

Episode 1 Season 1 "The Gospel, a Trust Committed to Us"

**Father Richard Smith** with his patristics background offers insights into St. John Henry Newman's sermon, "The Gospel, a Trust Committed to US". Go to [www.newmanontap.com](http://www.newmanontap.com) to upload the sermon which will be referenced in detail during our discussion. If you're new to St. John Henry Newman you'll quickly learn that his sermons are masterpieces of prose, Scriptural exegesis, and spiritual direction. They are best read aloud. Enjoy.

Episode 2 Season 1 "Dispositions for Faith"

As we prepare for the second Sunday of Advent, **Sister Kathleen Dietz** reacts to Newman's classic sermon, "Dispositions for Faith" by reviewing how we dispose ourselves to faith by the cultivation of our minds and hearts through obedience to the conscience. As we strengthen our conscience, we grow in our perception of the God of Revelation who, through the Incarnation, penetrates the deepest needs of our soul. Newman guides us to the realization of the givenness of our faith through the realization of the givenness of our liturgy in which we rightly receive in order to simply "bask in the truth".

Episode 3 Season 1 "The Incarnation"

**Mary Beth Newkumet** ([lifeaftersunday.com](http://lifeaftersunday.com)) reacts to Newman's 1834 Christmas sermon, "The Incarnation". Here we aim to help you encounter Newman's intense desire for the Word of Life in a "heart to heart" piece that aids us in our own longing for our shared infinite desire for more. As we journey with Newman through the events and experiences in and through The Church towards the truth of the Incarnation, we in like manner discover an understanding of the life of Christ flowing through similar events today. Newman's longing is a model for us to experience Christ here and now; an experience that is realized our deepest humanity found in Christ. Merry Christmas!

Episode 4 Season 1 "The Reverence Due to the Virgin Mary"

**Fr. Spencer Howe**, pastor of Holy Cross parish in N.E. Minneapolis, MN reflects on St. John Henry Newman's sermon "The Reverence Due to the Virgin Mary". Fr. Howe considers how Newman points to the contemplation of Scripture as revealing Mary's participation in every aspect of the life and mission of her son. As we contemplate Scripture we discover a trust, like Mary, that God "knows what He is about". This trust enables us to participate with grace for our own transformation towards holiness. Since the humanity of Christ is grounded in Mary, our own humanity is naturally grounded in Him through her. It is the liturgy that invites us into a deeper penetration into His words and His very self, permitting the discovery of our true self in Christ.

Link to The Roccasecca Project - a Catholic, independent, non-profit organization consisting of alumni, parents, students and friends of the University of St. Thomas (UST) in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our mission is to directly engage in the life and future of our Alma Mater, UST. Our engagement seeks to celebrate, foster and cultivate an authentic Catholic identity and culture through prayer and the sacraments, intellectual formation, critical engagement and fraternal gatherings.  
<https://www.roccaseccaproject.org/>

#### Episode 5 Season 1 “The Season of Epiphany”

**Dr. Mark Pattridge**, retired medical physician, reacts to St. John Henry Newman's sermon "The Season of Epiphany" preached on January 17, 1841. Dr. Pattridge shares how Newman is true to his style of taking his readers on a surprising, heartfelt journey that opens you up for change. Here the journey is with the infant Jesus as true King - one to be adored and obeyed. Mark highlights Newman's strikingly beautiful use of language to stir the heart to look more reverently at our King.

#### Episode 6 Season 1 “The Weapons of the Saints”

Ron Snyder is joined by his friend **Anna Knier** for a conversation inspired by St. John Henry Newman's sermon, "The Weapons of the Saints." Originally preached on October 29, 1837, Newman proves timeless as he sheds light on our natural longing for "what is noble and heroic," and offers this surprising encouragement: "Do you desire to be great? Make yourselves little."

#### Episode 7 Season 1 “The Strictness of the Law of Christ”

**Fr. Juan Velez** shares his respect for St. John Henry Newman as one "who brings Christ to others" as a teacher of the faith. In our discussion of Newman's sermon "The Strictness of the Law of Christ" Fr. Juan highlights Newman's view of morality as not necessarily a duty or an obligation rather morality is a privilege because we are meant to delight in God. Our perfect freedom is found in all that is good and true because they lead us to God who is Truth and Goodness itself.

