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All Things New

Rebuilding the Newman Catholic Center

"IN CHRIST...
ALL THINGS BECOME NEW"
2 Corinthians 5:17

Newman Catholic
Center

Letter from The Bishop



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I wholeheartedly support the rebuild project entitled ‘All Things New’ which will enable the Diocese of Owensboro to serve our young people for generations to come.”

Western Kentucky is home to three universities providing on-campus spiritual formation for students. Regarding our mission and ministry to others, these on-campus ministries are very important and worthy of widespread support. St. Leo Catholic Church, the sponsoring parish for the Newman Center at MSU, has generously supported the Center and cared for the spiritual needs of students for many years.

St. Leo Catholic Church and the Diocese of Owensboro are conducting a capital campaign to rebuild the Newman Catholic Center.

The Newman Catholic Center should receive all of our prayers and generous support. Think of your gift as an investment in the spiritual lives of students. Currently, we have 5 religious, 3 seminarians, and 13 FOCUS missionaries who have come directly from the Newman Catholic Center in Murray. For this and many other reasons, the Diocese not only supports their rebuilding project through our prayers, but also through our financial gifts. I am encouraging you, who may read this, to be supportive and donate.

The cost to rebuild the Newman Center is \$1.75M. Rebuilding is necessary, as the current facility has long outlived its service. After months of study by the Buildings and Grounds Committee and Parish Council, the Diocesan leadership and I agree with the pastor and leaders at St. Leo that the best course of action is to replace the Newman Catholic Center with an expanded, modern facility, ensuring its mission of sharing the Gospel with university students.

The cost to rebuild is a shared investment for Catholics and parishes across our Diocese. The name of the campaign is “ALL THINGS NEW,” a reference to Saint Paul’s words to the Corinthians when he said, “In Christ, all things become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). I strongly encourage everyone in the Diocese to consider a generous donation to this important project.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend William F. Medley
Bishop of Owensboro

Nurturing Faith Fostering Futures Forming Leaders



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- FC. Image of the outside of proposed new Newman Center building; two friends hug each other during the sign of peace at the Sunday student Mass
01. Bishop William Medley, Diocese of Owensboro
02. George Timmerman, MSU Commencement, photo used with permission from MSU
03. Murray State Students at the FOCUS conference, SEEK23, in St. Louis, MO
04. A men's Bible study led in Newman by one of the FOCUS missionaries

Vision & Mission of Newman Catholic Center

The Newman Catholic Center is a faith home for students away from home. Our mission is to guide young adults especially Catholic young men and women in the call to holiness while they live out their life as college students.

For students, the Newman Catholic Center is...

- A spiritual home away from home.
- A place to pray, study quietly, and receive inner strength.
- A gathering place to meet and develop lifelong friendships.
- A community of support when your faith is challenged.
- An opportunity to find meaning and direction for your life.
- A place to receive and celebrate the sacraments.

Many MSU students have followed vocational calls to enter the Christian ministry. As of 2023, we have three seminarians, five persons serving in religious life, and thirteen Newman alumni who have served with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).

The Newman Catholic Center counts devout priests, religious leaders, Christian professionals in many fields, business owners, and community leaders among its distinguished alumni.

George Timmerman, pictured here with the President and the Provost of Murray State University, was a recent graduate of MSU and an active participant in the Newman Catholic Center. George gave the Commencement Address to his graduating class of 2023. Today, he is continuing his studies at Washington University in Saint Louis. In a recent interview, George said, "Thanks to the Newman Center, I'm oriented towards God, and that is the best thing that could have ever happened to me."



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Brief History & Timeline

The Newman Catholic Center is named after Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman, who was an academic at the University of Oxford and a priest of the Anglican Church. When he converted to Catholicism he faced much opposition and lost many friends. He was a Catholic in the academic milieu surrounded by protestants...much like what many Catholic university students today face.

The first Newman Society was founded at Oxford, which focused on scholarship, unlike modern US Newman Centers, which prioritize social and evangelical activities.

Newman Campus Ministry at Murray State University began with Father Mattingly's assistance, and by 1986, a building was purchased on the corner of 13th St. and Payne.

The 1986 building was replaced with a double-wide trailer that also served as a nun's residence. In 1997, an addition was added to double the space, providing a chapel.

