

I think it's a place of refuge to find yourself and find your routine

Liz Kelly
BHSU Junior

It takes you away from the stress of college. You can come here and you don't have to worry about all of that. You can come here and relax. It's just like a getaway place.

Marisa Sokoloski
BHSU Freshman

The Newman Center has been a support to stay with my faith. The people here at the Newman Center are like a second family to me.

Jacqueline Gergely
BHSU Freshman



Steve Williams, architect, discusses plans for the Newman Center with Chaplain Msgr. Michael Woster and members of the Campaign Team.



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A Spiritual Home Away from Home



"This is a great place to come and get to know people for who they actually are. It will also be important to see young people as a body of young Catholics at like a Sunday mass. It will help us to form our own identity in our faith."

Kayla Marquardt
BHSU Freshman

"Just in the first week, coming here and not knowing a single person on the campus, this was a place where I felt welcome and could meet friends with some morals to them. It's been a great place to be myself."

Jack Nelson
BHSU Freshman



A Spiritual Home Away from Home

The home, the Church teaches, is the first school of Christian life where all experience love, forgiveness, and prayerful worship. These are certainly the goals of any Catholic home. We realize, though, that at some point children within a home must leave the safety of the place where they grew up and enter into a world that is frequently challenging and even hostile at times to love, forgiveness, and worship. It is a world, nevertheless, also capable of radiating goodness and beauty reflecting God's love and power. For this reason, we are convinced that the students at Black Hill State University need "a Catholic spiritual home away from home." They need a place on campus that becomes for them, a new "school of the Christian life."

That's exactly what the Catholic Church in Spearfish intends to provide—a new Newman Center Building on the campus of Black Hills State University. With your help, Catholic students and, indeed, all interested students and faculty from BHSU will have a place to practice their faith, enjoy fellowship with their peers, share meals, and grow in their love for Christ. This highly visible facility will be on the edge of the BHSU campus, accessible to students, faculty, and visitors alike.

Our Mission

The mission of the Catholic Newman Center is to bring students and faculty of Black Hills State University to Jesus Christ through the Gospel and full participation in the life of the Church, challenging them to be faithful disciples and preparing them for their Christian mission in the world. This is done through organized prayer meetings, regular Rosary walks around campus, the celebration of the Mass, and Bible studies.

Studies show that up to 75% of young adults leave the Catholic faith after graduating from high school.

There are approximately 5,000 students enrolled at Black Hills State University, and of those, about 700 are Catholic. Of those Catholic students, about 100 regularly attend Newman programs and Mass at St. Joseph Parish. It is our expectation that with the presence of a visible and readily accessible chapel on campus, that number will grow dramatically.

Programs & Events

The new facility will expand and make available more meaningful Catholic programming:

- Weekly Sunday Mass that is specifically directed toward BHSU students, faculty, and staff will be celebrated at the Newman Center chapel.
- Regular daily masses, with special emphasis on Liturgies for Holy Days and special Feast Days, will be offered for students.
- The Newman Center and its Chapel will be available for daily devotionals, including regularly scheduled morning and evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration.
- Marriage preparation classes will be offered for BHSU couples
- Students, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, who want to explore the Catholic faith more deeply can take advantage of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes on site.
- A multitude of other possibilities exist with this facility, including spiritual retreats and courses to help students grow in Christian maturity and understanding of the faith.

How much will this facility cost?

The total cost of the land, building and property is 3.75 million. We are adding an additional one half million to our goal to establish an endowment by which we can conduct the operations of the Center once completed. This makes the total of our campaign goal 4.25 million. However, we have already received a gift from the Diocese of Rapid City through the We Walk by Faith appeal for 1.25 million. This leaves a total campaign goal of 3 million dollars. Our plan is to have this amount raised by 2016 with the new Newman Center completed and ready for use in 2017.

