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Cardinal Newman High School has literally been reborn from the ashes and with this rebirth comes immense possibilities with the spaces that have been borne of this trauma. The Tubbs fire may have destroyed some of the physical buildings on our campus but it did not destroy our spirit, determination, or vision for the future. With this vision we forged ahead to build, strengthen, and solidify a path for all future Cardinal Newman students and alumni. Out of the ashes three structures have come to life on our campus and the potential for these structures is endless. In three short years our community has brought to life the new classroom building, the Student Life Center, and the Chapel. Three intricately crafted structures that have changed the face of our campus and will offer endless possibilities to what can be hosted and accomplished on our campus. These buildings and spaces have offered new life to our campus and have given us the opportunity to have three new structures to use in creative ways to serve not only our current students but all who have called Cardinal Newman High School home.

The Chapel. Standing as the tallest structure on campus, this serves as a visual and spiritual reminder that God is present. God is present in our classes, our lunch conversations, our walks to class, and everywhere in between. This will be a place to pray in silence when the world is too much, or to attend Mass with your grade level or religion class. Daily Mass will be served, with Reconciliation offered weekly as we have always done but now we will have a space that visually speaks to our hearts. I envision the Junior class having their ring ceremony in the Chapel and so many other moments that could be shared intimately as a grade level opportunity. I

envision religion classes participating in Adoration, Stations of the Cross, Washing of the Feet, and other faith filled moments that will be even more deeply connected in a Chapel surrounded with natural light and stained glass windows. I am hopeful there may be a high school Mass on Sunday (later in the day) that might be offered to our student population. I see religion classes using the Chapel for contemplative prayer when the world has become too much. I also envision much more. I envision small weddings (maybe couples who met at Cardinal Newman), vow renewals, baptisms, and the offerings of other Sacraments that would be unique to our Cardinal Newman Alumni while they are home from college or visiting from another state. I hope to be one of the first Cardinal Newman Alumni to be offered a Mass in the Chapel next Christmas when I am home on break from college with a reception to follow in the SLC. I propose CN Alumni Masses to be offered four times per year with a reception to follow, and I would also like to propose that all former Cardinal Newman students would have the ability to use the Chapel (with proper request) for Sacraments such as marriage or baptism. I am also hopeful that we will one day have a choir that could perform in the Chapel and that Alumni and current students would be invited. I see our Chapel as a spiritual home not only day in and day out for the current students of Cardinal Newman but for all those who came before who are yearning for a place to seek comfort in the Lord and Saint John Henry Newman. The new Chapel at Cardinal Newman high school is the spiritual center of the school and I am deeply hopeful that it will be used daily.

The Student Learning Center. The possibilities in this space are endless. When I think of the SLC, I immediately think of the word “community”. This building came out of the ashes to give us a great sense of the community we have at Cardinal Newman High School. It is the hub of our community and almost every student passes through the SLC on a daily basis. In this building: we break bread together, we read, we engineer, we study, we tutor, we help each other,

we seek advice from Father Plass, college counselors, we receive behavioral readjustments, we live in this building. Through the SLC flows the excitement of our student life and with that comes much opportunity. I believe the lower floor of SLC has the ability to be used for more community events for both current families, students and alumni. I would love to see monthly events hosted in the SLC that all would be welcome to attend. These events would be community minded and not fundraising events per se. Events such as trivia nights, bingo nights, pasta feeds, taco bar, movie viewings, big game viewings, paint nights and other such community or “funraising” events would be hosted in the SLC in order to bring together current families and alumni in a space that offers community on a daily basis. I would also like to see student events hosted in the SLC after school from 2:30-3:00 during office hours. These could be simple concepts such as an ice cream social or learning a skill but this is the ideal space to bring people together. Upstairs, I believe the Engineering lab would be a fantastic place to offer alumni the opportunity to take a one night evening class where Mr. Farthing and his students teach a skill to the alumni of CN. Alumni did not have the opportunity to benefit from this stunning building and giving them the opportunity to come back and learn within the confines of the walls of this brand new structure would be quite an experience. In fact, there could be an alumni education series offered by a teacher and their students offered in the SLC for alumni to partake in. The Student Learning Center is a communal space for learning and community. It has become an integral part of being a Cardinal Newman student in 2024 and it is my hope that we can share this space with families and alumni much more in the near future.

The 200 classrooms. From the ashes of the portables came the 200 classrooms and they changed everything. The learning environment for the students of Cardinal Newman high school was instantly transformed when the new classrooms were opened and educational opportunities

were forever changed. Right now the classrooms are used for daily class offerings, advisories being hosted, tests being proctored and other academic endeavors but in the future I envision other potential possibilities for the 200 classrooms. First, I see the opportunity for a simultaneous advisory open classroom where each classroom is hosting a lecture series on a topic of the teachers choosing. These can range from a topic of pure interest to a topic of academics, like a Ted Talk of sorts. Students would sign up for the talk they wanted to attend and then find the classroom where their talk was located. Another possibility is to have students host talks in different classrooms along the same lines and have students follow the same protocol to sign up for the student they most wanted to attend. Another opportunity would be to have a 200 classroom open house where all teachers opened their doors to current students, families and alumni in order to show the work they have been doing during the second semester of the school year. This would bring people to the campus and allow all people to enjoy the work going on in the new classroom buildings. Please note, I would encourage all classrooms to be open for this open house and not just the new building. The last proposal I would like to make for the new classroom building would be for each grade level to host an educational series within the classrooms. For example, the Freshman might hold an educational series on science where each room hosts a different science topic that can be learned about. The Sophomore class might host history. The Junior Class might host Catholic Social teaching and the Senior Class would host their CBSL presentations in the new classroom building as the finale to these presentations. This would not only prepare current students for their CBSL boards their senior year but also provide an enriching educational culture where students are showcasing their knowledge in tangible ways. This could also extend into the alumni realm where we might offer a day of alumni

speakers in different classrooms and each student would then sign up for the alumni that most interests them.

From the ashes of the Tubbs fire came the possibilities of our present and our future. Three new buildings have been born of spiritual faith, patience, and devotion to our patron Saint, our students, and our families. The Chapel, the Student Learning Center and the new classroom buildings are a testament to community, faith, endurance, academics, and spirit. It is time that we utilize these structures in a manner that not only serves our current student body, but also serves the student body of those who walked the classrooms and corridors of the Cardinal Newman campus before us. It is time that we bring these buildings to life, a life lived in the service of others. These buildings were designed to be the spiritual, academic, and communal center of our school and it is time to let them truly rise from the ashes and serve their true purpose. It is time for these structures to bring us together in creative, spiritual and innovative ways.