



Faith Forward

General Presentation Guide

A step-by-step guide to effectively engage students and youth about joining the Faith Forward movement and connecting to Catholic community.



NEWMAN
CONNECTION

faith
forward
A National Movement

Why This Matters: Starting the Conversation Early

It is never too early to start the discussion about the importance of pursuing a Catholic Faith Community after high school graduation. Faith Forward is the next step to stay connected to their faith.

Nearly 80% of young people depart from the Church before they reach 23, most often during the pivotal transition from high school to college, military service, or a career.

You can do this easily in the classroom or during a youth ministry session. This step-by-step guide is designed to provide an easy-to-follow process of effectively engaging with students/youth about joining the Faith Forward movement.



By following this guide, your diocese will be equipped to successfully discuss the importance of campus ministry and Catholic Faith Communities, encouraging students/youth to connect before they leave home.

What Connection Looks Like

When you use this presentation kit, you're helping ensure that students don't get lost in the transition and have a faith community ready to welcome them.

Students are identified and not lost in the transition

Families are supported in encouraging continued faith involvement

Parishes and schools actively prepare students for what comes next

Campus ministries and faith communities are ready to welcome and invite

Classroom or Youth Ministry Presentation: Step-by-Step Guide

Follow these steps to successfully connect students/youth to Faith Forward through a brief 5-10 minute presentation in a high school class or youth group setting.

Step 1: Coordinate with School/Teacher or Youth Ministry Leader



One to three weeks prior, select a day to incorporate a 5-10 minute Faith Forward presentation into your curriculum or session. Typically, this topic makes sense in a theology or college prep class, but can be incorporated into any class or youth gathering.

Make sure you have uploaded

Step 3: Present Faith Forward to Students/Youth



- Use the **Why Campus Ministry Matters PowerPoint Slide Deck** and Presentation Notes to present Faith Forward.
- Show the **Faith Forward Student Video** to help students/youth understand why campus ministry and Catholic faith communities are important.

Step 4: Let Students/Youth Sign Up, Distribute Informational Cards



- At the end of the **Why Campus Ministry Matters PowerPoint**, you can let students pull out their phones or open their email on their devices to sign up on the link provided in the email. It takes less than 2 minutes to complete. It is encouraged to do this during the presentation so you know they have completed the form.
- Distribute the **Why Campus Ministry Matters** as a takeaway with key information about Campus Ministry.

Step 5: Follow Up with Students



One week after the presentation, follow up with the students/youth in class or during the next youth group session to see if they have received an email from Newman Connection.

The Impact of Campus Ministry Connection

For students who pursue college at a four-year university, connecting to a Campus Ministry is crucial.

Students who receive personal outreach from campus ministry are 4x more likely to engage regularly

Often called a Newman Center or Campus Ministry (on campus), or a Young Adult Group (in a parish), these are the official communities of the Catholic Church designed for students in their stage of life.

Connection Benefits for Students:

- Higher emotional and mental well-being
- Greater resilience in academic and life challenges
- Increased likelihood of attending Mass, praying, and discerning vocations
- Faith-connected students are more likely to volunteer, remain active in parish life, and raise families in the Church

Connecting Young Adults Not Attending College



Connect with a Military Chaplain

For those entering the military, we are committed to helping them connect with chaplains and resources that will support their faith journey.



Connect with a Parish or Young Adult Group

For students attending community college or choosing other vocational or career paths, we are dedicated to developing and facilitating connections to relevant faith-based communities and opportunities to ensure they remain engaged and supported.

We recognize that not all students choose the path of a four-year college immediately after high school. Faith Forward also connects young Catholics heading off to military service, moving to a new city for work, attending Community College, or transferring schools.

No matter where students are headed next, Newman Connection helps them find a Catholic faith community where they are invited, welcomed, and known by name.