Blessed John Henry Newman

“Certainly a liberal education does manifest itself in a courtesy, propriety, and polish of word and action, which is beautiful in itself, and acceptable to others; but it does much more. It brings the mind into form,—for the mind is like the body.”


Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman (1801-1890) was a leading theologian of the nineteenth century. An Anglican scholar, he converted to Catholicism at age 44. An outstanding prelate, thinker, writer, and historian, Newman was instrumental in defending the Catholic Church.

Learn more about Blessed Cardinal John Henry Newman at cardinaljohnhenrynewman.com. It provides Newman’s sermons, teachings on education, and a great deal more.

Mission

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

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia sponsors the APUS Newman Center chapter.

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.
Meet our Chapter Advisors and Student Life

The Newman Center of AMU and APU has three exceptional Faculty Advisors: Dr. Mark Bowles, Dr. Cynthia Nolan, and Dr. Robert Smith. We are also supported by the very capable team at Student Life.

Dr. Mark Bowles: Dr. Bowles has been a Professor of History at American Public University System since 2009. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Case Western Reserve University and was the Tomash Fellow at the University of Minnesota. He also has an MBA, an MA in history, and a BA in psychology. He is the author of 15 books, including 3 college textbooks. He has also written several critically acclaimed books about NASA.

He is committed to promoting social justice projects both locally and globally. In his hometown of Akron, Ohio, he volunteers his time as the Technology Manager at the Peter Maurin Center, which assists the large numbers of homeless in the area. He is also involved in JustFaith Ministries which seeks to care for the poor and vulnerable throughout the world. He served on the teaching team for the RCIA program at St. Mary in Hudson, Ohio, for 3 years, and is currently a Eucharistic Minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Dr. Cynthia Nolan: Dr. Nolan is an associate professor in the School of Security and Global Studies at American Military University. She teaches courses in national security and intelligence. Dr. Nolan earned her PhD (2007) at American University, where her doctoral dissertation examined intelligence oversight. She also received her BA from the School of International Service at American University (1991). She served in the Directorate of Operations in the Central Intelligence Agency, where she was assigned to volatile regions such as the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union. Her research on intelligence oversight and foreign policy decision making has resulted in published articles for the International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the Catholic Society of Social Scientists Review.

Dr. Nolan also teaches international relations at Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. She homeschools four of her five children, ranging in age from 7-18. She volunteers with her local American Heritage Girls Troop, VA1212, sponsored by Chelsea Academy. Dr. Nolan also serves on the Board of Directors of Padre Pio Athletics Association, where she launched new boys’ and girls’ soccer teams sponsored by St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

Dr. Robert Smith: Dr. Robert G. Smith, LTC (Ret) US ARMY, graduated from Juniata College with a BS in Poli Sci cum laude. LTC Smith attended the Pennsylvania State University, receiving his MA (cum laude) in American Military History in 1982, and a Juris Doctorate in 1992 from West Virginia University. He has served in the capacity of an armor officer, logistician, military intelligence, and engineer officer. He is a graduate of the Armor Basic Course, the Armor Advanced Course, Command and General Staff College and Army Combined Arms Staff College, the Advanced Joint Professional Military Course in Joint Warfare, and Air War College. After 9/11 he was recalled to active duty, serving as the lead Army military historian at the US Army Center of Military History for the attack on the Pentagon. He has subsequently served as the Vth Corps historian for the initial invasion of Iraq and in the Deputy Directorate of Special Operation (DDS0) on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. While on the DDS0 he wrote a highly classified study on SOF in the Global War on Terror. He was the CoS of the Army one man GWOT record collector, tasked to collect all the lost records. His last duty station was serving as the Deputy Command Historian at CENTCOM before placement into the Army Wounded Warrior Program to heal. He was appointed as a Kentucky Colonel by the Governor of Kentucky in 2010. Dr. Smith is proudest of his Combat Action Badge from his tour in Iraq. Dr. Smith was honored in 2014 at AMU by being awarded of the Excellence in Teaching Award. He is married to Katie. They have two sons, one a recent graduate of the Officer Basic Signal School and the other a combat veteran of Afghanistan where he received the Combat Infantryman Badge. They happily retired from the Army near where he grew up in PA.

Student Life

The Office of Student Life is steadily preparing for Commencement 2017, which is only a few short weeks away!

