

A**L****U****M****N****I****December 2022****Lillian Boenker, Class of 2019**

We had the opportunity to sit down with Lillian when she visited the Newman Center before Thanksgiving (we LOVE alumni visits by the way!). Lillian is currently in her second year at the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado where she is pursuing an MA in Theology. She will graduate in May of 2023. After graduating from the University of Iowa in 2019, Lillian taught English at Xavier High School for 2 years. Her dream job would be a split position of teaching English and serving as a campus minister.

In her free time, Lillian also leads a women's Bible study group at the University of Denver. She said that she loves that she learned the importance of clinging to Jesus and living out her faith at the Newman Center and can share that with others.

Her favorite memories from her days at the Newman Center involve leading a Bible Study with Maddie. The group began small and through invitation grew so big that they had to split

into 2 smaller groups. She remembers that everyone in the group had close personal relationships and one couple is now engaged! She said that they made sure to take time each week to touch base on where they were in life and sometimes that led to more community than scripture, but it was so wonderful to feel the support of others.

When asked if she experienced any holy moments at the Newman Center, she told us this, "While at Iowa, I was going through a tough mental health time. Fr. Jeff walked through that time with me. One day, he asked if I wanted to be anointed. He gathered all the students that were in the building and anointed me in the middle of the Gathering Space. It was so healing to me."

She also recalls Fire Night, an event held in conjunction with St. Mary's Church. Street teams went out and personally invited people back to St. Mary's for an evening of prayer and adoration.

Thanks for the visit, Lillian and for sharing your story!