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Title:

**About the
Author:**

Final Paper

St. John's Catholic Newman Center

When you walk towards the distant building, it feels like you are walking off campus into an entirely different community. The white painted window shutters and door stand out compared to the other buildings around. Over the entrance on the roof is balcony landscaped with a blooming garden. The building isn't gated, and you don't need some secret password only the very important people know; however, the entrance distant from the main street gives an unwelcoming feel. The residence hall is private, and I get the impression that I shouldn't be going in. Still, I open the door and head inside.

I head straight for a booth just like any other student who comes to eat after his or her last class of the day. Most students there don't realize that I don't live at Newman; however, they notice my unfamiliar face. There might be 600 students who live in this residence hall, but with the warm atmosphere and small community feel to these dorms they don't recognize me as an everyday visitor. As I pull out my notebook and pen sitting at my booth, I feel a little awkward. Those that sit by themselves at dinner in any dining hall are looked at negatively. Still, I set my bags down and go grab some grub. The flood of students wearing sports t-shirts, sweatpants, jeans, baseball caps, with messy up-does stand with

plastic trays and overused silverware and wait anxiously in line for the cook's special for the day. These students are dressed the same and have the same tired expressions as the students in the Six Pack. They have waited patiently for the cafeteria to serve dinner and the excited noises resemble those that are heard in the cafeteria I eat at every day.

First, I fixed myself a salad (controlling myself from spooning heaves of carb-filled ravioli with marinara onto my plate, a personal favorite). Then, I asked the staff member behind the bar to make a turkey sandwich for me. He wore a navy tee-shirt, and when he turned around to grab another loaf of bread, the word "STAFF" imprinted in white on the back of his tee-shirt was visible. His soft eyes and the scruff on the cheeks of his face gave away his young age.

Students walking ahead of me in line were engrossed by the conversation of their friends as they help themselves to the alternative dinner option for the day: spicy Buffalo wings with corn-on-the-cob and white rice. They also serve handmade cheese pizza and white-frosted carrot cake. Once you have visited a residence hall cafeteria, there is no question of how students are capable of gaining the "freshman fifteen". After filling my plastic cup at the fountain drinks area, I make my way towards my booth at the center of the room.

Only a few minutes passed before a familiar face greeted me at my booth. In her hot pink ISU sweatshirt and matching colored headband, Jill

Cole sat down to join me for dinner. She is a freshman who lives at Newman Hall. I have gotten to know Jill over the semester and she is one of the most considerate, fun-loving girls I've ever met. She always is willing to include everyone in dinner or weekend plans. Before coming to U of I, she assisted her mom in the special education classes at her high school. This girl always has a smile on her face; when she's talking or listening to a conversation she is always giving off a certain glow like her tan complexion. The glittery eye shadow outlining her eyes portrays her positive persona, which is simply contagious. Jill works at the Newman Illini Market several days a week and is pretty social around her dorm.

One of the most nonjudgmental people I have ever met, Jill described her roommate situation. The roommate situation is one thing all college students fear as they approach their freshman year. What are the chances they get paired up with someone they actually like? Her roommate is Catholic and attends Mass each week at Newman; she chose to live at Newman because of the religious affiliation to the dorms. Jill nonchalantly told me her roommate's favorite hobbies are looking at bugs under a microscope, taking care of her pet tarantula, and listening to her long-haired boyfriend play the guitar for her. She likes to go home a lot, but it's unclear if it's because she's not enjoying U of I or because she lives so close. One weekend after her roommate returned from a weekend at home, she brought Jill a plant as a souvenir. Now many college

students would hear the match up of the two roommates and feel horrible for Jill; they would think she has a weird roommate. Jill makes the most of their differences; the two of them don't have the most in common, but they are nice to each other. Jill says there are plenty of people at Newman that share common interests with her roommate, and Jill has many friends she gets along better with. She feels like Newman is sort of divided into two groups: there are a lot of residents who are very religious and take part in the activities provided by Newman, and there's a group that may or may not be Catholic but don't get as involved with the programs in the residence hall. She says it also seems like if you aren't in the group that gets involved through Newman, you're looked down upon. Still, she says those that don't participate in the dorm activities look at the group who does as not as cool as them, or outcasts. When I spent time at Newman, however, I didn't see the divide between the residents there in any way.

Although Jill likes living at Newman Hall, it wasn't her first choice. Originally she was assigned to the Florida Avenue Residence Hall, also known as FAR (for its lengthy distance from the center of campus). Since she didn't want to hitchhike to her classes every morning, she asked to be transferred to Newman. The reasonable price for such a great location and new facilities would be worth living at this Catholic affiliated dorm. Jill is not Catholic but still calls herself religious. She reads passages from the Bible on a regular basis. Now that she's on her

own she is trying to figure out how religion fits her.

It wasn't long after we started eating when some of her fellow Newman friends came to join us. Joe Rule, a freshman and resident of Newman Hall, carried over his tray of the buffalo wild wings and pasta. He looked like he had a rough day of classes with his golden spiky hair in disarray. His gangly body and goofy grin gave away his age. After Jill filled in Joe on our dinner conversation, he was more than happy to talk about Newman. Joe chose to live at Newman Hall because of the good price for the great facilities. The Catholic affiliation didn't weigh in too much to his choice. He said his parents raised him Catholic but he doesn't attend Mass at school and has sort of drifted away from practicing his faith.

Overhearing the conversation, Robert came up to the table to introduce himself. With a red striped zip up jacket and navy blue pants, Robert wore his gold necklace and white cabana hat like he owned the restaurant across the street. This overweight character made himself comfortable and agreed with Joe that Newman has an engaging environment. Jill excused herself from the table but informed me that Robert was the guy I should talk to if I wanted an interesting perspective on Newman.

“Oh, yeah? Why's that?” I asked.

“Just talk to the kid,” she said laughing with Joe as she walked away.

This fellow freshman looked like he had been around the block a few times for only being a first year student. The round face and pale complexion with his thick brimmed glasses made me think he was much older than a first-year student.

“So what have you been up to at school so far?” I asked Robert.

“I mean I am busy with homework as a political science major. But let’s be serious; I like to go to the Canopy Club, especially Tuesday nights to watch the Piano Man. I mean I wouldn’t call smoking a hobby, but I do like to go to the bars because I can get in being 19 and all.”

“Would anyone here at Newman come right out and say what you’re doing is wrong if they saw you?” I asked.

“No one here would outright say that, and even if they did I wouldn’t care. If they were selling green tee-shirts and everyone was buying them, I’d be the guy in the blue shirt and I wouldn’t give a crap,” Robert said proudly.

Robert seemed like he would do anything he could to go against the grain, but why is it so necessary for him to act differently than his neighbors?

“Are you Catholic? If not why’d you choose to live here?”

“No, I’m not but I like the spacious rooms and the excellent location. Plus, the meal plan comes with the living plan.”

“So do you like living here?”

“Hell, I chose to live here.”

Robert might have chosen to live at the Newman Center, but he’s not crazy about the Catholic affiliation to the dorm. He belongs to the Mennonite Church, which is prevalent where he’s from in Central Illinois. The Mennonites use a different Bible than the Catholic Church. There is no Virgin Mary and no Eucharist. This is also called reformation of the church where a different sector of Christianity is developed (CatholicReference.net). Robert may be faithful to his church by attending every Sunday, but you won’t find him at the Chapel on Armory anytime soon. He seems pretty set in his ways as far as religion and not willing to learn more about Catholicism. As he said, just because he lives in the Catholic affiliated dorm doesn’t mean he feels obligated to learn about a different church.

Jill’s friend, Ian McCloud, also a freshman, came to join us for dinner. Walking pretty slow to the booth having just woken up from a nap, he made his way over in a navy blue Trojans tee-shirt, white basketball shorts, and moccasins. Walking with a little lean in his step the

way basketball players walk onto the court like they own the stadium. He brought over a bowl of Chicken Noodle soup and a few slices of bread on his plastic tray. He wasn't planning on staying long, but he wanted to meet his suite mate, Joe, for a few minutes since he hadn't seen him all day. Ian's experience at Newman has been a pretty positive one. Although it's not the ideal place to meet girls and only four or five other guys are pledges at fraternities with him, he said it's a positive environment where people are very upbeat and friendly—almost too friendly. He said the affiliation with the Catholic Church definitely had an impact on his choice to live here.

“It's nice to live in the spacious rooms here and the dorm is right at the center of campus. Plus, I'm at Mass by 8:59 pm every Sunday; my momma would be proud!”

Still, there's a big difference between living with people who share the same morals as you and living with guys who remind you of the guys back at home. Ian said he chose those brothers from his pledge class and frat; he didn't choose to live with the other residents at Newman Hall. But didn't he just say he chose to live in a Catholic dorm? People are bonded by their faith in these dorms, but they're bonded by the brotherhood in the “Pikes” House. There's more diversity in the house: “there's a Jewish kid who's hilarious and just more interesting guys here. It's a good fucking time,” he said. Although he attends Mass once a week,

he finds more of a home at his fraternity house. He feels he chose the “brothers” in his pledge class- as if he didn’t choose his faith-it was something he was just born into.

Mark Regnerus is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at University of Texas, author of “Forbidden Fruit: Sex and Religion in the Lives of American Teenagers”, and co-author of “Religious Influences on Sensitive Self-Reported Behaviors: The Product of Social Desirability, Deceit, or Embarrassment?”. From his research, he has found that religion, measured in a variety of ways, appears to exert significant direct and indirect influence on a range of personal attitudes and behaviors among American teenagers. The same can be said for religious influences on the emotional and physical health and behaviors of American adults. Results showed that often times the more faith-based an individual is, the less likely they are to drink underage, use illegal substances, and/or have premarital sex (Regnerus).

People interpret religion and faith in many different ways; let’s be honest, everything is pretty debatable. With Catholicism, people follow the Bible as a way of living an upstanding, Catholic-induced lifestyle. To be a Catholic, you must agree to the teachings of the Bible and carry out the seven holy sacraments. The Roman Catholic Church is one of the Churches, or branches, under Christianity. It is the most followed Church; however, some believe Catholicism is just a set of rules. If you live according to the seven sacraments you are considered a Catholic. Other Christians believe it’s not about following these “rules”; Christianity’s about accepting and believing with your

heart.

Many people believe you are just born into the religion you are supposed to follow; it's provided for you, so there's no reason to investigate for yourself. Parents teach their children lessons of the religion they follow so automatically you believe it too. I spoke with a young woman who graduated from the University of Nebraska. She is spending the year at Newman as a missionary with seven other students. A missionary at U of I works with the Church and with college students to help them grow in their faith. They are there to preach the Gospel or help strengthen the faith already professed. Those that become missionaries have the desire to extend the Kingdom of Christ by preaching, teaching, or other means of evangelization (CatholicReference.net).

About 5'5, smaller in size, with deep brown eyes, she kept very strong contact with mine. The intensity of her gaze was a little distracting. She believes that religion is something you have to figure out for yourself. A major reason why she became a missionary at a University was because she loves to learn and watch how God works in young people's lives. She called herself a "cradled Catholic". She was brought up Catholic. Although she went to Mass with her family every Sunday and has followed the blessed sacraments, she barely read the Bible or understood the need in witnessing. When she went through particularly hard times she would take her Bible off the shelf, wipe the dust off of it, open it to a random page, and point to a verse to see what God's words of advice were for her. She went to college and still went to Mass but didn't know why she was going when her parents weren't forcing her. She questioned why anyone would go at all. One day she started paying more attention to the lessons preached. She listened more and more each week and it came to her. In college she actually made Catholicism her own; she wasn't just living with God as a small part of her life because her parents brought her up that way. When Amanda was younger, she knew who Jesus and Mary were and acknowledged them, but now, she feels like they are her best friends. At Newman she spends time with students at small and large groups. She

works with a group called FOCUS Fellowship of Catholic University Students. FOCUS is a national outreach to college campuses, to secular and Catholic schools. Through small group Bible studies, large group leadership training, and one-on-one discipleship, FOCUS brings the fullness of life and truth in the Catholic Church to college students and gives the tools to help them share this good news with their friends (FOCUS Vision for Life). She plays ping pong and foosball with students in the main lobby whenever she gets the chance. She said a lot of students here say they live in a Catholic dorm or that they are Catholic, but they don't really know what that means. Still, she loves getting to witness young people's journeys in college and watch them grow in their faith.

