and Kevin Paulsen) said "yes" to becoming FOCUS missionaries and will be sent to UC-Berkeley and Johns Hopkins, respectively, to share the Good News.

In January 2023, we took 25 students, with Fr Marcin and Br Michael Thomas, to FOCUS' national conference, SEEK, in St. Louis. At SEEK, our students were met with 20,000 other catholic college students from all over the country to hear talks from some of the best Catholic speakers in the world, participated in the sacraments, and fellowship. Many students left SEEK with greater conviction to live a life for God and share the faith with those around them.

In the spring of 2023, missionaries, Mitch and Nathan, with Fr Chrysostom, took 10 male students on a backpacking trip to Moab, Utah with CORE Missions. CORE is a group that challenges young people through rigorous activity while tying it into the faith. At the end of the school year, we said goodbye to missionaries Clare and Mitch Stephens after their two years of service at UW, and Ashley Potter after her four years of service at UW.

For the 23-24 school year, we are excited to welcome two first-year missionaries to our campus: Franz Jet Paronable, from Omaha, NE, and Benita Bheemisetty from Camarillo, CA. Nathan Lipinski will be returning for his second year on staff with FOCUS at UW. We are also welcoming a new team director: Kaylee Murphy from Hannibal, MO, this being her first year serving as a team director with FOCUS. We are excited to continue winning souls for Christ and building up His Kingdom at UW!



Our 2022-2023 FOCUS team (Jeremiah, Mitchell, Clare, Ashley, and Nathan) with Fr. Marcin. Thank you for your service!



Above: Our missionaries and Dominicans creatively spreading the word about Ash Wednesday on campus and Greek Row!

Left: The missionaries and students at Dick's, one of the many fun outings lead by FOCUS.



Our 2023-2024 FOCUS team!

Kaylee Murphy (Team Director)  
Jet Paronable, Nathan Lipinski  
and Benita Bheemisetty.



# PEER MINISTRY: THANK YOU, PEER MINISTERS!

We, the Newman Center staff, would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our 2022-2023 Peer Ministry Team. These students worked tirelessly to make sure the Newman Center was safe, clean, and welcoming to all who came through the doors. On top of their busy school schedules, they planned retreats, led small groups, worked with the Student Ministry team and staff, and staffed all liturgies throughout the year. Though they are venturing off into the next phase of their lives we will forever be thankful that they responded to God's call to service and will pray for them, that they may continue to be a beacon of light to their peers. Please join us in praying for Alan, Andrew, Haerin, Jency Nathan and Olivia!

"Being a Peer Minister was one of the most formative experiences that I had throughout my years at the University of Washington. This opportunity that the Lord blest me with taught me the importance of community and leadership within His Church. Whether it be attending Bible studies or brunches, or it be blowing leaves and cleaning bathrooms, God gave me opportunities during this time to grow in humility, showing me that none of us own our own time. During this school year, Peer Ministry allowed me to see God working more readily in others, whether it was through my fellow ministers and the FOCUS missionaries in their willingness to give up their time to listen to the Lord's call, or whether it was seeing the freshmen who attended our events grow in devotion to Christ through the Eucharist and making deep connections with one another. Each one of the Peer Ministers this year made intentional efforts to not only plan meaningful events, but to also meet with fellow students to build Christ-centered friendships. Fueled by prayer, daily Mass, and our community activities that we shared intimately with each other, this year's group of Peer Ministers wholeheartedly feels that God's word has been able to reach more hearts and minds this year."

## WELCOME '23-'24 PEER MINISTERS!

It is a joy to welcome our 2023-2024 Peer Ministry team! All four students have been active in the ministry and are great role models for how to live out your faith as busy college students. They will spend the year growing in leadership, community, and above all—faith. We are looking forward to seeing how the Holy Spirit will work within them as individuals and as a group to bring others closer to Jesus Christ!



Our 2022-2023 Peer Ministry team at the Dominican Institute of Student Ministry. L-to R: Haerin, Jency, Andrew, Olivia, Alan, and Nathan.



The 2023-2024 Peer Ministry team: Ellie Lande, Sean Curran, Shannon O'Neill, and Tyler Turman. Please pray for them this year!