#### Episode 8 Season 1 “Surrender to God”

On this the birthday of St. John Henry Newman (2/21/1801) we discuss Newman's sermon "Surrender to God". **Nick Zagotta**, Chicago attorney and college friend, came to know St. John Henry Newman through his regular participation in "Newman on Tap" (go to [newmanontap.com](http://newmanontap.com) to learn more). Nick's interest in history, the early Church formation and the Church's organic development through time grounded him in Newman's own story and thought. Newman's relatability to our time combined with his masterful writing style is fully exposed in this early Catholic era sermon "Surrender to God". Nick appreciates that true surrendering is a simple notion but extremely difficult to practice. Surrendering to God requires letting go of today's temptations that take us away from holding nothing back in from our service of God which becomes our means to receive and strengthen our faith. True surrender requires a humility to welcome the teachings of the Church formed by Scripture, the Apostles, the Fathers and the saints. True humility requires a mortification of our deficient prejudices and presuppositions through a complete opening of our heart to God.

#### Episode 9 Season 1 “The Church a Home for the Lonely”

**Justin Shay**, Catholic school principal at Ava Maria Academy, is working to incorporate Newman's idea of forming a habit of mind pointing to the mind of God. Justin reflects on the Lenten themes found in Newman's sermon, "The Church the Home for the Lonely". Here Newman leads us to the understanding that Christ is our refuge from an unsettled, lonely world. It is in Him alone that we find our secret dwelling place. His hidden

omnipresence, made possible by the Ascension, addresses our loneliness in a deeper, richer effervescent way because His Spirit is everywhere. Justin will guide us through Newman's insight that seeing nothing is a condition for Him being everywhere.

Learn more of Justin's beautiful school modeled after Newman's idea of a proper education by clicking on the Ava Maria Academy website;  
<https://www.avemariaacademy.org>

Episode 10 Season 1 "Tears of Christ at the Grave of Lazarus"

**Peter Dawes** demonstrates how Newman helps us to personally engage Christ, the Gospels and His Church. Peter reflects on the how Newman appeals to the heart by painting word pictures through his marvelous prose. Peter reacts to Newman's ability to offer fresh insights into a familiar Gospel story by describing Christ as a real, living being who sojourned on earth so that we can engage the Divine with our senses. By Christ entering the tomb of Lazarus, He not only brings life to one who will die again, He "replaces" Lazarus in the grave in order to fulfill His mission by rising forever and becoming "The Resurrection and the Life".

Episode 11 Season 1 "Mental Sufferings of Our Lord in His Passion"

**Father Joseph Pearce, C.O.**, an Oratorian of the Rock Hill, South Carolina Oratory and a teacher at St. Anne's School (K-12) shares his admiration for St. John Henry Newman as he reacts to Newman's Holy Week sermon, "The Mental Sufferings of Our Lord in His Passion". Christ's mental suffering is first revealed in the garden where He embraces suffering even before He experiences it. His passion is a willful act where He surrendered both His body and soul as an action of complete gift - He holds nothing back. His love for humanity is complete. He turns no one away - not even His mortal enemies as Christ embraces everyone no matter how broken. Since He can only love, the love of the cross is an offering that completes the Paschal Triduum in that God touches us in all of our suffering and our joy.

Episode 12 Season 1 "Faith without Sight"

**Dr. Ryan (Bud) Marr**, Catholic convert and gifted Newman scholar with a PhD in historical theology from St. Louis University (with research interests in the theology of St. John Henry Newman, the reception of Vatican II and the liturgy) reacts to Newman's sermon "Faith without Sight". Here Dr. Marr helps us with Newman's view of faith as a blessed temper of mind that hears Christ in Scripture by looking off the self to the eternal. Rather than demanding certainty faith simply rests in the wondrous content of Revelation. Overcoming the temptation of subjecting all truths to strict reasoning is achieved by a proper cultivation of our conscience achieved by opening ourselves up to the glories of God.

One of Dr. Marr's more accessible works, *Seeking God with St. John Henry Newman*, offers an invitation to Newman's practical guidance by providing wisdom on prayer, penance and the path to heaven. The link below leads to the text.

<https://www.amazon.com/Seeking-Saint-John-Henry-Newman/dp/1681925923>

Episode 13 Season 1 "The Shepherd of our Souls"

**Diana Newman**, retired nurse and nursing professor was introduced to John Newman as a child and entered more deeply into his thought and works through our weekly Zoom format which she inspired by asking for interpersonal contact centered on the influence of our patron. Reflecting on the sermon, "The Shepherd of our Souls," Diana describes that by regularly turning to Christ we come to know His radical love. Habitual prayer, reception of the sacraments and Christ centered activities lead us to trust the Good Shepherd who is always seeking us. We hear His voice in our lives by realizing that nothing trumps the love of God. Newman's fortuitous spiritual direction provides us with a hope in finding Christ every day in every circumstance where Christ, the Good Shepherd, cares for and guides our lives.

