

March 2, 2023

Dear UB Newman Community,

Over the past week, news about the future of the campus ministry center has been swirling. Many have heard that the diocesan chapter 11 bankruptcy will have an impact on Diocesan properties, of which our own Newman Center is one.

As was shared in the *Buffalo News* article on February 28, "Appraisals were conducted last week of the UB Newman Center at 495 Skinnersville Road in Amherst and a condominium on Bristol Drive that's home to the Rev. Paul D. Seil, UB Newman Center director". This information may come as a shock to this community; however, I want to be clear that all diocesan property that was mentioned in the article is being appraised as part of the requirements of the chapter 11 proceedings. The article also stated that these properties may be sold to help fund the settlements.

This was the topic of the UBNC's ministry planning council's meeting this past Tuesday evening, and the consensus of the planning council was that a letter needed to be shared with the community letting everyone know what is going on. The timing of the news article beat the letter we wanted you to have first.

At this time the facts before us are:

1. All Diocesan property is being appraised to determine their value.
2. The UB Newman Center and Fr. Paul's condo were appraised last week.
3. The diocese has not made a decision concerning sale of the UB Newman Center, but has committed to the sale of the condo.

This is all that we know at this time. I do want to assure you that our leadership teams are meeting, our ministries are as active as ever, our students are being ministered to, and those who gather are receiving the sacraments. We must continue as a community to deal with the reality before us. Right now, that is working as a part of family 36, forming our pillar groups, and creating an action plan for the future. When more information is given to help determine our future, it will be shared immediately with this community.

As administrator of family 36, I want to assure you that I have experienced and see the importance of this community and its ministry in the diocese. I want you to know that I am sharing all that you do, and your passion, with those in leadership at the diocese. As soon as I know anything, I will pass that information on to you.

Our journey through Lent is certainly calling all of us to carry our cross and unite ourselves closer to Jesus.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Bryan Zielenieski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Bryan Zielenieski  
Administrator, Family 36