We're so glad you're interested in sharing the importance of connecting all high school students to their college campus ministry during our Faith Forward movement in your homily or as a pulpit or bulletin announcement! Please make adjustments as you see fit.

Homily for the Newman Connection Faith Forward Movement

Theme: Passing on the Gift of Faith to the Next Generation

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Every time we gather for the Eucharist, we are reminded that the Church is a family. And part of being a family means taking care of one another, especially during seasons of change.

Right now, thousands of young Catholics across the country are preparing to graduate from high school. They are discerning next steps—college, military service, or entering the workforce. It's a moment filled with excitement, questions, and uncertainty. And it's also a moment of real spiritual vulnerability.

Research tells us something important: nearly 80% of young Catholics stop practicing their faith after high school. Not because they've outright rejected it—but because they were never personally connected to a new faith community. No one reached out. No one helped bridge the gap.

But we can change that.

That's why our parish is joining with thousands of others across the country in the Faith Forward movement—a national initiative by Newman Connection that connects graduating high school students to their next catholic community—whether that's a campus ministry or a military chaplain.

It's a simple but powerful act of accompaniment. And it's something every one of us can be part of.

Here's how you can help:

1. If you are a high school senior, sign up today to be connected with a campus ministry or young adult parish before graduation.
2. If you are a parishioner, pray for and encourage our graduating seniors as they transition into the next chapter of their faith journey.
3. If you are a catechist, teacher, or mentor, make sure every senior in your ministry knows about this initiative and takes action by signing up to become a Faith Forward Ambassador.

As a parish, let's not let our young people drift away simply because we didn't act. Let's walk with them, just as Christ walks with each of us. Let's make sure they know they belong—to the Church, to this community, and to a future full of faith and purpose.

Let's commit to keeping them connected. Let's make the Faith Forward movement a moment of grace and action in our community. Amen.