The AMU & APU Newman Center is an American Public University System (APUS) student organization founded as a Catholic ministry for the students, alumni, faculty and staff of APUS.

About Newman Centers

Newman Centers are Catholic ministry centers at non-Catholic universities throughout the world. They provide pastoral services and ministries to their Catholic communities, in particular to the Roman Catholic student population within the university. The centers are named in honor of Cardinal John Henry Newman and were inspired by Newman’s writings. The first Newman Center was established in 1893 at the University of Pennsylvania.

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The Fathers of the Church: Justin Martyr

“Jesus Christ is the only proper Son who has been begotten by God, being His Word and first-begotten, and power; and, becoming man according to His will, He taught us these things for the conversion and restoration of the human race.”

—St. Justin Martyr

During 2007, Pope Benedict XVI focused many of his weekly Audiences on teaching about the early Church Fathers. Benedict considered St. Justin Martyr as the leading apologist (defender of the faith) of the second century. Justin’s surviving works include two Apologies and Dialogue with the Hebrew, Tryphon. Justin wrote The First Apology to Emperor Titus Ælius Adrianus Antoninus Pius Augustus Cæsar, more commonly known as Antoninus Pius, who ruled as emperor from 138 to 161 AD.

Jesus in the Temple by Heinrich Hoffman, 1881. See page 2 for scripture readings and a meditation from Saint John Paul II to accompany the fifth decade of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

Justin der Märtyrer, by André Thévet, 1584

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Explore *The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple*—The Fifth Decade of the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary


After having informed us that, having fulfilled the ritual of the presentation in the Temple, "they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth," the evangelist adds: "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him" (Lk 2:40). And again, at the end of the account of the pilgrimage to the Temple and the return to Nazareth, he notes: "And Jesus advanced in wisdom and favor before God and man" (Lk 2:52). From these texts we see that there was a real human development in Jesus, eternal Word of the Father who assumed human nature through his conception and birth of Mary. Infancy, childhood, adolescence and youth are the periods of his physical growth ("in age"), as is true of all those "born of woman," among whom he is rightly numbered, as St. Paul remarks (cf. Gal 4:4).

According to Luke's text, there was also a spiritual growth in Jesus. As a doctor who was attuned to the whole person, Luke took pains to note the total reality of the human facts, including the development of the child, in Jesus' case as well as in that of John the Baptist. Luke wrote about John: "the child grew and became strong in spirit" (Lk 1:80). He more specifically says of Jesus that "the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom"; "he advanced in wisdom . . . and favor before God and man"; and again, "the favor of God was upon him" (Lk 2:40, 52).

In the evangelist's terminology, this "being upon" a person chosen by God for a mission is attributed to the Holy Spirit, as in the case of Mary (cf. Lk 1:35) and Simeon (cf. Lk 2:26). This evokes the transcendence, lordship and the intimate action of the one we proclaim as *Dominum et vivificantem* (the Lord and giver of life). The grace which, again according to Luke, was "upon" Jesus and in which he "grew," seems to indicate the mysterious presence and action of the Holy Spirit in which, according to the Baptist's proclamation reported by the four Gospels, Jesus would be baptized (cf. Mt 3:11; Mk 1:8; Lk 3:16; Jn 1:33).

The patristic and theological tradition helps us to interpret and explain Luke's text about Jesus' growth "in wisdom and favor" in relation to the Holy Spirit. St. Thomas, speaking about grace, repeatedly calls it *gratia Spiritus Sancti* (cf. Summa Theol., I-II, q. 106, a. 1), a free gift which expresses and concretizes God's favor toward the creature eternally loved by the Father (cf. I, q. 37, a. 2; q. 110, a. 1). Speaking of the cause of grace, he expressly says that "the principal cause is the Holy Spirit" (I-II, q. 112, a. 1, ad 1, 2).

It is a question of justifying and sanctifying grace which reinstates the person in God's friendship, in the kingdom of heaven (cf. I-II, q. 111, a. 1). "It is according to this grace that we understand the Holy Spirit's mission and his indwelling in the human person" (I, q. 43, a. 3). The Holy Spirit instilled the fullness of grace in Christ, for the personal union of the human nature with the Word of God, for the extreme nobility of his soul and for his sanctifying and salvific mission for the whole human race. St. Thomas affirms this on the basis of Isaiah's messianic text: "The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon him" (Is 11:2): "The Spirit which is in the person by means of habitual (or sanctifying) grace" (III, q. 7, a. 1, sed contra); and on the basis of the other text from John: "And we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14) (III, q. 7, aa. 9-10). However, the fullness of grace in Jesus was in proportion to his age; there was always fullness, but a fullness which increased as he grew in age.

