

# A Mission Option for Businesses

Steve Davies, Development Director

We are always looking for new ways to help people know more about the Newman Center and provide them ways in which they can offer their support. The newest program gives businesses a chance to use their marketing budgets to support our Newman



Center's mission of bringing Jesus Christ to all college students at UW-Platteville.

Businesses have four levels of support to choose from. Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum Sponsors will have tiered exposure on our website, social media, event t-shirts, banners and announcements at events, and the Augustinian to give them advertising exposure in exchange for their financial support. The revenue

generated from this will be funneled into our ministry programs and all support will directly benefit the students.

Contact our development team today to learn more and visit our website to download information and an application. Go to: <http://pioneercatholic.org/about/business-sponsors>

# Leah Darrow @ UWP

Alison Thompson, Student Ministry

From a runaway model to a role model within the Church, Leah Darrow has really set the stage for everyone to answer the call to holiness, no matter where you are or what you've done in your life. She is a shining example of God's mercy, love and compassion for each one of us. Leah's call to conversion was during a photo shoot and at her all time low. It was then that she had a vision of our Lord, Jesus Christ, telling her distinctly, "I made you for more." It was then that she left her pursuits of a modeling career and made her journey back home to the Faith. Leah leaves us all with a reminder that as sons and daughters of God we are so deeply loved and never forgotten. He, too, calls each and every one of us to more and to answer His call to Holiness. To learn more about Leah Darrow go to: <http://leahdarrow.com>

Leah Darrow (holding baby) with Newman students after her March 8 presentation



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# The Augustinian

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## Spring Storms in Ministry

Fr. John Del Priore, SJS

It's Spring time! What a wonderful time of year when the light and warmth of Spring arrives to alleviate the months of greyness and cold. Feelings of joy and contentment arise from the sole fact that it's thirty or forty degrees warmer. It reminds us that there is always hope and that good always wins out in the end, not just in superhero movies.

The ministry is going really great. We have an exceptional group of freshmen who are pushing what we call 'Operation Dorm Storm'. This is a long term plan to put bible studies in the dorms, but suddenly we find ourselves ahead of schedule and at a level where we never expected we would be at this point in time. Two more new bible studies started in the dorms just this week, lead by freshmen who are on fire for Christ and excited about spreading His Word.



Thank you for all your continued support; it is greatly appreciated. Without it we would never have been able to bring such an excellent speaker as Leah Darrow to our campus. Her talk was extraordinarily fruitful. She challenged men to respect and honor women and she spoke to all about what authentic love looks like. Afterwards, dozens of people talked to her and one girl decided she wanted to become Catholic and entered our RCIA program.

Please pray that the year continues to be so successful. The ministry staff is working extremely hard... (cont'd on page 3, FR. JOHN)



## The Crucial College Years

Fr. Daniel Schuster, Vocations Director, Diocese of Green Bay

"Reprinted with permission of 'The Compass', newspaper of the Diocese of Green Bay."

When I first arrived at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, I planned on only going to Mass occasionally. Far away at another university I had a close friend who was a devout Catholic and a faithful disciple. She was the reason I even considered going to Mass; I did not want to disappoint her. She challenged me to practice my faith. My faulty logic changed after the first three days at Drake. College was intimidating, I felt alone, and things were moving really fast all around me. Right when those feelings became almost overwhelming, I received an invitation in my mailbox from the local Catholic Newman Center, "Food and Fellowship at Five O'clock Sunday Nights." It was 4:55 p.m. when I found the invitation. I took my fear and my worry and I headed over to the church to see if it helped.

Fr. John was there. Sr. Carola was there. Seventy-five young adults were there. Jesus Christ was there. My life as a disciple began that night. Within two years, I was singing in the choir, going to daily Mass, making a regular confession, teaching third grade religious education and listening for a calling to the priesthood. Those college years were a crucial time for encountering Jesus Christ and hearing the call; a calling that came to me faintly in seventh grade, but had been forgotten. It almost did not happen because when I entered college... (cont'd on page 3, FR. SCHUSTER)



RSVP ASAP for  
**NEWMAN BANQUET**  
2017



Saturday,  
April 22, 2017  
5:30 p.m.

