# SUN & BALANCE

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THE RENSSELAER
NEWMAN FOUNDATION
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Dear Alums and Friends,

From 1 November until early January, 2008 in this cycle, we as a people have a feast of festivities to celebrate. These hours, days, and realities can truly be lost if we do not take the time to slow down and experience who we are as God's people. Let me just list a few of these moments – All Saints, All Souls, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family, The New Year, Epiphany and The Baptism of the Lord. To tell the truth, I've excluded a number of days that are exclamation points as part of the great season. Please, now, a resolution – slow down and enjoy Do not let anyone or anything steal from you and your families these precious times. It is within these celebrations that we can gather up and appreciate other times not as life-giving and positive.

At the Chapel + Cultural Center, the chaplain's office, and our parish we offer the space and time for this community called Rensselaer. As a staff and community it is imperative that we model what we offer as "preaching". For discussion purposes we divide ourselves but really it is a whole with various components. Laughingly, I write this and it sometimes is not always seen or experienced in that fashion but nonetheless that is what is. While not on a formal document, you, our alums, parents, and friends are very much a part of this integrated community. The words flow easily so often but are genuinely real and heartfelt and your continued responses encourage and challenge us to greater efforts.

This is the great season of giving and I ask for your financial support once again. Our building and our staff are genuinely an oasis for the community of Rensselaer and the environs called Troy and beyond.
We are here because you understand our ministry and the life giving presence we offer. It is through us here that your lives and love is made real. I ask for your ongoing presence -- THANK YOU~!~

On behalf of myself, Jill, Marie, Mary, Diane, and Jim – the Staff – may you have a bountiful Thanksgiving, a grace filled Advent all in preparation for a joy-filled Christmas and holy, happy, and healthy 2008!

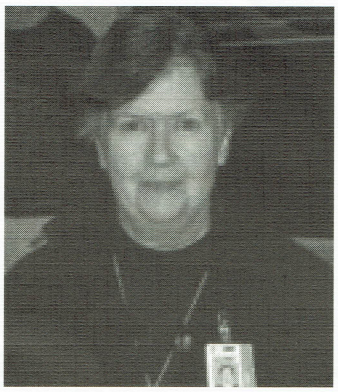
Sincerely,

Fr. Ed

Treasurer, Rensselaer Newman Foundation
Pastor, University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice
Religious Affairs Coordinator, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

# EXCERPTS FROM REMARKS BY SISTER HELEN SCARRY

*Keynote Speaker at the Annual Committee of 100 Dinner, October 26, 2007.*



*When Father Ed invited me to speak at the Committee of 100 Dinner, I said "yes," because when someone we know asks us to do something, and we are aware that the ministry of that person has always been for the good of others, of course we want to support that person and that ministry. I know you understand this because that is what your involvement in the Newman Foundation is about. As I gradually became more knowledgeable of the Newman Foundation, I became even more aware of the depth and breadth of your support for the students through this vital ministry here at RPI.*

*Father Ed encouraged me to share with you the passion I feel for my own ministry with students at Georgetown University, especially as my work, as Roman Catholic Chaplain, relates to their journey in the Faith. Passion is indeed what I experience for my work, because I have come to understand how much our students thirst for, and search for the living water of their faith. However, because they are so articulate and so technologically sophisticated in many areas and disciplines, we can easily miss what they might be searching for on a very deep level. Our students need and look for a place, an environment where they can question their own lives, their relationships and the world with all its complexities. They also need to express the uncertainties they may have, and at times, the desperation they may feel about themselves or a loved one. Furthermore, they need to know they belong: to a group, a community, to Someone whose love for them is unconditional, in a world where so much can be conditional. It is their energy, goodness and idealism that speak to me each and every day I journey with them. Their attitude invigorates my spirit and inspires me to be with them, as well as impels me to remind them of the God who is always with them.*

