

**NEWMAN**  
GENOOTSCHAP LEUVEN



**LEUVEN**  
NEWMAN SOCIETY

## *The 2014-2015 Academic Year in Retrospect*

August 12, 2015

Dear Friends,

Fall 2014 saw the return of the Leuven Newman Society after a period of dormancy. In the academic year that followed, the LNS hosted a lecture series, a film series, lunchtime discussions, and social events – all inspired by Bl. John Henry Newman’s ideal of cultivating Christian scholars with ‘clear heads and holy hearts’.

Enclosed you’ll find a retrospective of the past year’s highlights. We hope the LNS has so far provided a stimulating forum in which to encounter questions of import for the Catholic faith, and to have some fun while doing it. And that’s what we’ll continue to do in the semesters ahead.

Our activities this year would not have been possible without the support of the KUL Institute of Philosophy and the Sint Kwinten church (both the Anglophone community and the Nederlandstalige Gemeenschap of the Parochie Leuven). Our sincere gratitude goes to them for the kindness they showed in providing us with spaces for our discussions, film screenings, and prayers.

On behalf of our board, I wish to thank you and all of our friends for your support. We look forward to seeing you again in the year to come!

Yours,

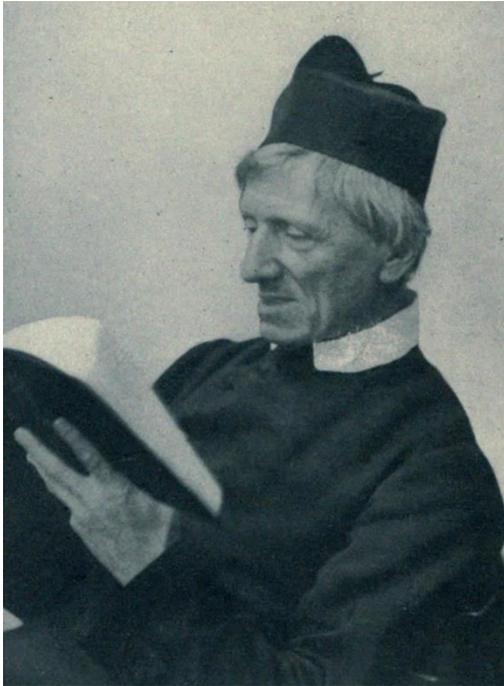
Brian Lapsa

President, LNS

[newman.leuven@gmail.com](mailto:newman.leuven@gmail.com)

<http://newmanleuven.be/>

# *About Us*



## LNS Mission

The Leuven Newman Society encourages Flemish and international students and faculty members to explore the Catholic faith, pursuing Bl. John Henry Newman's ideal of 'clear heads and holy hearts' through academic sessions, engagement with culture and the arts, and involvement in the life of the Church.

## History

Various institutes, reading groups, and societies in and around Leuven in the last few decades have been named after Bl. John Henry Newman. The current LNS has its origins in the organization founded by Dr. Andrew Meszaros (Theology) some years ago. With Dr. Meszaros's support, it was refounded on the same model by a group of students from various faculties in the fall of 2014.

## The Board

<i>President</i>	Brian Lapsa (M.Phil. Cand., Philosophy)
<i>Vice President</i>	Michaël Bauwens (Ph.D. Cand., Philosophy)
<i>Chair for Culture</i>	Eleonora Mingarelli (Ph.D. Cand., Philosophy)
<i>Vice Chair for Culture</i>	Bart Nelissen (Ph.D. Cand., Law)
<i>Chaplain</i>	Fr. Aaron Wessman (Ph.D. Cand., Theology)

## *Fall 2014*



### **Weekly events**

Wednesday lunches & Thursday evening Masses offered by our chaplain.

### **Mass & STUK Outing**

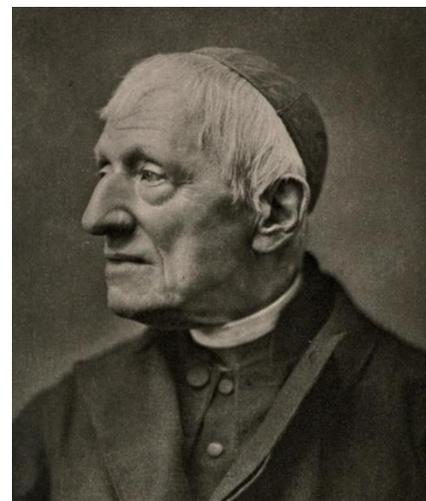
*Thursday, September 25, 2014*

Mass at Sint Kwinten's was followed by a cultural excursion to STUK to take advantage of their open-doors Season Opening Festival, which boasted free admission. Opinions were divided as to whether the performances were worth the fare.

### **Feast Day of Bl. John Henry Newman**

*Thursday, October 9, 2014*

After a Mass for the commemoration day of our patron, Bl. John Henry Newman, at St. Kwinten's Church, we proceeded to the Heilige Geestcollege for drinks and a dinner of crêpes. The nutella was flowing deep into the night.