@Deer Valley Lodge  
Barneveld, WI



## A Good Kind of Problem to Have

*Steve Davies, Development Director*

It sounds cliché when people comment, “If the Lord brings you to it, then He’ll bring you through it.” However, I can vouch that it definitely holds true in seeking new and ongoing financial support for our ministry. It seems like we are almost always operating on a prayer to make it each month, and so far, Christ has been faithful in helping us in our mission for Him. The incredible programming here with its ever increasing popularity means that we have to continually look for new ways to generate the funding needed to keep things afloat. It is rarely easy and a very real day-to-day challenge for the development

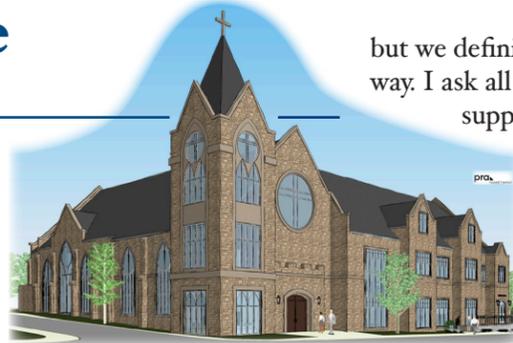
team, but we know that the Lord will provide what we need. That’s where all of you come in.

The Augustinian is now published three times per year and the checks you send after you receive it provide a vital lifeline of support to give our students a haven amidst a secular tidal wave of ideas and situations which constantly challenge their beliefs on nearly every aspect of their spiritual life. Our staff lives and breathes to try our best to provide a safe place for them to come to place themselves in Christ’s presence in order to process all of that. If everyone who reads this can send something to help us, then I am confident that the Lord will bless your gift many times over both for us as well as for you. I’ve seen it many times in my own life. We simply cannot out-give God and he is ever faithful to the stewards of his vineyard.

Our vision for the future Newman Center has been moving forward. One side effect of running a major capital campaign alongside trying to maintain and grow our annual ministry fund is that we have to continually add new donors if we are to provide for the basic needs of our ministry. The Augustinian is our primary direct outreach to alumni, parents, and friends of the ministry. It is a significant source of funding each year



**BUILDING CHRIST’S PRESENCE**  
ST. AUGUSTINE UNIVERSITY PARISH  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN, PLATTEVILLE



but we definitely need to increase the amount we receive in this way. I ask all of you who are reading this to prayerfully consider supporting us financially. If you have never given before, please consider how your gift can provide for a student in times of crisis, perhaps that student was you once... If you have given before, we are so grateful for your past help and ask you to continue to support us. If the Lord places it on your heart to increase your support, know that we will be good stewards of all that we are entrusted with to help our students grow in Christ through the ministry here.

Lastly, our Newman Banquet is coming up very quickly and because we moved it offsite, we need to give them numbers of guests much sooner than we’ve needed in the past. Please consider joining us in Barneveld at Deer Valley Lodge on April 22. **We need all RSVPs** in by the weekend of **April 7** in order to let the caterers properly plan. Come and enjoy a meal on us to witness more of the fruit of the ministry at St. Augustine!

*(FR. JOHN, from front page)* ...and they deserve a tremendous amount of praise. It was amazing to see how the students filled up our expanded Eucharistic Adoration spots this semester. We now have Adoration from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Tuesday to Friday and it felt like it took about 15 minutes to recruit people! Such a prayerful group of students is the fruit of all the ministry team’s work.

Thank you again for all the ways in which you support us. We are changing lives and working with the Holy Spirit to bring His light and peace onto the campus of UW-Platteville. God bless. ~ Fr. John

## My Road to the Seminary Went Through Platteville

*“Laser” Dave Nowicki, Junior, Civil Engineering, & President, Institute of Transportation Engineers*

I’m often reminded of my first week at UW-Platteville: I was excited to learn, ambitious, and certain that I would become a civil engineer in four years’ time. Then I met the students of St. Augustine. As a cradle Catholic, I knew the basic tenets of the faith and lived by them without many hiccups. St. Augustine challenged that mindset, encouraging me not to follow a set of rules but to initiate a real relationship with Christ. They wanted me to have what I sorely lacked: a complete surrender to God’s plan for me.

