

# Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 48, NO. 3 — APRIL 2014



## Dear Alumni, Family and Friends

Welcome to the new Sun & Balance! This is a truly exciting time for all of us at the Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the Chapel + Cultural Center, our parish of Christ Sun of Justice and the Chaplaincy at RPI. With this new format, our hope is that you will be able to experience the work our donors make


possible because of their incredible support throughout the year. Please let us know what you think as we work to improve our message with you.

We are also excited because we are announcing Preserving a Presence, Nurturing a Future, our capital campaign to refurbish the C+CC and enhance our programs. The effort has a goal to raise \$2.4 million dollars of which we have already raised \$1.35 million.

I would like to share with you something that happened to me on Christmas Night here at the C+CC and why our presence is so important. After all the liturgical celebrations followed by a great day with my mom and friends for dinner, I went to the Chapel. Our building was open as it is each day to about 10 p.m. As I entered, I felt that someone was here. Turning the corner into the sanctuary, I saw the young lady crying and praying. Her face was not familiar to me. We talked and she poured

her heart out...sharing that this was her first Christmas away from home (the ticket to California was far too expensive), her boyfriend's car had broken down and she couldn't get to him in Boston....she stated "It is the worst day of my life". We talked and prayed for about a half hour. Then, her desire was to stay awhile longer alone to which I responded, "of course".

Our beloved C+CC was a sanctuary for this young lady and IT WAS OPEN on Christmas Day after all the masses. It is our building that allows so much to happen. It is sacred space for so many and in ways that we cannot measure. Our students, faculty, staff and community have found a home where they can "be still and know" in the presence of the Lord. Our building has provided for those in the past, those present and those still to come, a place to discover themselves in our sacred space. For this young lady, and so many that come through our doors, we must do what is needed to maintain our presence.

As you read these words it will be near Easter and the celebration of the Resurrection of The Lord. We pray for each of you through His Resurrection each day here. Our prayer for all of you is that you may experience the love of Christ in your hearts. Please allow yourself to make this happen. 

Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis



# Renovation of the Chapel + Cultural Center

Over the past 18 months, great strides have been taken to assure that the Chapel and Cultural Center is preserved for another 48 years.

We are finished with replacement of insulation in the outer walls of the building and with tuck-pointing every block in the building.

We have reset and replaced all the pavers around the Chapel + Cultural Center.

We have addressed and resolved a drainage problem that culminated in a very costly flood late.

All that has been done, and that will be done, is a direct result of your generosity and commitment to giving a future to the “soul” of our communities.

Here are some samples of the tuck-pointing work while in progress.



◀ 08-28-12 – Western Building Renovation Inc. mason removing block to replace insulation on W. wall of Chapel

09-12-12 – For the hard-to-reach work, Western Building Renovation brought in a knuckle lift, which was great as long as it was dry!



## THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

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## Upcoming Events

- |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| <b>April 26</b><br>Partial Credit Spring A Cappella Invitational                            | 8:00 – 10:00 PM   |
| <b>May 1 – June 30</b><br>Artists of the Roarke Center present their Spring 2014 exhibition | DAILY             |
| <b>May 8</b><br>Roarke Center Artists' Reception  | 6:00 – 8:00 PM    |
| <b>May 9</b><br>Knights of Columbus' Holy Hour  | 7:00 – 9:00 PM    |
| <b>May 29</b><br>Feast of the Ascension   | 12:10 PM, 6:00 PM |
| <b>July 1 – August 31</b><br>The Paintings of Peter Granucci                                | DAILY             |
| <b>July 10</b><br>Artist's Reception for Peter Granucci                                     | 6:00 – 8:00 PM    |

# Preserving a *Presence* — Nurturing a *Future*

**A**t the C+CC we are providing students with opportunities to connect with their spirituality, fostering growth in their academic and leadership skills, contributing to their intellectual self-confidence and psychological well-being, and enhancing their satisfaction with college.

