

Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 50, NO. 2 — FALL 2015

Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

“What do you do during the summer months when there are so few students around campus?”

This is a question we frequently hear. While there is a stillness that descends upon campus during summer months, both our Chaplains' Office and C+CC office are very busy prepping for the next academic year. This lead time is needed to plan the year, secure the Lenten Speaker Series (yes, I said Lent), identify and schedule artists, prepare for Student Orientation (S.O.), conclude our budgeting process for RNF Board approval, prepare and send student mailings and a sundry of other tasks.

Summer is not all about planning, though. More times than not it is that very special time of year for weddings and baptisms. Two grads asked to have their children baptized here at the C+CC. Nate Austin '06 and his wife, Amanda, brought their daughter, Rory Sue. Rory is a very special young lady, as we share the same 15 April birth date. Kyle Holbriiter '03 and his wife, Jaclyn, brought their son Kolten Richard. Kyle is the son of Mary and Richard Holbriiter and Mary is our Office Manager. This was truly special! Both babies were on their best behavior which was to the relief of all parents involved, maybe even the grandparents. Also, Charles Martin '13, currently a grad student in physics pursuing his PHD, asked me to celebrate his marriage with Kayla Brouard in New Hampshire. At our Easter Vigil earlier this year, Kayla was baptized. There were and will be other sacramental celebrations and they will be special; but these this summer, for me, were blessings that cannot be captured by words.



Fr. Ed baptizes Kolten Richard Holbriiter.

In this issue of the Sun & Balance, we wish to say thank you to those who have been our loyal supporters this past year. Without your support, both financial and moral, as well as your continuous prayers, we would not be able to be involved in the lives of the students here at Rensselaer. THANK YOU!!! During these past sessions of S.O., I have met numerous parents who are grads of RPI and now are entrusting their children to us. Their remarks on how the C+CC, the Chaplains' Office and the Community of Christ Sun of Justice played such an important role in their education have been inspiring. These families have expressed their gratitude in their response to our yearly request for help. These donations are so meaningful to us because it truly lets us know that all of our efforts make a real impact in the lives of our students for generations to come.

Again, I thank you, on behalf of all those who benefit from our ministry because of your generosity. Please continue to pray for us as we will for you.

Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis



Spaghetti and Social Justice: the Ministry of Serving Others at the ICC Soup Kitchen

All of us think about food in some manner every day. What's for dinner? Whose turn is it to cook or clean up? Imagine if your daily thoughts concerned where your next meal would come from every day.

This huge issue of food supply and demand for people with food insecurities came to a crisis point with the closing of many churches in the Troy area several years ago. Church closings impacted food pantries and soup kitchens throughout the area. The financial crisis, starting about the same time, created a greater need for available food for those in need.

Organizations throughout Troy have worked to meet needs of the people for many years. As a charitable foundation, the Italian Community Center recognized the need for a soup kitchen in the south end of Troy. Coupled with the closing of a popular soup kitchen at the north end of Troy, Thursday afternoon soup kitchen at the ICC was born.

Now in the 4th year, the ICC soup kitchen began funding by selling lunches 3 days a week to local officials and businesses. After a few months, interest waned so the funding of the soup kitchen was taken over solely by the ICC. Frank Marchese and John Clementi cook each week, usually a meal of pasta with meatballs, salad, bread and dessert. Four teams rotate turns serving dinner each week. What began as a way to offer a restaurant experience to patrons unable to afford an evening out, has become an enhanced buffet style dinner due to the overwhelming popularity of the weekly dinner. People come from all over to eat. One elderly man walks each evening to a soup kitchen in the area, he never wants a ride, walking is his thing. That and chocolate cake. Another man rides his bike from Albany to the ICC in all kinds of weather. Yes, the food is that good. Most people are families with young children. All love to talk with one another and enjoy the social atmosphere of eating with friends.

Holidays can be a difficult time for many and celebrations are often a painful experience in some families. Recognizing a need to make our holidays fun with good food to eat was a priority shared by all the teams. Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter dinners are celebrated in the large dining room with decorations for the time of the year and a large meal with all the fixings. The teams share the responsibilities for these dinners. The C+CC team serves the Christmas dinner and provides the gifts and then cooks the Easter dinner. The C+CC team also provides the Easter baskets at the Easter dinner. Gifts at Christmas have been a big hit with personal care products for the adults and toys for the children.

As co-chair of the C+CC team, Tammy Sanders has added a whole new dimension to the soup kitchen. Tammy recognized the small luxuries of dinner that were missing and added a

staple of the team: chocolate milk. Tammy also coordinates the Easter dinner and this year had many Troy groups participating, such as Capital Roots. Two groups from the RPI campus, a professional engineering group and a fraternity, gave supplies for the Easter baskets and also came to assist with the meal.

The soup kitchen team experience has inspired all of us in many ways. Team member Jim Fiore expresses: "I really enjoy waiting on the people. Most people are extremely appreciative of what workers do for them at the soup kitchen." Patrick Morres says "It's great to see how we come together to help one another. It makes a difference." Ora Schongar expresses "Father Ed always encourages us to use our time and talents to help others; this is a wonderful way to do this." On that same note, Patrick Boyle says "A very rewarding ministry." To sum it up, Jim Hyde puts it simply, "The people who come are truly in need and very appreciative of both the food and the service."