Now, suffice to say, God’s plan and mine were not aligned. I wanted to learn about infrastructure, not canon law! When people began telling me that I should consider the priesthood, I disregarded their suggestions. Impossible, I would tell myself. Why would God give you a love

for roads and buildings if He didn’t want you to become a civil engineer? I would rationalize my decision to live my own life to no end.

However, God doesn’t call us to be where we want to be. Instead, He calls us to be where we need to be; where we will be completely fulfilled as children of God, even if we don’t know what that calling is. And when we screw up or don’t follow His plan initially, not only does God give us another chance, but we get the opportunity to give Him another chance. Maybe I don’t know with full certainty that God is calling me to His priesthood, but He’s given me another chance to love and understand Him through St. Augustine. I might as well give Him a chance in seminary.



## SEEK 2017

*Natalie Elfering  
Freshman, Technology and  
Agriculture Education Major*



SEEK 2017 was an unforgettable spiritual adventure. This five day conference in San Antonio, TX provided me and the 13,000 other attendees with a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and, for many of us, an encounter with Jesus Christ.

My first semester in Platteville, from a spiritual stand-point, wasn’t at all where I wanted it to be. I still went to church every Sunday, bible study, and prayed on occasion, but I didn’t feel anything. I was just going through the motions. This Fall however, I was introduced to SEEK by my bible study leader, Emily Stanek, and I registered to go soon afterwards. This is by far the best decision I’ve ever made.

SEEK 2017 opened my mind to Jesus and His plan for me. I was also reminded of God’s unconditional love and forgiveness for all of us. On the last day of the conference as we were celebrating Mass, Jesus called me to start a bible study of my own. I told Emily about this encounter and she invited me into discipleship with her. Because of SEEK, my second semester in Platteville feels and looks much different. Through discipleship I have continued to experience Jesus on a daily basis in scripture, prayer, adoration, and through my peers. Emily has played a huge role in this process and I know I wouldn’t be where I am right now without her guidance or the heartfelt support of the Newman community. I can’t wait to see what else God has in store for me!



*(FR. SCHUSTER, from front page)* ...I was not yet a committed disciple. My experience is not that unique. Sr. Laura Zelten, the campus minister at UWGB, recently sent me a research article entitled, “The Impact of College Experiences on Vocational Discernment” <http://cara.georgetown.edu/Spring2016SpecialReport.pdf>. The survey report included 1,575 men who were in formation or are now recently ordained, and 883 women who are involved in religious life. These are people who attended college, not seminary or the convent, prior to discovering their calling. Although I cannot summarize the entire article, the statistics make strong points.

During the college years, young people meet Jesus Christ and find their vocation through the Mass, eucharistic adoration, retreats, spiritual direction, the rosary, service outreach, Liturgy of the Hours, Bible study and spending time with priests and religious. The data shows that 1 in 10 considered a vocation during their teen years, and then the idea was brought back to their attention during college. The rest did not start to think about their calling at all until they were invited to do so during the college years. Catholic colleges did better in every category in bringing forth vocations.

In light of all of this, I ran a few quick statistics... *For the rest of this article, please go to our website blog: <http://pioneeratholic.org/blog/crucial-college-years>*

## Equipped by Christ

*Sydney Kilcoin,  
Senior, Mechanical Engineering Major*



God brings very specific people into our lives at very specific times. This pertains to three groups of people in my faith journey, the Catholic Newman Community, the FOCUS missionaries, and the priests in Platteville. Through the sacraments, authentic friendship, servant leadership, and discipleship I have become more the woman God has called me to be.

Being invited into a community of people striving to become saints was the “hook” Christ used to pull me in. I was encouraged to become an officer, then invited into discipleship and asked to become a bible study leader, all harrowing tasks when the devil reminds you of how under qualified you are. Through my yes, I grew with the women God had called to lead me, until He had equipped me to lead others. Through it all, constant reception of the sacraments disposed me to receiving the graces I needed to transform my heart and priorities. I have practically learned one of the common threads throughout scripture, that Christ equips the unequipped. The challenges presented to me, as a Catholic, are no longer intimidating but exhilarating. Christ has equipped me to be sent out and all it required was the trust to follow Him.