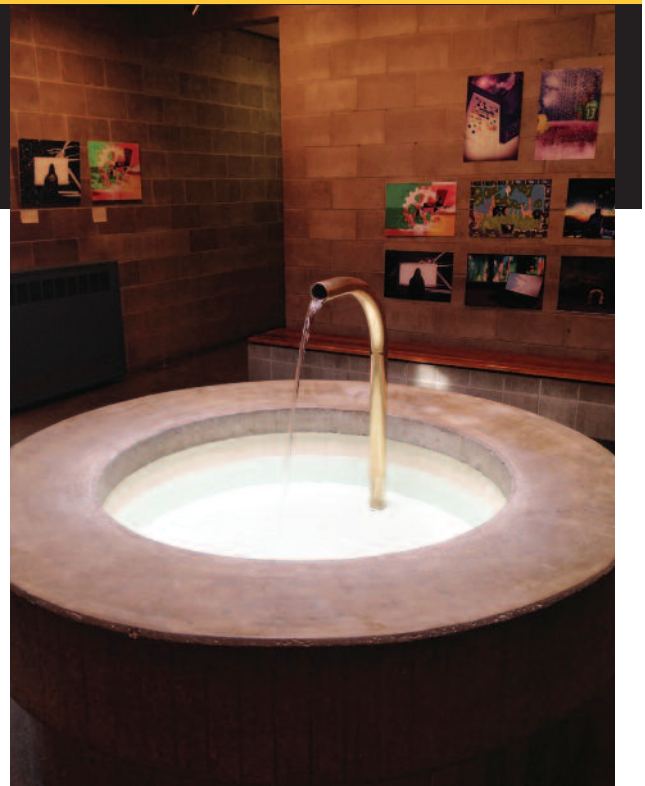
***Our work has been successful, in part, because of the investment of many before us.*** It is with this care and commitment of our predecessors that the Board of Trustees is moving forward with a \$2.4 million capital campaign.

The capital campaign will enhance the C+CC's strength and role in the future of our students by addressing four initiatives: repair & refurbish the aging building, establish a program fund, replenish the investment fund (whose earnings support annual operating expenses) and maintain the Annual Fund program.

***The Building – \$1,050,000*** Our 13,000 square foot building has given RNF a major physical presence in one of the main corridors on campus. This location should not be underestimated as it has contributed to the ease of students joining us. Additionally, the C+CC is an architecturally unique, multipurpose performing arts, spiritual and community gathering space which is very appealing to many. However, the building is aging and we need to make careful and responsible repairs to maintain the facility for the future. Work has begun and includes repairs and upgrades to (pictures showing the work has been posted on our website):

- masonry walls
- gutters & flashing
- clerestory windows
- storm windows
- louvers
- chimneys
- bond beams
- doors

***Program Fund – \$500,000*** Currently, programs are dependent upon annual money donated which restricts creative program growth. A Program Fund, whose principal will be invested, provides certainty in funding allowing more advanced planning for special programs.



***Investment Fund - \$250,000*** Program and operating expenses are partially met through proceeds from the return on the Investment Fund. The goal is to grow this fund to meet rising operating expenses.

***Annual Fund - \$750,000*** Each year about 550 people contribute \$250,000 to support the programs and daily operations at RNF. While in the capital campaign, RNF cannot let this funding be compromised otherwise it could negatively affect current operations and programming. For each of the three years during the campaign, RNF will ask donors to continue their annual support while also considering a gift to the capital campaign.

This campaign is no small effort. To reach our goal, we will need our alumni, friends and family to consider making their most generous donation to RNF. Typically gifts for capital campaigns are larger than gifts made annually and donors are able to fulfill their commitments over three years.

In the next three months more will be written about the campaign. When the committee invites you to make a special gift, we hope you consider what RNF has meant to you and how you can secure the work and building for future students. ***To learn more about the capital campaign, visit our website.***





## The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
The Student Union, Room 3514  
110 Eighth Street  
Troy, NY 12180-3590

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Phone: (518) 276-6518 Chaplains Office  
Phone: (518) 274-7793 Chapel + Cultural Center  
Email: [rnf@rpi.edu](mailto:rnf@rpi.edu)

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## Newman Catholic Fellowship Students Welcomed RPI Alums to Brunch and Memories of the Roman Catholic Community of the Past

