

# *What is FYSH? An award winner, for starters!\**

FYSH is the first year small group program in University Circle run by Newman Catholic Campus Ministry (NCCM). FYSH stands for “First Year Spiritual Home.” Each group is made up of about 5-8 first year students who meet once a week for one semester, averaging about one and half hours per week, to make a fun and powerful foundation for college life. Of course, each week we have time for snacks and catching up! Each FYSH group has two Guides who already know the ropes around campus. NCCM trains and connects these mentors weekly in a spirit of “unity in diversity.” While you have a “home” FYSH group, you could “school up” with a different FYSH group some weeks if your schedule gets tangled! Each FYSH group follows the same sequence consisting of four segments. These four weeks make a monthly cycle, with three cycles this semester - ending before final exams.

## **Week I - Fun: Building Community Between Us - *Koinonia***

FYSH groups cook a meal or dessert and share it together, getting to know each other better while having fun, and checking out what FYSH is like.

## **Week II - Bible Study: Making the Connection Between Jesus & Us - *Kerygma***

FYSH groups explore Scripture on issues relevant to first year students through meditation, prayer, and discussion. These segments are especially centered on passages from the life of Jesus where he, too, was going through transitions, making connections, and building foundations for his future.

## **Week III - Service: Experiencing Mercy & Justice, Connecting the World & Us - *Diakonia***

FYSH groups get to know Cleveland as they serve alongside the victims of injustice in the city, and reflect on this for depth and meaning in light of the Church’s social teachings.

## **Week IV- *Catechesis*: Connecting Us & the Wisdom of the Church**

FYSH groups explore some powerful foundations for college in the Catholic faith and discuss how it is relevant to them, as they seek to integrate their University experience. Groups will explore Catholic approaches to the following topics: 1) Scripture and revelation, even as it relates to academic disciplines, 2) discernment of major life decisions, and 3) service to mercy, social justice, and peace.

## *The FYSH Calendar*

**Sign-ups begin in August** – since FYSH groups are limited in size

**FYSH Small Groups begin the week of September 6, 2010!** While it’s most powerful to start at the beginning of the semester, new participants can join in during the semester *if* space allows.

**All-FYSH Monthly Gatherings:** Meet up with other FYSH groups in fun & encouraging ways!

**FYSH Fest:** This joint gathering of all FYSH groups and Newman leaders marks the end of FYSH, to harvest the wisdom from your FYSH experience in joyous celebration!

***Interested? Questions?*** Contact Tony Vento, Newman Catholic Campus Minister serving University Circle, at [tony.vento@case.edu](mailto:tony.vento@case.edu) or (216) 421-9614 x302

**\*Winner, CWRU’s Dorothy Pijan Award for Outstanding Program for 2008-2009!**

*“For the development and implementation of an outstanding and innovative program which significantly contributed to the quality of life at Case in the past year.”*