



Special Collections and University Archives

**Newman Center Collection
Manuscript Group 135**

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Last Modified April 18, 2019**

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Newman Center Collection, Manuscript Group 135
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Special Collections and University Archives
3 boxes; 3 linear feet

Historical Note

The first Newman Center was founded in the 1890s at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Newman Center Club was named for Cardinal John Henry Newman (February 21, 1801-August 11, 1890) who was a “scholar, educator, and friend of youth.” Newman Clubs began to spring up on many campuses as more and more Catholic students attended colleges and normal schools across the country. The Newman Clubs provided Catholic students with opportunities for Catholic centered social and educational growth. Since the number of Catholic students attending Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) began to grow, on Sunday, October 2, 1927, Father McNelis and Father James Brady and about one hundred Catholic students and faculty from ISNS gathered at Saint Bernard’s Church to organize a Newman Club. The Newman Club’s stated purpose was “to better acquaint Catholic students with the heritage of their religion and bind them together in friendship.”

The Newman Club grew with the College, and by 1948 the club was one of the leading religious organizations at Indiana State Teachers College (ISTC). The Newman Club held regular Communion breakfasts featuring spiritual speakers and held fall and spring outings at the College Lodge. In 1958, the Perfetti Noodle Company was purchased and converted to a temporary center through the efforts of Bishop Hugh Louis Lamb (October 6, 1890-December 8, 1959) the first Bishop of the Greensburg Diocese, college officials, and Father James Brady and Father James Miller of Saint Bernard’s Parish. Sometimes referred to as Saint James, the center opened for mass and community activities during the 1960-1961 school year. The mission of the new facility continued to be to “instill deeper appreciation of their common faith and opportunity of fellowship among students.” In addition to services and educational session, social activities such as “dances, sometimes chaperoned by cardboard monks and nuns” were held in the new hall. The first Newman Center became an integral part of the campus.

In the 1960s, the college’s enrollment continued to grow, and there was a clear need for larger, more permanent facilities. In December 1965-January 1966, Indiana State College (ISC) was officially designated Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and in May of the same year, ground was broken for a new Newman Center. The Vatican II style church was completed after Christmas in 1967. Bishop William G. Connare (December 11, 1911-June 12, 1995), Bishop of Greensburg, named the new center in Indiana, Pennsylvania, in honor of the martyred Saint Thomas More (February 7, 1478-July 6, 1535), and in 1969 Bishop Connare declared that the Newman Center was a “personal parish” with membership limited to IUP students and their families. For more than 50 years, the Church has offered students and the wider community opportunities for spiritual and intellectual development from a wide variety of classes on religious topics and the moral issues of the day. For the first three decades of its existence the Newman Center depended upon a subsidy from the Diocese, but by the end of the 1990s, it achieved independent status and welcomes all members of the community to join.

Scope and Content

This collection contains photographs and documents from the Newman Center at Indiana State College, which became Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Material is included that documents its first building, the building of the Newman Center in 1968 and religious and social life in the late 1960s through the 1980s. Also included are the constitution and by-laws of the St. Jerome Guild. The collection dates from 1968 to 1997.

Provenance

Unknown.

Restrictions

None.

Processor

Records rearranged and inventory rewritten by Special Collections.

Container List**Box 1 (7 folders)**

1. Constitution and By-Laws for St. Jerome Guild, Indiana, Pennsylvania, n.d.
2. The St. Jerome Guild, Collections of articles and newspaper pictures, scrapbook, 1970-1971
3. St. Jerome Guild, Newman Center-Indiana, established 1968, pictures and articles, scrapbook, 1968-1978
4. St. Jerome Guild, scrapbook, 1970-1971
5. St. Jerome Guild, Newman Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, scrapbook 1980-1981
6. St. Jerome Guild, Newman Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, yearbook/scrapbook, 1981-1982
7. St. Jerome Guild, Newman Center, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, scrapbook June 1989-May 1997

Box 2 (14 folders)