*I grew up, in an environment that supported the Faith, and while the world has always been counter-cultural to our questing for God, it would seem the students I frequently encounter give the impression that they often struggle so much more than I did to be Catholic – to respond wholeheartedly to the Gospel. One student expressed it this way: "As I go through a period of questioning an even doubting my faith, it is good for me to be with olde people who have asked the same questions. They hav come through the same doubting and still believe. The are a great inspiration to me." Catholic Community i present here at RPI to serve all who come in their searc to belong and serve the broader community.*

*It is because of your generous support, "financial, spiritua and intellectual," together with the fact that you care s much, that many projects, endeavors and faith initiative currently exist here in the University Parish of Christ Su of Justice. You have accepted the challenge to pass o the Faith, and explain our faith to future generations. W are each invited to find ways of living and articulating th Gospel for an often violent and complicated world.*

*Lacking the support of a culture that respects Christianit the now and future Christian, to be secure in faith, wi need to have personally experienced God's existence love and providence in the ordinary circumstances of life Secondhand faith will no longer be enough to safeguar the Christian of the future from being swallowed up by th atheistic and materialistic future. No longer will it suffic for the Christian to know about God's existence and abou divine love from a sermon or a book. The Christian wi need to know about God through personal experience.*

*This is precisely the mission of the University Parish her at R.P.I., and all that emanates from this place: worship Scripture study, prayer, retreats, marriage preparation RCIA, community-based service projects and a host o other activities. All of this can complement and enlarg the academic life of students, professors - all who become part of this community of believers and doers on behal of our Catholic Faith.*

*In the Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart at Georgetown University, there is a lovely stained glass window honoring Venerable Cardinal Henry Newman. His inspiring quote i etched into the window and reads: "Cor ad cor loquitor" heart speaks to heart. It is a grace and blessing to have a place where people at RPI can gather and remind each other of the unique gifts we have in the Church to share with one another. This is indeed a spiritual Home where heart speaks to heart. May God who began this good work in you continue it with His grace, as you continue His work on behalf of the Parish of Christ Sun of Justice.*

# FR. ED'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

## HOW TO SUPPORT OUR WORK

**If you work for a matching gift company**:
Please make your check payable to "Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute" and write "C+CC" on the memo line. Also make out your matching gift form to RPI, which will send us a gift equaling your contribution, plus the matching gift value.

**If you do not work for a matching gift company**:
Please make your check payable to "Rensselaer Newman Foundation".

**Pledges:**
Gifts made over a number of months or years may allow you to increase your overall contribution.

**Gifts of Securities:**
Gifts of appreciated securities are tax-deductible. Please call 276-6518 for transfer instructions.

**Bequests:**
By leaving the Chapel + Cultural Center in your will you can insure the continuation of quality events and programs as well as receive a savings on your estate taxes.

**Online Donations:**
Please visit our website at www.chapelandculturalcenter.org and click the DONATE NOW button.

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# FRANCES AND JAMES HYDE AND FAMILY RECEIVE SUN AND BALANCE AWARD

At the October 20 Committee of 100 Dinner, David Haviland awarded Frances and James Hyde and their Children, Donald, Catherine and Cynthia, the Sun & Balance Award for service to the Church to Rensselaer. This is the highest honor offered by the Rensselaer Newman Foundation.

The Sun & Balance Award takes its name from the seal of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation: the sun represents God and the balance, justice and righteousness. The motto of the Foundation is inscribed around the seal: "God is the Measure of All Things." Sun and Balance Award recipients receive a medallion-sized reproduction of this seal, a formal declaration of appreciation, and have their names permanently inscribed on a plaque in the C+CC Main Auditorium.

The Sun and Balance award was originally given intermittently to an outstanding RPI teacher and mentor, as chosen by RPI students. In 1979, the focus of the award was shifted to recognize those who had significantly supported the work of the church at Rensselaer. Since that time, the Sun and Balance Award has been given each year at the Committee of 100 Dinner, our annual gathering to recognize those who have made our work possible.

We are proud to count Frances, James, Donald, Catherine and Cynthia Hyde among our friends, and we are honored to present them with this small token of our vast appreciation for that they do to support our work and community.