Amanda thought it was very cool that I was investigating as a freshman in college. I explained how my grandparents on my dad's side are Catholic and raised their children to be Catholic, but my mom was raised Jewish. My parents married each other, and while it was a big deal to their parents that they were marrying people of different faiths, my parents didn't see the need to raise their daughters in a religious home. With that said, my family celebrates the "fun" holidays: Christmas and Hanukkah but that's about it. Within the past year I have become very interested in religion, especially Christianity. By the summer, I was attending church on a consistent basis. A friend of mine, who was helping me on my quest, is very into his faith. He is a freshman at Wheaton College, a small, private, Christian school in Wheaton, Illinois. We attended an Evangelical Church together, and he would explain to me his doubt in the "truth" behind Catholicism. Still, I am in the process of figuring things out for myself. In the mean time, I am absorbing as much culture and history as I possibly can.

Sister Sarah Roy clearly shares the same passion Amanda does in witnessing to young people's journeys through their college experience. She was a little bit older, in her fifties I would say, very friendly and had a very gentle, motherly appeal to her. She is one of the two full-time Franciscan Sisters who works with the six full-time Priests. She takes a lot of pride in the students involvement with

retreats and small group sessions. One particular retreat many students take advantage of is the Koinonia Retreat. The word "Koinonia" is the Greek word for "Community," a concept that was very evident in the faith of the early Church. Newman really emphasizes the word "community"; staff members want everyone to find this residence hall as a second home. The weekend experience is based on the Paschal mystery of the Lord Jesus, His Life, Death, and Resurrection through talks, discussions, reflections, prayer, and celebrations (St. John's Catholic Newman Center). Students can also get involved through small Bible group studies where Newman residents meet and discuss passages. Students don't have to be Catholic to get involved. In fact, you are encouraged (but not pressured) to test out the waters, so to speak. Some of the leaders of the Bible studies are members of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) or Resident Advisors in the dorm.

One Friday night I met a few senior RA's for dinner. I met them at the usual time and headed for the line of food. Students seemed particularly joyful on the first night to their weekend. They seemed to enjoy the company of their friends after a long day's worth of classes. At one table was a group of guys dressed in basketball shorts, high school sports t-shirts, and backward-facing baseball caps. Two of the guys stood up to make an impression of a professor's mannerisms from earlier in the day. On the other side of the ledge next to my booth there were several young-looking girls very involved in their conversation. They were sharing their experiences from the weekend's trip home to visit their families. Besides the modern-styled furniture and food-court formatted cafeteria, the people eating didn't seem to convey many differences compared to the students at the Six Pack or ISR. Most of the

underclassmen eating at dinner don't reveal any sort of religious beliefs or heritage at first glance; occasionally, students were seen wearing retreat or church logos on their t-shirts, but students aren't dressed in any sort of uniform that might give away their religious backgrounds. Still, I haven't gone to the Gregory Dining Hall and noticed Sisters and Priests enjoying a pleasant conversation and eating dinner like the ones that were sitting about 20 feet away while at Newman. The faculty might not be going up to students and sharing the gospel to residents at meal times; however, they make their presence known by easily being identified in their robes.

I sat down at a round table where the three seniors were seated. I began by saying my name and why I was at Newman on this particularly brisk evening, and they all introduced themselves. One of them was Patrick Bailey. We got to talking about why, as seniors, they were still living at Newman. Patrick wanted to live in this community because it is a "great arena for growth. People are always challenging you in faith, in human formation, intellectually, and morally."

"Originally I wanted to live here because it was a Catholic residence hall. I wanted to be an RA to get more involved here; you invest more in people's lives." He seemed very confident and composed-proud of what he has accomplished at U of I. He wore a U of I grey sweatshirt and navy Adidas sweatpants.

"How has faith affected your lifestyle in college?" I asked.

"It's the basis for all decisions I make. Let's say I am tempted to cheat on a test, faith keeps me from doing the wrong thing."

"At Newman, there's good quality people here and proud to share their faith. You'll have the best conversations here; they go deeper than the surface. You want to know

people that know more about you than just your name as you pass people in the hall. People consider this hall as a 'Catholic Disneyland' and 'living in a bubble' but you are challenged always.

"No one wants to be just a number at a big school. One way of making the school feel smaller is by going Greek. People at Newman identify with their residence hall because they share their faith with these people too. It's another form of community where they can know familiar faces all over campus."

Patrick is a poster child for the Newman Residence Hall. Father Greg Ketcham would be very proud to hear his experience at Newman. Father Ketcham, the Head Chaplain at the St. John's Catholic Newman Center takes great pride in developing students willing to learn and grow under his wing.

"[The atmosphere] is always just good hearted; it seems like a good spirit; it seems like a wholesome environment. I was just in the cafeteria the night before last, and it was a great evening. They were having an apple pie eating contest, one of the activities the RA's put together homecoming week.

The students here do a good job of witnessing to their faith just being helpful people, being joyful people, being people of service, being people of prayer. We often preach, there is a quote from St. John's is a quote from St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis said preach the Gospel always, when necessary use words. So we really believe that our actions speak louder than our words. It's not uncommon, there's a group everyday at 10 pm who gathers and they walk around campus praying the rosary. Students are involved with all different types of worship here, whether it be Praise and Worship Night or attending one of the three masses a day. We have 25 different Bible studies. Many students are involved with our service and justice outreach program, which is a great witness to see a college student giving themselves in that way. There's a lot of hope for the future when you witness these young people. The majority [of our students] are going into careers like engineering and medicine, and their also

transforming the parishes that they belong to when they got out into the real world so to speak. They're entering into solid marriages, becoming solid parents."

When meeting with Father Greg Ketcham, I got an inside peek at a room many students are too afraid to check out. Father Ketcham's office is relative large. On the hat rack just to the right of the entrance hung the white garb, the Father wears to Mass. To the left of the entrance is a large, mahogany desk with a blue leather chair made for a king. On the other side of the desk were two relatively large cushioned chairs for the Father's visitors. Next to the desk were shelves filled with different versions of the Bible and other text referenced to the Bible or Catholicism. On the decorated wall behind the Priest's desk were framed pictures of the Pope in the Vatican and a few pictures with him and other priests. On the far side of the room was a smaller table that resembled a night stand with two smaller chairs on either side; on the table was a magazine with the Pope on the cover. Surprisingly, rather than sitting at the main desk, Father Ketcham pointed at these two smaller chairs to take a seat in so we could have a more casual conversation.

"This center is not just for the Newman Center Hall students but for the entire Catholic community and other friends who wish to take part in our programs of the entire University. I can name a number of students right off the top of my head that, other than their classes, they spend the entire day here and they just sleep in their dorm. Although we have our ups and downs like everybody, it's not a zoo here as I hear from other students that the dorms can be like a zoo."

One reason why the students at Newman Center might be more contained in the dorms is there are 27 full-time employees for the one residence hall (University of Illinois Private Certified Housing) compared to the 35 full-time employees in charge of eight residence halls (University Housing). With 600 residents at Newman, there's a much more authoritative atmosphere at Newman than at the public dorms at U of I.

“[There are about] 43,000 people on campus and somewhere between ten and twelve thousand are Catholic. We see about 5,500 students yearly who are involved in some type of program that we have here at St. John's. We believe we're seeing about half the Catholic students here on campus, but our goal is with our pastoral staff to continue to think about ways and brainstorm about how we can get in front of every Catholic student on campus. The word “Chaplaincy” means literally to accompany; we literally believe that the Chaplaincy of St. John's Catholic Newman Center is to accompany students on their spiritual journey in college or Graduate School.”

The representation of Catholics at the University of Illinois is a small model for our country as a whole. In 2008, 22 percent of the United States population is Catholic. While this number represents over a fifth of the population, the Catholic population is steadily decreasing from 24 percent in 1965 (CARA). This must be one reason why Catholic bishops are implementing more resources for Catholic campus ministries at secular universities. According to Father Greg Ketcham, other schools around the country are still interested in formulating a similar set up at their own institution. Schools such as Vanderbilt University, Michigan State University, Arizona State University, University of Nebraska, and Texas A&M University are all in contact with Father Ketcham in order to form such a

strong Catholic community on their campuses as well.

“Still, we always make sure here at St. John’s that there is a distinction between evangelizing and pastoralizing. Even our late pope, John Paul the Second said that pastoralizing is sinful. If a student comes up and wants to know about the Catholic faith, we’re right there to share our good news about what it’s about it. But to go up to someone, for example, who is Methodist, who is happy with the Methodist faith and try to pull the carpet from underneath them by trying to attack their Methodist faith, what we may believe may be wrong about that faith, we believe that’s wrong and sinful to do. In fact, we’re just shy of 20 percent of the students at Newman Hall who are non-Catholic, and we certainly embrace that.

We are the only Catholic Newman Center in the country that has our own residence hall. As a Catholic church, [we believe] that this may be an instrument that could change the way that Catholicism is going to look in the future. Well, why is that? Of the 5.5 million Catholic college students in our country, only 500,000 are at a Catholic college or university, so the vast majority of our Catholic college students are at non-Catholic colleges and universities, and the church has always gone where the people are. Our bishops have kind of woken up to this and they’re adding more resources into their Catholic campus ministries at secular universities.”

Maybe not all the students at the Newman Center take full advantage of living in this Catholic affiliated dorm, however, the private housing here certainly offers a place for students to grow and learn about themselves in a positive environment. It provides the resources needed and welcomes anyone interested in becoming more acquainted with the Catholic community on campus. Like

all establishments, we can't exactly call Newman perfect. It has had its ups and downs with staff members and students. Just this past fall, one of the priests faced criminal charges for allegedly selling and using cocaine in the Newman Center office and at his nearby home (Catholic News Agency). The Chaplaincy at Newman obviously wants to move past this seeing as it does not look good for the church here in Champaign or the Catholic Church as a whole.

This semester we were asked to embed ourselves into a subculture on campus. The subculture I chose was the residents at the Newman Center. I can honestly say that I failed at choosing a subculture for this project. Through observation, experience, research, and analysis, I found that the St. John's Catholic Newman Center is not a subculture, it is a community. It is a place where many students live and grow in their Catholic faith. It is a center full of resources for students to learn more about themselves in a positive environment. Not all students identify themselves with the affiliation to the church, however. They find Newman's great facilities and location on campus appealing to their residential needs. Some students don't like to associate themselves with the church whatsoever; they see the dorm as merely a place to sleep at night. While students have different overall views of this Catholic dorm, we can't completely discredit it. Father Greg Ketcham and his faculty are constantly working to make Newman a Catholic enriched environment while still making those of different faiths feel comfortable in their surroundings. They must be doing a good job of it if other universities across the country are looking at U of I's Newman Center as a model for future residential projects. While I may have failed at the original assignment, I submerged myself into a community where I learned much more about Catholicism and the effects of a religious affiliated dorm at a secular institution.

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Abstract:

Proposal

The subculture that I wish to embed myself in this semester is the residents of Newman Hall. Newman Hall is affiliated with the St. John's Catholic Church at the University of Illinois. This private residence hall is on East Armory Avenue located in the middle of campus and connected to the church. The hall provides students with a full-time staff of priests, sisters, and lay staff to create a faith-filled college experience.

