

Blessed Sacrament, Newman Center mark 100 years

Special events scheduled to celebrate special ministry in the University District

SEATTLE
BY KEVIN BIRNBAUM

During the first decade of the 20th century, the population of Seattle exploded, nearly tripling in numbers. To address the spiritual needs of the burgeoning populace in 1908, Bishop Edward J. O'Dea invited the Dominican Order "to erect in the diocese and city of Seattle a convent and church, to accept the care of a parish to be annexed to the church to be erected, and to labor among the students attending the University of the State of Washington."

Throughout this year, the fruits of Bishop O'Dea's invitation to the Dominicans, Blessed Sacrament Parish and the Newman Center at the University of Washington, are celebrating the centennial of their founding and 100 years of serving the faithful in the University District with a full slate of special events.

Looking back, looking forward

The centennial of Blessed Sacrament and the Newman Center is an occasion to reflect on the rich history of their ministry to Seattle and the University of Washington, said Dominican Father Daniel Syverstad, the pastor of Blessed Sacrament.

"Our centennial year is not only a year of celebrations," said Father Syverstad, "but a year of gratitude for the people of God who have supported this ministry through good times and bad."

Margaret Moore, a parishioner whose family has been a part of Blessed Sacrament since it was founded, helps people connect with the history of the church by giving tours of the impressive neo-Gothic structure, which was dedicated on Oct. 4, 1925. Moore will conduct the tours on the first Sunday of each month during the centennial year.

The centennial also provides Blessed Sacrament's faith community with an opportunity to plan for the future.

"This is an exciting year as we now, like the faithful of 1908, have the opportunity to lay the foundation of faith for the next 100 years," said Father Syverstad.

Serving the university

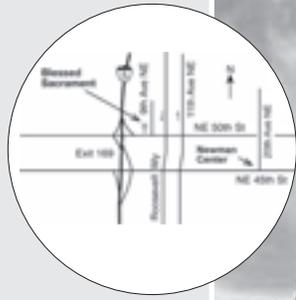
Blessed Sacrament and the Newman Center occupy a unique role in the archdiocese by virtue of Bishop O'Dea's charge to minister to the students of the University of Washington. The Newman Center, which held its first meeting on Oct. 9, 1908 as the Newman Club, changed headquarters many times before the dedication of its current home, the Prince of Peace Chapel, by Archbishop Alex J. Brunett in 2001. But whatever building it has occupied, the Newman Center has served as a spiritual home for Catholic students at the university.

"The Newman Center is a very active and supportive community for students," said Dominican Father José Pimentel, director of the Newman Center. "We do everything we can to inspire them to live their faith — on and off campus."

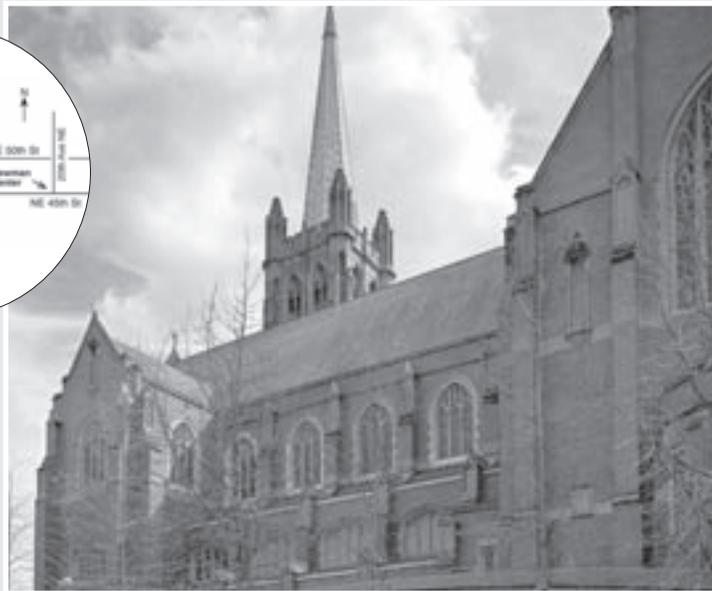
The Newman Center strives to help students integrate all aspects of their lives, said Father Pimentel.