Episode 14 Season 1 "Mysteries in Religion"

This episode brings you my 24-year-old daughter, **Grace Snyder**, reacting to St. John Henry Newman's 1843 sermon "Mysteries in Religions". Grace notes how Newman speaks to her generation who is seeking a joy that can only be found in knowing who one is - in God's eyes. By entering a wonder that transcends the material world we are able to engage the totality of life. Wonder helps us look beyond life's difficulties and darkness by allowing us to rest in the "grittiness" of His glory. The Incarnation allows the physical to transcend into glory which unites heaven to earth. The Ascension, like all mysteries, helps make realities come alive in faith through Christ's body. The Church, its sacraments and its saints are the physical tools that transmit His glory.

Episode 15 Season 1 – "The Christian Ministry"

**Mary DePuglio**, after 5 years as an active-duty officer in Air Force intelligence received a theology master's degree from the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado. Mary brings that background to her reaction to a Pentecost sermon of St John Henry Newman, "The Christian Ministry". Mary sees that Newman helps us understand that our own three-fold identity of priest, prophet and king is found in Christ and his ministers. Newman shows how God's creation and His Church are organically integrated explaining that when something foundational fails (for example, apostolic succession) - the entire set of beliefs unravel. Newman helps us see that ignoring just one of the tenets of the faith leads to relativism. In this discussion Mary will offer that "an integrated life leads to a standard outside of personal relativism where shared, fundamental values are maintained".

Episode 16 Season 1 – "The Resurrection of the Body"

**Monsignor James Shea**, president of The University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota shares with us his vision of a Catholic university education modeled after Newman's *Idea of a University*. He then offers insight into Newman's sermon "The Resurrection of the Body" by pondering Christ's real presence in the Most Holy

Eucharist. Monsignor Shea sees that Newman peers into our age seeing the rise of secularism in his. This sermon provides insights into the sweeping dangers present when the integrity of the body and soul is broken leading to a loss of the overall dignity of the human person. Complete integrity of the body and soul allows us to approach the mystery of the Lord's Body and Blood with proper reverence and purity. Monsignor Shea shares concrete examples of our time as evidence of this critical break in the integrity of the human person while Newman suggests the means to recovering our identity in Christ.

Episode 17 Season 1 – “Men, not Angels, the Priests of the Gospels”

**Fr. Marc Paveglio**, pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Roseville, Minnesota walks us through Newman's sermon "Men not Angels, the Priests of the Gospel". Inspired by Newman's massive Christian intellectual life grounded in a heartfelt priesthood Fr. Marc offers that God's desired method of saving us is through the Incarnation - in the flesh and blood of those near us. The fact that priests are shaped in our common humanity permits a shared encounter with the power of God's grace. A priest's fully human approach to their vocation enables an deeply personal encounter with the hearts of others. Once we experience God's gracious love through the power of the Holy Spirit we discover the conquest of sin. This real encounter permits the reception of grace that is infinitely more powerful and the powers of nature.

Episode 18 Season 1 – “The Religion of the Day”

**Fr. James Reidy**, Professor Emeritus of English 1981 – 2011 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota with 67 years in the priesthood, reacts to Newman's prophetic sermon "The Religion of the Day" - the religion of niceness. In this episode Fr. Reidy highlights why he has been attracted to Newman's spiritual insights for close to 75 years. After sharing memories of the late, great Newman biographer and scholar, Fr. Ian Ker, Fr. Reidy reviews Newman's "gentleman" as one limited (by natural religion alone) to the "bright side" of religion. Without a reality of God or judgment from God this man of the world reflects what we see today - a limit of self-sacrificing love stemming from a conscience that does not include the voice of Christ. Fr. Reidy asks us "to what extent are we conforming to our own 'Religion of the Day,' the fashion of our time, and simply being nice rather than true to our call to sanctity"?

Episode 19 Season 1 – “A Particular Providence as Revealed in the Gospel”

**Dr. David Foote**, associate history professor in the department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota unpacks Newman's 1835 sermon "A Particular Providence as Revealed in the Gospel". Dr. Foote highlights Newman's insights into Psalm 139 where we find our God concerned with the particulars of each aspect of our individual lives. When we stop at general providences, we lose all sense of His presence which is a recipe for lukewarmness and self-deceit. It is our heart that moves us from the general (an Enlightenment rational notion of religion limited to an impersonal god) to the particular where we discover a loving, personal God that has an intimate claim on our lives. This presence is made complete in The Incarnation. It is the deeply human, profoundly personal Christ that reveals to us the fullness of our own

being. This personal, all loving God who knows us better than we know ourselves can't help but call us. He is patiently waiting for us.