The same can be said of the wisdom which Christ had from the beginning in the fullness proper to the period of childhood. As he advanced in age, this fullness grew in him to a proportionate degree. It was not merely a matter of human knowledge and wisdom about divine things, which God infused into Christ through the communication of the Word subsisting in his humanity. Also, and most of all, we are dealing with wisdom as a gift of the Holy Spirit: the greatest of gifts, which is "the perfection of the faculties of the soul, in order to dispose them to the movement of the Holy Spirit. Now, we know very well from the Gospel that Christ's soul was moved most perfectly by the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us that 'Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert' (Lk 4:1). Therefore, the gifts were in Christ in a most exalted manner" (III, q. 7, a. 5). Wisdom had primacy among these gifts.
Member Updates

Let’s congratulate our members on their recent accomplishments!

- Genevieve Farrell earned a Master’s in Public Health Degree with Honors and participated in Commencement ceremonies on June 2.
- Lynn McAfee earned her Master’s in Intelligence Studies and also walked during the Commencement ceremony.
- Nina Rivera-Nunez earned her Master’s in History, and like Genevieve and Lynn walked during the ceremonies.
- Bruce A. Sarte earned his Masters of Science in Information Technology and participated in Commencement.
- On behalf of the officers, advisors, and members of the Newman Center, Anne Midgley and Lynn McAfee accepted the Outstanding New Student Organization award for the Newman Center during the University Awards Luncheon.

Fathers of the Church: Justin Martyr, continued

Here are excerpts from his Apology:

Chapter 66. Of the Eucharist: And this food is called among us Εὐχαριστία [the Eucharist], of which no one is allowed to partake but the man who believes that the things which we teach are true, and who has been washed with the washing that is for the remission of sins, and unto regeneration, and who is so living as Christ has enjoined. For not as common bread and common drink do we receive these; but in like manner as Jesus Christ our Saviour, having been made flesh by the Word of God, had both flesh and blood for our salvation, so likewise have we been taught that the food which is blessed by the prayer of His word, and from which our blood and flesh by transmutation are nourished, is the flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh. For the apostles, in the memoirs composed by them, which are called Gospels, have thus delivered unto us what was enjoined upon them; that Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, said, This do in remembrance of Me, Luke 22:19 this is My body; and that, after the same manner, having taken the cup and given thanks, He said, This is My blood; and gave it to them alone.

Chapter 67. Weekly worship of the Christians: And we afterwards continually remind each other of these things. And the wealthier among us help the needy; and we always keep together; and for all things wherewith we are supplied, we bless the Maker of all through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the Holy Ghost. And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given, and to those who are absent a portion is sent by the deacons. And they who are well to do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need. But Sunday is the day on which we all hold our common assembly, because it is the first day on which God, having wrought a change in the darkness and matter, made the world; and Jesus Christ our Saviour on the same day rose from the dead. For He was crucified on the day before that of Saturn (Saturday); and on the day after that of Saturn, which is the day of the Sun, having appeared to His apostles and disciples, He taught them these things, which we have submitted to you also for your consideration.

To learn more about St Justin, Philosopher and Martyr, read Benedict XVI’s General Audience of 21 March 2007, dedicated to this great Father of the Church.
Featured Member—Stephanie King

When Stephanie King graduated from high school, she chose to forgo college and pursue a career in art and fiction writing. Over the next ten years, she worked two dozen different jobs in half as many fields, had modest success as an artist, and enjoyed travelling the country and building life experience valuable to a writer. After a long-neglected, serious case of tendinitis in her arms was finally diagnosed, she chose to put aside her art career and take a different road. In 2016, she enrolled in American Public University on the advice of a close friend, pursuing a degree in accounting. After feeling out the course loads that first half-semester, she took on an extra class and chose to skip mid-year breaks, and is now on her way to graduating with her Bachelor’s this November.