I want to research this community, understand the culture, and befriend the students at Newman Hall. I want to learn what specific reasons students chose to live in this dorm over others on campus. I want to observe the students and their interactions with the staff in the Newman Center. I also want to know what kind of effect this living situation has on their experience at the University of Illinois. Lastly, I want to learn more about Catholicism and what this faith has to offer the outsider looking in.

Over the next couple of months, I will spend a lot of time in the

Newman Hall. It will be convenient that I live relatively close to these dorms; however, because it's private, it might be difficult to access some of the resources in the hall. I can spend free time during the week and on weekends in this area as well.

I will observe students in the main lounge in the residence halls (as long as I'm approved). I can attend weekly prayer sessions, church, and other daily meetings with residents and staff.

I'm interested in the religion Catholicism and how the Newman Hall serves as a means for college students to live a positive, faith-based lifestyle at U of I. I have extended family members who are Catholics, but I have my own preconceived ideas about their faith. I want to gain a greater understanding of the religion and students who make it a part of their everyday lives.

"Bringing my Baggage Out of the Closet" 9.12.08

For the next semester, Newman Hall will be my new home. I will spend a lot of time in this community getting to know the residents and staff members. Newman Hall is affiliated with St. John's Catholic Church. Before I explain some background information on the Newman Center, let me first share why I want to embed myself into this subculture.

There are thousands of stories, experiences, and people who have made me who I am today. Two very important people in my life are my parents. Before moving into the dorms roughly three weeks ago, I lived with my mom, dad, older sister, younger sister, and dog. My parents have always been authoritative figures to me but are loving parents. I am very privileged, but I still work hard. I have learned how to be respectful, open-minded, and genuine to others through my parents' actions.

I am very European: my grandparents are from Italy, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Czechoslovakia. My dad's parents were raised Catholic while my mom's parents are Jewish. So, in 1982, when my parents announced their engagement, my grandparents didn't exactly welcome each other into their homes with their arms wide open. Still, everything seemed to work itself out.

Now, you might be wondering what religion I practice. How did my sisters and I end up? Well, my parents came from religious families, but they never found it that important to make Catholicism or Judaism a part of their children's lives. We celebrate several of the major holidays, but we certainly don't practice either of these faiths religiously.

Many people my age think I'm lucky my parents didn't drag me to church when I was little or send me to CCD class every Monday night. But now that I am eighteen years old and starting the beginning of a new chapter in my life, I've become increasingly more curious about religion and what it has to offer. We live in a society where 'things' make us happy. We think we don't need religion as a source of comfort because we have everything at our disposal. But if we look at the people we idolize the most, those who have literally everything they could ask for—celebrities—we see that with all the fame and fortune in the world, they still aren't happy. The regions in the world where Christianity is most prevalent are in Africa, Asia, and other developing countries. Is this true

because they don't have the same lifestyles we do and need something more than life on earth to keep them going each day? Who are we to decide?

On this quest towards 'the truth', I met someone who has made Christianity a major part of his life. He taught me a lot about the stories of the bible, took me to church several times, and continues to share his knowledge with me. One thing he has shared with me, however, is his doubtfulness of Catholicism. He believes that Catholics are a much more lenient branch off of Christianity and questions whether or not Catholics can consider themselves Christians. Because I respect his beliefs and opinions on major issues, this has definitely formed a negative perception of Catholicism for me. *Still, by putting my opinions and experiences aside, I hope to find a community of individuals at Newman Hall who share a common lifestyle that involves Catholicism and gain a deeper understanding of how religion can impact our lives today.*

With all of this in mind, I must force myself to have an open mind. I have heard some facts and rumors about the Newman Hall since I arrived on campus. Newman Hall is the largest and strongest community on campus. Like I said, they are connected with the St. John's Catholic Church. Newman is a private dorm on campus. One side of the dorms has just been renovated, and supposedly, they have really good food! I have also heard that there are two groups that have sort of formed in these

dorms. There are students that are very conservative and there are 'hardcore partiers'. Even though it is considered a Catholic dorm, you don't have to be Catholic to live there.

Another thing I must keep in mind is that even though I am not a Catholic and have parents who have different values compared to those of the residents, they are still college students just like me. These students chose the same Big Ten University as I did, are just as highly motivated students as I am, want to get a good college education, and want to graduate with a degree and a job.

Although this is one group of students who identify with their residence hall, I need to realize that all of these students have different stories, backgrounds, and experiences. I need to be careful of generalizing and make clear observations and analysis of this subculture.

I don't know exactly what to expect. I do have a pretty good understanding of Christianity but I don't know too much about Catholicism. Not only will I ask the residents about their views on Catholicism but I must research the denomination to have a clearer picture of where these students are coming from. I also want to meet and interview some staff members at the site. There is a full time staff of priests and nuns, and I think that by talking to people with all different roles in the Newman Hall, I can come at this project from several different angles. I want to spend time in the main lobby of the dorm where students

eat and relax during free hours. I think it would also be nice to spend some time in the church or small group sessions to see how these residents practice their faith while at the University.

Initial Exercises:

Notes on Fieldsite 9.18

walk into main lobby, outside of building brick, looks like any other building on campus, ramp-small incline, caution sign for wheel chairs, clean smell, airconditioning on high, similar to food court at mall, several food choices, red tape for lines, tables set up for four to five, long tables of ten to twelve, booths, 15-20 students studying-all caucasian, some students gathered, socializing, one black man sweeping, some students paired in twos, tables, chairs charcoal, carpeting black, grey, red, orange, yellow squares, set of extra high-chairs in corner, walls are painted white, grey, beige, opaque, ever table clean, not touched, not lived in, surroundings pretty quiet, not very active, glass off socializing room for ping pong, tables, chairs, couches, very comfortable living conditions, not old or outdated, kind of boring, no livelihood, where is everyone? half used ketchup bottle, salt, and pepper shaker at the table I am sitting at-- show signs of people eating here. One old man-- white hair balding, sort of limp and arch of the back passes by twice, sits down at one of the tables. group of four or five walk in with backpacks, cellphones drinks from coffee shops, four to five more students walk in two with yellow visors. One guy with yellow visor stops, strays off from the group to talk to the old man. Barely can hear the conversation but younger student asks where he lives. I overhear them talking about politics and McCain-- old man talks about Jews who died; they talk about the war old man says we shouldn't be in the war. young student kind of iron position talks about warfare tactics. They reference the catholic church, getting in trouble with O'Bama. the words marriage and the church come up in the same conversation. Female adult walks in long, grey skirt, black zip-up-conservatively dressed, the two mention how catholic church gets a lot of media attention. I wonder why that is? Priest walks by slowly, dressed in all black smiles at me. Two guys in the food court area dressed in their white uniform to work-african american.

Field Notes 10.1

Dinner at 545 at Newman Hall. Quieter, less people in line, in seating

area. casually dressed students, t-shirts, jeans, nike sweats, shorts, bright colored hoodies. One Indian student, second time I've noticed he likes "to float", skinny, black hair, thick glasses, similar to Steve Irwin in mannerisms. Came up to the booth I was sitting at with another student towards the end of my visit. I stayed there for over two and a half hours talking with three different students in particular. Three nuns left building together. I knew they were nuns by the black and white attire. One of them had the shawl over her head (I need to look up what that's called). Two African American children came into the cafeteria in school uniform type outfits; they were probably 5 years old; maybe children of a staff member.

Joe Michael Rule; caucasian, red zip up, light faded jeans-nicely fitted--not showing his boxers or anything; short blonde hair--looked like he just rolled out of bed, blue eyes, skinny, 5'11ish, shorts.

Freshman-civil engineering-19 years old. How do you like living at Newman? "I'm a big fan. The rooms are spacious. I live in a suite with three other guys." Friendly atmosphere. Went Random roommate. How did the fact that Newman is affiliated with the catholic church impact your living arrangements? It didn't play a role in choosing to live here. New Facility and good price. Doesn't go to chapel. Seemed very hesitant about saying he didn't go to church. Changed his body position by leaning in a different way. They have focus groups, classes and speakers. There's a dating speaker within the context of religion. A lot of programs about groups. Newman dodgeball/floor meetings. Gets information through emails all the time. Almost seemed annoyed by all the emails. Doesn't feel pressured to act a certain way when living there. Mom was religious, went to church as a kid but stopped going. Didn't have to be religious to have morals kind of dropped it. Does not consider himself catholic. Understood that it was affiliated with the church. Liked it the most for the money. Compared to other dorms there's a big difference; it's more private here. Can you tell that there are students who are religious here? How? A lot of people signing the cross before they eat, people go off to church on Sundays at 9 pm. They don't dress up too nicely. Jeans, not dressed up, but not sweats. His roommate goes to church. Priests and Nuns make themselves available at lunch and in their office. What do you do in your free time? studying for classes, watch the news, goes to the ARC, on the weekends goes to the bars and frat parties, goes out with friends.

Wants to go by Ian McCloud. freshman-business engineering- 18 years old. Short brown hair, glasses, very

tired, just woke up, blood shot eyes, often grabbed napkins for kleenex, coughed incessantly. Navy blue trojans soccer, white basketball shorts, illinois keychain hanging out of side pocket, brown mocasins, eating soup, salad, some corn. 5'11. a little more meat to him, not overweight. Held himself up--confident.

The fact that it was affiliated with the catholic church definitely had an impact on wanting to live there. Goes to church every sunday and is there by 8:59 pm. Very boystful (sp?) about that as if his momma would be proud. Goes to church by choice and by himself. Went to a public high school. His parents didn't want him to be sheltered. He's glad they did that for him. Had to go to religious education classes from first to sophomore year. Interesting choice of words "had to". confirmation-decide what you want to do-stay with the church or not. seven sacrements-baptism-signifies you're becoming part of the church. some parents have their babies go through this process. other parents wait to have them baptized. It's the way of showing you're part of the church. communion, reconciliation, confirmation, holy matrimony, last rights--on death bed, holy orders--for priests. most people only do six of them. they have prayer groups, paintball, canoe trips, renting out the arc. Very friendly atmosphere. Almost too friendly, no fighting, don't get loud, everyone seems to be positive, everyone seems to know everyone. there are 600 residents. he knows about 20 people there. Older students live there-not all freshmen. It seems like half of the upperclassmen live there because of their faith. knows sophomores who live there aren't necessarily religious. people are down to earth. not as good to meet girls. The guys around called him a "social guy". Is pledging to be in the pikes fraternity. There's a huge difference between living at a frat and living at newman. He said people choose to live at the frat and are bonded by the fact that they want to be in that house. I questioned him asking him didn't he choose to live at newman partially because of his faith. People are bonded by faith. More diversity in the House. A jew who's hilarious. more interesting guys. A good fucking time. more people pledge from six pack compared to newman.

Probably four or five guys pledge from newman.

Third guy wants to go by a different name. 19 years old. Caucasian, overweight, wears a cabana hat, and gold necklace. Red jacket. black thick horizontal line through the middle, small white nike swoosh on front. Thin eyes when he smiles. Very outgoing and seems very content with himself. Supposedly the guy to talk to who has an interesting perspective on newman.

