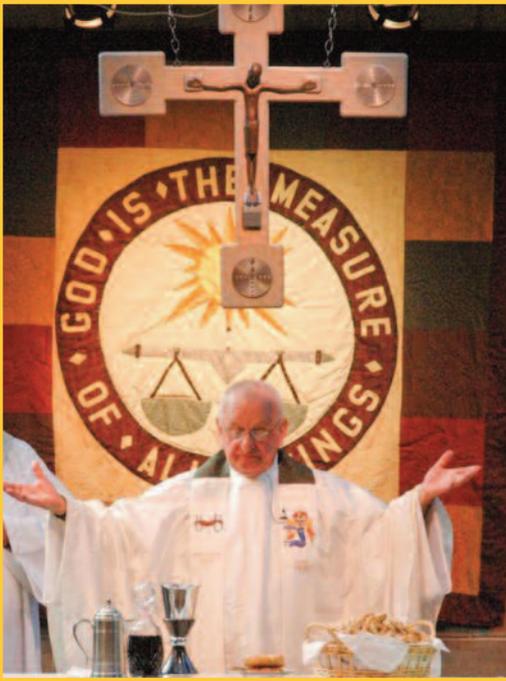


Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 49, NO. 2 — SEPTEMBER 2014



Dear Alumni, Family and Friends:

As I compose this letter, we all are looking forward to the formal greeting of the Class of 2018. This summer flew by, as it seems we just said our farewells to the Class of 2014. These are two very remarkable groups of young women and men, one now being

part of the fabric of our lives and one to become part of the fabric. Perhaps I am being a little nostalgic with these words but having been here for twenty-five years causes me to reflect at this time of year.

During many summer sessions of Student Orientation, I met numerous parents who are grads of RPI and, now, are entrusting their children to us. Their remarks on how the C+CC, Chaplain's Office and Community of Christ Sun of Justice played a role in their own education were inspiring. These families expressed their gratitude in their response to our yearly request for help. In a special way, I want to acknowledge this because it tells us that our efforts are not in vain. Thank you to this group in a special way.

In the autumn issue of the Sun & Balance it is our privilege and delight to say thank you, publicly, to our friends and

supporters this past fiscal year. We are grateful for your important contributions to our work on campus and appreciate your belief in our efforts.

As you read this issue please enjoy being introduced to the various people who "make it happen" around here. We are blessed with student leadership and staff who have integrated within their lives our vibrant intellectual and spiritual heritage with today's world. "The past is but prologue" when we consider all they have accomplished while here because it continues through them allowing us to minister with greater determination and fervor. We are truly blessed by and through them.

To those supporting us for the first time and to those who continually support us, thank you on behalf of all those who benefit from our ministry because of your generosity and I ask you to, please, renew your efforts this year. 

Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis



Q. How are The Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the Chapel + Cultural Center and the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice related?

A. We are frequently asked to explain the relationship between The Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the Chapel + Cultural Center and the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice. Mary Beth Grabowsky, RPI class of '04 and a member of the Board of Trustees of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation, has provided us with a succinct explanation of how these three entities fit together:

“The mission of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation (RNF) is to provide both spiritual and cultural enrichment to students, faculty, staff and alumni at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), as well as the community around RPI. The Chapel + Cultural Center (C+CC) at RPI is a multipurpose performing arts and spiritual space, owned and managed by the RNF. The C+CC provides a home to the Roman Catholic University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice.”

We want to thank Mary Beth for her clarification. We intend to refer to it to answer all future inquiries.



THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION



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Upcoming Events

September 1 – October 31

Daily, 8:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Art Exhibit: *External Conditions*: Paintings by Brenda Giegerich

September 23

7:30 – 10:00 AM

2014 Town & Gown Breakfast

October 9

7:00 – 10:00 PM

Science, Technology and Spirit Series
“Transcendent Man” Film/discussion

October 10 – 12

Reunion and Homecoming Weekend

October 12

10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Newman Fellowship Alumni Brunch

October 17

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Artists' Reception for *External Conditions* with Brenda Giegerich

October 24 – 26

Family Weekend

October 25

After 5:15 PM Mass

Family Weekend-Wine and Cheese Reception

October 26

After 10:30 AM Mass

Family Weekend-Coffee Hour

November 7

6:00 PM

Committee of One Hundred Dinner

Staff & Student Leaders



Those who attend Mass at the parish of Christ Sun of Justice, may have visited the Chaplain's Office or frequent the programs sponsored by the Chapel + Cultural Center have come to know the members of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation staff as the people who provide service and support to all members of the RNF community. Fr. Ed Kacerguis, Mary Holbriiter, Diane Waters and Tom Mattern have become the familiar faces of our many ministries.

There are other, newer staff, and student leaders with whom members of our community may be less familiar. These people, individually and collectively, provide prodigious amounts of service to assure the spiritual and intellectual growth of the entire community. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to these new friends.

