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.

Mission

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.

Lent 2019

In a special way during Lent we are called to conversion—to turn radically to Our Lord through the practice of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. For 2019, the Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday on March 6 and culminates in the Sacred Paschal Triduum—Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday—celebrated on April 18-21.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) provides a guide to Lent together with a set of comprehensive resources that will help with the spiritual renewal we seek during this penitential season. From almsgiving, fast and abstinence, the sacrament of Penance, and Stations of the Cross to special Lenten Prayers and ways to evangelize during Lent, you can find resources to help you deepen your faith and live the life that Christ desires for you.

Check out the complete set of resources here.

Explore The Proclamation of the Kingdom and the Call to Conversion

Lent

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In This Issue:

The Sermon on the Mount, by Carl Bloch, c. 1877. See page two for a scripture reading and a meditation from Benedict XVI to accompany the third decade of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary.
Explore The Proclamation of the Kingdom and the Call to Conversion—The Third Decade of the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Mark 1:14-15
After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Meditation from Paul VI

Christ, who always practiced in His life what He preached, before beginning His ministry spent 40 days and 40 nights in prayer and fasting, and began His public mission with the joyful message: “The kingdom of God is at hand.” To this He added the command: “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” These words constitute, in a way, a compendium of the whole Christian life. The kingdom of God announced by Christ can be entered only by a “change of heart” (“metanoia”) that is to say through that intimate and total change and renewal of the entire man—of all his opinions, judgments and decisions—which takes place in him in the light of the sanctity and charity of God, the sanctity and charity which were manifested to us in the Son and communicated fully.

—Paul VI
Paenitemini (33)

Human Trafficking: A Global Problem

As part of our 2019 pro-life focus on the dignity of each human being made in the image and likeness of God, the Newman Center has launched an initiative to combat human trafficking. In this effort, we have been joined by members of over thirty AMU and APU student organizations. Together, we are acting to educate, advocate, act, donate time and talent, and pray to help end human trafficking.

We encourage our members to learn more about modern-day slavery by viewing the excellent awareness videos provided by the Blue Campaign: One Voice. One Mission. End Human Trafficking.

General Awareness
Labor Trafficking
Sex Trafficking

In addition, learn more through Polaris, one of the most influential groups working on the issue in the United States. The hotline statistics provide a great deal of insight into the spread of human trafficking throughout the United States.

The USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program is available at this link.
Combat Human Trafficking this Lent through Prayer and Almsgiving

Metanoia, Louisiana

Images of Louisiana frequently bring to mind Cajun and Creole food, New Orleans, Mardi Gras, and raucous good times on Bourbon Street.

However, Louisiana is also home to a human trafficking reality. Father Jeff Bayhi, the founder of Metanoia, has worked to establish a safe haven for young women to recover from the emotional, physical, and spiritual wounds inflicted by trafficking. As reported by the Catholic News Agency in “How a nun’s home is helping girls freed from sex trafficking,” the Baton Rouge home will shelter sixteen young women, who will be cared for by Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy from India, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Madagascar. Read more about this innovative approach to helping these girls escape slavery and restore their human dignity.

Please pray for the people of Metanoia—the sponsors, care-givers, and the children that they serve. Please consider donating to assist Metanoia’s mission at this link.

The Ursus Institute, North Carolina

The Ursus Institute uses research, data, and community engagement to disrupt human trafficking and to help the survivors in their recovery. Ursus believes that there is not a single solution to this problem but there can be an organized method in these pursuits. Research and data are powerful tools for the education of the community and should be utilized to inform policy and government practice as well as help in best practices for survivor care. By networking within the anti-trafficking community, Ursus can operate more effectively than any organization could individually.

Ursus also works directly with the Anti-Trafficking Bureau in the Dominican Republic to help bring an end to human trafficking in one of the worst hubs for human trafficking in the world.

Please join us in praying for the people of the Ursus Institute. To learn more about Ursus or to donate to support its mission, visit The Ursus Institute.
Member Updates

Let’s congratulate our members on their recent accomplishments!

- Steve McDonald completed his Masters degree in Intelligence Studies (Cyber) and has received a Presidential Volunteer Service Award.
- Stephanie King, Steve McDonald, Tatum Regan, and Stephen Thompson made the Q4 2018 Deans List

Featured Member: Nina Rivera-Nunez

Nina Rivera-Nunez was raised in the Catholic faith. Growing up in a Latino-Catholic home, she would observe religious traditions from both groups and would attend both English and Spanish language Mass. There were the typical religious celebrations that she would observe, such as Good Friday, and Catholic Latino celebrations and traditions such as Saturday of Gloria.

Nina has enjoyed her educational journey through APUS. In her educational career, Nina has earned three degrees. She has two undergraduate degrees and one masters. She received her undergrad in Business in 2009, a year prior to enrolling in APUS. In 2014, Nina received her Marketing degree from American Military University. In 2018, Nina graduated from AMU with a master’s in history.

