

# Sun Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 52, NO. 1 — SPRING 2017

## Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

Over the past several weeks I have been reading with great care and interest Thomas L. Friedman's latest book, "Thank You for Being Late". Mr. Friedman's columns in the Times Union have always been challenging and most insightful. His latest book continues this tradition. To say volatility is part our daily lives across the spectrum and will be the norm for the foreseeable future, is an understatement to be sure. Mr. Friedman captures this change in the technological realm and the impact it has had on our lives. He makes the point that rapid, ongoing change is now the norm of our lives. Also, when and how this is taking place so often goes unnoticed. The most important consequence is how are we, as people, to filter all noises around us and maintain our humanity?

In a recent column in the TU, Mr. Friedman cites a conversation with a friend and teacher of his, Dov Siedman:

*"What we are experiencing today bears striking similarities in size and implications to the scientific revolution that began in the 16th century," Seidman said. "The discoveries of Copernicus and Galileo, which spurred that scientific revolution, challenged our whole understanding of the world around and beyond us—and forced us as humans to rethink our place within it."*

*Once scientific methods became enshrined, we used science and reason to navigate our way forward, he added, so much so that "the French philosopher René Descartes crystallized this age of reason in one phrase: 'I think, therefore I am.'" Descartes' point, said Seidman, "was that it was our ability to 'think' that most distinguished humans from all other animals on earth."*

*The technological revolution of the 21st century is as consequential as the scientific revolution, argued Seidman, and it is "forcing us to answer a most profound question — one we've never had to ask before: 'What does it mean to be human in the age of intelligent machines?'"*

*In short: If machines can compete with people in thinking, what makes us humans unique? And what will enable us to continue to create social and economic value? The answer, said Seidman, is the one thing machines will never have: "a heart."*

*Therefore, Seidman added, our highest self-conception needs to be redefined from "I think, therefore I am" to "I care, therefore I am; I hope, therefore I am; I imagine, therefore I am. I am ethical, therefore I am. I have a purpose, therefore I am. I pause and reflect, therefore I am."*

Seidman reminded me of a Talmudic adage: "What comes from the heart, enters the heart." (TIMES UNION, 5 January 2017)

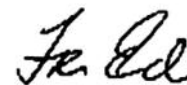
Part of our mission here at Rensselaer is to ensure that the heart, infused with the spiritual dimension we profess, is kept beating with an intensity that hope, imagination, purpose and integrity shine as never before. Nurturing the heart comes in so many ways here but especially in a space that is quiet and allows time for reflection, private and public.

Your support allows us here at the C+CC, Chaplain's Office, and simply our presence on campus, to help the heart grow and embrace the world today and infuse it with God's presence in, through and with us.

Please continue to be as generous as you have been in the past so that the future will be as bright as can be.

A Blessed Easter to you all~!~

Sincerely,



Father Ed Kacerguis



# The C+CC is turning 50!

The C+CC is planning to celebrate its 50th anniversary of the building. As part of our preparations we are looking to reveal the history of the building and people who helped shape that history. We are collecting any photos, videos, stories, or other pertinent materials. Our Anniversary Celebration will commence in October of 2017 and continue throughout the year!

Please send all materials to:

C+CC Anniversary Committee

10 Tom Phelan Pl

Troy, NY 12180

Or by email to [krolik2@rpi.edu](mailto:krolik2@rpi.edu)



# Upcoming Events

March – April 30	Art Exhibit – Rensselaer County ARC	Daily
March 24	Holy Hour	6:00pm
April 7	Rennselyrics Invitational	8:00pm
April 9	G.I.F.T. Program - <i>The Communion of Saints</i>	11:30am
April 16	Easter Sunday Mass	9:00am, 10:30am, 5:00 pm
April 19	RPI Chamber Music Concert	7:00pm
April 22	RPI Concert Choir Concert	7:30pm
April 28	Armenian Piano Concert	7:00pm
May 7	G.I.F.T. Program - <i>Mary</i>	11:30am
June 15	Capital Pride Singers Concert	TBD

Please check our website for more information about upcoming events. All are welcome.

## Committee of 100 Dinner and Sun and Balance Award



Fr. Ed, Elaine Webster, Bill Webster '62, Sun and Balance Award Recipient, and Fran Hyde

This past October Sr. Chris Partisano, keynote speaker, derived a message that allowed us to reflect upon what shaped this organization.

