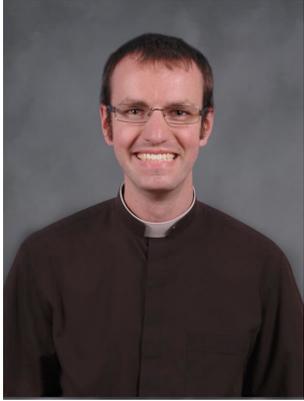


Staff Spotlight – Fr. Peter Kieffer



If you don't already know our MS/HS chaplain, meet Father Peter Kieffer, the director of the campus ministry program, as well as the chair of the theology and religion departments at the middle and high school. Fr. Kieffer works tirelessly to provide for the sacramental needs at the school and to make Jesus present in the school community by visiting classes, greeting people in the hallways, attending events, and in a variety of other ways. It might surprise some of you to learn that is only his 2nd year as he has already become such an integral part of the Newman family. There is much that Father enjoys about his work: helping the students, faculty and staff grow in their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ; preaching to the students at weekly Mass; greeting students in the hallways; and cheering them on at events---all this while helping students, staff, and teachers to "dive deeper" into the life of the Church.

His sincere desire to know and nurture the students in his care is illustrated by the words of a parent, who explained how much her daughter appreciated the fact that he knew the students' names. Her daughter appreciated that fact that, "Fr. Peter is the first priest who knows all our names."

Fr. Peter admits that not everybody always shares his enthusiasm and interest for God and the Catholic faith, and yet, he explains that "God invites us into a relationship with Him, but He doesn't force us to say yes. It is difficult when others don't seem to be saying yes to that invitation from God. At those times, I just have to trust and pray that God will become more a part of their life one day."

Grateful that the Lord has brought him to Newman, Father says that in 5 years, he will go wherever the Lord needs him, indicating that God is at the center of his life, and that the Holy Spirit is the one thing he can't do without. To stay balanced and energized in order to continue in his stewardship of the Newman family, Father Peter enjoys watching the Chicago Cubs and Minnesota Vikings, keeping up on current events, practicing Spanish; playing piano, visiting family and friends. Please take a moment to express gratitude for Father Peter and all he does for the Newman community!