1. 1965-1967
 - a. Photographs: New Chapel planning; Ground-Breaking; Awards Banquet; Christmas; Halloween; Dr. Willis Pratt Ground-Breaking; Father Jerome with Francis O'Connor (Architect)
 - b. Newspaper Articles: "New Newman Chapel to be Built by 1967"; "Chapel Plans Continue"; "Newman Center blessing Sunday "Alumni Project"
 - c. Miscellaneous: Awards Banquet Invitation
2. 1968
 - a. Photographs: Finishing Touches; Dedication Mass;
 - b. Newspaper Articles: "Dedicate Newman Center," October 14, 1968; "Newman Center Dedication Set," October 12, 1968; "Newman Center Blessing Sunday"
 - c. Letters: Regarding Dedication of Chapel, October 2, 1968; "Decree" William G.

Connare, August 26, 1968, Bishop of Greensburg

3. 1968-1969
 - a. Photographs: Beatty-Wallam Wedding, August 21, 1968; Garry and Angel Wedding, June 15, 1968?; Gerald Nagen-Glenda Shaffer Wedding, August 23, 19669; Delegates to Province Council Meeting at Penn State, September 22, 1968; Parish Council, 1968-1969; Christmas 1968; Easter Week 1969 Altar of Reposition; Confirmation, Choir; Liturgical Arts; State Conference, 1969; miscellaneous photographs.
 - b. Newspaper Articles: "Oak Yearbook Photo"; "James Shillenn Birthday Party"; "Blessing of Throats"; "Erection of Christmas Creche"; "All Night Religious Experience Meeting"; "Al Coviello, Former President"; "Newman at IUP Observes 42nd Anniversary Thursday"; "Interdiocesan Council Meeting"; "Frances Russo Student Director of Traditional Choir"; "Traditional Choir"; "Student Folk Choir"; "Interfaith Dialogue"; "St. Jerome's Women's Guild" (Officers); "Church Committee Chosen"
 - c. Miscellaneous: Program Spring 1969; Newman Center Flyer; Newman Center "Features"
4. 1970-1971
 - a. Photographs: Weddings; Baptisms; Christmas 1970; Folk Choir; PA Newman Province, 1971;
 - b. Miscellaneous List of Baptisms: Mary Elaine Jacobs, February 14, 1971; Gretchen Ann Jesick, November 7, 1970; Carl Wayne Cessna III, November 22, 1970; Dawn Marie Schneider, March 28, 1971; Carolyn Marie Storm, February 8, 1970; Steven Alan Sadowski, February 21, 1970; Aaron Michael Risatite, April 12, 1970; Michael James Srsic, April 5, 1970; Carolyn Elizabeth Vaughn, May 1, 1971; Burnette Walz, March 28, 1971; Heather Yvonne Dixon, October 17, 1970; Jodi Michele Mill, November 21, 1970; William John Rudert, April 15, 1971;
 - c. Newspaper Articles: "Newly Elected Guild Officers"; "Dr. Thomas Conway, Co-Chairman of 1970 DED"; "Nursery School"; "Jill McGinn, Representative for National Newman Office"; "Liturgical Workshop (Siena College)"; "McGinn State Newman Chairman"; "IUP Delegates to State Newman Conference"; "Second Anniversary Feb. 4";
 - d. Posters/Flyers: "The Newman Center Needs You"
5. 1971
 - a. Photographs: Easter, 1971; Christmas, 1971
 - b. Articles: (missing) "Newman Center Features Girl Acolytes"; "Caroling at the Courthouse"
 - c. Miscellaneous: Newman Center Student Parish Council Members, September 1971; Volunteer Slip; Financial Statement; Activities Poster; Activities Schedule; "The Newman Center Spirit" Vol. 1 No. 1 and Vol. 1 No. 2
6. 1972
 - a. Photographs: Christmas Festival, December 9, 1972; Miscellaneous, 1972;
 - b. Posters/Flyers: The Catholic Church on Campus; "A Liturgical Festival" Announcement; COR Liturgical Festival Announcement; Students for Human Life; Students for Human Life Organizational Chart
 - c. Miscellaneous: Financial Statement, 1972; Letter Father Raymond J. Spatti to