"It's a challenge for students to deepen their faith and strengthen their intellects at the same time," he said. "But in the spirit of Cardinal Newman, that's exactly what we do. Our faith and reason are perfectly compatible."

Blessed Sacrament, Seattle



Monthly tours of Blessed Sacrament Church, a national historic landmark, are conducted on the first Sunday of every month at 1:30 p.m.



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Founded: 1908

Households: 850

Pastor: Rev. Daniel Syverstad, O.P.

Street Address:
5041 9th Ave. N.E., Seattle

Parish Office:
5050 8th Ave. N.E., 98105

Phone: (206) 547-3020

Web site: www.blessed-sacrament.org

Priory: Dominican Priory
5041 9th Ave. N.E., 98105

Station: Newman Center
University of Washington
4502 20th Ave. N.E., 98105
(206) 527-5072

To praise, to bless, to preach

A centennial committee of Blessed Sacrament and Newman Center parishioners and students has been working since January 2007 to organize a year's worth of events that celebrate the church's history while also looking toward the future.

"We have set forth a full calendar through the efforts of a lot of volunteers," said Chris Hanzeli, chair of the centennial committee and development director for the Newman Center, "not only at Blessed Sacrament but also at the Newman Center to highlight the centennial year and

really to draw attention to the Dominican Order's purpose, their motto, which is 'To praise, to bless, and to preach,' and so all of our activities throughout the year are centered around one aspect of that motto."

Concerts by musicians such as Tom Booth, piano trio Finisterra, and the Tudor Choir highlight "to praise"; special liturgies like the Newman Center's centennial Mass on the University of Washington campus and a special Dominican rite Latin Mass at Blessed Sacrament represent "to bless;" and a series of lectures by distinguished speakers such as Father

CENTENNIAL EVENTS

To celebrate their centennial, Blessed Sacrament Parish and the Prince of Peace Catholic Newman Center will hold special events throughout 2008. For the full calendar, visit www.bspwa.org/centennial.

- May 6, 7:30 p.m., Newman Center – Lecture VII: The Mysticism of St. Catherine of Siena: Quest for Truth. Sr. Suzanne Noffke, OP.
- May 7, 7:30 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Lecture VIII: The Mysticism of St. Catherine of Siena: Tears and Sweat for the World. Sr. Suzanne Noffke, OP.
- June 7, 7 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Tudor Choir: Corpus Christi Concert.
- August 6, 7:30 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Lecture IX: The Enchantment of Chant: The Heritage and Legacy of Gregorian and Dominican Chants. Perry Lorenzo, Education Director for the Seattle Opera.
- August 8, 7 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Solemnity of St. Dominic: Special Dominican Latin Rite Mass.
- September 3, 7:30 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Lecture X: Themes in Dominican Spirituality. Fr. Paul Murray, OP.
- October 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., UW HUB Room 310 – Lecture XI: Faith and Reason in Christianity and Islam. Dr. Frederick Denny, Fr. Anselm Ramelow, OP, and Prof. Amir Hussain.
- December 7, Noon, Blessed Sacrament – Closing Centennial Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving.
- December 31, 7 p.m., Blessed Sacrament – Compline and Benediction to mark the close of the centennial year.

Timothy Radcliffe, the 85th master of the Dominican Order, highlight "to preach."

In addition to praising, blessing and preaching, this centennial year is an especially appropriate time for the communities of Blessed Sacrament and the Newman Center to be giving thanks, Hanzeli noted.

"Celebrating 100 years is not only a milestone for a building but for a community of people as well," he said. "We are truly blessed to be a part of the Dominican family, the Archdiocese of Seattle and, in particular, this wonderful university community."