Freshman-political science-How do you know people are religious around here? Some wear miraculous medals, medal of Mary, shirts from retreat. There's merchandise sold in the Illini Market that say Catholic Newman Center. He has no problem with it being Catholic. "Hell, I chose to live here." Hesitated but says he likes living here. More living space, meal plan is included in rent. Location so close to Quad and Green. Get to know a lot of people-- seems like more than just a dorm but a community. much more homey feel. Has friends that live there. went out for a friends birthday to legends to eat and then canopy club. On free time, drinks, it's all about the college experience, goes to frats, is 19 so he can get in the bars. He smokes and bets too. No one would come out and say it's wrong to drink. I asked him if when he comes back late at night does he get the vibe like people disapprove of what he has been doing (another person mentioned that's how she feels). he said he doesn't even know what's going on to notice people looking down upon in him late at night... The ICRA group organization, group to go to if you want to become a catholic is very good at what they do. not forced/pressured to get to know the church. *many people are very curious and come up to talk*. "If everyone is wearing green shirts and I'm wearing blue I'm not gonna give two shits if I'm wearing something different." The idea of "conformity". He comes from a faith based family. Went to sunday school-young person to learn about the provisions of the church and Jesus Christ. He goes to a Mennonite Church. a Christian Sect prevalent in Central Illinois. Where he's from. No virgin mary, no eucharist, communion pass it in the pews, grape juice and oyster crackers. niking james The bible is different from the Catholic Bible. The bible he goes by and the teachings are

similar to the Methodists , lutherans. there's also the evangelicals, christian baptists. There's also an international bible. Reformation-different sector of christianity developed. priests and nuns are not allowed to marry. He has read the bible, goes to church every sunday at a Mennonite church. He prays not aloud but in his head whenever he needs to. not before dinner or any particular time. Didn't want to go to youth group. He didn't think he had to be with kids his age and share about his knowledge of God to be faithful..

Question:

Dinner at Newman

I submitted on 9.21.08 because I my project was approved on 9.20.08.

As I turn north onto Sixth Street from Armory, I head towards Newman Hall, the field site I will be spending the next several months at. The cream-colored, brick chapel faces Armory Street. The light changes to green and I turn back onto Armory and head towards the residence hall. There is a red, brick layout leading up to the doorway and on the east side of the church. The narrow, brick ramp sloping downward towards the building has two rails on either side. The delicate trees and thick grass are unique compared to the rest of the campus shrubbery. This small courtyard in front of the south entrance contains four empty, red patio tables. When you walk towards this distant building, it feels like you are walking off campus into an entirely different community. The white painted window shutters and door are distinctive to the other buildings around. Over the entrance is a traditional balcony with a blooming garden. The building isn't gated and you don't need some secret password only the very important people know, however, it takes a little extra work just

to walk in. The residence hall is private, and I get a closed-off feel to this area like I shouldn't be going in. Still, I open the door anyways.

The main room is barely lit where I can hardly make out the facial features of the people sitting on the brown, leather couches to my left. On the right, there's an office area where several workers offer their assistance. The staff is very friendly, but the front of this main desk reminds me of a doctor's office because it has glass, sliding doors that close off the working area from the rest of the lobby. Inside this area are three cubicles, some other desks, and a mailbox section on the side wall for residents and staff. The staff member working at the front of the main desk is a tall, slender man who carries a welcoming grin as he greets me. I make my way through the room and slowly make my way towards the white-painted steps up towards the cafeteria and main lobby of the residence hall.

The roundabout hallway is lit much better than the previous room. On the walls are colorfully constructed bulletin boards with bible study times, pictures, and updates on what is going on in the dorms. There are several offices on either side of the hall for the priests and other staff members. The office rooms are relatively large with desks, couches, and full of open space. I continue to make my way through this winding hallway, and once again, I feel like I'm walking into a completely different environment. This time, the white walls and floor of the main

lobby give off a clean and fresh tone to the atmosphere. Clearly, it's time for dinner as I hear students' voices echoing against the walls. Several students exit the two elevators located on my right as I leave the main office area to join the other residents for dinner. The cafeteria is very modern looking. There sturdy, brown chairs; charcoal tables and booths; the carpet has a geometrical pattern of grey, black, orange, and yellow squares; and plain walls. It doesn't seem like a typical college cafeteria (wobbling chairs and tables lined up in orderly rows). The room is set up like a food court at a mall where there are several options of meals to choose from. The cooked smells of fried rice, barbeque sauce from the hot wings, and hint of sugar from the dessert table all entice my appetite.

This food court is a little different from the six metal trays set up in a small kitchen as seen in the "Six Pack". At first glance, however, the students look the same as any other college cafeteria. An ordered line of colored t-shirts with high school and college logos stand drooling for their early evening's supper. The students in line for food are anywhere from five to six and a half feet tall. They vary in height, size, and race. Most students are Caucasian, but there are many students who are Asian, Indian, and African American. There are several staff members behind the display of food. Dressed with white tops and black bottoms, a majority of the cooks by the hot meals are African American males. There is also a sandwich deli where students choose from the sixteen different types of

bread and are then assisted by the 'deli' man. He is wearing a navy blue, cotton t-shirt with the word 'STAFF' in white bold letters on the back. There is another male and female in the same shirt behind the deli and food supply area. In the far back corner, past the food court is a small shop like the ones you see on the lobby of a hotel where salty, sweet, and other snacks can be purchased. During dinner time, the workers twiddle their thumbs as they watch the students pass by to eat a 'real' home-away-from-home meal.

Several wide, rectangular columns stand throughout the rest of the main lobby. The columns and the booths set up against the walls help distinguish different sections of the seating area. The dark, wooden tables can seat anywhere from four to twelve students. Square, rectangular, and circular tables and the booths that line the outskirts of the room, create the feel of a high-quality dining hall.

The main seating area is located in between the food court and glass walls. Behind the glass walls, are smaller rooms divided by other transparent walls. One room has a ping-pong table and furniture. Another room is about ten feet by ten feet and contains large, leather chairs for socializing or relaxing purposes-as one student sprawls out for his nap time. The walls are almost completely bare; there are minimal pieces of artwork, posters, and informational sheets hanging on the walls of this entire site.

The dining area is full of students of all ages, ethnicities, religions, and backgrounds. There is a lot of diversity just among appearance in this environment as well. Many of the students make themselves comfortable in sports t-shirts, casual sweat shorts and a baseball cap or up-do (depending on gender). Some people wear jeans and nicer shirts and others dress nicer in polo shirts and dresses. The booths and tables are nearly filled with guys and girls sitting together. Several of the tables are all males or all females. At first it sounds like loud noise in this area but if you key in on one conversation, the discussions vary from football to weekend plans to the presidential candidates to the Father of the Holy Spirit. Some people are standing and are making very animated hand motions. Others sit quietly while they converse. Barely anyone sits alone and some students like to socialize with friends among other tables. To the left of the booth I'm sitting at, a group of three priests gather to eat dinner; they are dressed in black robes and another grown man not in a priest's uniform is sitting with them. Only one student approaches the table, and I am later informed that the student who approached them is studying to become a priest. While the priests make themselves available in the cafeteria, I get the sense of an imaginary wall around them where students are afraid to cross this border and speak to the men.

After dinner, I exit the main lobby through the east exit and walk south around the corner towards the front of the church. The tall building

has a couple of statues at the top of the steps. Inside, the church is very classy—stained glass windows, wooden rows of benches, hymn books on the shelves of the benches, marbled front podium, and candles. I picked up a white, folded pamphlet on one of the benches. It's titled "St. John's Catholic at the University of Illinois". It has a picture of the church during mass on the front cover. Along the sides are small pictures of students getting involved in activities provided by the church, and in the center of the front cover is a list of weekday and weekend masses. There's also staff and leadership names and phone numbers available right on this form. The address of the church is listed at the bottom. On the inside are advertisements for ways to get involved. The church provides a marriage course, weekly volunteer options, and retreats for students and staff. On the back of the flyer are many two square-inch advertisements for stores and companies such as Reynolds, The Great Frame Up, Ramshaw, KleenRite, Domino's Pizza, April's Florist, A&R and Catholic Books. There's information on how to get involved as a priest on the back too.

Although not all students in the Newman Hall are Catholic, the residence hall is affiliated with the church, so Catholicism is definitely emphasized in Newman Hall. This pamphlet clearly shows the church's desire to provide outreach programs within the community and connect the stores and companies in Champaign-Urbana as well.

More Fieldnotes 10.17.08

Patrick Bailey. Senior. RA at Newman. How many students are seniors here living at Newman? He said at least twenty. More than any other dorm. Wanted to live in this community. great arena for growth. people challenging you in faith, in human formation, intellectually, and morally. He is Catholic. He originally wanted to live here because it was a Catholic residence hall. What is it like to be an RA here? Definitely more involved here; invest more in people's lives. He seemed very confident and composed. Wore a U of I grey sweatshirt, navy adidas sweatpants. How has faith affected your lifestyle in college? it's the basis for all decisions you make. Let's say I am tempted to cheat on a test, faith keeps me from doing the wrong thing. Good quality people here and proud to share their faith. Best conversations here. Go deeper than the surface. You want to know people that know more about you than just your name as you pass people in the hall. People consider this hall as a "Catholic Disneyland" and "living in a bubble" but you are challenged always. How do you promote students to partake good behavior in the dorms. Starts within ourselves; can't administer unless we feel we have and act as leaders. Lead by example. Agreed that it's like a Fraternity as a brotherhood. No one wants to be just a number at a big school. One way of making the school feel smaller is by going greek. People at Newman identify with their residence hall because they share their faith with these people too. It's another form of community where they can know familiar faces all over campus. How can non-Catholics stay involved? FOCUS a group that is geared for college students who are interested in learning about Catholicism. They hold bible studies. Koinonia Retreat- people who you live with go on this retreat and you learn about how Catholicism has affected their lives and they share their different perspectives. You talk about how to live a good ethical life. Koinonia means community. PDA-Participate Don't Anticipate. Some people may say religion and Catholicism is about living a life for comfort and they say they're living for greatness. Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else will come to you. One guy who came to talk to me doesn't want to drink until he's twenty one. He said God

gives him enough time in the day to talk to people and do his homework. Catholic means universal. You can't prove God exists but you can't prove he doesn't either. I ended up talking to four guys. Three were seniors and one was a freshman. The seniors were all RA's and one of them is on the board of directors for the RA's. There was the one guy in the grey shirt and navy pants. he was very nice and very interested in what i was doing. He wanted to know what my religious background was and after telling him he offered the Koinonia Retreat as a great experience that I might be interested in. The othe RA was wearing dress pants, a white button up shirt and a bow tie for no reason at all. Buzzed hair cut, Brunette, pretty reserved but offered up some of his experience at Newman. Wants to be a mountain man and is majoring in fish and wild life. After I was done he told me he was on duty for the night so if I needed anything and if I was staying for a while to just let him know. The last guy was the one on the board. Outgoing guy, hesitant to be asked questions but I told him it was for a project so he thought it sounded legit. He was wearing a one-quarter navy fleece zip up and jeans. Probably about 5'9 Brunette. He's in business administration and wants to work in human resources. Asked me where I lived and if I lived in the six pack and asked if I liked it. I'm sure he had the reputation of the six pack in the back of my head and was going to judge me a little bit based off my response to his question. Whenever the freshman would compliment him, he would say "Stop it, Jerry." as if he was embarrassed. Very nice guys- all four of them. All showed passion for their faith and Newman by expressing themselves in different ways.

Plan:

Annotated Bibliography 9.22

Eaves, Lindon J., Peter K. Hatemi, Lenn Murrelle, and Elizabeth C. Prom-Wornley. "Social and Genetic Influences on Adolescent Religious Attitudes and Practices." Social Forces. June 2008: 1621-1646. EBSCO Host. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL. 21 September 2008 <<http://www.ebscohost.com>>.

This study focuses on a project four professors administered at Virginia Commonwealth University. They focused on children ages 11-18 years old. They adolescents are twins—both MZ and DZ—identical and fraternal twins. They also performed tests on the mothers who originally responded to a Religious Attitudes and Practices Inventory and Religious Rearing Practices Inventory. The studies took a closer look on the social

and genetic influences on the children's faith. Previous research has proven that nurture is not the only result of religious practice. Genetics have an impact on the adolescents' attitudes towards religion.

