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Bishop Samuel Aquila blesses chapel in Newman House

Tanya Watterud

Bishop Samuel Aquila blessed the new chapel at the Newman House and celebrated Mass there on Sept. 10. The Newman House is a Catholic house for female students on the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, campus.

The addition of the beautiful, intimate chapel near the entrance to the large, brick home has been something residents have been praying for and preparing for over the past three years.

Through their labor and financial donations, those who worked on and supported the chapel project were “really preparing the way for Jesus” and helping the house to become “a worthy dwelling place for Jesus to enter,” said Melissa Sobotta, Newman House director.

“It was like this huge grace,” Sobotta said before the blessing and Mass. “I woke up this morning and thought, ‘Jesus is coming!’” During his homily, Bishop Aquila spoke particularly to the residents of the house: “Know who you encounter when you enter the chapel. Know who is truly present. . . . It is Jesus who will help you become holy women, who will build you up, and that is a great counter sign to the culture of today.”

Learn more at www.und.nodak.edu/dept/newman/newmanHouse.html.