In her personal life, Nina is a mother and wife. This year she and her husband will be celebrating 16 years of marriage. They have three children, Robert (8), and twin girls, Isis and Ines (7). Raising three children with special needs has been a challenge. When the days get tough, Nina remembers what her mother told her as a child. God only gives you what you can handle. It has become an understanding that three children on the Autism Spectrum were chosen by God, for Nina to raise. What an honor.

God gives us what we need when we need it, not when we want it. This is a belief held by Nina, which has rung true throughout her entire life, and was constantly reminded of. For eight years Nina tried to conceive but failed. In April 2010, a month after Nina’s mother passed away, she found out she was pregnant with her first child. The pregnancy occurred, not when she wanted it, but when God saw it fit to happen. It was when God decided it was the right time. God always has a plan for us. We may not understand it, or even agree with it, but it is what is best for us. Nina is raising her children in the Catholic faith and passing down the traditions of her childhood.

Nina is currently working as a Substitute Teacher and Teacher Assistant at the Baldwinsville Central School District, and plans on continuing her education with AMU later this year.
Newman Center 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**

2018-2019 has seen both success and challenge defending the sanctity of life. With recent legislative actions that threaten the lives of babies up to the point of birth and have failed to defend the lives of abortion survivors, the Newman Center is dedicating our spring 2019 to defending the right to life. We have re-launched our virtual baby shower to benefit two pro-life women’s centers.

**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 at their website: https://ahprc.org/

**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, visit their website at https://senecacfl.life/navigation.
Advisor’s Corner

Some Thoughts on the Relationship between Science and Religion

Review by Mark Bowles PhD

Carl Sagan inspired my love for science as a kid. I eagerly followed everything he did from Cosmos, to Contact, to Carson’s Tonight Show. I eventually earned a PhD in the history of science from Case Western Reserve University. And now as a Professor of History, I show a few of the Cosmos episodes in the history of science graduate course that I teach.

However, I was very disappointed that in episode 1 of Cosmos 2.0 of all the things that could and should have been the focus, it was the story of Bruno that got the most airtime. It was very clear that in showcasing Bruno, Seth MacFarlane (executive producer) and Neil deGrasse Tyson (host) were transparently advancing an agenda. This overemphasis of an event in the history of religion is far removed from Sagan's beautiful and poetic wonderment of the mystery of the universe and our story within it.

The tragic tale of Bruno’s burning at the stake at the hands of the Catholic Inquisition also had very little in reality to do with science, though that seemingly “small” point was lost in Cosmos 2.0.

Consider what Sheila Rabin wrote in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, “in 1600 there was no official Catholic position on the Copernican system, and it was certainly not a heresy. When Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) was burned at the stake as a heretic, it had nothing to do with his writings in support of Copernican cosmology, and this is clearly shown in Finocchiaro's reconstruction of the accusations against Bruno.”

That Cosmos 2.0 gives so much attention to a tale more appropriately told in the history of religion is further perplexing because Bruno lived between Copernicus and Newton, and Bruno was the one that received the most airtime. Galileo also garnered little more than a mention in the first episode. (Continued on p. 7)

AMU & APU Newman Center Fast Facts

- The Newman Center has sixty-three student and alumni members, three chapter advisors, two honorary members, and five associate members.
- Student Affairs named the Newman Center “Outstanding New Chapter of the Year” for 2017.
- In 2018, the Newman Center website attracted over 1,100 visits from ten countries.
- In the most recent 28 day period through March 6, 2019, the Newman Center FaceBook site has had 484 posts, comments, and reactions with 41 active members out of a total FaceBook group size of 58.
- In the week ending March 14, the Newman Center Tweet activity earned 2,168 impressions.
- Eight members of the Newman Center serve as ClearPath mentors, while fifteen members are ClearPath mentees.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Jim Reynolds, husband of Kay O’Pry Reynolds, as he recovers from blood clots in his lungs and left leg.
- Please pray for our members who are coming into the Church this Easter, including member Adam Richardson and his family.
- Please pray for the Richardson family.
Advisor’s Corner, continued

The history of the relationship between science and religion is so much more interesting and complex than the naive “thought police” comment Neil deGrasse Tyson made in the first episode of Cosmos 2.0. Professional historians of science and religion have long moved past the simplistic “conflict model” that this series seems to want to promote.

To learn more from scholars who spend their lives studying the relationship between science and religion in an intelligent way, consider someone like David Lindberg, the Hilldale Professor Emeritus of History of Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Writing a chapter in in Gary Ferngren’s book Science and Religion: A Historical Introduction (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002) he said, “There was no warfare between science and the church. The story of science and Christianity in the Middle Ages is not a story of suppression but one of its polar opposite; support and encouragement. What we find is an interaction exhibiting all of the variety and complexity with which we are familiar in other realms of human endeavor: conflict, compromise, understanding, misunderstanding, accommodation, dialogue, alienation, the making of a common cause, and the going of separate ways.”

Or consider what Lindberg had to say in his book The Beginnings of Western Science: The European Scientific Tradition in Philosophical, Religious, and Institutional Context, Prehistory to A.D. 1450 (University of Chicago Press, 2007.) He wrote that the interpretation of the conflict between science and religion historically “depends largely on the attitudes and expectations that one brings to the question.” He further described it like this: “If we compare the early church with a modern research university or the National Science Foundation, the church will prove to have failed abysmally as a supporter of science and natural philosophy. But such comparison is obviously unfair. If, instead, we compare the support available from any other contemporary social institution, it will become apparent that the church was one of the major patrons—perhaps the major patron—of scientific learning.”