The population used in this study was comprised of twins between the ages of 8-18 and their mothers. They were assessed through a mail survey where both children and their mothers answered questions about their religious orientation and practice. They also asked about spiritual practices and values that did not pertain to religion but items such as forgiveness, vengefulness, and thankfulness. They were also assessed by a second part of the survey that asked about the importance of religion in the home.

Studies showed sex and age did not have a significant effect on the outcome of religious belief and practice. It had an effect in regard to perceived sinfulness of substance use and vengefulness. The scores were higher for boys than for girls for perceived sinfulness involving substance use and vengefulness.

This article will help to identify the backgrounds of the students I will be studying. I think I can use this information to better assess students actions. It gives me more insight into what is considered good and bad judgment based on their faith.

Gray, Mark M., and Paul Perl. "Catholic Schooling and Disaffiliation from Catholicism." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. June 2007: 269-280. EBSCO Host. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL. 21 September 2008. <http://www.ebscohost.com>.

Like the title of this article, the researchers of this experiment want to prove that students who attend Catholic elementary school and high school are more apt to keeping their religious faith. They are researching the effect of a private education at a Catholic school has on people. First, they found that 93 percent of the respondents who went to a Catholic high school for more than three years went to an elementary school for some period of time; 71 percent went for eight years or more. Still, research shows attending a Catholic high school depresses the disaffiliation of Catholicism. Also, there is not a major impact if the adolescent attended a Catholic elementary school. The formation of religion in one's life is more important in the adolescent years than in the preadolescent years. In fact, it is suggested that during the teen years many begin seriously examining their faith and start down a path toward either accepting or rejecting it.

For those who attend Catholic high school for at least three years usually take two distinct paths if they leave the church: converting to another faith or affiliating with no religion. Also, "those who attended three or more years of Catholic high school

are 50 percent as likely as those who never attended Catholic high school to convert to another faith in a given year” (275). Not surprisingly, they found that those who attended Mass less than once a month growing up were much more likely to stray from Catholicism. Overall, this study proved that Those who attended Catholic high school for three or more years are 56 percent more likely to attend Mass weekly than all others raised Catholic. Though Mass attendance represents just one measure of Catholic commitment, it shows the importance Catholicism has in these people’s lives and can easily be measured. Other affiliations with the church such as attending CCD, small group sessions, forming social networks, or personal relationships with the priests or nuns would have an impact on them as well.

I think this article will help me identify the active churchgoers at Newman. I can ask the students what kind of affiliation they have had with the church in their childhoods. It will probably be evident that those who attend service weekly will remain attending as an adult. If the study is proven positively, these students will be the ones who have gone to a Catholic school for at least three years, maybe even over eight years.

Iacono, William G., Laura b. Koenig, and Matt McGue. “Stability and Change in Religiousness During Emerging Adulthood.” Developmental Psychology. March 2008: 532-543. EBSCO Host. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL. 21 September 2008. <<http://www.ebscohost.com>>.

This study focuses on the development of religiousness. Two groups were tested for this research experiment. One assessed female twins at the ages of 14 and 18. The other focused on female twins at the age of 20 and 25. The purpose of this study was to see what kind of impact age and environmental influences had on the groups faith and practice of religion. With the younger group, heredity would be the variable while environment remained relatively constant. In the older group, family genes was the constant and nonshared environment became the variable. The study proved that religiousness decreased significantly with age. Around the age of 18, people start questioning their faith. They realize that they don’t have to go by what their parents have forced them to practice, and this is the time where they head in several different directions. Research shows that when people are not used to practicing a religion in their own home as children, they are much more likely to feel strongly about their own faith.

I think it will be very interesting to find out more about the backgrounds of residents at Newman Hall and to see if this proves true. From what I have heard, there are many people who are very conservative at these dorms and look down upon those who have strayed from their religion. Still, not everyone in this hall is

Catholic, so it will make my research data more complex. Maybe those who don't call themselves Catholic, wouldn't even identify themselves with this field site; they may just consider it as home base for college.

Marcum, John P. "Measuring Church Attendance: A Further Look." Review of Religious Research. September 1999: 122-131. EBSCO Host. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL. 21 September 2008. <<http://www.ebscohost.com>>.

Church attendance varies on demographics on the group being studied. The group in this research includes Presbyterian Churches across the country. They use a self-report system and survey asking whether they are regular churchgoers or not. There are two independent sources of attendance data involved in this research study. Researchers want to find out if the number of churchgoers correlates with the church phenomena over the past decade. The Presbyterian Panel was in charge of conducting three surveys periodically over a short time period. The surveys were very similar to the format of surveys from the past. From the data gathered, 75% of the elderly asked indicated that they attend at least two to three times a month; 59% of the samples indicated that they attend every week or nearly every week.

While it is interesting to understand the specific denominations of Christianity, this study does not give me that much data or information to help me in this project. Still, because not all the students in the Residence Hall are Catholic I must make sure to ask if any students are affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. Those who are might have a different way of practicing their faith. This study raises more questions and possible routes for my project so it does in fact help to have read this article.

Regnerus, Mark D., and Jeremy E. Uecker. "Religious Influences on Sensitive Self-Reported Behaviors: The Product of Social Desirability, Deceit, or Embarrassment?" Sociology of Religion. Summer 2007: 145-163. EBSCO Host. University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, Champaign, IL. 20 September 2008. <<http://www.ebscohost.com>>.

Depending on the level of involvement religion has on a person's life, it can have a serious impact on the choices one makes on a day to day basis and on a person's lifestyle. This study is comprised of two different parts of a survey. The focus group is teenagers who are asked several questions pertaining to their involvement with religion and their social desirability or behavior as teenagers. "Social desirability bias is the tendency of individuals to want to make themselves appear better than they actually are" (146). This study points out that there are many other variables and environmental constraints that can invalidate these results, however, with thorough experimentation and analysis, the

researchers feel they have a good grasp on the correlation between these two topics.

The results proved that those who consider their faith a major part of their life are more likely to answer “no” on questions such as the use of illegal drugs, underage drinking, and premarital sex. Those who are completely disaffiliated with any religion are also more likely to answer honestly and say they don’t think that these activities are wrong. The group who lies somewhere in between try to make themselves more socially desirable. They might answer “no” to having sex because they don’t want to be perceived as a bad person according to their faith. The hope is that those being researched would answer honestly about their actions. Still, some of the data has to be disregarded because there are times in the data when someone would answer ‘no’ for one question and ‘yes’ for a similar question later in the survey.

Although it’s difficult to link someone’s religious affiliation and their moral codes together, it’s definitely an issue that will come up in my research at Newman Hall. I am studying college students who are at a Big Ten institution where drinking and sex dominate conversations. It will be interesting to see where those who do identify themselves with the Newman Hall and Catholicism say about these activities and how it compares to their involvement with the church.

Annotated Bibliography

CatholicReference.net. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <<http://www.catholicreference.net/>>.

CatholicReference.net is exactly what it says. It’s a reference database for Catholic terms you need help to define. Set up very similar to dictionary.com, this website will try to define any Catholic terminology from A to Z. I think this will be a great source when I don’t know what something means. I’m sure this subculture will have a jargon and it will be a much better researcher and observer if I know what they are referring to. This will definitely become beneficial when I talk to a priest. All I will have to do is jot down the word or phrase he uses and “CatholicReference” it so if I wasn’t sure about something, it suddenly becomes clear.

New Advent. Ed Kevin Knight. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/03449a.htm>>.

New Advent is a great way to stay connected with the Catholic community. On the home page are headlines for recent events. There is an encyclopedia linked to the site as well. This is also a good way to learn the history behind the church. There is a list with information on the Fathers of the Church. Lastly, there is an online version of the Bible on this website. It has all the chapters from the Old and New Testament. Clearly this makes it very convenient to learn about Catholicism. I will definitely use this site for background information and try to integrate it into my paper effectively.

Newman Center Halls. Ed. Franz Klein. 2007. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008
<http://thecatholicbeat.blogspot.com/2007/08/newman-center_halls.html>.

Franz Klein writes a small excerpt on the University of Wisconsin-Madison's plan to open St. Paul Catholic Center. He says hopefully this Newman Center will have just as great of facilities and staff as they do at the University of Illinois. The Newman Centers at other state schools in Wisconsin do not offer nearly as many resources U of I's, and these Centers are not successful. He points out how well U of I's Center does a good job of balancing and incorporating the academic component. They emphasize the importance of each individual's studies.

Even though this is one man's opinion, I think it helps to hear how the Newman Center compares to others in the Midwest area. It gives us a better perspective on Illinois's Newman Hall.

Luther College Student Blogs. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <<http://luther.edu/admissions/blogs/>>.

This webpage gives us a look at the everyday life of students at Luther College, a private, Catholic university in Iowa. Several students write on their experiences at school and what it's like to go to Luther. They give stories of what they do on the weekends. They share academic experiences and ways the Catholic Church is incorporated into their life in college. This will be interesting to compare the stories of these college students to the ones at U of I. Obviously, the dynamics at the two institutions are different so we will look closer at the effects this has on practicing your faith at school.

Roman Catholicism. Ed Matthew J. Slick. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008
<<http://www.carm.org/catholic.htm>>.

This website is a very in-depth look at Roman Catholicism. There are numerous articles on Apocrypha, Mary, Littany of Mary, Mass, the Papacy, Penance, Purgatory, Salvation, Scripture and traditions, other

various topics, and a debate section. On the left hand side there are several links concerning bible studies, Christian doctrine, devotions, parables, etc. It's almost overwhelming how much information is here on Christianity and Catholicism. It really focuses on clarifying misconceptions of Catholicism and the meaning behind the religion.

St. John's Catholic Newman Center. 2008 University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <<http://www.sjcnc.com>>.

This website is the homepage for the St. John's Catholic Newman Center based at the University of Illinois. On this website, you can find information covering the residence hall, the chapel, outreach programs, fellowship and prayer groups, and more. At the Newman Hall there are large dorm rooms, comfortable student lounges, a dining hall and weekly housekeeping services. On the North side of the hall they have single suites for four people, private singles, and double suites for four. Each room provides private bathrooms. There is a fitness center available for students, a laundry facility, eight lounges, two computer labs, two quiet study lounges, two game rooms, a dining hall room open 24 hours a day, a private Catholic library and three outdoor courtyards.

The Dining area has a market-style food court where you can choose from brick oven pizzas, rotisserie meats, deli bar and espresso counter. The Illini Market is a store full of express food, beverages, books, apparel, and more.

The Newman center provides opportunities to get involved such as weekly volunteering at the nursing home or soup kitchen. They host a 5K run to volunteer for. For spiritual direction, they is a directory of the Fathers who work for the Newman Center. There's also information to become more involved in the church. There are pages on student liturgical ministry and evangelization. They also have prayer, rosary and grad rosary groups who meet daily in the Chapel.

Clearly, the website provides a great source of the basics of Newman Hall. Primarily, It tells us the living situation and the various opportunities to get involved with the church. It also provides detailed information to help paint a picture of the hall. It gives me good ideas to focus on when I describe Newman in my paper.

Students Who Stay Together. Ed Amy Smith. 2007. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <http://www.domuscommunities.com/docs/newmanhousing_ncr_amysmith.pdf>.

Students Who Stay Together is an article published in the newspaper about the Newman Center at the University of Illinois. Ann Smith explains how this residence hall is more than just a place to sleep and study; it's a place to live and share the same beliefs as others in a

positive atmosphere. I can use this website as a reference of a few students experiences at Newman Halll..

St. John's The Evangelist Catholic Church. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008
<<http://home.catholicweb.com/stjohnscarrollton/index.cfm>>.

