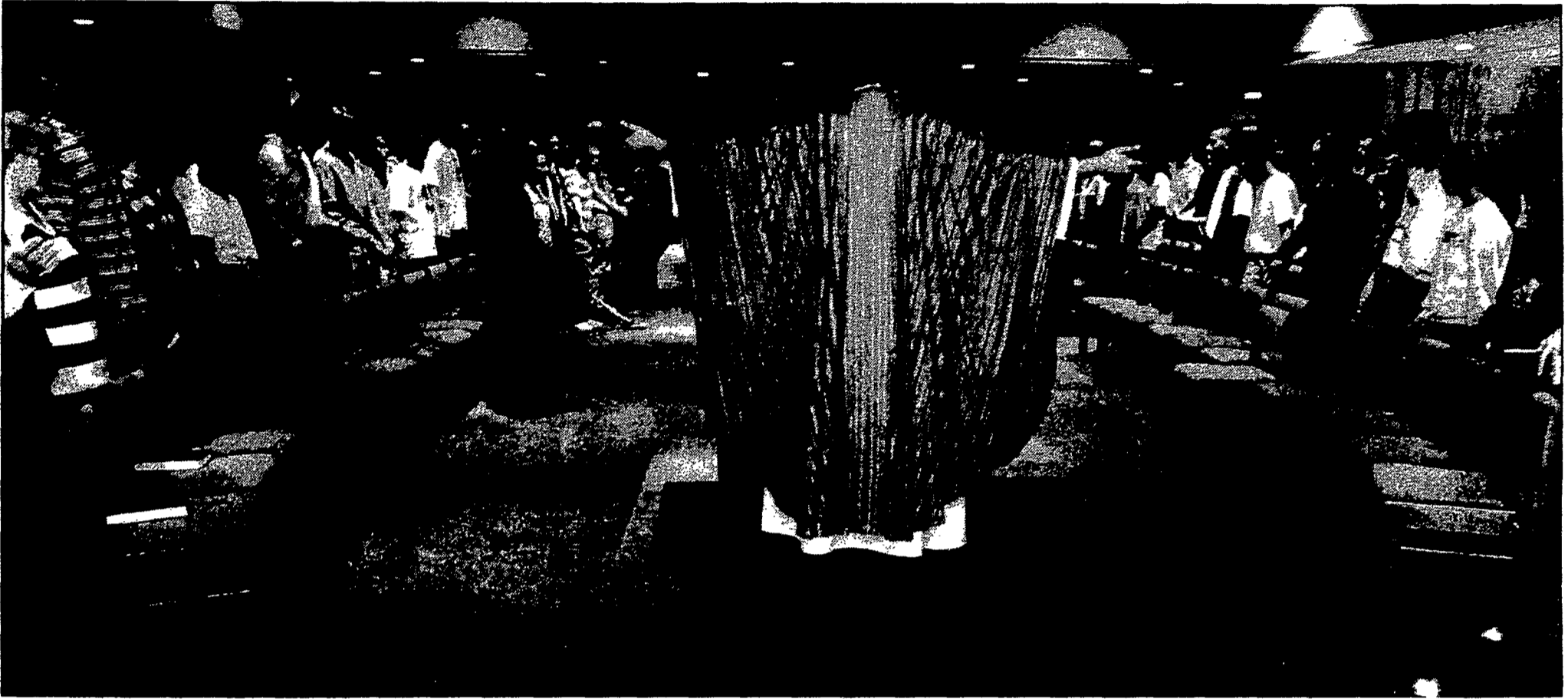




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CAMPUS MINISTRY



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Gary L. Tyman, chaplain at the University of Rochester's Newman Community, celebrates a Sept. 3 welcoming Mass for U of R students.

English cardinal was catalyst for modern-day communities

Shannon Kendall admits to being taken aback the first time she attended a Catholic Mass at the University of Rochester three years ago.

The liturgy was held in a downstairs room at the campus Interfaith Chapel, rather than in a Catholic church. And that morning's homily was delivered not by a priest, but by Sister Marie Susanne Hoffman, SSJ, chaplain at the University of Rochester's Newman Community.

"I wasn't used to women doing that, so I was rather shocked," recalled Kendall, a native of Darien in the Buffalo diocese.

At the State University of New York College at Brockport, Jim Hanley was a little uncomfortable with the Newman Oratory's intimate setting when he occasionally attended Mass there as a freshman last year.

"That was a hard thing to get used to. It's so small you're actually almost getting a one-on-one situation," said Hanley.

It didn't take long, however, for both Kendall and Hanley to embrace the openness and friendliness marking many a campus ministry.

