

PARISH PROFILE

# UW Newman Center a parish home for students away from home

*Centennial celebration next year*

SEATTLE  
BY ARMANDO MACHADO

At the Prince of Peace Catholic Newman Center, staff and volunteers work to provide University of Washington students who are Catholic "with a strong faith community that supports them and journeys with them," the

center's chaplain/director, Father José Pimentel, said in a recent interview.

"The challenge is that they are in a university — the professors, sometimes they challenge the students about their beliefs. Sometimes they do it diplomatically, sometimes aggressively....The students come to college and they're exposed to so many different ideas. You try to explain to them the distinction between proof and faith. You can't prove

faith; you live your faith. The only proof is maybe the goodness in your life, and how you treat others."

As for Newman centers generally, Father Pimentel, a native of Portugal, said, "It is a great experiment to bring faith issues to intellectual life — to deepen your understanding of religious issues." He said he has received a lot of positive, grateful and joyful feedback from students and their parents about the center's events, programs and activities.

The center is located on 20th Avenue N.E. across from the University of Washington campus. The first center opened on Oct. 9, 1908 and officials today are preparing for next year's centennial anniversary celebration. It will be celebrated jointly with Blessed Sacrament Parish located on 9th Avenue N.E., which also was established in 1908.

The parish and center were started



Fr. José Pimentel

by Dominican priests to serve the University District community. As a result, the center essentially has been a ministry of the parish, said Christopher Hanzeli, the

center's development director.

"The Prince of Peace Catholic Newman Center is a very vibrant and active Catholic community," Hanzeli said. "We offer mission trips, alternative spring breaks to serve the poor in our state, spiritual retreats, study sessions, dances, sports, educational lectures, Bible studies, choirs and all the sacraments."

Up to 800 students visit the center

**NEWMAN CENTER,** See page 13

## UW Newman Center

**Founded:** 1908

**Students Served:**  
Approximately 800  
each week

**Chaplain:**  
Father José Pimentel

**Address:**  
4502 20th Ave. N.E.,  
Seattle, WA 98105

**Phone:**  
(206) 527-5072

**Chaplains since 1991:**  
Rev. Thomas DeMan, OP, 1991  
Rev. Steven Maekawa, OP, 2002  
Rev. Vincent Benoit, OP, 2004  
Rev. Jose Pimentel, OP, 2006

(A complete list of Newman Center directors and associate directors over the past century is available on the archdiocesan Web site, [www.seattlearch.org/progress](http://www.seattlearch.org/progress).)

PHOTOS COURTESY NEWMAN CENTER AT UW



Inside the current Newman Center at the University of W

