

Sainthood Saturday: Saint John Henry Newman

Who is he?

John Henry Newman is a key figure to reform in the Catholic Church. Born, raised, and heavily involved as an Anglican Deacon, he converted to Catholicism in 1845. From there, he gave lectures, wrote books and taught at universities, all the while spreading God's teachings. Dr. Bellitto summarized his life, saying, "Newman was a scholar and a preacher who understood that the Christian life was a series of conversions and attempts to live the faith more deeply each day, even as the world changed daily." Although he faced rejection from family, friends, and even those who feared his writings, he continued to profess his faith and encouraged others to do the same. He was canonized a saint by Pope Francis in October 2019.



What is a Newman Center?

Saint Newman wrote a lot about creating societies for young Catholics attending secular universities. He knew they needed a community of faith. Soon after his death, many people worked to establish Catholic parishes on most college campuses. Once established, they were called Newman Centers. Each Newman Center is different. Some even have student housing! But all of them offer young Catholics an opportunity to pray and learn as a community of faith through worship, prayer groups, and outreach events.

Want to learn more?

Canonization Resource: The Life of Henry Newman: <https://www.newmancanonisation.com/newmans-life>

10 Influential Catholics: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/franciscan-spirit-blog/top-10-influential-catholics>

Newman Centers: <http://www.newmanconnection.com/locations>



"I want a laity, not arrogant, not rash in speech, not disputatious, but men who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold, and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it. I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity."