



Newman Sweethearts 2023

Sam and Elizabeth Conlan, Married 2022

How did you meet?

Sam: During my freshman year, I was next door neighbors to Ally O'Meara in my dorm. We quickly became friends, and were both driven to make faith a priority in college. Ally was so involved in her faith that she held a weekly Bible study in her dorm room for freshmen women. One of these women happened to be Elizabeth, so I made sure to poke my head in every week to say hi. We eventually started getting dinner together in the dining hall, and after getting to know each other, made it "official".

Elizabeth: We met both at the Newman Center and through our mutual friend Ally! I went to Ally's Bible study freshman year which was in her dorm room in Catlett. Sam was her next door neighbor, so he would pop in a lot. I realized that Sam also went to the Newman Center so we also would run into each other a lot there!

Do you have any special Newman memories that you experienced as a couple?

Sam: One significant memory was when we weren't even in the same place. In winter of 2019, I was going to the annual SEEK conference (then called SLS) with the Newman Center, which took place in Phoenix, Arizona. Elizabeth, on the other hand, was going on tour with the Newman Singers to perform across the country. What made our departures even more difficult was that I was leaving to study abroad in Italy for the spring semester almost immediately after the conference. However, we both increased our faith lives in individual ways on these trips with the Newman Center, and were able to share in our experiences!

Elizabeth: One of my favorite memories was our junior year Valentines day! Sam and his roommates, Cade, Zaq, and Sam, all set up dinner and a movie for us girlfriends. Each of us went to dinner separately, and then came back and watched a movie in their living room that they set up super cute and cozy. It was just so thoughtful of all of them to set up something so sweet that we could all enjoy together as friends and dates. The night was super fun, however one of the funniest parts was when they moved the TV back to where it originally was. They broke it, but had no idea. All of them were doing Exodus 90 and couldn't watch TV until Easter. So the TV was broken from Valentines Day to Easter, and they had no idea until Exodus 90 was over.

Any advice that you have for Newman couples as they are dating/starting out?



Sam: I mainly have advice for the men - don't be afraid to ask women out, and please use the word "date". Using that word gives clarity and intention for a woman. If you're nervous about asking someone out, remember that if she says yes, you win! And if she says no, you still win because you're one step closer to finding your future wife, instead of staying set on the same woman because you haven't asked her out yet!

Elizabeth: My advice would be to set up at least one time during the week to pray together, just you two. Sam and I would have lunch on Tuesday after our morning classes, and then spend some time in the adoration chapel talking to God and each other. With a busy school/work schedule, things build up really fast. Having time to share, especially with God, is huge in solving problems together, and growing together.

What things do you do together to keep your faith and God a priority in your marriage?

Living in Chicago makes our faith life a little challenging because of all the conflicting viewpoints from the millions of other people who live here. However, we pray together before bed every night, and made sure to get involved in our local church! We are both involved in Bible studies and are also leaders in the young adult ministry! Sam works with putting on monthly events for young adults, and Elizabeth works on the spiritual side by hosting a young adult women's Bible study every week!