Episode 20 Season 1 – “Omnipotence in Bonds”

**Dr Brandon Wanless**, Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and Co-Founder of The Sacra Doctrina Project ([www.sacradoctrinaproject.org](http://www.sacradoctrinaproject.org)) looks closely at Newman's intriguing sermon "Omnipotence in Bonds". Dr. Wanless unpacks the radicality of The Incarnation where we come to know God by pondering upon an accepting faith. Newman considers the manner of God as abundantly gratuitous to the point that "The All-powerful Creator" subjects Himself to the bondage of the creature. This radical love incentives our faith through our discovery of the perfect form of everlasting bondage found in The Eucharist.

Episode 21 Season 1 - "Intellect, the Instrument of Religious Training"

**Dr. David Delio** offers insight into Newman's call for all of us to an integration of our heart, mind and will as a path to holiness by loving God and our neighbor. "Intellect, the Instrument of Religious Training" cleverly positions St. Monica as an image of faith and St. Augustine as an image of the intellect. Newman artfully looks at their lives to explain that without a harmony of our religious and intellectual lives our search for truth is limited and moves towards skepticism. Dr. Delio sheds light on Newman's understanding that knowledge begins in belief and not doubt. Since skepticism begins in doubt it limits our scope a starting point, rather, the fullness of truth is discovered through the faith due to its broad and deep reach into the unknown. With faith as our origin, we able experience an integrated growth oriented to God.

For further reading on the integration of faith and reason explore Dr. Delio's text *An Aristocracy of Exalted Spirits: The Idea of the Church in Newman's Tamworth Reading Room*. To learn more of Dr. Delio's innovative offering for an integrated education check out "The Newman Idea" at [www.newmanidea.org](http://www.newmanidea.org).

Episode 22 Season 1 – “On the Fitness of the Glories of Mary”

**Laura Miller**, co-founder of "Newman on Tap", offers her Marian insights as together we celebrate ten years of "Newman on Tap" started upon our 2013 co-graduation with master's degrees in Catholic Studies from The University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. As a young mother of three children, Laura finds Newman offering insights into how Mary's supreme sanctity could repair our distorted understanding of what it truly means to be fully woman and fully man. As usual Newman draws from comprehensive sources; Scripture, tradition, prayer and the teachings of The Catholic Church to point us to the great principle - celebrating the glories of our Blessed Lady, the Mother of God.

Episode 23 Season 1 – “The Eucharistic Presence”

Amid our Eucharistic Revival, **Archbishop Bernard Hebda** discusses Newman's 1838 sermon “The Eucharistic Presence”. His Excellency finds Johannine depth in Newman's precise spiritual thought. Like John the Evangelist, Newman leads us to a deeper “awe,



admiration and hope” of Christ’s Eucharistic Presence by recognizing that all other miracles of Christ pale in comparison to the love Jesus shows for us in the Eucharist. The Archbishop of St Paul and Minneapolis sees Newman’s plea for “a thirst for his presence” producing a joy on “hearing that he is to be found under the veil of sensible things” as an aid for our own Eucharistic revival by helping us find our “reward in believing”.

Episode 24 Season 1 – “The Cross of Christ the Measure of the World”

**Bishop James Conley** of the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska shares with us his conversion story as a journey with friends and St. John Henry Newman. He sees Newman’s sacramental imagination (an efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us) as pointing to something beyond ourselves as an imprint of our Creator. It is the through efficacious signs, like the Cross of Christ, that everything makes sense as the Divine life is dispensed to us. By understanding what the Cross means for us we come to understand everything in the here and now. Newman helps us realize that Christ’s most powerful moment was when he died on the Cross. When we find our meaning in the Cross - we die to ourselves, and Christ becomes alive in us. The Cross enables the ability to engage the heart. It is the heart that moves us to act. Next to supernatural Grace, the greatest force on earth is the example of virtue in another person. “Persons influence us, voices melt us, looks subdue us, deeds inflame us. Many a man will live and die upon a dogma; no man will be a martyr for a conclusion”.

Episode 25 Season 1 – “The Invisible World”

**Blair Saiz**, wife and mother of three young girls, learns from Newman’s sermon “The Invisible World” that focusing on the invisible world changes the way we live. This is evident in how children easily come to know of their own angels and saints through their tremendous ability to wonder. It is in this world where, despite our own worldly whims, we come to realize that angels and saints are always working for us. Newman’s own imagination helps us see that as nature springs eternal it reflects God and His own nature. This gives us reason to rejoice always as what God created is very good.

