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Hilton Foundation Awards Chapman \$75,000 for Catholic Programming

ORANGE, Calif., Jan. 28, 2005 Chapman University was awarded a \$75,000 grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to support the Newman Catholic Fellowship Program.

The funds will be used to provide greater support for Catholic programming at Chapman and to acquire important Catholic symbols of faith. These will be used in the university's new Wallace All Faiths Chapel of the Fish Interfaith Center.

Directed by Father Rafael Luvano, a professor in Chapman's religious studies department, the Newman Catholic Fellowship program is a highly visible group on campus and is involved in many worship, educational and service activities, such as Mary's Kitchen, Habitat for Humanity and after-school centers.

Though founded in 1861 by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Chapman is a secular institution that maintains ties with its founding denomination. Chapman's educational philosophy is to develop the whole person, which includes the spiritual dimension of life. An academic department of religious studies and student life programs provide opportunities for students to be engaged in spiritual development if they choose.

The Ray and Pauline Wallace All Faiths Chapel of the Fish Interfaith Center is the spiritual center of the university, home to Chapman's various student spiritual groups. The center is open to the public as well as the Chapman community.

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation was established in 1944 by hotel entrepreneur Conrad N. Hilton. The foundations focus is to work toward meeting critical societal needs, with a special emphasis on children and supporting the work of the Roman Catholic Sisters.

The grant is the first received by Chapman from the Hilton Foundation.

"This generous grant will allow the university to expand its programming endeavors for the substantial Catholic community on campus and in the surrounding community, said Dr. Ronald Farmer, dean of the Wallace All Faiths Chapel and associate professor of religious studies. Long-held dreams are about to be realized.