- Catholic Student, August 1, 1972
7. 1973
 - a. Photographs: Palm Sunday; Miscellaneous; Liturgical Dance; March for Life (Harrisburg, PA); Chorus;
 - b. Miscellaneous: "IUP Newman Chorus to Sing in 3rd Annual Mary Festival" (article); COR "The Solemn Liturgy of Palm Sunday"; Parish Council List, 1973; COR, April 8, 1973, "Christopher Walker Chosen Outstanding PA Student"; Catholics Graduating from IUP, May 1973; Letter, April 19, 1973, "Dear Father" from Fr. Raymond J. Spatti; "We Believe—We're Involved" (Poster)
 8. 1973
 - a. Photographs: Christmas Experience
 - b. Miscellaneous: Collage; COR Flyer, December 1973; COR "Student Leaders Designated," September 23, 1973; Poster; COR, September 30, 1973, "Today's Liturgy"; Letter, January 22, 1974. "Dear Father" from Fr. Raymond J. Spatti
 9. 1974
 - a. Photographs: Children's Liturgy with Fr. Kish; Sister Suzanne; Miscellaneous, 1974;
 - b. Miscellaneous: (missing) "Newman Center Fosters Spiritual Development, Growth in Faith" article, February 15, 1973; Newsletter (2)
 10. 1974
 - a. Photographs: Christmas Experience; Miscellaneous
 - b. Miscellaneous: Graduating Catholics May 1974; Newman Parish Council, September 1974; Poster; COR "World Hunger," December 15, 1974; Newman Directory of Ministries Fall 1974; Letter, August 1974, Fr. Raymond J. Spatti
 11. 1974
 - a. Photographs: Palm Sunday; Student Activities; Christmas Experience (12/9/74);
 - b. Newspaper Articles: "IUP Students Feted"; "Harmony Sun"/"Folk Mass"
 - c. Posters/Flyers: "Religion is for Joy"; Spring Program/General Information
 12. 1975
 - a. Photographs: Christmas; Miscellaneous, 1974-1975
 - b. Posters/Flyers: 1975 Special Spring Programs; Informational Brochure
 13. 1975
 - a. Photographs: Fall Program; Staff;
 - b. Newspaper Article: "In addition to the dedication and blessing ceremonies..."
 - c. Posters/Flyers: Volunteer Card; Special Fall Programs (2); Staff Visitation Schedule for IUP Residence Halls;
 - d. Letters/Miscellaneous: COR, September 7, 1975, "Welcome New Staff"; Letter, August 1975, Fr. Raymond J. Spatti to Catholic Student
 14. *Newman News*, 1997

Box 3 (7 folders)

1. 1973-1974
 - a. Photographs: Christmas; Miscellaneous
2. 1975
 - a. Photographs: Music; Farm Workers Committee
 - b. Miscellaneous: "School of Theology Programs" (brochure): "April 18-19, 1975"

- 30-Hour Fast For Hunger” (brochure)
3. 1975
 - a. Photographs: May Picnic; Indiana Students & Townspeople Aid World Hunger
 - b. Newspaper Articles: “30-Hour Fast Nets Over \$7,000 for Starving,” May 1, 1975;
 - c. Miscellaneous: “Welcome New Staff”; “Newman Activities in High Gear this Week,” September 15, 1974; “Awards to be Presented to Outstanding Newman Seniors”
 4. 1980
 - a. Photographs: Sunday Noon Mass Singers Choir; Christmas; 30-Hour Fast
 - b. Miscellaneous
 5. Undated
 - a. Miscellaneous: Creed of the Newman Associate (Father Raymond J. Spatti); Composite Water Color Sketch (Frank Church, Architect)
 6. Undated
 - a. Photographs: Envelopes 1-22
 7. The 1999 Catholic Directory for Central and Western Pennsylvania
 8. 2018 Saint Thomas More University Parish, 50th Anniversary Video (DVD), and Invitation to 50th Anniversary, October 27, 2018 (DVD)