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8 April 2024

### How Can We Utilize the New Features of Our Campus?

Over the course of our four years at Cardinal Newman, we have experienced a lot of the school's changes. While the damage of the 2017 Tubbs Fire happened before our time, the majority of the reconstruction has occurred while we were students. Multiple areas have not only been rebuilt, but transformed into completely new spaces, unique to our school. Each year, the school has boasted new features, the three most notable being the classroom building, the student life center, and the chapel. The creation of these new spaces, and the resources they provide has had a significant impact on the daily lives of every Cardinal Newman student. However, we have yet to discover the extent to which we can utilize the additions to our campus. Perhaps they can not only benefit the current Newman population, but an even more widespread community.

There are a variety of ways these buildings can be used to improve the experience of current Newman students and faculty. Many of their features are underutilized. The student life center, or SLC is the only spot on campus that has spaces dedicated solely to studying. Study hall classes should be relocated to the SLC, instead of taking place in a classroom. We should take full advantage of the kitchen by starting a home economics or culinary program, in which students can learn basic food handling and cooking techniques. Conference rooms can be used for club get-togethers or class presentations to smaller groups. Each classroom in the newer building has the space for over 20 people, a TV, and other resources; they could be repurposed as meeting spaces. Sports teams or study groups could greatly benefit from time in the classroom

after the school day has ended. The courtyard in the center is the perfect space to host outdoor events, such as fairs and performances. Finally, while the chapel is yet to be completed, it will offer many faith based opportunities. There could be masses for each class level, creating a more intimate space for prayer than in the gym. Additionally, the chapel should be open throughout the day as a comforting area for anyone on campus to visit if necessary. Sometimes a few minutes alone in reflection or prayer can completely change a person's day.

While there are many ways to utilize the new buildings for the benefit of the current Newman population, I believe their greatest use is the opportunity to give back to an even larger community. We owe not only the creation, but the very possibility of all of these new buildings to people other than those who currently attend the school. Without generous donations from alumni and others invested in the progression of our school, our campus would look a lot different. The students and faculty are only present on campus for a portion of the day during the school year, and the majority of the buildings sit unused over our summer and winter breaks. So why not give back to those who helped create these spaces, and furthermore, our entire community?

This year, alumni have begun to visit the school to share insight on their experience after highschool and their careers. These visits have been in small classrooms, and many people were unaware that they were even happening. Using the SLC, we could make these presentations a schoolwide event. Similar to a college fair, alumni could set up booths or use the conference rooms to meet with interested students. This would not only benefit the students, by providing them with future career paths and get them thinking about life after college, but the alumni. Maybe their line of work lacks traction in our generation, or they are looking for volunteers for

an upcoming occasion. These former students have given a lot back to our community, the least we could do is utilize our resources to reciprocate.

The chapel is another area that could be used to benefit those outside of our current Cardinal Newman community. It is good for much more than school masses, and it is unlikely we will use it every day or the year. Locals or anyone who doesn't have access to a church or a religious community could use our chapel for their faith based practices. Weddings, baptisms, and celebrations of life could be hosted there, since because it is such a small space, it would be great for more intimate and personal ceremonies.

The appearance of our school has changed drastically in the last few years. There are a multitude of ways we can take advantage of the opportunities that these new buildings offer to our Newman population. All students benefit greatly from their creation and we are extremely fortunate to have all these resources at our fingertips. Therefore, I believe we should focus on giving back to a more widespread community, not just those currently attending our school. God calls us to give back to those around us and these new spaces have gifted us a variety of ways to do so.