# UNDERGRAD MINISTRY: YEAR-IN-REVIEW

This year, the undergraduate ministry continued the work of the previous year in revamping Newman Center activities after the COVID-19 pandemic. Both our Fall “Cast Out into the Deep” retreat and Winter SEARCH retreat were held to acclaim and were wonderful opportunities to be called deeper into our faith and community. In Spring Quarter, our men’s ministry joined with the WWU Newman Center on a camping retreat in the Cascades. Our women’s ministry, joined by students from SPU, held a retreat on a farm in Vashon Island. Aside from retreats, there were other opportunities for discernment, with multiple visits from Dominican sisters and priestly vocation directors.

Our holiday parties and Simbang Gabi festival helped our community grow in fellowship. The *Café Newman* talent show was one of our best yet, seeing participation from a wide range of different community members. Upstairs after the Sunday evening Masses, a fun new community event popped up called “Jam & Jams” that featured an assortment of breads and jam brought by participants, with music playing in the background (the “jams”).

Living out a spirit of charity, students participated in more local volunteering opportunities such as building care packages and bringing undergraduates to serve at the Blessed Sacrament Sunday Dinners. For the first time in a while (if ever), we had students do volunteer outreach to seafarers at the Port of Seattle.

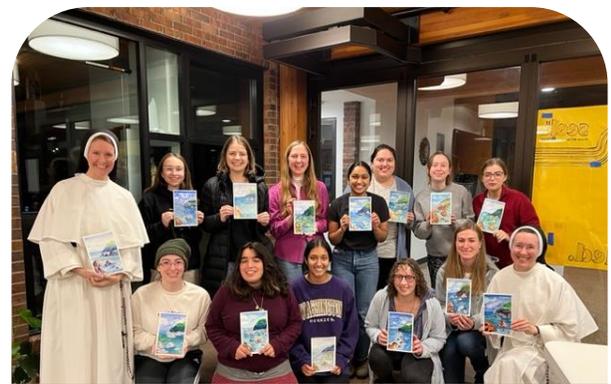
In addition to these events, undergraduates had opportunities to engage in intellectual formation. Our Evangelization and Outreach team held apologetics nights and co-hosted an interfaith panel on the ethics of Artificial Intelligence. This year, the UW Thomistic Institute chapter was founded on campus. While not officially tied to the Newman Center, it served as an outlet for intellectual formation for students who attended presentations by renowned speakers. Testimony nights and Bible studies also aided in the growth of knowledge and faith of our students.

At the end of the year, the undergraduate Student Ministry Team was involved in discussions of restructuring the ministry in hopes of finding a way to better serve the community. A more decentralized, project-based approach was chosen for the next academic year, where most of the existing committees would be disbanded and SMT members would be able to pursue individual projects focusing on a specific area of ministry. This new approach will allow for greater flexibility in addressing the community’s needs.

This is just a cursory glance at all the fruit that came out of this year, and words cannot scratch the surface of the deeper bonds and interior lives that were fostered within the ministry. From regular events to FOCUS Bible studies to impromptu ultimate frisbee, there was always something to look forward to and a chance to grow deeper in faith and friendship.



Participants of our Fall Undergrad Retreat: Cast Out into the Deep” in Ravensdale, WA



Our Women’s Ministry group was joined by Dominican Sisters for a “Bob Ross” Paint Night!



Congratulations to the Class of 2023!

You are in our prayers!



The Undergrad Men’s Spring Retreat involved some serious hiking!

# WELCOMING NEW STAFF

**Br. John Vianney** was born in Pasadena, California. He studied at St. Mary's College of California where he experienced a reversion to the faith while reading St. Thomas Aquinas. He graduated in 2011 and, after working at a law firm, he attended law school at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. It was there that he first met the Dominicans and was immediately attracted to their way of life. After learning more about the Dominican charism and visiting the Western Province, it seemed like a natural fit. He entered the novitiate in August 2020. He is very excited to minister to the Newman Center, the parish, and the Seattle area!