Here we take a look at a Catholic Church in Carrollton, Illinois. I wanted to find out more information about another church in the area and analyze the similarities/differences in the message this Catholic Church shares compared to those of the St. John's Catholic Church on campus. It provides information on sponsors, hours, staff, and location of the church. This website really doesn't have any sort of statement, goals, or objectives for their church. I don't know how useful the webpage would be unless I visited this church and observed firsthand.

University of Illinois Private Certified Housing. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana Champaign. 25 September 2008
<Certified.housing.uiuc.edu/viewprop.asp?id=10>.

This page informs the reader on what the living situation is like at Newman Center. The website is for all private housing on campus but this page focuses on the Newman Center. It gives the address of the Hall; the residence hall is at the heart of the campus, less than one block from the Quad, Foellinger Auditorium, and most classroom Buildings. It provides for students of all interests. This residential community is large enough to provide an educational and social climate, but small enough to provide personal attention to the individual resident. There is a full-time staff of priests, sisters, and lay staff available in the hall. Once again, this webpage provides information on what the lifestyle is like in these dorms. Still, it doesn't give much personality or substance of the people in these dorms. I can, however, look at the other private dorms and see how they might compare to Newman.

UIUC Residence Halls. 2008. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. 25 September 2008 <<http://www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/UIUC-Residence-Halls>>.

UIUC Residence Halls gives a more descriptive look at the Halls on campus. There is information on the undergraduate and graduate housing in Champaign and Urbana. It gives a brief look at the public housing and goes more into depth about the private housing. There are also links to each College at U of I, athletic links, and other popular student links. While there is some use for this website, I might look at the main Newman website for more detailed information.

Data:

Possible Questions for Interview

How long have you worked on campus?

How long at Newman Hall?

How long have you been a priest?

What are the steps to becoming a priest?

What is your role at Newman Hall?

What would a typical day look like for you?

What is your role at newman Hall?

What would a typical day look like for you?

What are the different ways the staff reaches out to the residents in a religious manner?

Although the dorm is affiliated with the Catholic church, do the students have to be Catholic?

What are some reasons students would want to live here if they aren't Catholic?

What kind of role does Catholicism play in the lives of college students who live on campus?

What are some of the issues/dillemas the staff at Newman are working to improve on?

What kind of atmosphere do you feel being around the students in the cafeteria, dorm halls, barbeques, or other activities?

At Newman, is there any sort of goal/hope that staff has for non-Catholic students in terms of raising their interests in Catholicism?

What are the different sects of Christianity and what are the major differences of being a Catholic?

Is there a different bible that Catholics use compared to

ther churches?

How many full-time priests are there? How many sisters?

Ask about his attire. Any reason for the black and white?

How do you promote making good choices on campus?

Discuss: Interview with Father Greg Ketcham 10.9.08

Interview done by Kelsey Guglielmi

K=Kelsey

F=Father

K: How long have you worked on campus?

F: This is my third year as a campus minister here at St. John's Catholic Newman Center.

K: Have you worked on other campuses before this?

F: When I was an assistant pastor at McCracken Ception parish in Monmouth, Illinois, I was also the Catholic Chaplain at Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois.

K: Okay, how long have you been a priest?

F: So I'm going on my fifteenth year as a priest and twelve years in parish ministry, and this is my third year in campus ministry.

K: Okay, now what do you mean by parish ministry?

F: So, I'm assigned to a parish either as an assistant pastor or a pastor of a parish, so I was three years as an assistant pastor at a McCracken parish in Monmouth, Illinois; six years as pastor at St. Peter Paul's Parish, and three years as Pastor at St. Phillips Communion Parish.

K: Okay, so you know what you're doing? (laugh)

F: (laugh) I think so.

K: What are the steps to becoming a priest?

F: The steps to becoming a priest? Okay, so, in general or for a student on campus?

K: In general?

F: Okay, sure. So, I would say a candidate for the priesthood is a young man who has got a decent prayer life, certainly living by some moral standards, umm, a young man who has a high school

diploma, okay. So there's actually two different types of levels of seminary study or priestly formation. The minor seminary is what is a college seminary, so certain colleges through Catholic colleges throughout the country have their own seminary on campus. Like I'm with two Maclinary seminaries on the campus of a four year Catholic College at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. And then there's something called minor seminary where you get your bachelor's degree through the school and then you go on to major seminary, which is like a Graduate School of Theology, Okay?

K: Okay?

F: So it's a minimum of six years before you become a priest. Umm, but often were seeing like guys here at the University of Illinois, let's say for example they get a degree in engineering, so they have a bachelor's degree, so then they go on for what's called two years of pre-theology and then four years of theology. And pre-theology, those two years before they take their major theology, those two years are primarily years for studying philosophy. Some theology and really kind of set some foundational stones for prayer and discernment and so developing as a human, developing as a Catholic Christian. And so a minimum of six years to become a priest.

K: Okay, so, going back to the original "criteria", you said a young man should live by moral standards..

F: Sure.

K: What do you mean by that?

F: Umm, they're living the way that Catholic teaching expects a young Catholic to live. Umm, that they're witnessing to the joy of living out Catholic Christianity. Umm, we all have, umm we're all working to, at least hopefully everyone is working to become better people, so we all have our issues in our life that, ya know we want our young men who are pursuing the possibility of the priesthood, to be living upright lives, and ya now not to be addicted to drugs or alcohol, not to be sexually promiscuous, ya know not to be acting out sexually with another person, and just trying to witness to the beauty of what it means to live a life with Jesus Christ.

K: Okay. Good. Umm, okay, so what is your role at Newman Hall?

F: Sure, so I'm the Head Director and Chaplain here at St. John's, and so I'm in charge of everything to be brutally honest.

K: (laugh)

F: And so along with my pastoral responsibilities, compared to the other priests on staff, I have more of the administrative responsibilities as well.

K: Okay, so then what would a typical day look like for you?

F: A typical day would look like for me, umm, uhh, I usually get up around 5:15 and I spent an hour in prayer, and then I get my exercise in. So, I spend about 90 minutes doing exercise. And then I come into the office, and then in the morning is the time where I do a lot of meetings with my staff members, umm and then catch up on paperwork, I usually celebrate, for example, on a typical day at 12:05 mass here at St. John's Chapel, and then after the 12:05 mass, I have lunch and then I start having appointments with students like yourself. (laugh)

K: (laugh)

F: It might be an example of a student who is doing a class project, an example might be of a student that I'm doing spiritual direction with that I meet with once monthly. I try to help them see the action of God in their life. It maybe a couple I'm helping prepare for marriage, and then, umm, it may be a student who is in the hospital for whatever reason, I may visit them. Umm, in the evenings, I might need to close the blessed sacrament or the agoration of the blessed sacrament, and then an hour of confessions-the sacrament of reconciliation. Then I'll have dinner, and then I'll have evening prayer with the priests, and then we'll have different programs that we take part in. I may go to the RCIA class; they serve young people who are looking at the possibility of becoming Catholic adults, and I'll work with them. I might work with the retreat program. Once you've gone through the retreat program, you belong to what's called the K-Family, and you get together for prayer and for service and for fellowship. I may get together with someone, with one of our FOCUS Bible studies. I may jump in and teach one of our courses that we teach in our apologetics classes, our religious curriculum. I may jump in our Enjoy the Body Course, our Marriage course, and sometimes I go in our brand new cafeteria because it's a real

hang out for Newman Hall Students and other students as well. There's a section called the Newman Club for non-residents right next to the cafeteria, and so there's a large amount of students. Part of the works, the word Chaplaincy means literally to accompany; we literally believe that the Chaplaincy of St. John's Catholic Newman Center is to accompany students on their spiritual journey in college or Graduate School. So a ministry presence is really important. And, ya, I'll just kind of go in the cafeteria where a lot of students might be playing ping-pong in the Newman Club. They may be studying at one of the tables. They may be chowing down on cereal that they love to do in the evening. So I kind of spend some time with the students that way. And so I'll conclude my day with some more prayer, and then usually retire around 11:30, 11, 11:30 or so.

K: So you have a busy day. (laugh)

F: Sure!

K: Umm, so you said that people hang out at Newman in the lobby or the cafeteria that don't necessarily live here?

F: Sure.

K: Okay.

F: In fact, it's not uncommon for students, and we really want to get this message out to the broader campus community that this center is not just for the Newman Center Hall students but for the entire Catholic community, and other friends who wish to take part in our programs of the entire University. So it's not uncommon, I mean I can name a number of students right off the top of my head who, other than their classes, they spend the entire day here and they just sleep in their dorm..

K: Yea.

F: dorm room.

K: Huh, umm. Kay. Okay. You gave me a lot of information right there.

F: Sure.

K: But umm. The idea that you don't have to be Catholic to live here-is that true?

F: That's correct. In fact, we're just shy of 20 percent of the students at Newman Hall are non-Catholic, and we certainly embrace that.

K: Okay, and now, why would someone who is not Catholic, what would be a reason for why they would want to live here?

F: Sure. So we think a number of reasons. First, we have an awesome community life here. We really care for one another. Newman's always had that tradition, and we have not lost that sense of community although we have gotten larger. So it's just a great, great community. Many of the students, I would say the vast majority of the students who live here have a common vision for life, living life with values, and although we have our ups and downs like everybody, it's not a zoo here as I hear from other students that the dorms can be like a zoo. And, again, the great community life, I think the values that we hold here, and I think thirdly, to be brutally honest, our location. We're at the center of it all, it's kind of our coin phrase. I think the location on campus is important for many students. I think many students enjoy our brand new facilities in our north building, so I think all of those reasons.

K: Yea, definitely. Going back to the idea of the environment here that it's not a zoo, what's the environment like here? What's the atmosphere in the lobby or what kind of atmosphere is it like when you're hanging out with the students?

F: I was just in the cafeteria the night before last, and it was a great evening. They were having an apple pie eating contest, one of the activities the RAs put together homecoming week. So it's always just good hearted, it seems good hearted to me; it seems like a good spirit, it seems like a wholesome environment. People are talking everything from the courses that they having, whether it be physics or engineering or law, or they're also talking sports, and they're talking about, ya know, just kind of what's going on with the upcoming elections and just kind of an environment that way.

K: Yea. Yea. Good. Okay. Umm, now how do you see the students practice their faith, whether it's in the cafeteria or just like out in the Newman Hall? How can you recognize that, I guess?

F: Sure. So, ya know one thing we often preach here is a quote from St. John's is a quote from St. Francis of the C.C. and St. Francis said preach the Gospel always, when necessary use

words. So we really believe that our actions speak louder than our words. And so I just think that everybody has their ups and downs across the board. The students here do a good job of witnessing to their faith just being helpful people, being joyful people, being people of service, being people of prayer. It's not uncommon, there's a group everyday at 10 pm who gathers and they walk around campus praying the rosary, and they're not looking to burden anybody with that but it's a good witness of seeing students together bring the rosary on campus. I mean students are involved with all different types of worship here, whether it be Praise and Worship Night, in which we have Praise and Worship music in front of the Blessed Sacrament, whether it be they gather for, we have three masses a day, practicing music- we have five different choirs, and so they're practicing that. We have, I think, 25 different Bible studies. So many students are involved with our service and justice outreach program, which is a great witness to see a college student giving themselves in that way. There's a lot of hope for the future when you witness these young people.

K: Ya, definitely. Okay you said about 20 percent of people are not Catholic at Newman Hall. What kind of percentage would you say of students get involved in the prayer groups, the apple pie eating contest, those sorts of things?

