

Religion on Campus

"Spirituality plays a part in everyone's life."

By Danette Parrett
The Collegian

In this time of renewed "family values" that the Presidential candidates are stressing, religion is coming into the forefront of the American citizen's life.

Although Penn State-Behrend is a secular college, religion still plays an important part in the life of the students. Because Penn State sees the need from the student, they offer several opportunities for students to develop the spiritual part of their lives.

The two organizations on campus that provide for the needs of those students enriching the religious aspects of their life are the Newman Association and Inner Varsity Christian Fellowship.

The Newman Association is a Catholic-based organization. The association seeks to bring students closer together and to God through learning, prayer, fellowship and service.

"It's hard to meet kids. They see a priest coming and run the other way."

The association was begun at the University of Pennsylvania in 1883 by a dental student, Tim Harrington, and a few Catholic students.

It is named after John Newman whose deep faith and brilliance was an inspiration to Christians everywhere.

The Behrend association is a chartered member of the Pennsylvania Newman Province. The group has approximately 20 members.

The major goals of the Newman Association are:

To provide cultural enrichment, intellectual fulfillment and Christian concern for others.

To motivate members to be productive in society through spiritual, academic and social action.

Mark D'Ascenzo, vice-president of the Newman Association, believes that the club is still in its planning stages this year. However, he did feel that they have had some successful events already.

The organization has had a clay bead necklace sale to raise funds.

The sent a representative, Loretta Bunyak, to the 8K walk

at Presque Isle that was to raise money for help against Alzheimer's disease.

They sent five of their members to a Lifechain in Erie. The Life chain is a group of people joined by hands to show their objection to abortion.

Currently, the group is raising money by selling candy bars. Underway are plans for a haunted house to celebrate Halloween.

The group receives guidance and assistance from Sister Anna Mac Kuzma, director of the Campus

IVCF is a non-denominational group that helps the student grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, and missions.

IVCF are committed to three purposes:

Growing toward maturity as followers of Christ through Bible Study, prayer, and Christian fellowship with each other.

Reaching out to the whole campus to share the Good News

's the first time away from your parents and you can really find out what you believe in."

The doctrinal basis of IVCF is that the group subscribes to the basic Biblical truths of Christianity, including:

The unique divine inspiration, entire trust worthiness, and authority of the Bible.

The deity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The necessity and efficacy of the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ for the redemption

Cafe. Confessions follows the mass. Richards also teaches scripture Wednesdays at 8:00

Fr. Larry feels that the most challenging aspect of providing religious services to Behrend is reaching the students.

"There are so many students that God has no part in their lives. They believed because their parents believed. [College] is the in between stage of their own faith."

Richards feels that the university supports the ministry.

Although Behrend is a secular university, Richards sees that the university provides for the needs of the students. Religion is a part of a lot of students life so the university sees that it meets those needs.

"Chris Reber is very supportive. I worked at [another campus] and they were not as helpful. We didn't even have an office."

As a personal goal, Fr. Larry would like to meet more of the students.

"I'd like to be more present."

"College is here to provide you with a degree. I'm talking about eternity."

To change kids views of church and priests. Show the students that priests are human...It's hard to meet kids. They see a priest coming and run the other way."

"I'd like to get kids more involved and come to know Christ."

"Spirituality plays a part in everyone's life. It doesn't matter what religion... There are very few students that are agnostic."

Although Catholic mass is the only service provided on campus, through the ministry there is transportation provided to other religious services in Wesleyville.

"[The ministry] is community minded. When we worship it should be more out of community, and less individualistic. You don't have to be a lone ranger."

Richards is available on Sunday nights from 8-10pm. Sr. Anna Mae is available every day in the Campus Ministry office.

Father Larry feels that religion should be a part of every college student's life.

"College is here to provide you with a degree. I'm talking about eternity."



Ministry. Although the group did not apply for funding through the university, they can use the resource that Sr. Anna Mae makes available through the ministry office.

D'Ascenzo feels that "religion can really help student's through some tough times. I know that I've had some hard times and I feel that the Lord has been there for me."

Meetings for the Newman Association are held on Wednesday at 7:00 in the Reed Conference Room on the first floor by the Counseling and Advising Office.

The other association offered to students is Inner Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF).

of Jesus Christ.

Sharing the vision of reaching the whole world with the Gospel and discovering God's role for us in that task.

IVCF has 20-30 members. These members plan various events throughout the school year for the student body.

This year the group has had the Burger Bash. They set up Lemonade stands in the residence halls during students' arrival and helped move the students into their rooms.

Trevor Vaughn, president of IVCF, feels that "college is a place to find out what you believe in and how strongly you believe in it.

It is a time to test your faith. It

of the world, and the historic fact of His bodily resurrection.

The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.

The expectation of the personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Protestant Campus Ministry helps IVCF occasionally. The group is advised by Mr. David Hyde and Mr. David Stuntz.

The group meets in the music room in Reed on Friday evenings at 6:00.

Although Sr. Anna Mae is the director of the Campus Ministry, Father Larry Richards acts as the chaplain counselor for Behrend.

Fr. Larry holds Catholic mass every Sunday night at 8:00 in the north side of the Wintergreen