



Centennial Gala and General Questions

A reference guide for Newman Center parishioners and community

If you have questions that are not covered in this FAQ, please email centennial@uacatholic.org.

Part One: Gala Questions

Tables, Seating, and Guests

I want to buy a table and have specific students I know sit with me and my guests. Can I do that?

Yes, and we love when people do this. Go ahead and invite the students yourself, then include their names in your RSVP so we can seat them with you. Please do not assume we will match students to your table on our end. If their names are not on your RSVP, they will not be seated with you. Since you said you know them we assume you will be inviting them.

How are students selected to attend?

The leadership of the Newman Center looks at how many student tickets have been purchased and then fills those seats based on student interest. It is a straightforward process. The more student tickets that are purchased, the more students who will be in the room. At this point we are anticipating 25-50 students being able to attend.

Can I request to sit with certain people?

We will try our best to accommodate these requests if stated on the RSVP. Keep in mind that tables seat 10, so once a table is full we may need to make adjustments. The earlier you tell us, the easier it is.

I bought a table. When do you need my guest names?

We need names and meal selections by September 26, 2026. We need time to finalize seating and waiting until the last week makes the seating chart and the catering count very difficult, so please send them as soon as you have them. If a name changes later, that is fine, just let us know.

I paid for seats and now I cannot attend. What are my options?

You can send someone in your place or you can release the seats back to us so students can use them. Whichever you choose, please tell us as soon as possible so the count is right. Sponsorship and ticket payments are not refundable, but the tax-deductible portion still applies.

Buying Tickets and Sponsorships

I want to sponsor the event. How do I do that?

Wonderful. Please visit the website and complete your selection online at e.givesmart.com/events/Pug/. Event details are outline on this page, the sponsorship levels, the benefits, and the checkout. If you would rather talk it through first, reach out to centennial@uacatholic.org or call the Newman Center.

I do not do purchases online. How can I support this?

No problem at all. You will be receiving an invitation the week of September 7th, and you can mail your response card back to us. If you do not receive one, please call the Newman Center and we will take your reservation over the phone.

What does a ticket cost?

- Individual ticket, \$150, of which \$50 is tax-deductible.
- To purchase a ticket for a student to attend, it's \$100, and it is 100% tax-deductible. This underwrites a Newman Center student's attendance and it is why the entire ticket is tax-deductible.

What are the sponsorship levels?

- St. Thomas More Legacy Presenting Sponsor, \$25,000. Two tables of 10, welcome remarks, full page inside front cover, premier logo placement, recognition from the stage, table signage. \$23,000 tax-deductible.
- Centennial Founders Sponsor, \$15,000. Reserved seating for 16, full page program recognition, logo placement, recognition during the program, table signage. \$14,000 tax-deductible.
- May We Be One Sponsor, \$10,000. Reserved table of 10, full page program recognition, logo on the website, table signage. \$9,000 tax-deductible.
- Champion of Character Sponsor, \$5,000. Reserved seating for 10, half page program recognition, table signage. \$4,000 tax-deductible.
- Faith and Fellowship Sponsor, \$2,500. Reserved seating for four, quarter page program recognition. \$1,500 tax-deductible.
- Last Supper Table Sponsor, \$2,000. Reserved table of 10, name recognition in the program, table signage. \$1,000 tax-deductible.

Can I pay by check?

Yes. Make it payable to the **St. Thomas More Newman Center** and mail it to 1615 E 2nd Street, Tucson, AZ 85719, or return it with your response card in the envelope provided. Please write "Centennial Gala" on the memo line so it gets credited correctly.

Can I volunteer instead of giving?

Yes, and we need the help. Please email centennial@uacatholic.org with your information.

What do gala proceeds support?

Proceeds support the student ministry programs at the Newman Center.

Program Ads

How do I take out a tribute ad congratulating the Newman Center on 100 years of service in the program?

- Full page, \$1,000.
- Half page, \$500.
- Quarter page, \$250.

Artwork is due Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Send it to Victoria Hannley at victoria@uacatholic.org. This deadline is real. The program goes to the printer and we cannot hold it up, so if someone is on the fence, today is the day to decide.

I am a sponsor. Do I need to send artwork too?

Yes, if your level includes program recognition, we need your artwork or your logo by the same September 9th deadline. If you do not have a designer, send us your logo and how you would like your name to appear and we will handle the rest.

The Evening Itself**When and where is the gala?**

Saturday, October 17, 2026, at **El Conquistador Tucson, A Hilton Resort**, 10000 North Oracle Road. The cocktail reception starts at 5:30 pm, with dinner and the program to follow.

What is the schedule for the evening?

- 5:30 pm, cocktail reception.
- 6:40 pm, welcome and prayer.
- 7:00 pm, dinner.
- 8:00 pm, fireside chat and dessert.
- 9:00 pm, student stories and paddle raise.
- 9:45 pm, dancing and social.

What should I wear?

Semi-formal (or simply what you might wear to a wedding)

What is the fireside chat?

It is the centerpiece of the evening. Matt Muehlebach, a University of Arizona alumnus and men's basketball letterwinner, will host a conversation with University of Arizona Athletics leadership about leadership, mentorship, and service, and how their values shape the way they guide student interactions. It is a conversation about practice rather than doctrine, and it is going to be memorable. Participants are listed below in a graphic for your reference.

What is the paddle raise?

It is the moment in the program where guests are invited to make a gift on the spot, at whatever level they choose, in support of Newman Center students. You raise your paddle, we record your gift, and you can pay that night or be invoiced afterward. There is no obligation to participate.

Is there a hotel block?

Yes. Call 520-544-1148 and ask for the Good Neighbor rate for the Newman Centennial Gala, or use the reservation link on the invitation. Do not forget to copy the entire link, it will not work otherwise.

Is there anything happening besides the gala that weekend?

Yes. The Newman Centennial Mass is Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 9:00 am and 11:00 am. Everyone is welcome, whether or not they attended the gala.

I have a dietary restriction or need accessible seating.

The food being served is either fish, chicken, or vegetarian meal. The fish and vegetarian meals are gluten free. Meal selection happens at the time of your RSVP. If you have another specific request, please speak to your server upon arriving at your table, the hotel will do its best to accommodate most dietary needs.

Do I have to be Catholic or a Newman parishioner to attend the gala?

Not at all. Alumni, parents, faculty and staff, community members, and friends of the Newman Center are all welcome. This is a celebration of 100 years of a place that has welcomed everyone who walked through the door, and the guest list should reflect that.

When do you need my RSVP?

Please respond by Saturday, September 26, 2026. After that we are into final counts with the hotel, and we may not be able to add you.

Part Two: General Questions

The Online Store

Why are we doing an online store?

It gives us a way to sell items and helps our resident community and our students promote the brand. Think of it less as a fundraiser and more as a way to create a culture, and to see the Newman Center items actually being worn around campus and around town.

When is the store open?

We will run two more store buying windows. The first is in early October, timed so parents can order while they are in Tucson and just in time for potential Christmas gift. The second is in the spring, time is TBA.

Is the store part of the centennial?

No. The online store, along with the updated logos and branding, sits outside the centennial work and is not overseen by the centennial committee. If someone has a question about the store, send it to Phoebe Chalk-Wadsworth at phoebe@uacatholic.org.

How do I stay in the loop?

Register with the Newman Center at www.uacatholic.org or give us your contact information including, name, address, email and phone and we will add you to the list.

Is this part of a capital campaign?

No. The centennial year is a celebration and an annual giving effort, not a capital campaign. If you are interested in learning more about a potential campaign, please contact Fr. John Paul at frjpforteop@uacatholic.org.

Quick Reference

- Gala: Saturday, October 17, 2026, **El Conquistador Tucson, A Hilton Resort**, 10000 North Oracle Road.
- Reception 5:30 pm. Dinner and program to follow. Dress is semi-formal.
- RSVP deadline: Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- Program ad artwork deadline: Wednesday, September 9, 2026, to Victoria Hannley victoria@uacatholic.org.
- Invitations mailed the week of September 7th.
- Registration and sponsorship: e.givesmart.com/events/Puq.
- Questions: centennial@uacatholic.org.
- Hotel: 520-544-1148, Good Neighbor rate for the Newman Centennial Gala.
- Centennial Mass: Sunday, October 18, 2026, at 9:00 am and 11:00 am.
- Individual ticket \$150. Student ticket \$100. Program ads \$1,000, \$500, and \$250.

*Celebrate
with Us*



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER GALA

Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 5:30 pm
Hilton El Conquistador

Join us for an intimate fireside conversation with University of Arizona Athletics coaches and staff on leadership, mentorship, and faith-driven service, benefiting the Newman Center Student Campus Ministry.



**DESIREÉ
REED-FRANCOIS**
Ken Coit Director
of Athletics



**MIKE
CANDREA**
8 Time National
Champion Coach,
Softball



**GIOVANA
MAYMON**
Head Coach,
Women's Golf



**CHIP
HALE**
Head Coach,
Baseball



**EMCEE: MATT
MUEHLEBACH**
Alumni Men's
Basketball Letterwinner

➤ NewmanGala.givesmart.com