F: That's hard to guesstimate. With the bigger picture, Kelsey, we know that there's what 43,000 people on campus, and we know of those 43,000 students, somewhere between ten and twelve thousand are Catholic, and we see about 5500 students yearly are involved in some type of program that we have here at St. John's. So we believe we're seeing about half the Catholic students here on campus, which is actually a pretty good number compared to a parish in a certain community, ya know. So we're doing pretty good that way, but our goal is, with our pastoral staff, to continue to think about ways and brainstorm about how we can get in front of every Catholic student on campus. And, actually, every Catholic faculty member and staff member, we have a number of faculty members and staff members who take part in our ministry at St. John's.

K: Now, are there any goals or hopes for the staff on campus to

sort of reach out to those who are not Catholic in Newman, specifically?

F: Sure, that's a good question. So we usually have our RCIA program and that stands for Right of Christian Initiation of Adults, and so these are the primarily for young people, because we are on a college campus who are asking questions in regards to their faith life and the possibility of the Catholic church so they're learning more about the Catholic church with the possibility of joining. So we usually have 30 to 50 students a year in our office of our RCIA program. So but we always make sure here at St. John's that there is a distinction between evangelizing and pastoralizing. Even our late pope, John Paul the Second said that pastoralizing is sinful, is wrong and sinful, okay. So let's make the distinction. Well, someone who comes up to me and wants to know about the Catholic faith to and of my staff members or student leaders because we feel we have a collaborative tie between our staff and our student leaders, because for various reasons, there may be a student who may feel a little bit shy about approaching a priest in a roman collar or any of our sisters in her veil, for example, they'll feel very comfortable coming up to a peer. So we really believe our student leaders are very much collaborators in our ministry. But at the same time, so if a student comes up and wants to know about the Catholic faith, we're right there to share our good news about what it's about it. But to go up to someone, for example, who is Methodist, who is happy with the Methodist faith and try to pull the carpet from underneath them by trying to attack their Methodist faith, what we may believe may be wrong about that faith, we believe that's wrong and sinful to do, but we do know there are groups on campus that do that, and we're not one of those groups.

K: Okay, now what are the different sects of Christianity?

F: Umm. Sure. So there's actually many, many different Christian denominations. Of course, Anglicans, but the ones closest to Roman Catholicism would be the Anglican church, the Episcopal church, certain sects of Lutheranism- because when you talk about the Lutheran church, there's many different Lutheran churches, the Missouri Synod Church is very close to

Roman Catholicism. Because ya know, we gotta remember here, the Protestant Church began because of a Roman Catholic priest. It was a priest from Germany who belonged to the Augustinian Order who for various reasons made a poor decision and left the Catholic Church and took a following with him, and that priest was Father Martin Luther, okay. So there are many similarities between Roman Catholicism and certain Protestant denominations because they broke away from us. They changed other things with regards to how they began the denomination. So often when I begin with students in the RCIA program, I begin with that in the beginning of the year, and I tell them that they're probably going to find more similarities between your faith background and Roman Catholicism than you're necessarily expecting differences because we're all one for the first 1500 years just within the past 508, 500 years roughly that we have been separated. And so, uhh, so uhh, you got Anglicans, Lutherans, Episcopalians, of course, Presbyterians, Methodists, so that list goes on there. And then ya know you have some (pause) other denominations out there. So, I mean you got the Mormons. But they're not Christians though, okay? We gotta remember that. What binds all Christians together, a minimum belief in the trinity, the God is one, the God is made up of the Father, the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, okay? So all Christians believe in the trinity and are baptized in the name of the trinity with water. So that's the fundamental thing that binds all Christians together is a belief in the trinity and being baptized in that trinity. And, umm, for example, Mormons do not believe in the trinity like the Christians do, and they do not baptize in the name of the trinity. At a fundamental level, Mormons are not Christians. They often live by Christian values, they often may have very inspiring devotion to marriage and family life, but at the same time their doctrine is dramatically different than mainline Christianity.

K: Okay, just to sort of wrap things up, I guess, as far as your attire, what does the Roman collar represent? (20 min)

F: Traditionally, priests in the Catholic church in yesteryear, many moons ago, in Middle Age times, used to wear black cloth because it was the cheapest cloth available. When people would

see a priest, he would be wearing a cassock, which is a long robe, and it was black in color because it was the cheapest of cloth. And, to fill, the V in the neck he would stuff a scarf in the V of the neck, and so that little white underneath his chin kind of became considered a collar for a Roman priest. And then over time it became known as a Roman collar. And so as time went on it also took on some symbolic value as well that the black was for a priest was called to die of sin, and so today our clerical attire is no longer a scarf it's kind of a plastic tab that comes out. It's part of our identity; I think identity is important for police, identity is important for athletic teams, ya know so, part of the identity for clergy is some of our garb.

K: Why do sisters then wear the veil?

F: Sure, sisters take on a consecration to God, and so at their consecration, traditionally, they have been clothed in Christ. And, actually, we see this still at baptism, for example, when the infant is baptized, they're clothed in white garment, and even adults at Easter habitual, the night before Easter for someone who goes through RCIA and they're baptized, they're clothed in a white garment; it's symbolic that they put on Christ. And so by a religious sister's consecration they give their life to God, she's being further clothed in Christ and so part of this clothed in Christ is her religious habit that she wears. Now, all sisters, since the Vatican, for the second Vatican Council, the identity of religious sisters was very, very ornate. Since the second Vatican Council it's been trimmed down. You want my personal view of that? I think it was a mistake to do that. Sometimes you will hear that they ran into a Catholic nun and didn't even know it was a nun because they couldn't tell by her religious garb. I find that sad, but more and more the different religious orders we see in our Catholic church today, some of these religious orders of women who are seeking to become sisters are on a waiting list because they can't handle the number of ladies who are bind to their order. What are some of these orders? Well, the Dominican sisters in Nashville, Tennessee; the Franciscan sisters in Alton (sp?), Illinois; the sisters of perpetual adoration in Hanceville, Alabama also in Michigan. Some of these orders that are also remaining true to traditional values have a number of young

ladies seeking to join their orders. And I would wish that the other orders got the church to wake up to see what they're doing right, and part of that is these orders are continuing to exemplify an identity of a person who's given their life to God.

K: Kay. Well, thank you very much!

F: do you have anything else? I've got time? (laugh)

K: Oh, I was gonna ask you, how many full-time priests are there at Newman?

F: Sure, I'm one of six full-time priests here at St. John's, and we have two Franciscan sisters at this time; we would like to get more Franciscan sisters. Then I have a committed pastoral staff of twelve, and since we have our own hall here on campus, we also have some great men and women who are helping us in regards to our maintenance, our food service, and also our housekeeping, so we have another 55 full-time employees, and 75 part-time employees, and those are primarily students who are helping us with their time as well. I would just like to add something since you're interviewing me here. I get interviewed here throughout the country because we're the only Catholic Newman Center in the country that has our own residence hall, and so this model is becoming popular actually. We believe as a Catholic church that this may be an instrument that could change the way the Catholicism is gonna look in the future. Well, why is that? Of the 5.5 million Catholic college students in our country, only 500,000 are at a Catholic college or university, so the vast majority of our Catholic college students are at non-Catholic colleges and universities and the church has always gone where the people are. So our bishops have kind of woken up to this and their adding more resources into their Catholic campus ministries at secular universities. It's a very good thing. Monthly, I have visitors from different secular universities across the country calling to come look at St. John's because of the model we have had for eighty years. Again, we are the only secular university that has our own Catholic residence hall. And the formation, the Catholic formation that you can do with students you live on site benefit so much more than students who don't live on site. Again, we do have many students who come and participate in our program, but it's just naturally

logical that students who live on site that you can do a lot more Catholic formation with them. And see a lot of students, we've had about 88 men or women who choose to go on to the seminary college in the last 11 years, so we're averaging about 8 young men or young women who are choosing to do that each year. We have outstanding young people who have become missionaries, we have outstanding young people who becoming, of course, the majority are going into careers like engineering and medicine, and their also transforming the parishes that they belong to when they got out into the real world so to speak. They're entering into solid marriages, becoming solid parents. And, so, again, a number of people, including bishops, including Cardinal George in Chicago have a big passion for what we're doing here at St. John's. I've noticed the fruits of our ministry here especially because of the availability here of having the students live on site. Right now, at this time the Newman Center at Texas A&M University just bought an apartment building that they're going to rent in to become Catholic housing on their campus. Michigan State University is real close to signing a contract to build their own dorm. Arizona State University, their Newman Center has signed a contract to build a dorm, which I understand is gonna be huge; they don't have a lot of square footage, so they're going to build straight up-I think it's gonna be fifty-two floors as their Newman Center Hall. I just received a notification for a visit from Vanderbilt University. They're looking, their Newman Chaplain, a group is coming to take a look because they're looking at Catholic housing on their campus. We see this coming about. I know the University of Nebraska is looking at it, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Kansas is also looking at this, the list is adding on. And by large, the University, I don't know if I should say this, the University as a whole, from what I understand, from various circles, the university as a whole would like to get out of the housing business because it's kind of a headache for them. Whereas for the Catholic church, we would be wise to get into the housing business at the universities and colleges because of the fruits of those types of ministries that we're seeing. So that's my final word I guess. (laugh)

K: Well, thank you so much!

EUI Links:

After I stopped recording...

Father Greg Ketcham was interested in hearing what my faith was. He gave me more history on the church and I asked him about the different versions of the bible and different churches there are. He told me that he could see I was showed interest and was really questioning the church and it was good, but not people always want answers up front. He said it's hard but spending time learning more will help me find those answers for myself. He was very excited by how much interest I showed and brought me into the front desk area where his secretary was sitting. He handed me several flyers/brochures/magnets and then brought me to introduce me to a member of FOCUS. Before talking to her he introduced me to a sister and I sat down with her for a few minutes. She was a little bit older, in her fifties I would say, very friendly and had a very gentle, motherly appeal to her. she sat down and talked a little bit of the ways kids get involved with retreats and bible studies. Then I talked to a graduate student who is a missionary student. She was very intrigued by the project and why I was there. She was about 5'5, smaller in size, blue shirt that referenced Jesus on the back. She kept very strong eye contact and really wanted to hear what I was saying, didn't offer much into the conversation at first. She said she loves to learn and watch how God works in young people's lives and that's why she was there. She used the term cradled Catholic. She was brought up that way. Barely read the Bible; she would only read it if she was going through a particularly hard time and take it off the shelf, wipe the dust off it, open it up to a random page, and point somewhere on the page to see what words of advice God had for her. When she went to college she still went to Mass but didn't know why she was going. She started paying more attention and listening to the lessons. In college she actually made Catholicism her own, not just living with God as a small part of her life because her parents brought her up that way. She knew who Jesus, Mary, etc. were but now she felt like they were her best friends. At Newman she spends time with students at small and large groups, at ping pong and foosball. She

said a lot of students here say live in a Catholic dorm, or they're Catholic and they don't even really know what means, but she loves getting to witness young people's journey.

For the interview, we were in his office. He had pictures on the wall of the pope. He had a magazine on the stand in between the two chairs we sat in with the pope on the cover. His white garb was hanging up in the corner by the door. He must have been in his thirties, brown hair, wore black pants, black short sleeve shirt with the white roman's collar. He seemed very composed, although he did not stare directly at me. Instead of sitting in his large chair behind the desk we sat on the same level at two chairs on the side of his office.

Reflect:

Condensed Form of Interview

This center is not just for the Newman Center Hall students but for the entire Catholic community and other friends who wish to take part in our programs of the entire University. I can name a number of students right off the top of my head that, other than their classes, they spend the entire day here and they just sleep in their dorm. Although we have our ups and downs like everybody, it's not a zoo here as I hear from other students that the dorms can be like a zoo.

[The atmosphere] is always just good hearted; it seems like a good spirit; it seems like a wholesome environment. People are talking everything from the courses that they have, whether it be physics or engineering or law, or they're also talking sports, and they're talking about, just kind of what's going on with the upcoming elections and it's just kind of an environment that way. I was just in the cafeteria the night before last, and it was a great evening. They were having an apple pie eating contest, one of the activities the RAs put together homecoming week.

