

## YES LORD, I WILL FOLLOW YOU!

Dear <field>

In prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, God is carefully removing a lot of obstacles in my life that prevent me from encountering Him. He then seems to always give me Himself in place of these things.

My freshman year, I met some role models who encouraged me to spend 15 minutes a day in personal prayer. Trying to pray felt like a wrestling match, but it became easier thanks to God's grace. As an upperclassman, the pandemic gave me space to pray longer, for which I'm eternally grateful. In prayer, God personally reveals His loving pursuit of me, His fatherly care and faithfulness, His peace which dispels my anxieties and insecurities, and His will for my life. On the other hand, fasting was as difficult for me as a student as it is now.

Sometimes I forget fasting even after the firmest resolutions, but I experience the most sobering grace when I do abstain from worldly desires. In doing so, God calms my appetites and provides me the space to freely acknowledge, "You know what I need more than food or comfort right now? The indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The salvation of Christ. The love of the Father."

On the streets of Dinkytown, God often placed me in the paths of people who were in material need and invited me to respond. He showed me that it was actually Himself I was encountering in these people. He opened my eyes further to see that my peers and the Church herself are worthy of everything I can offer because in the end, we are all His body! My possessions are really gifts from God that He trusts me to steward well. That said, I've found that the hardest part of almsgiving for me comes in making the conscious choice to budget what has been given to me so that I can actually offer as much as possible. In my lack, He shares with me the charity of His own heart and affirms in my mind that all things are truly under His possession for the sole purpose of His glory. It is a great thing.

My encouragement to you is to immerse yourself in this season of Lent. Seize the opportunity that the Lord is providing by having a firm foundation in prayer, denying yourself of worldly desires by fasting and by giving generously to a ministry that has profoundly impacted my life and the lives of many before me. Join me today by donating to campus ministry at [umncatholic.org/donate](http://umncatholic.org/donate) or by calling Joe Geiger at (612) 261-2811 to find out how your gift can have the greatest impact.

In Christ,

**Evan Markel**, *Class of 2021*



Alumnus, Evan Markel



# ST. LAWRENCE NEWMAN CENTER LENTEN SPECIFIC NEEDS LIST

Server Albs  
\$250

Unrestricted Giving  
*Making disciples of  
Jesus as a university  
Catholic church*

Student Evangelist Day  
Total: \$120

Spring Donor Dinner  
\$3,500

Grad Mass Celebration  
\$1,500

Recreation Equipment  
\$6,500

Campus Ministry  
Hospitality  
\$1,200

Altar Candles  
Total cost: \$1,000

Campus Ministry  
Triduum Retreat  
\$2,000



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