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*New Building Proposals*

The devastating Tubbs Fire of 2017 that ravaged our home of Santa Rosa and most importantly our school was an absolute disaster that no one would have expected any institution no matter how strong that community might be to be able to bounce back from, but they didn't take into account the strength and the resilience of our community at Cardinal Newman. Not only were we able to bounce back from the destruction that the fire left in its wake, we were able to return stronger than ever. After receiving tens of millions of dollars in donations from distinguished members of our resilient community, Cardinal Newman was able to commission the construction of three new buildings, the new classrooms, the SLC, and finally the new on campus Cathedral that is still under construction. These new buildings offer students and faculty a multitude of opportunities and potential uses beyond their original intentions. This essay aims to explore the various possibilities for utilizing these brand new buildings not only as an educational resource but also as valuable resources for graduates and the broader community.

The new classroom building with its very modern design that won architectural competitions and ample space currently serves solely as an educational platform. However, its potential extends far beyond the traditional classroom setting. The first way in which you could make more use of the building is by simply expanding the resources available to students in that building, making even more use of its original purpose as an educational building. This would be in the form of interactive learning environments that incorporate new technology such as touchscreen displays, augmented reality, and virtual reality to take a deeper dive into whatever

the subject may be. These technologies can be used to create immersive experiences and simulations for the students, take virtual field trips, and make lectures much more interactive. This would help engage the students on another level because of how attached to technology they are and by introducing this it would bring that attachment into the classroom. Another idea would be to convert rooms into research labs where students could pursue independent research under the guidance of faculty members. This resembles the AP seminar class which allows students to do this very thing, but the difference is that here they can pursue whatever topic they so happen to choose without the strict parameters the College Board puts in place would be a tremendous benefit to the student. The last idea for the classroom building would be to introduce career based learning in the classrooms, allowing students to take classes geared towards whatever career they would like to enter beyond highschool or college. This would allow students to understand if they really want to enter that field and gain more experience in their chosen field of study.

The brand new Student Learning Center or SLC that is currently being used in a multitude of ways can be used in more innovative and inclusive ways to help enrich the academic and social lives of students. The first proposal would be to expand the cultural events that are currently being held once a semester to other cultures to help represent students of all ethnicities and hold these more often during advisory periods. This would not only entertain students but help boost their morale for the rest of the day especially for those whose culture is being actively represented and acknowledged by the school itself. Expanding these cultural events and holding them more frequently would contribute to a more vibrant and supportive school community. The second and final proposal would be to expand educational opportunities to the SLC as learning in an open environment such as that building would help to engage

students by exposing them to a new environment outside of the classroom. This is similar to the technological incorporation of classrooms as they both help to engage students and bring them outside of the classroom, which is such a valuable resource for an educational institution to have.

Finally, the Cathedral which is still currently being built can have many uses outside of just having services in it. The first way you could use the Cathedral outside of religious services would be to host spiritual retreats or meditation sessions in the building for students, faculty, or even host alumni. The second way the Cathedral could be used would be to use it as almost a homebase for Senior CBSL Projects and yearly service hours as this would further help students connect the service they are doing with the Catholic faith. The last way in which you could use it would be to utilize the Cathedral for all kinds of celebrations, helping students to realize the true Catholic meaning behind holidays such as Easter and Christmas.

By embracing the versatility of these spaces and tailoring their usage to the evolving needs of students, alumni, and the Cardinal Newman community as a whole, the institution can establish itself as almost a hub of learning, creativity, and social impact through service to the community. Through this strategic planning and collaborative efforts, the vision outlined in this essay can serve as a blueprint for maximizing the potential of all of the new buildings.