As a busy mother Blair (and her husband Jordan) manage a lifestyle brand for women - The Village Green which brings beauty of the past into everyday living through online home goods, handmade jewelry, art, a regular blog and weekly music playlists. This project aims to lead the heart to Truth through beauty. You can find Blair’s work at <https://shopthevillagegreen.com>

Episode 26 Season 1 – “The Mysteriousness of our Present Being”

**Dr. John Crosby**, distinguished philosopher from Franciscan University and Newman scholar gives his insights into Newman’s deeply personal sermon “Mysteriousness of our Present Being”. In this sermon Newman shows (and Dr. Crosby explains) that the profoundest truths of our existence are commonly mysterious. For instance, the reality of the union of the body and soul is a mystery that we readily accept (at least we used to). Newman’s offers universally accepted examples of mysteries as an argument to accept the mystery of God. Once we accept these mysteries of our present being we

are faced with the choice of either openly approaching the mystery of God with acceptance and wonder or skeptically questioning Divine mysteries because the limits of our overly rational human mind prevents us from discovering something greater than ourselves. Dr. Crosby points out that when we make our own mind the measure of all things we naturally refuse the delight found in mystery. The consequences of this refusal can have dangerous consequences in the eventual loss of human dignity by the destruction of the unity of the body and soul.

If you'd like to learn more of Dr. Crosby's insights into the existential character of Newman thought go to his marvelous text *The Personalism of St. John Henry Newman*. <https://www.amazon.com/Personalism-John-Henry-Newman/dp/0813229170>.

#### Episode 27 Season 1 – “Promising without Doing”

**Dr. David Deavel**, an Associate Professor of Theology at the University of St. Thomas - Houston (after coming from The Center of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota) reflects on Newman's sermon "Promising without Doing". Like Newman, Dr. Deavel sees his own journey from Evangelical Protestantism to the Catholic Church as an addition of the truths he understood prior to becoming Catholic. Dr. Deavel helps us to appreciate Newman's understanding of the relationship of our "doing" (works) with our faith in Christ. Together, St. John Henry Newman and Dr. Deavel, place our identity in Christ at the center of how we live and journey in the presence of God.

To learn more of Dr. Deavel work go to "The Imaginative Conservative" at <https://theimaginativeconservative.org>

#### Episode 1 Season 2 – “Faith and Love”

**Brother Bobby McFadden**, a religious brother in training with the Congregation of the Holy Cross (with a PhD in Augustine studies), reflects on Newman's sermon “Faith and Love”. To have an authentic faith is to love. If we have the love of God then the faith that we have is genuine, real. Love then is the sign of our faith. Newman helps us see faith as the beginning of religion – the belief in God's omnipotence, His almighty power. We delight in God because He is good – His commandments are good. We can only obey the Lawgiver if we have the pure love of an infant since we are born with that seed of holiness. Here Brother Bobby highlights Newman's insight on faith and works. We engage the world with faith while love is the internal dwelling of God. Love is the condition of faith and faith in turn matures love – it brings out love into works and therefore is called the root of the works of love. The substance of the works is love – the outline and direction of them is faith. The Blessed Mother's conviction that all things are possible with God (omnipotence) matures the love that moves her to say “Yes”. It is in the blessed Mother where Newman sees the unity of faith and works. If we don't love God all works mean nothing because the love of God is our fundamental nature. Our need to see God is realized through the lens of love. It is charity that brought Christ down – charity is but another name for The Comforter. God became human out of His love for us. When we love, we enter into that Divine love that is our destiny. We are Christ's by love.



### Episode 2 Season 2 – “Watching”

**Fr. Robert Lisowski** from the University of Notre Dame draws key insights from Newman's Advent sermon, "Watching". Newman tells us that we must be watchful everyday of our lives - watchful as to how God breathes His love into our lives and how we respond to that love. Watchfulness involves a consistent, expectant focus on God. Without this focus our eyes move inward and we tend to miss the small advents of our lives. This self-absorption elevates things of this world leaving us ultimately unsatisfied. Without watchfulness goodness is limited to a worldly definition. Newman calls us to something more. We are not called to merely advance in this world rather we are called to mount toward holiness. The lack of watchfulness can lead to a "rusting" of the soul. Rust on a soul cloud and discolors the mirror within that is meant to reflect Christ. Rubbing off this rust, by embracing the Cross, permits the light of Christ to shine offering an advent of hope to the world. This hope is realized by being watchful for the coming of Christ - "life is short: death is certain; and the world to come is everlasting".

