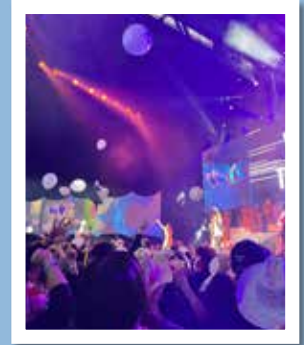
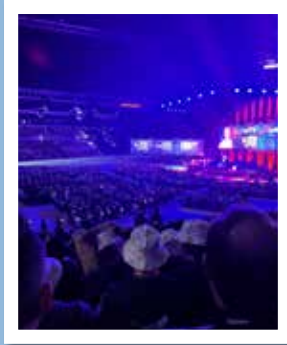


NEWMAN *Connection*

NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

Fully Alive... Thanks to Jesus and the Joes

AN NCYC REFLECTION BY OLIVIA FOX, CLASS OF 2025



As I sit down to write this reflection, I find myself contemplating the magnitude of my experience at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). The best way I can describe it is a feeling of being physically drained yet spiritually full; which means the conference met its goal, after all that was the conference's theme - Fully Alive.

This year's conference happened November 16-18 and as soon as I stepped into the Lucas Oil Stadium and For King and Country stepped on the stage, I knew I was in for something special. We heard testimonies from the emcees, Sr. Josephine Garrett and Steve Angrisano, and had a chance to attend breakout sessions with bishops, priests, deacons, sisters and devout laypeople who shared their faith journeys. From then on, my outlook on my faith and my life was changed for the better. Throughout the weekend, these speakers encouraged all of us to trust in His plans for our life and to choose joy. I even walked away with new favorite quotes that perhaps many should contemplate; "You are not a problem but rather a beautiful mystery to be explored," and "If you take this man [Jesus] seriously, he'll show you what to look for."

For many of us, one of our favorite parts of the NCYC experience included meeting and talking to other Catholic youth. Whether it was simply asking where someone was from, sharing about our faith, or trading crazy hats, bracelets, or clothespins (all NCYC traditions), meeting others that are in the same stage of life and that relate to everything we're going through was both fun and rewarding.

For many of the Newman Catholic students on the trip, there were two men who had the biggest impact on us, and both happened to be named Joe. Both Joes put faith in a new perspective and shared how they approached life and taught others about the Catholic faith.

The first Joe of the weekend was an upbeat Christian singer, Joe Melendrez. Joe approached Christian music in a way different from any other Christian artist. His motto and company, "God Swag", says it all. Being upbeat, fun, and a little crazy at times is exactly what 13,000 Catholic youth need to feel excited about their faith. Joe's cool demeanor and peppy songs make him loved by many, and what a special opportunity it was to speak with him directly. I think Joe Melendrez teaches an important lesson: that Jesus Christ

can be celebrated in a somewhat unconventional way that includes dancing and screaming lyrics at the top of your lungs.

The other Joe of the weekend was Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New York, Bishop Joseph Espallat. Bishop Joe offered the homily for the closing Mass, which was by far the most amazing Mass I've ever attended. Singing with a group of people that large was incredible but the best part was Bishop Joe's homily. It lasted for over a half hour, but I found myself wanting him to keep talking and for it not to end. He reminded us that Jesus had a sense of humor, and Bishop Joe was not afraid to let his sense of humor show. The most important thing he shared was that it is important for young members of the Catholic Church to have faith, have fun doing it, and find a community of friends and family to support you through it.

The biggest thing I took away from this amazing experience is that maybe we all need to approach faith like a child, or rather 13,000 children at NCYC. A little less structure and a little more out-of-the-box thinking, a little more dancing, and a whole lot more fun and all with an abundance of love for Jesus.



We Give Because We Believe



When parents choose a Newman Catholic Schools (NCS) education for their children, they do so because they believe in the power of an education embraced by the Catholic faith. An education that focuses on helping a child grow not only in knowledge but is guided by God's plan. This is the basis of Newman Catholic Schools' mission and why so many choose to support the system's goal.