Felipe Ortiz, '15, Grand Knight, Knights of Columbus, RPI Council No. 13635

Felipe Ortiz was born in Colombia and moved to the United States at a young age. Throughout school he realized he enjoyed Mathematics and Sciences more than other disciplines and as such delved deeper into them. He was thrilled to be accepted into, and enjoys studying Electrical Engineering. Felipe was born into a Catholic household, and was always taught to help those around him. He joined the Knights of Columbus his Freshmen year where he was welcomed by new brothers, and become the Grand Knight halfway through his Sophomore year. Since then the Knights have had a close relationship with the C+CC and are always willing to help the parish or its community in whatever way they can.



Why I Chose RPI:

"RPI is renown as an excellent engineering school, with strong ties to the professional world. These were major influences in my decision to attend RPI, but like others at that age, I was also eager to see new things, meet new people and mature. RPI had the technical community that interested me and I was confident that I would be able to make most out of that opportunity. After coming here I am sure I made the correct choice; there are great people here, many sub-communities, and opportunities waiting for you to grab them."

On Becoming Involved with the Knights of Columbus and the Parish at Christ Sun of Justice:

"When my Father and I visited for Accepted Students Day we made our necessary stop at the C+CC. It was important to us both that I have a place where I could continue to practice my faith. During my first semester I was worried about becoming too involved in activities that might take away from my schooling. Thus I would only go to Mass every Sunday and occasionally participate in C+CC activities. Later in the semester one of my now close friends invited me to a Knights of Columbus social event; that was my first interaction with the Knights. I became greatly involved in the Knights, and by extension the C+CC. I have made great friends because of it, and greatly enjoy all the events we participate in."



Kathleen Flynn, '15, President, Newman Catholic Fellowship

Born and raised in Jefferson Township, NJ, Kathleen is the oldest of three siblings. Kathleen is an active parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Oak Ridge, NJ.

Kathleen is studying Information Technology and Web Science at RPI. She has had two internships while attending RPI; one with the Smithsonian Institution's enterprise resource planning team and most recently with the Boeing Company in Seattle, WA. On campus, Kathleen is the Resident Director of the Blitman Commons residence hall, is in the Red & White student-alumni organization, and participates in the Archer Center's Professional Leadership Program.



Why I Chose RPI:

"With so many different options for furthering one's education, choosing the right college is definitely a challenge. After reading and hearing of many positive experiences had by students at the university, I knew that I definitely wished to apply to RPI. After visiting the campus, staying overnight with a current student, and speaking to current students and professors, I was attracted to the school's challenging academics, lively student life, and strong alumni network. Over the past three years, I have been able to grow academically, socially, and personally through the opportunities offered by Rensselaer."

On Becoming Involved with the Newman Catholic Fellowship and the Parish at Christ Sun of Justice:

"I was excited to learn of the Catholic community at RPI! I knew that I wanted to become actively involved in the C+CC and continue to practice my faith away from home. I spoke with students in the Newman Fellowship at the activities fair and learned of the faith, fellowship, and service opportunities available throughout the semester. Attending the C+CC's Fall Welcome Picnic for students allowed me to become introduced to the campus church community. Becoming actively involved with Newman has allowed me to form many great friendships and continue to grow and learn about the faith. I truly enjoy the unique opportunities which the group offers, such as the weekly dinners and Newman Fellowship retreats each semester."



(more on next page)

Deacon Joe Romand, Liturgical and Service Minister at the Parish of Christ Sun of Justice

Deacon Joe Romand's call to ministry probably began some 20+ years ago, in response to his then 32-year old sister, Denise, who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and needed two bone marrow transplants. At that time, he said, "I talked with God and listened more attentively to what God was asking me to do." Many years later, Joe could no longer ignore that inner voice and took a formal step toward responding to God's call when he entered the Formation for Ministry Program (FMP). FMP, now known as Kateri Institute for Lay Formation, is a program first established in the diocese in 1984 to provide for the holistic formation of the laity in preparation for pastoral ministries within their parishes/clusters. He was formally commissioned as a Lay Minister on September 27, 2009 by then Bishop Howard Hubbard. Bishop Hubbard later ordained Joe to the Diaconate on May, 25, 2013 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Hubbard assigned Joe upon his ordination to the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice to serve as Deacon in liturgical and service ministries.



Preceding ordination, Joe served in a parish and liturgical practicum at All Saints Catholic Church in Albany. It was in this experience that he was first introduced by Deacon Gary O'Connor, one of his diaconate mentors, to campus ministry and the Newman Association. Joe attended several Newman dinner meetings at UAlbany, served occasionally at the student Mass on campus, presided at a Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service in the Interfaith Center there, and assisted with the distribution of Ashes at an ecumenical service on campus. As part of an ongoing discernment process, in November 2012, Deacon Frank Berning, Director of the Diocesan Office of Initial Diaconate Formation, introduced Joe to Fr. Ed Kacerguis at a breakfast meeting at the Illium Café in Troy. "Fred" invited Joe to create and lead an Advent Holy Hour liturgy for the students of RPI who attended services at the C+CC. "Fred" later invited Joe to the 2013 Wednesday Lenten Speaker Series that year. Throughout this period, "Fred" strongly encouraged Joe to discern about ministry in the RPI community and gave much positive feedback, including feedback from students who participated in the earlier Holy Hour.

