



## Rolla Newman Newsletter – Spring 2020

Above: Our group picture at the FOCUS SLS20 Conference.

The cold months of the year were filled with life at the Newman Center. We went to Camp David of the Ozarks for our annual Awakening Retreat. Over the course of the weekend, we were incredibly blessed to have four priests available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Mass, and spiritual direction.

As usual, the Halloween Party was the first big event of the holiday season. Our holiday socials are great opportunities to invite others to the Newman Center for the first time and grow in community.

As the holiday events came to a close, we prepared to send off our December graduates at our semesterly Roast and Toast. We shared funny stories about their time at the Newman Center and asked them to give advice to the younger students. All of our alumni have a special place in our heart. We are sad to see them leave but excited to watch them grow in their faith as they enter their careers and vocations.

### Here are some of our recent events:

October 11 to 13 – **The 21<sup>st</sup> annual Awakening Retreat**

October 31 – **Halloween Party**

November 9 – **Semi-Formal Dance and Lock-In**, a combined event with Truman State University Newman Center

November 19 and 20 – **School Sisters of Christ the King Visit**, which included a vocation talk and spiritual direction

November 21 – **Thanksgiving Potluck**

December 6 – **Roast and Toast**, where we send off our graduating seniors

December 30 to January 3 – **FOCUS SLS20 Conference**

January 21 – **First Day of Spring Semester**

January 24 – **Hot Chocolate Social**, welcoming our students back from winter break

February 8 – **Silent Saturday**, one of three Saturday morning mini-retreats this semester

Below: Cooking for the Pancake Breakfast on February 2.



Below: The dancefloor at our Semi-Formal Dance with Truman State University.



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Above: Dinner during our first full day at the SLS20 Conference.

**The FOCUS SLS20 Conference** was an amazing experience for our fourteen students who attended. From one of our students:

*Over Christmas break, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Student Leadership Summit (SLS) in Phoenix, Arizona. At the conference, over 8,000 Catholic college students gathered to grow as disciples of Christ and leaders in their own faith communities. We heard powerful keynote talks from some of the nation's best evangelists and got to discuss them in small groups.*

*The theme from this year's SLS was "Made for Mission". Over the course of the week, I came to better understand how God's call to "go and make disciples of all nations" applies to me as a member of the Catholic Newman Center and an S&T student. The highlight of the conference was celebrating New Year's Day in adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Our whole group had an amazing experience, and we're all excited to keep growing in the faith!*

-Andrew Leingang, Sophomore

Many new events and ventures have happened over the past few months. We invited the students of the Truman State University Newman Center to Rolla for a semi-formal dance and lock-in on November 9. A dozen of their students came down for an incredibly fun and fruitful night.

We also planned a few events with the other Christian ministries on campus. On October 22, we participated in a joint "Bale Day" with the Baptist Student Union. We gathered unsold clothes from the Community Partnership in Rolla and wrapped them into bales to send overseas to those in need. On October 18, we joined the other ministries for a game night. Finally, on November 9, we invited them all over for a movie at the Newman Center. We watched and discussed the "Chronicles of Narnia" late into the evening.

On February 8, we held our first of three Silent Saturdays this semester. Students came to the Newman Center to spend a morning in silent prayer. We met up each hour for a guided meditation and closed with lunch. The morning was a much needed retreat at the beginning of the semester. It gave everyone who participated a chance to take another step in their relationship with God.

To keep up with everything we are doing, please visit our website: [rollanewman.org](http://rollanewman.org)

Below: Our students at the Missouri State March for Life on February 1.