The first FOCUS team joined the Newman Catholic Center to support and nurture the spiritual growth of Newman students. Student involvement and ministry continued to grow at Newman.

After a student stepped through the floor at the Newman Catholic Center, Fr. McCarty began to build a case to present to the Diocese of Owensboro about the need for new building.

“The chapel has been too small for many years - it is often overcrowded for daily Masses, and will not fit even close to the number of attendees of a weekend Mass. People have knelt outside the door to the chapel at one point because there was no more available space inside.”

— Philomena Hempel, Newman Catholic Center Staff-member and MSU alumna

As of Fall 2023, our Newman Center boasts its own chaplain, 125+ weekend or student Mass attendees at St. Leo, 68 students engaged in FOCUS Bible Studies, and 37 students participating in Discipleship. The increasing demand for meeting spaces has Newman bursting at the seams, with groups vying for space, especially during Bible Study nights.

1878

1962

1994

2011

2021



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“The Newman Catholic Center has encouraged me to share the Catholic faith with everyone around me, and that starts by welcoming them here, a place to gather in the name of Christ.”

— Monica McManemin, MSU Junior



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- 01. FOCUS recruitment event in Ohio that included Mass and testimonies, then continued with dancing and fellowship.
- 02. A group of Newman friends hanging out together at the lake
- 03. Eating dinner at Newman with friends!
- 04. Newman Senior Class of 2023 won the “Class Wars” event that Newman kicked off the school year with!
- 05. Student meeting with a FOCUS missionary for Discipleship

Life at Newman

A Turning Point: The Time Is Now



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The Newman Catholic Center must be rebuilt.

Here's why:

- The current Center is a 30-year-old trailer or modular building, and it's deteriorating.
- As a trailer, water has damaged it over the years and has rotted sub-floors and main floors.
- Replacing roofs on the Newman Catholic Center will cost a minimum of \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- Windows are inefficient, making energy efficiency impossible.
- Carpet and linoleum floors are worn and torn and need replacing.
- With non-functioning drains, major plumbing repairs are needed.
- HVAC systems, water heaters, and bathrooms are inadequate and need replacing.
- Meeting space for students is woefully inadequate and not conducive to growth.

When these costs are calculated together, the total cost makes renovation of the modular trailer costlier than it may be worth. Replacing it with a more permanent facility will ensure this vital ministry continues growing and reaching new students with the Gospel message. The time is now. The Newman Center must be rebuilt.

That urgency is what's behind our call to act now. With your generous participation, we will continue this ministry indefinitely into the future, sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and transforming the lives and future careers of many MSU students.

For our capital campaign to be successful...

We need the generous giving of many and the extraordinary giving of a few.



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With these needs alone, the estimated cost range for repairs and replacement of systems is \$175,000 to \$225,000. This is based on current estimates for similar projects.

Additional concerns relate to the ability to operate and to enhance the spiritual experience for students:

- The Chapel's current capacity does not allow for the current students to participate. Newman needs to accommodate 70 students to meet needs now.
- The existing gathering space significantly restricts student participation in weekly programs and events; we do not have enough space to meet current needs. The objective is to expand its capacity to accommodate 100 students.
- The deterioration of the current facilities may quickly become unsafe for our students. Our goal is to offer a safe and welcoming space to continue our mission near MSU.

Now is the time to rebuild the Newman Catholic Center and make ***“all things new.”*** This is our time to meet the overwhelming response from students wanting to participate in Newman Catholic Center events.

To be successful, we must have the generous giving of many and the extraordinary giving of a few.

01. Place where student fell through flooring
02. Dinner table at Newman includes games and studying
03. Student Mass at capacity
04. Students hanging out and watching the baseball game after the 9pm student Mass in Newman.

The Estimated Cost: \$1.75 Million



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The New Center will have...

- Expanded facilities and safety features to enhance the student experience
- 5,000 square feet of student space, or 150% larger than the current facility.
- Room for growth and participation by a growing number of MSU students.
- A library and meeting room, 65% larger for Bible study groups.
- A reinforced safe area for students during inclement weather.
- Office space for the Center's Director and FOCUS staff (Fellowship of Catholic University Students).
- Separate bathrooms for women and men.
- New, modern kitchen for friendship meals with students.

Stay Updated & Hear More Stories

Want to stay updated on construction progress? Turn on the camera on your mobile device and scan the QR code. It will link to www.catholicracers.org/all-things-new. You will find the latest updates with pictures of the construction as it progresses.

