

Laramie Newman 1950-1960
June 10, 1960

St. Paul's Chapel was erected as a parish September 1, 1959, with Reverend Father Charles F. Taylor, J.C. D., as its first pastor. The Very Reverend Frederick J. Kimmett officially installed Father Taylor on October 18, 1959.

The first trustees of the parish were His Excellency Hubert M. Newell, Monsignor Thomas F. O'Reilly, Reverend Charles F. Taylor, Dean David O'Day, and Dr. Michael J. Walsh.

In October 1959, the parish rectory at 1902 Garfield was purchased by the Diocese of Cheyenne. The apartment in Newman Hall was completed in November 1959.

A Baptismal Font was purchased in January 1960. A Repository for the Blessed Sacrament, to be used on Holy Thursday, was purchased in April 1960.

The illumination of the tower was completed in 1960.

Three outstanding speakers lectured at Newman Hall during 1959-60. They were Reverend John O'Brien, University of Notre Dame, Reverend Anthony Zimmerman, S.V.D., and Canon Francis J. Bartlett, Rector and Sub-Administrator of Westminster Cathedral, London, England.

His Excellency Bishop Newell gave a relic of St. Pius X to the parish in the fall of 1959.

A relic of the True Cross was obtained for the parish in April 1960.

One Minor Seminarian, Daniel James Walsh, son of Dr. and Mrs. Michael J. Walsh, represented the parish at the Pontifical College Josephinum at Worthington, Ohio.

[Signed] Alice Schiel
Historian

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University of Wyoming, St. Paul's Newman Center
The parish history for Saint Paul's Newman Center, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, for the years 1970 - 1980 follows:

When the decade opened in 1970, Dr. David O'Day and Dr. Francis Long were the parish trustees. Rev. Thomas Ogg was associate pastor at the Newman Center in those days. A Franciscan named Father Beltrami lived the academic year of 1969-1970 in the parish rectory and assisted in the parish also. During this year, Don Kany was hired as a financial advisor and accountant for the parish. Some new furniture for the Newman Hall was acquired during the year of 1971.

A full time parish secretary, Mrs. Sandy Aguilar, was hired in 1970. During the school year of 1971-1972, the parish hired two Dominican Sisters, Sister Mary Thoma and Sister Joanna, as part time help. The parish furnished their living quarters plus some allotment for food. The sisters are available for counseling. On February 21, 1971, the 50th anniversary of the University of Wyoming was celebrated with Very Rev. Francis J. Bartlett, Rectory of Westminster Cathedral in London, England, as principal speaker at a celebration. At that time, Rudy Anselmi was honored as being a member of the first Newman Club of 1921.

In September 1972, Rev. Joseph Fraher was assigned as pastor of St. Paul's Chapel. Mr. Don Kany was elected a parish trustee since Dr. Long was on sabbatical.

In 1973, Father Thomas Ogg was released to pursue doctoral studies, and Rev. John Hoodack was assigned to the Newman Center.

In 1974, Anton Munari and James Collins were elected parish trustees and Mr. Munari held that position until October 1, 1977, when Mrs. Lillian Zancanella was elected as parish trustee. She and James Collins still hold this position at this writing.

In August 1974, Father Fraher was reassigned as pastor in Riverton, and Father Daniel Colibraro was assigned as pastor of St. Paul's Chapel. During Father Colibraro's tenure, the chapel and Newman Hall were rejuvenated insofar as the furnace and storm windows were concerned.

In June 1975, Rev. William Gianola was assigned as pastor and is pastor as of this writing. In October 1975, Father Thomas Ogg was assigned to live in residence at the Newman Center rectory and to run the Diocesan Vocation office from the 1819 Garfield address. Father Ogg remained in this capacity in residence in Laramie until August 1979.

In February 1976, Father Marvin Hackman, a Maryknoll priest on loan, joined the Newman Center team and Sister Maureen McDonnell, a Dominican Sister from Sinsinawa, Wisconsin, joined him in September 1976. This began the first team ministry at the Newman Center. The Maryknoll community reassigned Father Hackman in June 1977, and since that time until this writing, there is only one priest on the Newman Center team. However, in August 1978, Sister Therese Steiner, a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, joined the campus ministry team and is still on the team at this writing. Sr. Maureen McDonnell left the team in June 1979.

In February 1978, the Newman Center acquired some property adjoining the present property (a vacant lot and residence for the sisters) and went statewide to raise the money. The Havey Corporation of Fundraisers from Milwaukee, Wisconsin was hired and a goal of \$150,000 was established. Also in 1975, a parish council was formed at the Newman Center. It consists of five students and four non-students, and meets monthly. Presidents have been Richard Fleck, Donald Adams, Joseph Robinson, Michael Horan, and John Rotellini. In September 1978, a Newman Center Development Office was established and continues to operate in order to raise additional funding for the parish operations.

At the time of this writing, the team and staff consist of a secretary, a sister, an alumni director, a music minister, a social ministry minister, and a peer minister. At this time, the parish is ministering to 145 parish

families and approximately 1800 Catholic students at the University of Wyoming.

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**St. Paul's Newman Center
Laramie
1990-2000**

Names of clergy and religious serving during the decade and dates of service.

Gary J. Ruzicka: November 1983 - July 1990

Father Roger W. Schmit, O.S.B.: July 1990 - current

Father Carl Gallinger: July 1996 - current

Sister Catrina Bones, SCL: August 1985 - June 1996

Sister Mary Beth Minges, SCL: August 1988 - June 1990

Sister Mary Frost, SDS August 1996 - June 1999

Brother Sebastian Allgaier, OSB: June 1998 - December 1998

Notable accomplishments by lay leaders and parishioners.