To rewind a little, Stephanie was born and raised Catholic. However, ten years of Catholic education wasn’t nearly enough to satisfy her curiosity about the faith, and she regularly consumes books, talks, movies, and any other media she can get her hands on discussing apologetics and Church history. That passion has fallen in line with her desire to be a writer, and she is currently working on a number of books geared towards educating kids of different ages about the Saints, the Sacraments, and Church history.

That passion has also led to a number of mission trips conducted on her own. Last August, she spent two weeks in Baltimore, during which she distributed care packages to the many homeless in the city. It was a fulfilling experience, because she met some incredible people, both the homeless and regular people on the street who helped her. She continues to carry similar packages in her truck with her wherever she goes, just in case. This August, Stephanie intends to apply for the FBI’s collegiate hiring program, where she hopes to become a forensic accountant. Her ultimate goal is to become very good at rooting out human trafficking and working with both the FBI and organizations like Operation Underground Railroad in rescuing children who’ve been kidnapped, shipped across the globe, and enslaved in the sex industry.

Currently she is employed with the St. Paul Center, founded by Scott Hahn, and enjoys the behind-the-scenes work of their fundraising.
It’s a Baby Shower!

You are cordially invited to a virtual baby shower to benefit your choice of:

**Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center**

or

**Seneca Choices for Life**

During our recent chapter meeting, we decided to focus our spring-summer service event on once again supporting pro-life women’s centers. Two of our members, Gregory Comiskey and Lynn McAfee, are closely involved in this ministry. Gregory’s center is Seneca Choices for Life, while Lynn’s is Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center.

**How you can help:**

Visit one or both of the centers (details below) to learn about their mission and services. Consider making a financial contribution. Pray for the staff at the centers and for the families that they serve.

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**Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center:** Abundant Hope is a Christian pro-life ministry serving the Greater Attleboro, South-Eastern Massachusetts, and Cape Cod communities. We strive to promote sexual integrity, empower individuals to make life-affirming choices, and to live the truth that all lives matter. Sharing Christ in word and deed is a key component in this ministry. We share the truth about fetal development, adoption opportunities, and the physical, emotional and spiritual risks associated with terminating a pregnancy.

You can learn more about Abundant Hope and donate at their website: https://ahprc.org/

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**Seneca Choices for Life** states this about the women it serves: God loves these women more than we could ever know how. He has been walking with them longer than we have. We have the gift of stepping in on a project that He has begun and is intimately invested in. Seneca is a door He has opened for them, and it is the Holy Spirit that works through our hands, feet and heart. Our role is not to save lives, the Holy Spirit does that. Our role is to be present, with open hearts, ready to love and serve each woman and family who walk through our doors. It is an honor to do this each day.

To learn more about Seneca Choices for Life or to make a donation, visit their website at https://senecacfl.life/navigation.
Commencement

Commencement weekend was amazing! It was an honor to represent The Newman Center at the Alumni Rally and a privilege to meet so many of our graduates, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Resources

Bible
Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition
Rich Gift of Love (Pope John Paul II’s Theology of the Body)
Daily Mass Readings
Catholic Social Teaching
St. Thomas Aquinas The Summa Theologica
The Confessions of St. Augustine
The Fathers of the Church and their Writings
US Conference of Catholic Bishops
Vatican Radio
Vatican News Service
EWTN
Word on Fire

Documents from Vatican

II:
Dei Verbum
Lumen Gentium
Sacrosanctum Concilium
Gaudium et Spes

Thanking Those Who Serve

As we approach Independence Day, let us each take a moment to "Thank those who Serve." This initiative provides us the opportunity to thank military personnel currently serving overseas by choosing A Million Thanks or to members of the American Red Cross currently deployed in support of disaster relief by selecting The American Red Cross. Click the link below to get started.

http://www.apu.apus.edu/student-activities/service/postcard.htm

Advisors Corner

Dr. Robert Smith

It is easy to overlook your graduation, for someone to say what is the big deal because of the millions who have done it. By that type of wrongful logic, we would have to deny the value of one’s life because so many others have simply come before any of us writing or reading this. Let me tell you - it is a big deal and WE here are proud of you. You should be proud of your accomplishment, for doing it took elements familiar to those of faith, discipline, sacrifice and perhaps even courage. Again, let me extend both congratulations and pray for the blessings that may accrue from that splendid achievement.

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apus.newmancenter@gmail.com