A spaghetti supper fundraiser was held last fall by the teams at the ICC to benefit the soup kitchen and the local food pantries. Another fundraiser was held recently to aid victims of a house fire. We, as the parish of the Christ Sun of Justice, at the Chapel + Cultural Center have shared nearly 4 years in our commitment to social justice in the Troy area through our work with the soup kitchen. What began as a way to serve dinner to give back to the community is now growing to unite the community in many ways.

Jean Francois, Co-Chair
C+CC Team, ICC Soup Kitchen



Building the future of RNF starts at Student Orientation

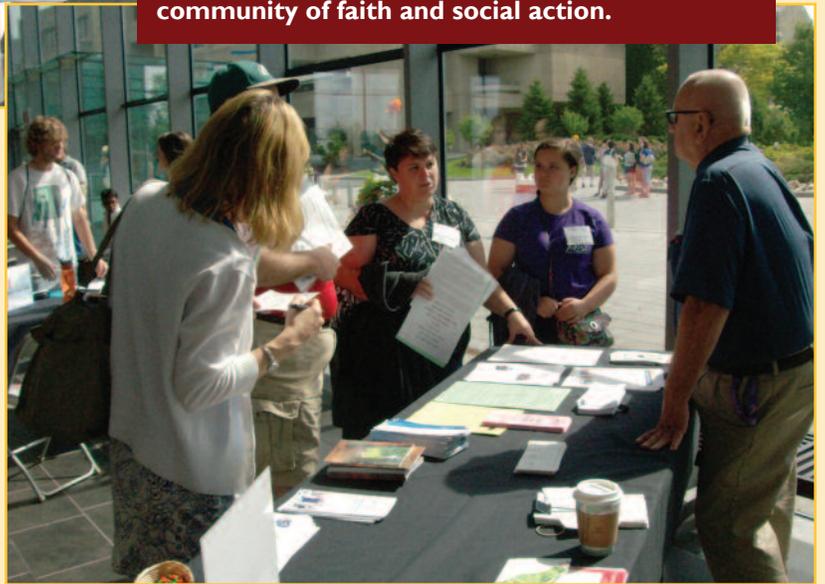
During the summer months each year, Fr. Ed, Diane Waters and Mary Holbitter pour hours into updating and distributing letters and brochures explaining the offerings of the Chaplain's Office, the Chapel + Cultural Center and the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice through mailings to new students and their families. Nearly all these outreach and evangelism efforts are invisible to our constituency, yet they constitute a critical part of building the foundation upon which all our successes, current and future, depend.

One of the most visible and important of these summer activities is participation in RPI's Student Orientation program. Over ten days during July and August, Fr. Ed and the staff meet and greet new students and their parents at the Chaplain's Office booth at various locations on campus, like EMPAC and the Biotechnology Building. The objectives for these encounters:

- To be available, visibly and personally, to first-year students and their parents who are experiencing RPI for the first time...
- To answer all sorts of questions concerning opportunities available for students to worship in their respective religious traditions and to share materials produced by these various traditions which may be of help to students while they attend RPI...
- To assure both students and parents that there is clergy available at all times on campus to meet the many spiritual needs students might have...



Fr. Ed welcomes new first year students and their parents, shares information about the Chapel + Cultural Center and invites them to share in our community of faith and social action.



The Phelan Wiberley Society

The Phelan-Wiberley Society is a community who shares the vision of our early leaders, Fr. Thomas Phelan and Steve & Betty Wiberley. It consists of alumni, parishioners, friends, faculty and staff who support the vision of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation by including the Foundation in their long-term financial and estate plans. Members of the Society belong to a select group of individuals who have chosen to extend their legacies while furthering the work of Foundation.

If you would like to share your name and intentions with us or learn more about the Phelan Wiberley Society, please contact Diane Waters at waterd3@rpi.edu or (518) 276-6517.

The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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upcoming events.

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Upcoming Events

September 1 - October 31 **Daily, 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM**
Never Forget: Recovery Paintings by Ken Kaminski

September 11 **6:30 - 8:30 PM**
Artists' Reception for Never Forget (following Mass)

September 26, 27 **7:30 PM and 1:30 PM**
RPI Players present "Suicide, Inc."

September 29 **7:30 – 9:00 AM**
2015 Town & Gown Breakfast. Prof. Rick Relyea; "Saving the Lake: the Jefferson Project at Lake George, NY (by invitation only – contact C+CC for details)

October 1-4
"On Care of Our Common Home" - Special Program on Ecology and Social Justice

October 1 **2:00 – 4:00 PM**
"Global Life-Style Changes Required to Save the Planet" – RPI Faculty Panel Discussion

October 1 **7:00 – 9:00 PM**
"The Yes Men Save the World" – a Film and talk-back moderated by Prof. Igor Vamos

October 3 **5:15 PM**
Mass of Thanksgiving focusing on St. Francis' thoughts on the environment on his Saint's Day with Br. Mickey McGrath

October 3 **6:30 – 7:30 PM**
"Global life-style changes as they affect Developing Countries - a talk by Kodili Chandia, a Ugandan environmental activist

October 4 **9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM**
Mass of Thanksgiving focusing on St. Francis' thoughts on the environment on his Saint's Day with Br. Mickey McGrath