Joe Zenk came to St. Paul's Newman Center as Campus Minister in 1991 and has done an incredible job "growing" the campus ministry here at St. Paul's. Student participation has more than doubled and opportunities for student participation and development have multiplied also.

In 1999, Jenn Wood was hired part-time as our first professional youth minister. Jenn hold a Master's Degree in Theology and we are very proud and excited to be developing a strong youth ministry in our parish.

The establishment of Knights of Columbus college council The establishment in 1998 of Small Church Communities, led almost entirely by lay leaders The establishment of campus ministry intern, begun in 1998 The establishment of Resident SEARCH retreat for "older" parishioners in our parish. This was begun in 1995 and has thrived with lay leadership and shared ministry among resident members and student members.

Notable accomplishments by the clergy and religious

In 1999, Father Carl Gallinger joined others in establishing the Wyoming Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and serves as its first president. In October 1998, Father Roger Schmit, OSB led the parish Community and the local community to stand against the death penalty and urging us to learn from the tragic death of Matthew Shepard. St. Paul's Newman Center was the first to host a candle light service and continued (continues today) to take a leadership role against the death penalty, ministering to the marginalized (including perpetrators) and living the Gospel values even when very difficult and counter cultural. Under the leadership of Father Roger Schmit, OSB and Father Carl Gallinger, Liturgical awareness and practice has continued to grow to a level of excellence.

Construction - new or remodeling

Renovation of the Worship Space: To address the growing need to improve the worship environment, expand seating capacity and provide a more positive worship experience, St. Paul's Newman Center Parish made extensive plans to renovate the worship space.

A feasibility committee was formed in the fall of 1993 and this committee spent 5 months researching and gathering input from the parish. Their recommendations were presented to the Parish Pastoral Council in June of 1994. Renovation Executive Committee was formed in the fall of 1994. The committee made its recommendations to Bishop Hart in November 1994 and he approved the project. Formal Fund Raising Campaign was kicked off in April and bids were let out the end of May. The contract was awarded to Delta Construction of Laramie and construction began in July 1995.

Funding for the project included pledges and donations from parishioners, alumni, and parents of University students, "friends" of the Newman Center and a \$25,000 grant from the Catholic Extension Society. Loans in the amount of \$20,000 from Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, Worland, Wyoming and \$10,000 from Saint Mary Magdalene Parish, Evanston, Wyoming also assisted with the project. Total cost of the project was \$143,158.32.

The newly Remodeled Worship Space was dedicated on October 26, 1995.

Land acquisitions.

In July of 1999, St. Paul's Newman Center Parish entered into a Right of 1st Refusal agreement with the owners of property at 315 South 18th. Lawrence Michael and Lynn Cheesbrough were the owners.

Acquired a verbal agreement with Mrs. Linda Carr to be able to purchase the property, which she owns at 1813 Garfield.

Lay Trustees and term of service for each

John Jackson July 1990 - June 1992

Virginia Schilz July 1990 - June 1992

Stig Hallingbye July 1992 - June 1994

Anton Munari July 1992 - April 1994

Cheryl Bumett April 1994 - July 1994

Stig Hallingbye July 1994 - June 1998

Cheryl Bumett July 1994 - June 1998

Roger Baalman July 1998 - June 2000

Dennis Tschacher July 1998 - June 2000

Pastor's overview of the decade.

It has been one of constant growth. 10 years ago the Newman Center was much smaller than it is now. There were 189 resident households and 287 student households. Today, there are 432 resident households and there are 637 student households

This growth is both a symptom and a cause of continued liturgical renewal and new programs that have been added to our life as a parish community. Ten years ago we had 10 or 15 couples in Marriage Preparation. This semester alone we have 31 or 32 couples.

We have expanded the role of Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Worship Committee. They now meet on a regular monthly schedule and are depended upon for a great deal for advice and input. The trustees are

member of the Finance Council. Liturgical Awareness and practice has continued to grow to a level of excellence.

Everything that I have mentioned above came together 5 years ago when we, after two years of community discussion, renovated our place of worship. It was moved from a traditional style with the altar at one end of our worship space and pews in a traditional fashion to moving the altar to one side of our worship space and positioning the pews and chairs around the altar of the Word and the altar of the Eucharist. This move in itself talks about the growth and awareness of liturgy that was begun in earnest prior to this past decade. But has continued on through powerful fruition.

The staff has continued to grow in excellence. We have a layperson as pastoral associate for the first time. We now have a professional part-time youth minister. Both are highly qualified with Master Degrees in Theology.

Over the past ten years the University of Wyoming has depended increasingly on St. Paul's Newman Center, in particular, to provide a spiritual leadership and also to provide leadership during times of crises. This manifests itself especially during a time like the murder of Matthew Shepard in fall of 1998, and whenever a suicide or tragedy like that happens in our community. No matter what the faith of the persons involved, they call on St. Paul's Newman Center for direction and leadership.

The diocese has increased its financial support of St. Paul's Newman Center considerably over the past ten years. I believe this is a manifestation of the reliance on and respect for St. Paul's Newman Center.

The spirituality of the community seems to have grown. Participation and attendance at the liturgy is wholesome. We have Morning Prayer together. We have begun Small Church Communities. We have a men's discussion group. Our social action committees are very active. And the

Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council are already talking about the future expansion of our facilities as well as the future expansion of our pastoral ministry.

We have obtained a Right for 1st Refusal for the property located at 315 S 18th Street and are working on the same agreement for the property at 1823 Garfield. With the purchase of these properties the entire block between 18th and 19th Street and between Grand and Garfield would be property of the Diocese or St. Paul's Newman Center.

Significant parish events and programs.

Overall growth of all ministries, worship space remodel in 1995, Matthew Shepard murder in October 1998 and all the events that followed were campus ministry growth, youth ministry growth, and social justice issues, noted in other sections of this report.

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