You can also see the stories of students who have been positively impacted by the ministry of the Newman Catholic Center. One such story is from a student, whose faith journey led him to discerning a call to the priesthood--a testimony to the power of the Newman experience. You will discover their compelling testimony and other stories as students give witness to the spiritual impact the Newman Catholic Center has had on their lives.

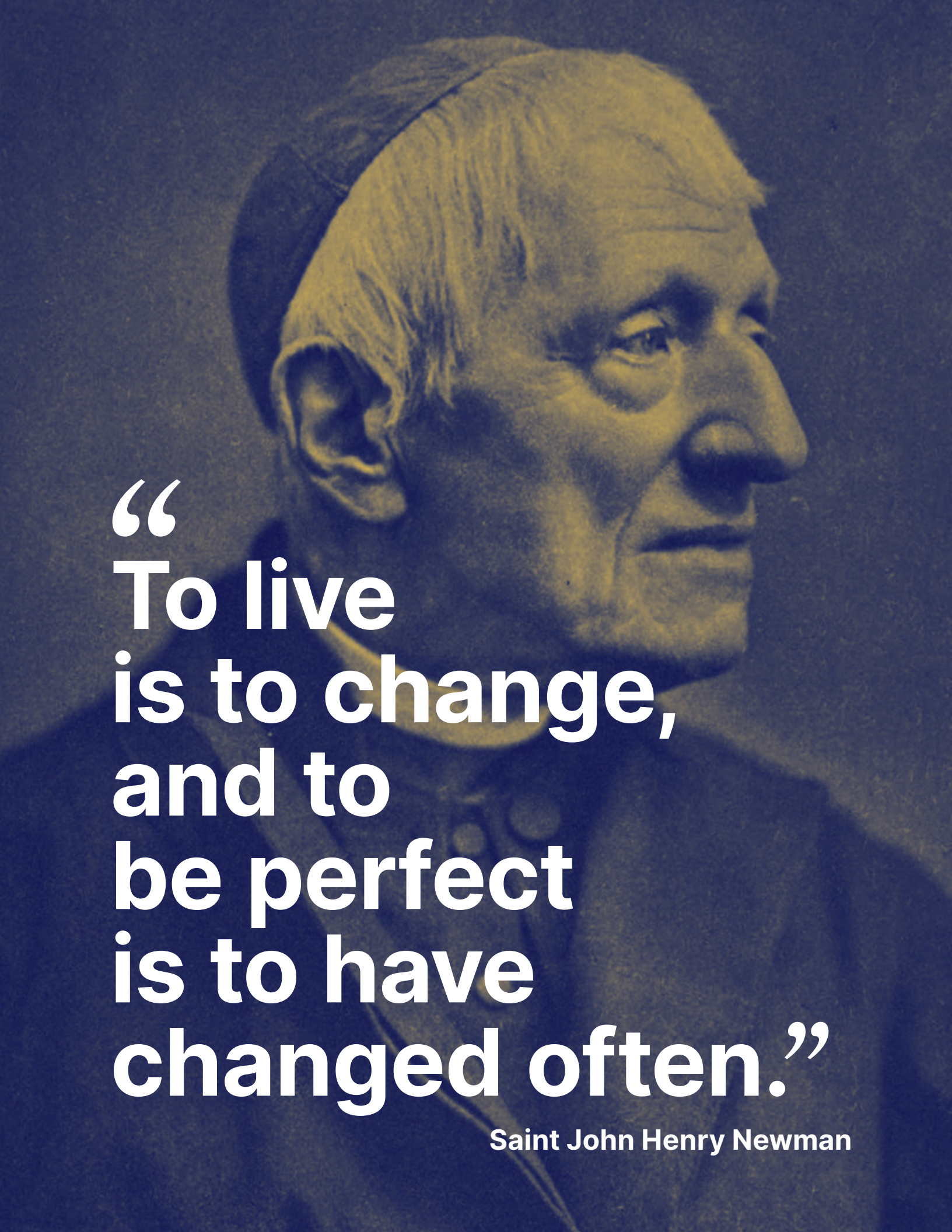


02



Scan QR code to visit the website:
catholicracers.org/all-things-new

01. Render of proposed design, front entrance.
02. Render of proposed design, rear entrance.



**“
To live
is to change,
and to
be perfect
is to have
changed often.”**

Saint John Henry Newman

Letter from The Pastor

All Things New: Transforming Faith, Building Futures at Newman Catholic Center

Not long after arriving at St. Leo and the Newman Catholic Center, I invited the young people to wake up at 5 in the morning and to join me in prayer at the chapel in the Newman Catholic Center. I wanted to invite them to do something courageous and transformational. On the first morning, the chapel could not contain the number of university students who woke up at 5 to sit in silence and pray their morning prayers. Young people were sitting outside the door. They wouldn't all fit inside the chapel.

Our young people are alive with faith which strengthens them to press through life's challenges, even through personal tragedy. "All Things New" is not just about a new building. It is about keeping the Catholic faith alive in our youth. It is about new faith in people who have never discovered it or have fallen away, it is about new hope for people who feel lost and alone, and it is about new life for



those who are away from home and need a community. The "All Things New" Campaign embodies our mission to grow our faith. What better way than offering a welcoming and secure home for our students - who are our future!

I support this project with a donation of my own, and I encourage you to dig deep and make a courageous contribution. We need generous giving and extraordinary giving to complete this project and embolden the next generation at Newman Catholic Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh McCarty".

Fr. Josh McCarty, Pastor
St. Leo Catholic Church in Murray, Kentucky

The chart below shows the needed contributions in order to make "All Things New" happen for the Newman Catholic Center. Consider where you may be in the chart.

Commitments & Gifts Needed

NUMBER OF GIFTS NEEDED	GIFT VALUE	TOTAL LEVEL	CUMULATIVE AMOUNT
1	\$250,000	\$250,000	250,000
1	\$200,000	\$200,000	450,000
2	\$150,000	\$300,000	750,000
3	\$100,000	\$300,000	1,050,000
5	\$50,000	\$250,000	1,300,000
8	\$25,000	\$200,000	1,500,000
16	\$10,000	\$160,000	1,660,000
20	\$5,000	\$100,000	1,760,000
Many	<\$5,000	\$40,000	1,800,000

Your Part - Bringing the Vision To Life

There is much more to generosity than just a financial transaction.

In God's eyes, our growth in generosity is less about a financial transaction and more about a transformation. It is truly a matter of the heart! The Generosity Journey can help us think about this transformation. We have identified five steps within this journey, and while we are all in different places in the journey, we are invited to progress as we grow in our faith.

Moving along the path requires a heart change; it brings us to a greater understanding of God, not a greater view of ourselves. As you read below and think about this journey, we invite you to ask yourself along with us, "What is driving me to be generous?"



An Initial Giver is a person who decides to give for the first time, out of a response to God's Word about giving. (2 Corinthians 8:7-15)



A Consistent Giver decides to give something and to give it on a consistent basis to exercise the discipline of giving on a regular basis. (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)



An Intentional Giver is one who is beginning to think about their giving in relation to other things on which they spend their money. (Luke 14:28-35)



A Sacrificial Giver recognizes the cost that Christ paid on the cross for us and surrenders to honoring God with 100% of their resources as a result. (Colossians 1:15-18, 22-23)



A Lifetime Giver is known for thinking about the impact of generosity rather than just the shorter term of month-to-month generosity or even year-to-year. (1 Timothy 6:6-19)

Your Place in the Journey

Take a moment to read through the Generosity Journey again and look up the corresponding scripture with each step. Then, mark on the options below where you are on the journey right now:

**Initial****Consistent****Intentional****Sacrificial****Lifetime**

Where is God calling you to be on the journey in the next few years?

What is needed for you to take the next step on the journey toward a more generous lifestyle? Write your response and prayer in the area below, and then read your response again in a few days.



We invite you to pray with us:

My Jesus, I ask You to direct and guide the build project and to bring together Your Church to support the mission of the Newman Catholic Center. Shepherd our planning, provide for our needs, and guide us with Your skilled and sacred carpenter's hands.

Lord, use me as an instrument in this work! You have created me for service, and have chosen me from all eternity for such a time as this - let me be an instrument in the accomplishment of Your will today.

Father, we place all our cares in You. Amen. St. John Henry Newman, intercede for us!

— Written by Philomena Hempel – Alumna of Newman Catholic Center and Murray State University

NEW
THINGS
ALL