Join us at this year’s Alumni Welcome Rally at Commencement 2017 at the Gaylord National Convention Center and Resort! The Alumni Welcome Rally fosters community, celebrates the achievement of graduates, and provides information about university programs available to alumni. During the event, alumni, current students, and potential members will also have the opportunity to learn more about student organizations, play games, win prizes and so much more.

For questions regarding Commencement 2017, please contact our office at commencement@apus.edu.
The 20th century was arguably the most violent century in human history. Two World Wars, the rise of Communism, the Cold War, and widespread socio-political upheaval across the globe challenged the Catholic Church and its mission. These challenges have only continued into the 21st century, as the rise of radical Islam, the emergence of new “state actors,” and the growing disparity of resources have contributed to injustice, religious persecution, and violence across the world.

The Church is not called to stand aside and accept the inequities born from the last century. In fact, the Church has played a vital role in promoting peace, human rights, and resolving conflicts through its work with diplomats and world leaders.

Join Franciscan University of Steubenville in exploring the important role the Church has played and continues to play in international affairs. The two-day conference, which begins on Friday, April 28, in the Tony and Nina Gentile Gallery of the J.C. Williams Center, will bring together leading Catholic social scientists in the world today. Focusing on a wide range of historic and contemporary topics from Pope John Paul II’s influence in bringing down the Iron Curtain, to the way in which the Church advises nations on how to counter the rise of Islamic extremism, the conference will include eight separate talks.

Speakers will include Dr. Paul Kengor of Grove City College; Austin Ruse of C-FAM; Dr. William Kirk Kilpatrick, author of *Christianity, Islam, and Atheism: The Struggle for the Soul of the West*; and Dr. Daniel R. Kempton of Franciscan University.

To register online, see speakers and topics, or review the conference agenda go to Franciscan.edu/church-in-world-affairs
**Book Review**


It is difficult to imagine a more eminent theologian alive today than Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, nor an author better suited than the 265th Vicar of Christ to write *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*. Ratzinger earned his Doctorate of Theology in 1953, taught dogmatic and fundamental theology at the Higher School of Philosophy and Theology in Freising, and then taught at Bonn, Munster, and Tübingen. He participated in Vatican II as a theological advisor and afterwards, together with other noted theologians, initiated the theological journal *Communio*. He advanced through the Church hierarchy, becoming first an Archbishop, then Cardinal. Among other roles, he served Pope John Paul II as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and as President of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and of the International Theological Commission. Following the death of John Paul II, the College of Cardinals elected Cardinal Ratzinger Supreme Pontiff on April 19, 2005.

In his foreword to *Jesus of Nazareth*, the Pope explained the genesis of his work on Jesus. He described how the advances in historical-critical scholarship began to blur the true figure of Jesus as fully divine and fully human, and led to “the impression that we have very little certain knowledge of Jesus and that only at a later stage did faith in his divinity shape the image that we have of him” (p. xii). While he noted that the historical-critical method remains an essential dimension of biblical study, he called upon readers to understand the limitations of that method. He described recent advances in canonical exegesis, which call for reading “individual texts within the totality of Scripture” and described that “when you watch it unfold in the light of Jesus Christ, you can see . . . Christ as the key to the whole” (p. xix).

So short a space does not allow for a comprehensive review of Ratzinger’s *Jesus of Nazareth*. Suffice it to say that the book is a love story. It represents the author’s “personal search ‘for the face of the Lord’” (p. xxiii) and the book provides to its readers the Pope’s reflection on the mystery and majesty of God, as well as the love of God for his creature, Man. Ratzinger’s own love for our Lord, Jesus Christ, radiates from the pages. Deeply grounding his portrait in scripture, he reflects on the love of the Son for the Father, speaks to the mystery of the triune God, and explores the depth of the great sacrifice of the Son to restore humanity. Ratzinger states, “The idea that God allowed the forgiveness of guilt, the healing of man from within, to cost him the death of his Son has come to seem quite alien to us today” (p. 159). However, as Ratzinger quotes John Henry Newman, “while God could create the whole world out of nothing with just one word, he could overcome men’s guilt and suffering only by bringing himself into play, by becoming in his Son a sufferer who carried this burden and overcame it through his self-surrender” (p. 160). Ratzinger’s magisterial portrait of our Lord, Jesus of Nazareth points readers to the incomprehensible love of God for Man and underscores the nature of God’s mercy.

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