

Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal

Manuscript 1474

The National Institute for Newman Studies: A Research Hub for the Study of Topics Related to Saint John Henry Newman

Elizabeth Huddleston

Christopher Cimorelli

Follow this and additional works at: <https://epublications.regis.edu/jhe>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#)

The National Institute for Newman Studies: A Research Hub for the Study of Topics Related to Saint John Henry Newman

Elizabeth A. Huddleston
Head of Research and Publications
National Institute for Newman Studies
ehuddleston@newmanstudies.org

Christopher Cimorelli
Director
National Institute for Newman Studies
ccimorelli@newmanstudies.org

Abstract

This article presents background information on the National Institute for Newman Studies (NINS), describes the NINS initiatives, and explains the types of resources available through NINS.

The National Institute for Newman Studies, known collegially by the acronym NINS, was founded in 2002 by Father Drew Morgan and Ms. Catharine Ryan after Father Vincent J. Giese (1923-2000) passed away, leaving behind an extensive collection of materials related to St. John Henry Newman. Morgan and Ryan together envisioned the Institute as a forum for exchanging ideas and discoveries about St. John Henry Newman's thought and its continuing relevance. With the assistance of generous friends, NINS has celebrated many accomplishments and blossomed into the world's leading resource for Newman and Newman-related materials. Three pillars form the basis of NINS: 1) publications, 2) collections, and 3) scholarship.

Publishing

In 2004, the *Newman Studies Journal (NSJ)* was established. The *NSJ* is a peer reviewed academic journal dedicated to the writings and thought of St. John Henry Newman and related topics. In 2017, the *NSJ* underwent a redesign and entered into a contract to be published by the Catholic University of America Press. Alongside the redesign and new contract with CUA Press came the *NSJ Second Series*, an accompanying book series that publishes monographs and edited volumes related to similar topics. In 2019, the *Newman Review*, an internally reviewed e-publication, was established. The *Newman Review* targets a general

audience and covers a diverse range of Newman-related topics, including those of a pastoral and spiritual nature.

Collections

In 2005, NINS initiated the digitization of Newman's published works in collaboration with the University of Toronto; Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California; Boston College; and the Pittsburgh Oratory. In 2013, NINS entered into an agreement with the Birmingham Oratory, which initiated the digitization of Newman's handwritten manuscripts. The John Rylands Library of the University of Manchester was contracted to perform the digitization. In 2018, NINS joined a growing community of the world's leading research libraries and image repositories to embark on an effort to collaboratively share their resources and images with the world. Today, over 500,000 images featuring letters, library records, photographs, maps, manuscripts, music scores, etc., are included in the NINS Digital Collections.

In 2007, the Gailliot Center for Newman Studies was built in the heart of the culturally rich Oakland neighborhood in Pittsburgh to house and manage the growing physical and digital content, which comprise the finest collection of Newman and Newman-related content in the world. The library contains several thousand Newman-related volumes, as well as one of the finest collections on

the Catholic Modernist Crisis thanks to the generosity and vision of Rev. Charles Talar. One of the few residential libraries in the world, NINS is equipped with four one-bedroom suites, each of which includes an attached personal office and bathroom. The residential library has a beautiful chapel that contains original pews from the church that Newman built in the early 1800s, St. Mary and St. Nicholas Church in Littlemore. The Gailliot Center for Newman Studies also has a formal dining room, fully equipped kitchen, meditation patio, and common area for the use of our residential scholars.

Scholarship

Each year, NINS hosts eight to ten academics from around the world as part of the Visiting Scholars Program. The program is designed for scholars who wish to devote a period of research and writing (typically two to eight weeks) in the field of Newman studies. The program is intended for both seasoned academics well-acquainted with Newman and for emerging Newman scholars and other researchers who seek to connect their research lines in some meaningful way with Newman's thought, legacy, or context. Advanced M.A. and Ph.D. students are encouraged to apply to the program, which can lead to a generous stipend once program requirements are fulfilled. Likewise, students enrolled in M.A. and Ph.D. programs working toward a thesis or dissertation may request a residential stay of up to two weeks for research toward their projects.

In tandem with our Visiting Scholars Program, NINS hosts many events each year. Typically, in the Fall and Spring, NINS hosts annual symposia and lectures that investigate various topics relating to Newman's life and writings, as well as topics more tangentially related to Newman and the life of the Church. NINS also hosts various reading groups. Some are pastoral in nature, while others are academic in nature. NINS also hosts writing groups, which are geared toward varying levels of academic writing. The NINS Proseminar, which typically runs the length of the academic year, is a space dedicated for graduate and doctoral students, as well as early-career academics, to engage in collegial conversations about the process of research and writing.

In 2010, NINS became formally affiliated with Duquesne University. The same year marked the creation of the Ryan Endowed Chair in Newman Studies at Duquesne University. In 2019, Duquesne University incorporated a thriving Catholic Studies Program into its curriculum. NINS is proud to work with several Duquesne University students from several academic departments through various internships.

Since its inception in 2002, the National Institute for Newman Studies has grown exponentially. In 2019, the staff of NINS personally witnessed the canonization of John Henry Newman as an official saint of the Catholic Church in St. Peter's Square. Since the canonization, NINS has worked with Newman devotees from around the world to petition the Vatican that Saint John Henry Newman should be declared a Doctor of the Church.

To stay up to date with NINS's initiatives, visit newmanstudies.org. The majority of NINS events are hosted both online and in person, but registration through the website is required. The NINS Digital Collections are continuously being updated and can be found at digitalcollections.newmanstudies.org. The online journal, the *Newman Review*, can be found at newmanreview.org. 