## **Prof. Martin Moors on St. John Paul II's *Fides et Ratio***

*Wednesday, October 29, 2014*

For our first “Faith & Reason” lecture of the year, Prof. Em. Rev. Martin MOORS (Philosophy) presented John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et Ratio*. The talk inspired a lively discussion in the Raadzaal that has continued ever since, notably in our lunch series.

## **Prof. Joris Geldhof on the Metaphysics of Liturgy (in Dutch)**

*Wednesday, November 12, 2014*

Prof. Joris GELDHOF (Theology) spoke on “Lege symboliek of ultieme realiteit? Naar een metafysica van de sacramenten”. His presentation highlighted intimate connections between philosophy and liturgical theology and expressed the hope that they be taken seriously by both theologians and philosophers.

## **Dr. Marianne Servaas on Newman and the Threefold Office**

*Wednesday, December 3, 2014*

Dr. Marianne SERVAAS, of the office for evangelization of the Archdiocese of Mechelen-Brussels, presented an outline of Newman's rich thought on faith, doubt, imagination, and education – and related it to his understanding of how the Church is called to continue Christ's priestly, prophetic, and royal offices.

## **What's Universal about the University?**

*An ongoing lunchtime discussion series with Paul Camacho*

Inspired by Prof. Moors' lecture, Ph.D. Cand. Paul CAMACHO (KUL & Villanova, Philosophy) led us in reading and discussing several articles from a written exchange between D.C. SCHINDLER and Jean-Luc MARION on the question of what, theoretically, holds the university together. Is it the subject whose love seeks to know? Is it the order of things themselves? Is it somehow both? The jury is still out...

*Spring 2015*



### **Weekly events**

Wednesday lunches & Thursday evening Masses offered by our chaplain, with the addition this semester of accompaniment by a small chorus.



### **Film Series: Ingmar Bergman's *The Magician***

*Thursday, February 26, 2015*

To kick off our film series, we watched the Swedish director's free re-interpretation Chesterton's play *Magic* in a film that challenges commonsense understandings of reality. Faith, doubt, existential angst, and high aestheticism all came to the fore.

### **Prof. Ignace Verhack, Rémi Brague & Jean-Luc Marion on Christianity's need (or lack thereof) for Metaphysics**

*Wednesday, March 11, 2015*

After screening with us a 2014 debate between Rémi BRAGUE and Jean-Luc MARION on the question of what metaphysics has to do with Christianity, if anything at all, Prof. em. Ignace VERHACK (KUL, Philosophy) offered his own thoughts and led participants in a conversation on this ancient, but nonetheless urgent question.

**Film Series: Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood*, with Prof. William Desmond**

*Thursday, March 26, 2015*



Inspired by Flannery O'Connor's novel, John Huston's film tells the story of the bitter "Haze" Motes in his plan to found the Church of Truth Without Christ in the American Deep South. We were lucky to have Prof. William DESMOND (Philosophy) share his thoughts on O'Connor while introducing the film and leading us in a discussion afterwards.

**Prof. Christoffel Waelkens on God & Cosmology (in Dutch)**

*Wednesday, April 1, 2015*



Prof. dr. Christoffel WAELKENS (KUL, Astronomy) spoke on "Het kosmologische godsargument vandaag", from his perspective as a natural scientist probing the mysteries of the cosmos who is at the same time a faithful Catholic. And in the view of Christianity and science that he offered, there's nothing paradoxical about that position.



## **Film Series: Terrence Malick's *Tree of Life*, with Paul Camacho**

*Thursday, April 23, 2015*

Malick narrates the journey of an ordinary family through the vicissitudes of life, capturing their – and our – constant struggle to understand man's place in the cosmos. Drs. Paul Camacho, a Malick *aficionado*, highlighted the film's emphasis on wonder as well as its deeply Christian, Augustinian and postmodern themes.

## **Faith & Reason at the University & Beyond: The Future of Catholic Intellectual Life**

*Wednesday, May 13, 2015*



In this (post-)doctoral panel discussion on the vocation of the Catholic intellectual in an age of disenchantment, Drs. Paul CAMACHO, Drs. Chris CIMORELLI, Dr. Patrick COOPER, Dr. Andrew MESZAROS, and Drs. Jared SCHUMACHER explained their understandings of Catholic education, in Newman's view and their own, and offered their hopes and prognostications for its future.

## With the Parochie on Corpus Christi / Sacramentsdag

*Thursday, June 4, 2015*



Although this was not an official LNS event, we were approached by members of the Parochie Leuven and were asked if the LNS could help local Deken Fr. Dirk De Gendt by carrying the canopy in the Eucharistic procession for Corpus Christi – said to be Leuven’s first since 1968. We were humbled and honored to oblige.



*Thank you once again for a great year. We hope to see you soon!*