Newman Catholic Schools is truly grateful to its benefactors who help to ensure Catholic education is a choice for the youth of our community. As a nonprofit organization, NCS relies on donor support to ensure students receive the best education possible. Donations received allow the system to continuously improve academic offerings, technology, facility needs, safety and security, and to support the social and emotional health of the students, faculty and staff.



Choosing to give to the NCS system is done for many reasons. Perhaps a donor's children or grandchildren attend one of the schools or the donor is part of our Catholic community and believe in a faith-based education, but the majority are alumni who want to give back to the schools that gave so much to them. One such donor, and one of the school's strongest supporters, Ron Klimisch, Class of 1959, wanted to offer a few words as to why he and his wife, Jan, choose to support the system:



"I have always believed one of the best gifts you can give a child is a good education and if you can encapsulate it in a Christian environment, all the better. Since joining the Finance Committee some nine years ago, it has been very rewarding to watch the transformation of the Newman Catholic Schools system. It is so much fun to be associated with an organization moving in a positive direction. There is still a lot of work to do, but good people are in place to get the job done. As recently as five years ago plans to start a "Classical" education option at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, a program to pay off the system's debt, major improvements in the athletic facilities on the High school campus would not have been possible. Today those projects and others are happening. It is fun to watch and be a part of."

There are many opportunities available to support Newman Catholic Schools. If you are interested in learning more about upcoming initiatives, please reach out to Sarah Keene, Director of Advancement & Alumni, at skeene@newmancatholicsschools.com.

Together we can ensure Newman Catholic Schools continues to move forward. We can show the students that we believe in them and their futures.

Growth Through Giving

Thanks to the generosity of many, Newman Catholic Schools was able to complete several capital projects over the last two years. Projects that improve academic offerings and help offer a safer and more comfortable learning environment.

- **HVAC Upgrades:** After almost 70 years, NCS replaced the boilers at Newman Catholic Middle & High School with an HVAC system that offers both heat and air conditioning to ensure students are comfortable, which allows them to focus better.
- **Innovation Center:** A space where Newman Catholic Middle & High School students can use technology to help bring their ideas and projects to life. Equipped with state of the art computers and 3D printers, the Innovation Center is designed to foster an environment of collaborative learning.
- **Safety & Security Upgrades:** On-going project at all NCS locations to add or replace security cameras, install security film on doors and windows, and replace doors and locks if needed, all to ensure student safety.

All three initiatives were 100% donor funded. The growth and success of Newman Catholic Schools is ensured with the help of those who believe in the mission.





Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Catholic Schools Week

January 28 - February 3, 2024

You're invited to join us for Mass on Wednesday, January 31 at 9:30am
in the Newman Catholic Middle & High School gymnasium

Witness the Difference at Newman Catholic Schools

Enroll for the 2024-2025 school year!

Registration begins February 1, 2024

Visit www.newmancatholicschools.com/enrollment to learn more!

Homecoming

The NCS community enjoyed homecoming with a week full of fun activities and celebrations. It was a blessing to have so many alumni celebrating with us.



Congratulations to the fall sports teams!



Volleyball - State Runner-Up

Congratulations on your successful season!



Football

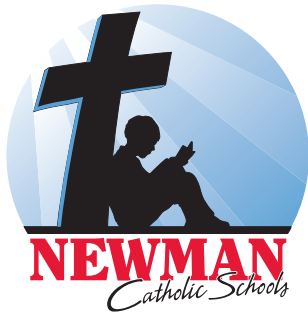


Tennis



Soccer

Congratulations to Coach Herdrich who was named Coach of the Year in the Great Northern Conference for tennis!



Newman Catholic Schools
1130 W Bridge Street
Wausau, WI 54401



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 648
Wausau, WI

Newman Catholic Schools Fosters Disciples of Christ Through