### Episode 3 Season 2 – “Illuminating Grace”

**Fr. John Utecht**, associate pastor at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina, Minnesota reflects on Newman's Catholic era (1849) sermon "Illuminating Grace". He highlights Newman in that it is only through the ongoing action of the Holy Spirit that we find the fullness of the truth. We need illuminating Grace to fully understand things. Reason has immense power to calculate but is limited to the human mind looking at the material world. The love of the dying Jesus on the Cross looks "unreasonable". Yet, Newman and Fr. John remind us that it is the greatest act of love ever made. Grace comes into us to enliven our faith where our reason fails. Newman illustrates that reason without faith is but an opinion. Since it is truly never decided the end of reason is doubt where the end of faith is love.

### Episode 4 Season 2 – “The Glory of the Christian Church”

**Dr. Barbara Wyman**, assistant professor of English at McNeese State University in McNeese, Louisiana highlights Newman's 1834 Epiphany sermon, “The Glory of the Christian Church”. The Epiphany is ongoing as God guides each of us with a guiding light that we need to be ever watchful for. Quoting Boethius, Dr Wyman explains that “time is an ever-present moment”. Comprehending a timeless God able to see everything in present moment is made possible only by our encountering the bridge between time and the timeless – The Incarnation. The Epiphany reminds us that we must seek the light through Christ with the hope that, in the end, we will be one of its fruits.

### Episode 5 Season 2 – “The Secret Power of Divine Grace”

**Lauren Scharmer**, a 32-year-old longtime friend with a deeply convicted Catholic faith reflects on Newman's insights in his 1856 sermon "The Secret Power of Divine Grace". With the aid of Scripture Newman makes it clear that grace is so close to us that we are never alone. Since in the Incarnation, Christ came subtly to "conquest the heart", He in

turn comes to us daily by regular, subtle inward influences in the form of the Sacraments - "He is ever coming. Again and again, He comes to His Church" (lines 160-161). Lauren explains that Christ comes "again and again" for our wayward souls to be reconciled to God and to oneself. Once reconciled our restless hearts become truly free. Today, as we contend with a crazy world, alienated from The Creator, we witness an ever-increasing distinction of the world from The Gospel making the life of Christ all the more beautiful and inviting. Encountering this beauty is the most important event of our lives knowing that it will propel us forward into the world "again and again".

Episode 6 Season 2 – “Elisha a Type of Christ and His Followers”

**Monsignor Richard Liddy**, retired emeritus professor from Seaton Hall University and Newman/Lonergan scholar extraordinaire, offers beautiful insights into Newman's sweeping 1836 sermon "Elisha a Type of Christ and His Followers". Monsignor points out that the sermon specifically reaches into the heart of each of us as both Fathers Lonergan and Newman upheld. In this episode Monsignor offers an unparalleled guide to personalism by quoting from *Parochial and Plain Sermon* "Christian Sympathy" - "we dare not trust each other with the secret of our hearts. We have each the same secret, and we keep it to ourselves, and we fear that, as a cause of estrangement, which really would be a bond of union. We do not probe the wounds of our nature thoroughly; we do not lay the foundation of our religious profession in the ground of our inner man; we make clean the outside of things; we are amiable and friendly to each other in words and deeds, but our love is not enlarged, our bowels of affection are straitened, and we fear to let the intercourse begin at the root; and, in consequence, our religion, viewed as a social system, is hollow. The presence of Christ is not in it". You will enjoy this episode with one of the great contributors in Catholic philosophy.

Episode 7 & 8 Season 2 – “The World and Sin”

My discussion with **Monsignor Jeffrey Steenson**, former bishop in the Anglican Church and now a Catholic priest, is so informative and enchanting that I'm splitting it into two episodes. Part 2 will be posted next Monday. Monsignor's journey to the Church includes a long journey with St. John Henry Newman that started when he studied at Oxford University in England. His interpretation of Newman's Lenten insights on the world and sin are invaluable. Enjoy!

Episode 9 Season 2 – “Faith and Obedience”

**Dr Geertjan Zuijdwegt**, author of the recent release, *An Evangelical Adrift p The Making of John Henry Newman's Theology*, discusses Newman's key sermon that sets Newman apart from his Evangelical beginning. Dr. Zuijdwegt points out that this sermon points to Newman no longer separating faith and works. Newman's solution is to regard faith and works as equals – both faith and obedience are ways of seeking God. They are the same thing viewed differently – God is their stay. In this sermon we once again find Newman making the life of Christ very practical, personal and relational.