There was much more blending between science and religion than we see now. Newton, who died in 1727, spent a significant portion of his life thinking about God. As Karen Armstrong wrote in her A History of God (A.A. Knoph, 1993): “Newton began with an attempt to explain the physical universe, with God as an essential part of the system. In Newton’s physics, nature was entirely passive: God was the sole source of activity.” Gale Christianson said in Isaac Newton (Oxford University Press, 2005) that throughout his life Newton would “write an estimated 1,400,000 words on religion, more than alchemy, more than mathematics, more even than the physics and astronomy that made him immortal. . . . Unlike many thinkers today, he saw no conflict between science and religion and wrote that the world could not operate without God being present.”

And to conclude this point on the interesting blending between science and religion, J.L. Heilbron states in The Sun in the Church: Cathedrals as Solar Observatories (Harvard University Press, 1999) that historically the “Roman Catholic church gave more support to astronomy . . . than did any other institution.”

Back to Cosmos 2.0. It should be clear that the horrible Bruno episode by itself really sheds little to no light at all on anything related to the history of science. Unless, of course, one wanted to advance an atheist position (which both Tyson and MacFarlane both are). Everyone has a right to his or her beliefs, but in making an argument for said belief, one should not manipulate the past to make an inaccurate point in the present.

Certainly, it is quite clear that the Inquisition was a terrible thing. It is a sad testimony that any great mind is silenced. It is a period that even popes have apologized for. If Cosmos 2.0 is making its point to sway religious Fundamentalists away from their militant position against science and the teaching of evolution, then once again Cosmos 2.0 is attacking the wrong branch of Christianity. Catholics are not the ones that oppose teaching of evolution. As Pope John Paul II wrote, “In his encyclical Humani Generis (1950), my predecessor Pius XII has
already affirmed that there is no conflict between evolution and the doctrine of the faith regarding man and his vocation."

What the *Cosmos 2.0*'s first episode fails to note (and this would have been an interesting aside as to how far the Catholic church has come from that time) is that the Vatican Observatory is one of the oldest astronomical research institutions in the world. Furthermore, The Vatican Observatory Research Group operates the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT). This is done in partnership with the University of Arizona (and other universities). Real science is done here, and no one is being put to death for it. Remarkably, they have not even threatened to burn any of the astronomers at the stake.

As a brilliant astrophysicist, Neil deGrasse Tyson surely knows this. But somehow to him this seems insignificant to the much more compelling story of the horrors of the church and its supposed silencing of scientific genius.

My hope is that the remainder of the *Cosmos 2.0* episodes can stick to the wonders of science and refrain from espousing the anti-religious agenda of its creators. However, episodes like this can serve as reflective teaching points to consider (and re-consider) the historical and on-going relationship between science and religion.

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**Advisor’s Corner**

Perseverance

Cynthia Nolan, PhD

When I was working on my PhD, it seemed like the interruptions were never-ending. I delayed writing because of a computer issue or an illness or financial needs or another baby. And I thought, am I ever going to finish this? Yes. I dedicated myself to finishing that thing. I didn’t even care what it said by the end. I had to finish it. I couldn’t quit. The biggest thing I learned from that process? Perseverance.

I remember when I was younger and mom would say that Lent was starting. (I needed the announcement to understand what was going on.) My friends and I would talk about chocolate or TV or something else. And then it was over, and Easter was here. Then the next year, I had to think about Lent again. What? Again? I said. Yes, again. Okay, no more chocolate. And that’s what happens every year now that I have kids. The youngest are particularly incredulous that they have to sacrifice something to try to improve their lives and to offer it for God over and over again. And just last week, it hit me. Perseverance. Here’s a good place to practice my well earned perseverance. Don’t give up. Worship and live and sacrifice again and again through every Lent every single year.

Yes, we are always at the foot of the cross. Yes, we are always striving to grow in our spiritual lives—to devote our resources again to a pregnancy center or again to the 40 days for life campaign or again to volunteer with the Lenten Soup Supper or Fish Fry. No, it doesn’t end while we are on this earth. And would I have it any other way? I think not. If I don’t persevere and keep moving forward, I’m moving away, and I don’t want that.
Events and Resources

Upcoming Events

- Spring 2019: Virtual Baby Shower
- May 10-11, 2019: APUS Commencement Weekend
- December 14, 2019: Wreaths Across America
- Ongoing: Combat Human Trafficking and Virtual Blood Drive

For information about the National Wreaths Across America event, contact member Lynn McAfee.
For information about all other events, contact Anne Midgley.

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

Newman Center Prayer Book now available

A Companion for the Journey: Prayers and Devotions is available online. Print versions may be purchased through Lulu. The book is available in black and white or in full color. There are no proceeds from the sale of this book—it is made available at cost.

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Write to us at apus.newmancenter@gmail.com