God is really choosing each one of us to be God's self in this world, each in our own unique situation. Empowering others to experience being chosen, being a beloved, being somehow God's presence in the world is what Joe likes most about serving as deacon. Through the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the world today, Joe hopes to be divine love through preaching, teaching, and connecting others through social justice and charity. In particular, Joe has been inspired by student participation in parish ministries, especially by the Newman Catholic Fellowship, and with the activities of the Knights of Columbus of which he is a third degree member. Some examples of the Knight's activities include participation in small group liturgies in a world wave of prayer to end world hunger and to pray for vocations for all states of life. They also participate in social justice outreach, most recently working at a local men's homeless shelter, cooking the house guests lunch and sitting with them to share stories.

Joe works for New York State Teachers' Retirement System, currently in purchasing and contract management, formerly as an internal auditor, as part of his 29+ year career there. He also has been a union activist throughout his career and regularly makes his voice heard on worker, family, social justice and union issues through the AFL-CIO's Working Families e-Activist Network, AFSCME/CSEA Action Centers and other activist networks. He served as President of CSEA Local #658 from 2005 through 2009.

Joe and his wife, Tracey, of Colonie will celebrate 35 years of marriage this September. They have three grown children from youngest to oldest: Meaghan, who resides at home with her parents, Dr. Andrew, a pharmacist in Las Vegas, NV, and Brian (Chrisann Flannery) of Niskayuna. Tracey's mom, Dolores, who will be 88 this year, also resides with them.

Barbara Musial, Music Minister at the Parish of Christ Sun of Justice

Barbara Musial was led to the Music Ministry at Christ Sun of Justice in the Fall of 2012 through Katie Haviland who also taught at Emma Willard. Barbara is grateful for the



opportunity to collaborate in ministry in such an amazing church with the strong leadership of Fr. Ed and Deacon Joe, the talent of the faith filled choir members and students, a supportive and singing congregation, and the rest of the staff of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation.

Barbara is a graduate of The State University College of New York at Fredonia with a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. She received a Performance Certificate from the Konservatorium der Stadt Wien in Austria, and a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Catholic University of America.

She has been active as an accompanist, duo-pianist and piano instructor throughout the Capitol District for more than 20 years. Barbara is the accompanist at Russell Sage College for The Sage Singers and the Theatre Institute at Sage, and at the College of St. Rose in Albany in the Voice Department. In addition, she has taught at The Emma Willard School in Troy for 14 years.

With her husband Michael, she is a member of the Duo-Piano team Musial and Musial. They have performed at Steinway Hall, the Lancaster Opera House in Lancaster, Marist College in Poughkeepsie, the Schenectady Community College, and were finalists in the National Federation of Music Clubs Duo Piano Competition.

Barbara, Michael and their three children reside in Troy.

The Parish of Christ Sun of Justice Welcomes Back Students and Friends

Each year, on the Sunday before Labor Day, right after the 5:00 PM student Mass, the terrace and grounds of the Chapel + Cultural Center come alive with the sights, sounds and smells of the annual Christ Sun of Justice Parish Welcome Picnic. Though preparations for the event have started weeks in advance, the intrepid band of parish volunteers, for the past few picnics coordinated by Jean Francois, gather to fire up the griddle, lay out the tables, set up the games and produce a relaxed, welcoming opportunity to welcome new friends and reconnect with old ones.

This means dinner and entertainment for 200 plus people.

Each picnic has a theme, which defines the after-dinner festivities. In 2013, the theme was “Kitchen Nightmare”, a send-up of culinary competitions like “The Iron Chef” or “Chopped”. Teams of contestants were provided with limited time and limited ingredients and were charged with making a tasty treat to please the palette of the judges. In 2012, the picnic celebrated the Summer Olympics with a series of events that demanded brawn and brain power. In 2011, we traded “Where’s Waldo” with a search for a more familiar local fellow as picnic attendees teamed up to “Find Fred”. In all cases, victories are rewarded with theme-appropriate prizes...usually books that complement the theme.

The picnic also provides those who attend with an opportunity to serve those less fortunate by donating winter scarves to the needy of Troy. A special scarf tree has been constructed to hold all the donations. Those who attend are asked to guess how far the number of donated scarves would stretch across Troy. The person who guesses most closely is also awarded a prize. Scarves are donated to the students at School 2, 479 10th Street in Troy.

Following are scenes from picnics past. We offer them with the hope that they bring forth good memories.



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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More Welcome Picnic Photos