Dr Zuijdwegt's text can be found at <https://www.amazon.com/Evangelical-Adrift-Making-Newmans-Theology/dp/0813235588>

Learn more of The St. John Henry Newman Association of America at [www.stjhnaa.org](http://www.stjhnaa.org)

Episode 10 (2 parts) Season 2 – “The Indwelling Spirit”

**Ian Rangel** currently serves as the Vice President of The Papal Foundation, the only charitable organization in the United States exclusively dedicated to fulfilling the requests of the Holy Father’s support for the needs of the poor and marginalized. To learn more about The Papal Foundation and the Stewards of Saint Peter, please visit [www.thepapalfoundation.org](http://www.thepapalfoundation.org)

Ian holds a degree in finance from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s in management from Texas A&M University. A native of Abilene, Texas, Ian now lives in Trabuco Canyon, California with his wife, Caitlan, and their four young children. When not working, Ian enjoys spending time with his family and mountain biking the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains.

Episode 11 Season 2 – “Keeping Fast and Festival”

**Kate Aitchison**, mother of 4 active children, elicits how Newman's 1838 Easter Sunday sermon sheds light on progressing in the spiritual life during life's transitions. Kate finds Newman's direction helpful: Christ first meet us in that hard place (Lent) before we can enjoy Him in festival (Easter). By walking with Christ during the vicissitudes of life we discover that God has something broader and better for us than any worldly misdirected gain that we perceive as helpful to our own end. Rather, with the glory of God as our aim we find abundant fruits in the festival.

As an aside, it is good to note that Kate's husband, Greg, has an extraordinary gift in forming Catholic school curriculum. If you are active in Catholic education and need a classroom teaching aid that more deeply engages students in their faith, go to [www.catholicreligionteacher.com](http://www.catholicreligionteacher.com). Also, Greg offers life coaching to fill the gaps at [www.happyhealthyholly.com](http://www.happyhealthyholly.com)

Episode 12 Season 2 – “The Ventures of Faith”

**Fr. Kevin Finnegan**, pastor of Our Lady of Grace parish in Edina, Minnesota reacts to Newman’s classic sermon “The Ventures of Faith” by sharing that a properly lived faith includes ventures and it is by grace that each chapter of our venture unfolds. Abraham starts the venture which ultimately leads to Jerusalem. Like Abraham we need to give of ourselves in an uncalculating way. What do we venture for Christ? Am I pursuing things because I know that Christ died for me or am I pursuing things so that I can have a more successful life? Our giving and our repentance are intelligible ventures and evidence of faith. If we are calculating the cost, then likely we don’t give much...we may be living a good life but not an adventurous life of faith. When we get to heaven those that greet us will be those that we served. When we repent, we are making an uncalculating venture for things unseen and then by the grace of God we visibly change. By our changed life I show the world that I believe in God’s forgiveness - I believe that God’s grace is real.

Episode 13 Season 2 – “The Shepherd of Our Souls”

**Sheryl Moran** from Our Lady of Grace parish in Edina, Minnesota shares with us her faith journey as she reacts to Newman’s sermon “The Shephard of Our Souls”. Sheryl’s life of prayer has led her and her husband to build a “House of Prayer” retreat house in

eastern Minnesota (<https://bethanyretreats.org>). Newman shows us that The Good Shepherd is understood by first finding Christ in the Old Testament shadow then the shepherd imagery increases in the New Testament. Sheryl discovers that Newman defines “The Shepard of Our Souls” as one who leads by self-giving love and sacrifice only if we can only be led by individually hearing His voice - sheep know the voice of the Shepard. We hear the voice of Christ in prayer. We must tune our hearts to the call of The Divine Voice who knows each of us by name. We must always work to find ways to let God speak. We must break away from the noise of the world to give God the space to speak. Because The Good Shepherd created every human heart for Himself, He always seeks for the lost sheep, the sheep on the margins. Only He knows what truly is in the hearts of those He created. Shepherds are the first to visit Christ who rests in a trough that the sheep find their food. The food for His sheep, The Bread of Life, is revealed in a stable in Bethlehem.

Episode 14 Season 2 – “implicit and Explicit Reason”

**Dale Ahlquist** is President of the Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton, creator and host of the EWTN series “G.K. Chesterton: The Apostle of Common Sense,” and Publisher of *Gilbert Magazine*. He is the author of six books, and has edited fourteen. His most recent work is with the Society of G.K. Chesterton is **Orthodoxy: An American Translation**. An interview about the work can be found at <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/chestertons-orthodoxy-a-new-translation-helps-to-better-understand-a-classic/>.