“How are YOU connected to this place? Why do you sit here, enjoying the company of others also involved...? We are all connected to this place somehow.

How aware am I of the SIGNIFICANCE of the dimension and interconnectedness of the name: University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice, Rensselaer Newman Foundation, Chapel + Cultural Center. Step back and consider these names and a bit of history and present reality attached to the names.”

She also explained the importance of our logo...“God is the measure of all things”

**Measurement** — basis of all science

**Balance** — one of the earliest and simplest tools of measurement made by humans

**Sun** — the Creator’s gift to us that measures time – what does SUN speak for me? Sun is symbolic of the law of God and of the person of Jesus. Christ is the light of the world... Christ is the light of the world as the sun is also!



# Generations in Faith Together (GIFT)

**G**enerations in Faith Together (GIFT) is an approach to faith formation that embraces and implements a vision of lifelong faith formation for all ages and generations, rooted in church life. Through GIFT, we at the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice strive to nurture people's minds and hearts in the wisdom of faith and empower them to live this faith in their daily lives. (It should be noted that the preparation of "first sacraments" is separate from GIFT, though candidates for first sacraments are encouraged to participate in GIFT as their regular faith formation.)

The catechetical documents of the church in the past 40 years have set forth a vision of lifelong faith formation that seeks to bring people into communion and intimacy with Jesus, the Christ, through the experience of the risen Lord in the proclamation, celebration and life of the Christian community. It is this vision that we seek to implement through GIFT.


We gather monthly for GIFT while RPI is in session, immediately following the 10:30 AM Sunday Liturgy. We share light snacks and conversation before beginning our formal sessions, which usually start around noon and conclude by 1:30.

Who is GIFT for? The short answer is EVERYONE! The longer answer is:

- Adults – singles, couples, parents, grandparents, and college students; and
- Children and teens who attend public and/or Catholic school.

What are some of the benefits of this approach to faith formation? Here are only some of the benefits:

- Today individuals and families are pulled in many different directions. We seek to bring people together and offer them an opportunity to share a common experience that will empower them to share their faith together.
- Today many individuals and families are looking for ways to be part of a community of faith. GIFT brings the parish together, strengthening our sense of community. This vibrant sense of community carries over into our weekly liturgies and parish events.
- At baptism, parents accept the responsibility to raise our children in the faith. Godparents/sponsors and the parish community vow to support parents in this responsibility and yet many parents feel inadequate to the task. Through GIFT, we seek to empower parents to fulfill this sacred responsibility.
- Faith formation does not end with Confirmation; adults need and want to continue to deepen their understanding and practice of their faith and GIFT honors and supports this lifelong journey.

This year's program focuses on the theme "Catholicism 101." Through this lens, participants are learning about and exploring topics, including Central Catholic Beliefs; Authority (Scriptures, Tradition and Magisterium); The Sacraments (Holy Mysteries); The Liturgy Year; The Most Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist (the Mass); Worship, Prayer and Music; Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching; The Communion of Saints; and Mary. Unique to this year's program is the use of the gifts and talents of our very own Foundation and parish leaders, including Sr. Chris Partisano, PhD, CSJ, Megan Fannon, Barbara Musial, Kathy and Ed Spain, Rosanne Rose, (Rev.) Ed Kacerguis, and (Dcn.) Joe Romand, to lead sessions and facilitate discussion among participants. 

## THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES and STAFF**



## The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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

NON PROFIT Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 203  
Albany, NY



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

[www.chapelandculturalcenter.org](http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.org)



[chapelandculturalcenter](https://www.facebook.com/chapelandculturalcenter)

**Please visit our website or follow us  
on Facebook to view a full list of  
upcoming events.**

## First Holy Communion



On Sunday, January 8, 2017, the feast of the Epiphany, four of our young parishioners received their First Eucharist. Maggie Burns, Georgia Dunbar, May Dunbar, and Madelyn Garzone spent the months of October, November, and December preparing, along with their teacher, Megan Fannon. They were very excited to come to the Table of the Lord for the first time, and to join with our community in thanks and remembrance of Jesus' loving sacrifice. During the Mass, Georgia and May ministered as lectors, and Maggie and Madelyn presented the gifts of bread and wine along with their fathers. The parish community was pleased and proud to celebrate with them. Maggie, Georgia, May, and Madelyn will continue to prepare in the coming months for the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation which will take place just before Easter.