**Gizelle Gando** was hired onto staff this year to help coordinate our Frassati Grads & Young Professionals ministry. Gizelle was a peer minister during the 2016-2017 school year and has remained active in our ministry ever since. In 2022, Gizelle became a life professed Third Order Dominican. She looks forward to serving the young adults in our community by fostering environments that allow a deepening of faith with God and other young adults. From Gizelle: "Being Catholic in Seattle is challenging, finding other peers that share your faith and values and that can walk with you in life is truly a blessing. As more young adults move to Seattle for work or for graduate school, it is important to have a home where we can belong."



## MUSIC MINISTRY: UPDATE

Newman's music ministry program continues to flourish thanks to your generous support! Although we are small in number, we are all strongly committed to our mission of bringing the beauty of the Catholic tradition of sacred music back to our Masses. This resolve has only deepened as we have welcomed more musicians into our leadership, especially in the aftermath of our participation in the Extraordinary Music Workshop in Poland this year. Along with spending countless hours together preparing for Triduum liturgies and making time to expand our repertoire together, Newman's music ministers have experienced incredible opportunities for growth in faith because of your financial contributions.

In the coming years, we will continue to encourage our musicians to strive for excellence in their musicianship and, more importantly, to appreciate the beauty which God continues to reveal to us through the liturgy.



Members of our choir (singers and musicians) after our Easter Vigil Mass. Thank you for helping to make the liturgy so prayerful and beautiful!



Our delegation to the Extraordinary Music Workshop in Krakow, Poland. You might recognize the leader of the workshop—our former assistant director Fr. Lukasz Misko!

# 2022-2023 FINANCIAL REPORT

*Below you'll find our financial statement for the past fiscal year. Your prayers and generosity continue to give us strength for growing and improving this important ministry to the students and community at UW!*

<b>INCOME</b>			
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$102,139	\$132,050	\$(29,911)
Annual Fund Donations	\$308,114	\$294,600	\$13,514
Fund-raising Events	\$107,820	\$127,205	\$(19,385)
Annual Catholic Appeal Rebate	\$44,038	\$14,905	\$29,133
Program Revenues	\$32,055	\$18,575	\$13,480
Liturgy Income	\$270	\$1,336	\$(1,066)
Business Income	\$8,400	\$10,000	\$(1,600)
UCDS Rental Income	\$96,783	\$89,000	\$7,783
OYYAE Ministry Subsidy	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$0
Other Revenue	\$270	\$1,275	\$(1,005)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$757,890</b>	<b>\$746,946</b>	<b>\$10,944</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Priest & Lay Employee Salaries	\$323,022	\$330,710	\$7,688
Priest & Lay Employee Benefits	\$184,533	\$187,446	\$2,913
Ministry Program Expenses	\$133,473	\$114,395	\$(19,078)
Ministry Supplies	\$8,751	\$8,950	\$199
Business Administration Expenses	\$23,866	\$21,470	\$(2,396)
Business Contracted Services	\$33,867	\$27,000	\$(6,867)
Facility Utilities	\$23,677	\$19,500	\$(4,177)
Facility Operation & Maintenance	\$39,436	\$20,700	\$(18,736)
Fundraising Costs	\$17,769	\$15,200	\$(2,569)
Other	\$1,551	\$1,575	\$24
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$789,944</b>	<b>\$746,946</b>	<b>\$(42,998)</b>
	<b>NET \$(32,054)</b>		



**Above:** Good Friday Stations of the Cross. More than 40 people joined us in prayer as we processed with the cross through the University of Washington campus. Seen above are Samuel and Angela Escudero leading the meditation for the 8th Station in front of Drumheller Fountain.

## **Donate your vehicle and help support our mission!**

It has never been easier to donate your used or unwanted vehicle! Your gift helps give students a place to embrace their faith and helps us continue to offer Bible studies, retreats, guest speakers, community events, and a host of other programs and opportunities.

Any donated cars will be picked up at no cost to the owner. The proceeds from selling donated cars at auction goes straight to the ministry. If you have a car, you no longer need or want— please consider donating it to the Newman Center!

**Call or email our Development Director Dayn Warren for more info or to schedule a pickup!**



**(206) 527-5072 ext. 1002**  
**dayn@uwnewman.org**



CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER