

EACH ONE – REACH ONE

Area-Wide Stewardship Mission October 12 – 14, 2009

Sisters and brothers, welcome to a new year of activity in the name of Jesus here at Aquinas Newman Center! The pastoral team and lay ministers of Aquinas Newman Center have spent the past year preparing for a special year of evangelization.

The word “evangelization” may frighten some people as images rise in the back of our minds of going door-to-door to invite people to come to the parish. I have participated in those and found them life-giving. But, I wish to allay any and all fears about how Newman Center will go about evangelization by explaining how it works on the most basic level.

For our year of evangelization, we have adopted the theme of “EACH ONE – REACH ONE.” What can be simpler than asking at least *one* (1) person to join you in worship for the coming year? Our prayer is that as you meditate upon the things which keep you coming back to Newman you will see the natural follow through of wanting to share that with family and friends.

But, remember, unlike other groups, the essence of Catholic evangelization is not to ask those attending other parishes to come to Newman. Rather we seek out those who are not involved in any community of worship and invite them to share our life-giving faith.

To kick off this year of evangelization all ministerial departments of the Newman Center have prepared special events for the coming year. Campus Ministry restarted “Mass on the Grass,” that glorious celebration of Catholic presence at UNM; Religious Formation has re-worked offerings for this year to accommodate the needs of Newman Center families and is initiating an outreach to the “teens and ‘tweens” in our parish; Liturgy and Music is beginning by offering special training for all ministers and we will introduce a special outreach to the sick and the elderly this year. These are just highlights. We look forward to sharing the full spectrum of offerings that will begin this year, but will continue for years to come ... all with the intent of each one reaching one.

The official start of our parish “year of evangelization” will be an event that goes beyond the boundaries of our parish ... the Newman Center is hosting a preached Mission!

Though sponsored by the parish, the Stewardship Mission is not a “parish mission,” per se. Being faithful to the true notion of evangelization, the Mission intends to reach beyond the boundaries of the Newman Center to the Archdiocese and beyond. So, we invite you, your family and friends, to join us at the weekend Masses on October 10 and 11; then please join us the week of October 12 – 14 for the Stewardship Mission.

EACH ONE – REACH ONE is a ‘doable’ goal. Please participate in this evangelization effort to the best of your ability; start talking to your friends now. It is now time that we live Matthew 10:27: *“What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops.”*

EACH ONE – REACH ONE

Reflections by fr. Tom Jackson, OP, Pastor, Aquinas Newman Center

September 6, 2009