The students here do a good job of witnessing to their faith just being helpful people, being joyful people, being people of service, being people of prayer. We often preach, there is a quote from St. John's is a quote from St. Francis of the C.C. and St. Francis said preach the Gospel always, when necessary use words. So we really believe that our actions speak louder than our words. It's not uncommon, there's a group everyday at 10 pm who gathers and they walk around campus praying the rosary. Students are involved with all different types of worship here, whether it be Praise and Worship Night, in which we have Praise and Worship music in front of the Blessed Sacrament, whether it be they

gather for, we have three masses a day, practicing music. We have 25 different Bible studies. Many students are involved with our service and justice outreach program, which is a great witness to see a college student giving themselves in that way. There's a lot of hope for the future when you witness these young people. The majority [of our students] are going into careers like engineering and medicine, and their also transforming the parishes that they belong to when they got out into the real world so to speak. They're entering into solid marriages, becoming solid parents.

[There are about] 43,000 people on campus, and somewhere between ten and twelve thousand are Catholic. We see about 5,500 students yearly who are involved in some type of program that we have here at St. John's. We believe we're seeing about half the Catholic students here on campus, but our goal is with our pastoral staff to continue to think about ways and brainstorm about how we can get in front of every Catholic student on campus. The word Chaplaincy means literally to accompany; we literally believe that the Chaplaincy of St. John's Catholic Newman Center is to accompany students on their spiritual journey in college or Graduate School.

Still, we always make sure here at St. John's that there is a distinction between evangelizing and pastoralizing. Even our late pope, John Paul the Second said that pastoralizing is sinful. If a student comes up and wants to know about the Catholic faith, we're right there to share our good news about what it's about it. But to go up to someone, for example, who is Methodist, who is happy with the Methodist faith and try to pull the carpet from underneath them by trying to attack their Methodist faith, what we may believe may be wrong about that faith, we believe that's wrong and sinful to do. In fact, we're just shy of 20 percent of the students at Newman Hall who are non-Catholic, and we certainly embrace that.

We are the only Catholic Newman Center in the country that has our own residence hall. As a Catholic church, [we believe] that this may be an instrument that could change the way the Catholicism is going to look in the future. Well, why is that? Of the 5.5 million Catholic college students in our country, only 500,000 are at a Catholic college or university, so the vast majority of our Catholic college students are at non-Catholic colleges and universities, and the church has always gone where the people are. Our bishops have kind of woken up to this and they're adding more resources into their Catholic campus ministries at secular universities. Again, we do have many students who come and participate in our program, but it's just naturally logical that students who live on site that you can do a lot more Catholic formation with them.

Universities,..., the University as a whole, from what I understand, from various circles, the university as a whole would like to get out of the housing business because it's kind of a headache for them. Whereas for the Catholic church, we would be wise to get into the housing business at the universities and colleges because of the fruits of

those types of ministries that we're seeing.

Recommendations:

Outline

Intro: Descriptive Introduction to convey friendly atmosphere: Who is in the cafeteria?

Body Paragraphs:

People sitting in big groups; People in individual groups

Depending on what I'm wearing, I get certain looks from certain people

There have priests/other staff members at the table. They like to make a presence and seem available to students

How can you tell they are priests? Information about their garb and value to it.

Interview with Father Greg Ketcham; setting of office

His take on the atmosphere at Newman; not a zoo; only secular university with Catholic residence hall; student day to day rituals; participation at Newman Hall; The word Chaplain; evangelizing "ripping the carpet from underneath them"

Introducing me to graduate student/missionary; making religion her own; some people call themselves Catholic and don't even know what it means to live in a Catholic Residence Hall; watching God affecting students' lives

Senior RA's at dinner one night.

Their take on Newman; being leaders on a college campus; not a Catholic bubble; how they practice their faith

Freshmen guys at dinner

Difference between talking to seniors and freshmen; their religious background; why they chose to live at Newman; activities/social lives on campus; their perception of Newman

Jerry's perception of Newman; loves the residence hall; the Koinoina Retreat; passionate about God and living with others who share similar stories of faith; doesn't want to drink until he's 21

Jill's perception on Newman; somewhere in between

Conclusion: So what?

First off, benefits of Newman; is it a good thing to have

Great place to grow and be challenged

Many other schools see it as a positive and want to build housing for Catholics

Father's quote about how it would be a good thing for the Catholic church to expand the Catholic housing for Universities

Dynamics

some people are very religious and have a way to practice their faith in this community where others feel the same way

others chose to live there for the great facilities and location; facts about this; how many are not Catholic

people find it a little too religious; there's some separation within the dorm

What does it mean to be a Catholic?

As long as follow the seven sacraments are you free to live a life however you want? Do you choose your own morals and guidelines? Do you pick and choose what you want to follow from the

bible?

Some people who call themselves Catholic only live here because their parents are Catholics but they don't know what they believe;

When you're taught at a young age you follow what your parents say but once you get older you start to stray away from your faith

This place has the resources to help religion your own

There's still corruption

It still is a place to make money. Private dorms cost more

Father getting caught with Cocaine

Kelsey Guglielmi
John Griswold
Rhetoric and Composition 105
Section M1
October 22, 2008

Getting to the Meat of it All

The east entrance to the brick building is wide open with a small, yellow caution sticker for handicap visitors on the door. I walk right in at 5:30-time for dinner. I head straight for a booth just like any other student who comes to eat at this modern-styled food court after my last class of the day. Most students there don't realize that I don't live at Newman, however, they notice my unfamiliar face. There might be 600 students who live in this residence hall, but with the warm atmosphere and small community feel to these dorms they don't recognize me as one of their own. Sitting by myself at dinner, I feel a little awkward. Those that sit by

themselves at dinner in any dining hall are looked at with a negative connotation. Still, I set my bags down and go grab some grub. The flood of students wearing sports t-shirts, sweatpants, jeans, baseball caps, and messy up-does stand with plastic trays and overused silverware wait anxiously in line for the cook's special for the day. These students are dressed the same and have the same tired expressions as the students in the six pack. Still, they have waited patiently for the cafeteria to serve dinner and the excited noises resemble those that are heard in the cafeteria I eat at every day.

First, I fix myself a salad (controlling myself from spooning heaves of carb-filled ravioli with marinara onto my plate). Then, I ask the staff member behind the bar to make a turkey sandwich for me. He wore a navy tee-shirt, and when he turned around to grab another loaf of bread, I noticed the word "STAFF" written across his back. He was definitely around my age and very polite.

Sitting back down at my lonely booth, I took out my notebook and began to jot down notes. Students were sitting in a variety of ways in the cafeteria. Some large groups combined tables so their group of friends wouldn't have to separate. Others sat in small groups at the circular tables that seated a maximum of four people. Then, there were other students like me who sat alone eating their food in silence. Not once did I notice anyone pray before eating; I also didn't notice arguments breaking out

into fist fights. Students here at dinner act pretty much the same way students ate in the public dorms. So, where's the story? Well, at the Six Pack we've never had priests or sisters sitting around a table in the cafeteria. I also don't hear as many conversations about politics and the state of our economy as I do at Newman.

Although there is a friendly atmosphere with people all around you wanting to introduce themselves, there is more of a serious attitude among students. I like to acknowledge people with a small smile, and some people were just not interested in the returning the openness. Everyone says how warm of an environment this hall is, but then why do I get the closed-off vibe my fellow students? It was almost as if I was the one being analyzed and judged. Is this place all that it's cracked up to be?

Father Greg Ketcham certainly thinks so. Father Greg Ketcham is the Head Director and Chaplain at the St. John's Catholic Newman Center at the University of Illinois. He is proud to say Newman has the largest community within U of I. It also is one of the only secular universities in the country to have a Catholic residence hall. Schools such as Vanderbilt University, Michigan State University, Arizona State University, University of Nebraska, and Texas A&M University are all in contact with Illinois in order to try and form such a strong Catholic community on their campuses as well. Some universities are discussing plans of building, others have signed contracts and others have already opened up wings for

a similar type of private residence hall.

Students who want to practice their faith or learn more about the religion are offered a plethora of ways to get involved. The community offers speakers, small bible studies, and mass three times a day. Many proudly speak about the Koinoina retreat that students go on four times a year. The word Koinoina means community. This trip is geared for students interested in the Catholic faith and want to spend time getting to know others who have had God impact their lives. Other students take part in praying the rosary at 10 pm each night around campus, which is a good way for students to witness. Many students are involved with the Service and Justice projects too. Not everyone at Newman is involved in the social activities run by the staff at Newman, but it is pretty incredible how involved the Catholic community is on campus. Out of the 43,000 or so students on campus, between ten and twelve thousand students are Catholic. Of these, about 5,500 students participate each year in some sort of activity hosted by the Newman Center. Father Greg Ketcham also wanted to clarify that this community is not for just residents of Newman but for the whole Catholic community and the friends interested in getting involved with the University. Still, Newman Hall is home to non-Catholics as well. About twenty percent of the students are not Catholic. These students are not pressured to become Catholic. If they are interested, however, they have the RCIA program, which is the Rights of

Christian Initiation of Adults, to learn more about Christianity and even Catholicism. Still, the staff want to make clear that it's important to spread the message as long as you're doing it in the right way. Father Ketcham said:

We always make sure here at St. John's that there is a distinction between evangelizing and pastoralizing. Even our late pope, John Paul the Second said that pastoralizing is sinful. If a student comes up and wants to know about the Catholic faith, we're right there to share our good news about what it's about it. But to go up to someone, for example, who is Methodist, who is happy with the Methodist faith and try to pull the carpet from underneath them by trying to attack their Methodist faith, what we may believe may be wrong about that faith, we believe that's wrong and sinful to do. In fact, we're just shy of 20 percent of the students at Newman Hall who are non-Catholic, and we certainly embrace that.

There are clearly Newman residents who are more than welcome to get involved in the Catholic community, but others see it as just a place to sleep at night. One student said he chose to live at Newman merely because it was a great facility with a reasonable price. He considered the Catholic affiliation and said he

was raised Catholic but still hasn't stopped in the Chapel for Mass. Another student is part of the Mennonites Church and liked Newman because of the great location. He attends a different church on the weekends and isn't very fond of the whole Catholic atmosphere. He thinks some students are a little too into their faith. Another student lives at Newman for all of the reasons listed above: the Catholic tie, the renovated dorms, and the location. Although he attends Mass once a week, he finds more of a home at his fraternity house. He feels he chose the "brothers" in his pledge class; it was almost as if he was saying he didn't choose his faith-it was something he was just born into.

There's nothing wrong with this feeling. In fact, many people feel the same way. Their parents taught them the lessons of Christianity or Catholicism, and therefore, they call themselves Catholics. I spoke with a young woman who graduated from the University of Nebraska. She is spending the year at Newman as a missionary with seven other students. She believes that religion is something you have to figure out for yourself. She said a lot of people live in this Catholic affiliated residence hall and don't even know what that means. Others are learning more lives like this. She believes that the Newman Center is a place to challenge yourself and grow in your faith.

Still, I question how these students make religion a part of their lives? Is it enough to follow the seven sacraments and still belong to a fraternity and party every weekend while still being underage? Or do you have to follow the bible word for word to be considered holy? Isn't there still corruption within the Catholic Church today? We know there still is because there are illegalities in our very own Catholic Church on campus. Although there are obstacles, like anything, there's always room to improve, and if the residence hall is helping students learn and grow in a setting that makes them comfortable, maybe it is an idea other schools should be looking into. As Father Ketcham put it, "[We believe] that this may be an instrument that could change the way the Catholicism is going to look in the future."