He is a Senior Fellow of the Chesterton Library at London, and has been called “probably the greatest living authority on the life and work of G.K. Chesterton.” Dr. Ahlquist has given more than 900 lectures at universities, conferences, and other institutions, including Yale, Columbia, Cornell, Notre Dame, Oxford, the Vatican Forum in Rome, and the House of Lords in London. He is also the co-founder of Chesterton Academy, a top-rated Catholic classical high school in Hopkins, Minnesota, which is the flagship of the growing Chesterton Schools Network, which includes nearly 60 high schools in the U.S., Canada, Italy, Iraq, and Sierra Leone.

In this episode Dr. Ahlquist reflects on one of Newman’s University Sermons, “Implicit and Explicit Reason”. He finds that Newman like Chesterton (the two great English converts of their respective centuries) makes you go deep; makes you think before they offer a conclusion. Chesterton has said that Newman has this dangerous patience, this menacing air of leisure. Newman lays out his themes methodically, piece by piece. Each sentence is patiently written. “His logic is like music”. Both Chesterton and Newman are comfortable with logic and the tools that defend the faith. They generously share the fullness of wisdom. Chesterton’s arguments are influenced by Newman. Peter is an example for us in putting faith and reason together, countering the world’s effort to put them at war with each other. Always be ready to use reason to defend the faith – give a reasonable account. Reason in its proper place as an aid to faith. Chesterton in his great apologetic of the faith, *Orthodoxy* writes, “reason itself is a matter of faith – it’s an act of faith to assert that our thoughts have any relation to reality itself”.

### Episode 15 Season 2 – “Wisdom and Innocence”

**Rob Kirkendall** is an instructor in Humanities at St. Thomas More Academy in Raleigh, North Carolina. He earned B.A. degrees from Biola University in Humanities: English and English: Writing. He completed an M.A. in Theology at the Augustine Institute in Denver. He teaches literature and supports seniors during the college discernment and application process.

In this episode Rob reflects on Newman’s insights into learning to be still and listen to God’s plan. In order to act in God’s Wisdom, we must live out what we find in prayer. It is through a loving obedience found in Christ that we find the truest wisdom. This wisdom may be the way of The Cross that necessarily leads to a future good. Christ’s commands are prudent because He has the most complete view of things.

To add to Newman’s thought on Wisdom and Innocence Rob suggests watching the 2019 film, “A Hidden Life,” which depicts the life of Franz Jägerstätter, an Austrian farmer and devout Catholic who refused to fight for the Nazis in World War II.

### Episode 16 Season 2 – “Christian Sympathy”

**John Capobianco**, founder of Lumen Catechetical Consultants, (<https://lifeaftersunday.com/about-us>) reflects on Newman’s sermon “Christian Sympathy” by merging the thought of his mentor, Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete with St. John Henry Newman. John’s time with Msgr. Albacete adds a depth to his thought that opens for us Newman’s understanding of the proper path of the Christian life. John produced “Retrieve” – Albacete’s penetrating introduction to *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Go to <https://lifeaftersunday.com/retrieve> to learn more.

### Episode 17 Season 2 – “Rebuking Sin”

**Rebecca Case**, active parishioner at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne parish in Anthem, Arizona reacts to St. John Henry Newman’s June 24, 1831 sermon “Rebuking Sin” preached on the Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist. Rebecca’s personal experiences unveil Newman’s scripturally based guide to rebuking others through proper spiritual channels.

### Episode 18 Season 2 – “Our Lady in the Gospel”

**Tyler McCollum**, Associate for Mission, at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Edina, Minnesota reflects on Newman’s early Catholic era sermon, “Our Lady in the Gospel”. Tyler’s thoughts on Newman’s understanding of sanctity are supplied by his time with NET ministries (<https://netusa.org>) and his present full-time work with a uniquely large group of young adults (21-35 year olds). Tyler finds Newman’s insight that Mary’s blessedness is grounded in her faith and obedience to The Word of God as a motivation to live a life of holiness. It is through the practice of imaginative prayer that we can place ourselves with Mary in her holy relation her Son.

### Episode 19 Season 2 – “Abraham and Lot”

**Dr. Ono Ekeh**, associate professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut utilizes his theological interest of St. John Henry Newman to assist him in his reflection on Newman’s 1829 sermon “Abraham and Lot”. Dr.

Ekeh points out that Newman helps us see Abraham's refusal to be entangled by things of this world as a sign that we belong somewhere else. As Abraham acts with a clear apprehension of things unseen he gives witness to the presence of God in our everyday events. Lot, on the other hand, falls short by making his own will his idol. He is an example of how we can become double minded when we become engulfed in the luxuries, comforts and politics of this world while trying to surrender ourselves to God.

Dr. Ekeh's hobbies include sports, cooking and writing science fiction. His blog offers insights into his diverse interests – visit [onoek.com](http://onoek.com)





