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February 2023

Megan Schnoebelen
Class of 2021

Megan graduated from UI with a degree in Elementary Education with a Reading Specialization and a Music Minor. She also graduated with honors. She currently serves as the K-12 District Librarian at Regina High School in Iowa City in addition to attending UI in pursuit of her M.A. in Library Science with a focus on school libraries.

Megan shared, “The Newman Center always provided a home and a welcoming place to come on campus. Whether it was attending Mass, the sacraments, group or social activities it always felt like such a safe, warm and welcoming space to come home to on campus. I have lots of fond memories studying here and getting to know people better who also shared my faith. It was nice to have a group with similar beliefs and ideals to grow in faith with as that can be difficult on such a large college campus. Newman takes a large school and provides a welcoming community to belong to and feel a part of at The University of Iowa.”

She said her experience at the Newman Center helped to create a framework for success with regular participation in the sacraments in order to receive the graces she needed in her everyday life. Her experiences here also helped her learn how to share her faith with others. There are so many good witnesses to the faith that they inspired her to work on her own faith and to not be afraid to share it with others. It was easy to invite others to the Newman Center, even people who were not Catholic as it was such a warm and welcoming community that made everyone feel important and like they were part of something much bigger than themselves.

“One of my favorite memories at the Newman Center was Thursday Night Mass. It was nice to end the week with Mass and to give thanks for everything that happened as well as to offer up my prayer intentions for the next week. The activities offered after the Masses were also another fun way to end the week while getting to know others who were at the Newman Center,” said Megan, “Another favorite memory of mine was the lunches provided during finals week. I remember how stressful it was during finals and how grateful I was to have a community to depend on and a place to eat a meal when there was hardly enough time.”

We asked Megan if she experienced any especially holy moments while at the Newman Center. “The Easter Vigil Mass is one of my favorites to attend each year as it has so much meaning and is tied into the rituals and history of our Church throughout time. The music was incredible and witnessing all of the people who were joining the Church for the very first time that night was truly inspirational. The music was incredibly moving as were the people who were joining the Church for the first time,” she said.

Our staff at the Newman Center strives to be a strong base of support and encouragement to students as they work through their college years and learn to balance life and keep their faith a priority. Megan said, “Mike always had a steady presence at The Newman Center. In addition, Fr. Jeff was very approachable, enthusiastic, and non-judgmental.”

Thank you Megan for sharing your experience with us!