Kendall is now parish council chairperson for the University of Rochester's Newman Community. Meanwhile, as Hanley's sophomore year begins, he's looking forward to attending Mass on a more regular basis with a childhood friend, Steve Buck, who transferred to Brockport State this year.

Hanley said he has learned to enjoy the closeness of his college's Newman community, noting the big change from his childhood days at Henrietta's Church of the Good Shepherd.

"Before, after Mass, you would just shake hands with the priest and leave," Hanley said. Yet he now finds himself lingering in the back of the Newman Center after Sunday Mass, chatting with old and new friends.



Cardinal Newman (Icon by Robert Lente)

Back at the University of Rochester, although she was attending her first Mass there, freshman Dawn Roy quickly detected a welcoming spirit when she took part in a special 10 a.m. liturgy and reception for freshmen Sunday, Sept. 3.

"This is one thing that helps me feel like something I can get at home, I can get here too," said Roy, a native of Gonzales, La. "It's something I'm used to — which is very nice when you don't know anyone."

Greeting students such as Roy is a major theme in September for both Gary L. Tyman, chaplain at the University of Rochester; and Father Theodore J. Auble, chaplain at Brockport State.

"If you are new here, or have been here forever, turn and introduce yourselves to one another," encouraged Father Auble during 10 a.m. Mass this past Sunday, Sept. 10.

In his homily the previous Sunday, Father Tyman urged those in attendance to carry out the welcoming spirit as well.

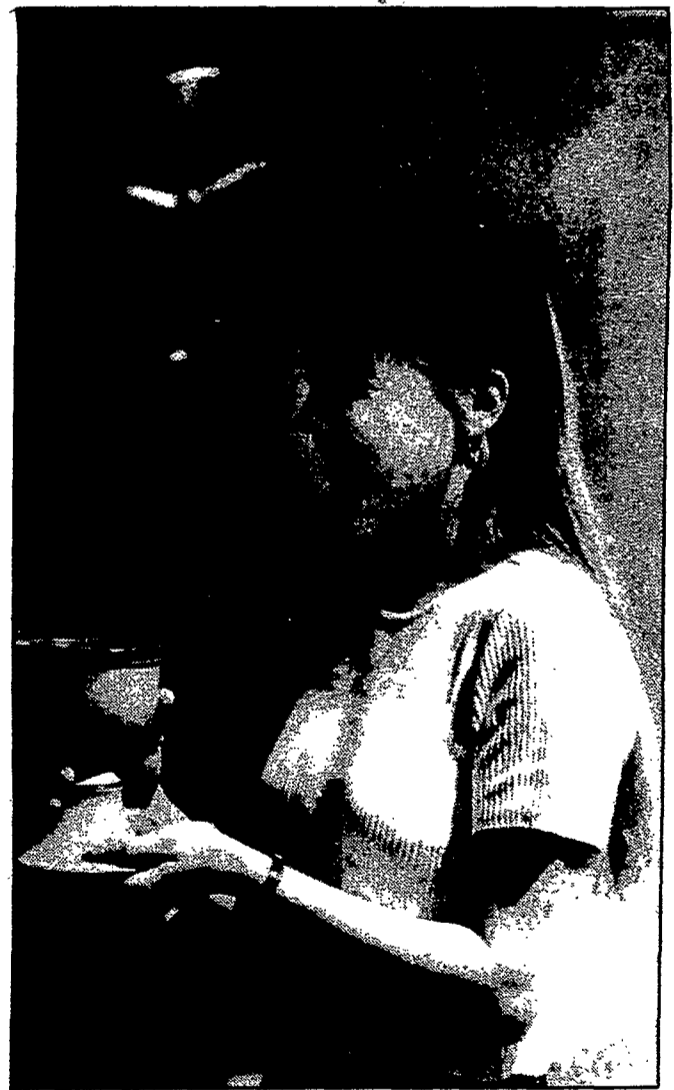
"Reach out to people who feel lonely, awkward, vulnerable, not sure of themselves," he said. "Invite the new people in your hall, dorm or apartment to go to Mass." In return, Father Tyman asked newcomers to "open yourselves up to us, as we open ourselves up to you."

Much of the spirit of modern campus ministry owes itself to the influence of English theologian and apologist Cardinal John Henry Newman, the patron of Catholic campus ministers in the United States.

Cardinal Newman, a former Anglican priest, converted to Roman Catholicism in October of 1845 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1847. He was made a cardinal by Pope Leo XIII in 1879, and died in 1890 at the age of 89.

Father Edward J. Ondrako, OFM Conv., has devoted much of his life to studying Cardinal Newman and the

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Maria Williams, a junior at the University of Rochester, served as eucharist minister for the Sept. 3 welcoming Mass.

STORY BY

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