

# Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 51, NO. 3 — WINTER 2016

## Dear Alums, Family and Friends:

As we enter late autumn and the winter solstice approaches, I find myself taking a moment to reflect on the past months since graduation and the start of the fall term with all the transition and happenings. Now, the seasons of great celebration are before us: Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and the Epiphany 2017. All the past events and these future festivals, about to be celebrated, have one major component – HOSPITALITY. Here at the C+CC, this act of goodwill has been a hallmark of our ministry from the onset. Fr. Tom Phelan had open arms for everyone and his legacy continues.

Each year for the first weeks in the fall, when classes resume, our gathering hymn is “All are Welcome”. The final verse has the following:

*Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.*

*Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.*

*All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

In an age when there is more effort spent at dividing people rather than uniting, our hymn captures who we are called to be as people of faith. It calls for a place where all can be heard and respected and loved no matter what our story is. The C+CC provides a home where all find refuge from the noise that sometimes does not allow a person to reflect, be still and find inner peace.

There is another very important aspect about our welcoming family of hosts here at the C+CC, which is nourishment. Our hospitality nourishes the body and mind providing inspiration and growth in spirit. Fellowship and food is abundant whether it be through the



annual Welcome Picnic, the Coffee Hours, the Thanksgiving Eve Soup and Salad gathering, the receptions after major feasts, the parties around Halloween and Mardi Gras, as well as my efforts preparing and hosting meals for sports teams, clubs and individuals. Through our ministry here at the C+CC, I hope you have fond, life-long memories, as I do. Please know you are always welcome.

Your support makes this possible and everyone here thanks you. Please continue to be as generous as your means allow; and know, through your efforts, we are building a house where all can see, experience and share so we may go forth to spread the love, compassion and mercy we all need.

Sincerely,

Father Ed Kacerguis  
Chaplain and Pastor



# World Youth Day



Over the summer, World Youth Day was celebrated in Kraków, Poland. Pope Francis lead an open air Mass, with an estimated 3 million people in attendance. Two students from the parish had the opportunity to go. One had the experience as a volunteer while the other from the guest perspective. They both came back inspired by the Pope's message and we're very proud of the trip.



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## Upcoming Events

Nov. – Dec.	Seasoned Memories Gallery Exhibit	-
Dec. 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass	12:10pm, 6:00pm
Dec. 10-11	St. James School Benefit Craft Sale	To follow Mass
Dec. 10	Advent Penance Service	4:30pm
Dec. 10	Rensselaer Music Association Winter Concert	6:30pm
Dec. 11	G.I.F.T Program - <i>The Most Sacred Mystery of the Eucharist</i>	11:30am
Dec. 24	Mass of the Deepest Night	5:15pm, 10:30pm
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass	10:30am
Jan. – Feb.	Eyes Wide Open Gallery Exhibit	-
Jan. 8	G.I.F.T Program - <i>The Liturgical Year</i>	11:30am
Feb. 12	G.I.F.T Program - <i>Worship, Prayer and Music</i>	11:30am
Feb. 28	Mardi Gras Party	8:00pm
March 1	Ash Wednesday	12:10pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm
Mar. - Apr.	ARC of Rensselaer County Gallery Exhibit	-
Mar. 4	Pysanky Workshop	9:00am
Mar. 19	G.I.F.T Program - <i>Introduction to Catholic Social Teaching</i>	11:30am

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

# RNF Welcomes Two New Board Members

**Peter Pedone** began work at Rensselaer in September 1987, in a temporary position as Assistant Director of Student Activities in the Rensselaer Union. In March 1988, he became Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, within the portfolio of Institute Advancement. Peter has more than 35 years of experience in event planning and program management.



**Peter Pedone**

Peter is responsible for the Rensselaer Alumni Hall of Fame program, athletic alumni programs, and aspects of Reunion & Homecoming. Specific responsibilities include the planning and implementation of the Rensselaer Alumni Hall of Fame program, which includes the nominations process, the selection process and the induction ceremony, as well as the Rensselaer Alumni Hall of Fame On the Road programs. Peter works closely with the Athletic Department and their alumni constituents and manages several programs, including the Big Red Freakout Ice House dinner. He manages the athletic and special interest events and activities for Reunion & Homecoming. Peter is often called upon by the President's Office for special events and programming for VIPs, especially during major institute programs like Commencement and Honors Convocation.

Peter was recognized with the Rensselaer Alumni Association's Alumni Key Award in 2016. He was awarded the Pillar of Rensselaer Award in 2006 and with the District II Quarter Century Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) in 2014. Peter was inducted as an honorary member into Phalanx, Rensselaer's student honor society and currently serves as an advisor to the organization. 

## 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 the 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](mailto:waterd3@rpi.edu) or (518) 276-6517.**

**Matt Ezovski** is a resident of Arlington, MA, originally from North Smithfield, RI. He graduated from RPI in 2006 with degrees in electrical engineering and computer & systems engineering, and he earned a masters degree in electrical engineering from Cornell University in 2009. He is currently a software engineer with CarGurus, a



**Matt Ezovski**

Boston-based tech company which helps users research and purchase cars. He was an active member of the RPI Newman Catholic Fellowship, the C+CC music ministry, and a number of student organizations. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, tennis, and music.

Matt is thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute back to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation as a member of the board, and to help continue its mission of faith, education, and service to the Rensselaer community. 

**Thank you!  
It Means the World To Us!**

**PRESERVING  
A Presence**  
**NURTURING  
A Future**

**T**hank you for all of your support in helping us achieve our goal for The Preserving A Presence Nurturing A Future Capital Campaign. The Campaign was intended to assure that tomorrow's students are able to benefit from the safe, nurturing environment that the C+CC offers, expand programming, and add to our investment fund. We are now able to make some critical improvements to the building, provide enhanced hospitality, and further the work of the foundation. We are exceedingly grateful to all of our generous donors. Thank you! 

# Fruit of the Vine Wine Tasting

The Parish hosted its second annual wine tasting event in September. The event was planned and prepared by Teresa and Jim Brennan and Deacon Joe and Tracey Romand. Will Ouweleen, the co-owner of O-Neh-Da Vineyards and Eagle Crest Vineyards presented the wines and shared his personal experiences with the vineyards.

Participants enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres donated by members of the Parish, and sampled different varieties of white and red wines, served by members of the Knights of Columbus. Throughout the evening guests were treated to live piano music played by one of our students and learned about

the history and development of the vineyards in the Finger Lakes region of New York.

Over 40 people from the Parish and the Troy community learned about the processes of growing the vine to create the grapes and making of sacramental wine. The Christ Sun of Justice Parish proudly uses O-Neh-Da wines for our Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The evening was a success providing a bit of fun and education about wine.

Preparations for another wine tasting event are underway for next September. If your schedule allows we hope you can join us.

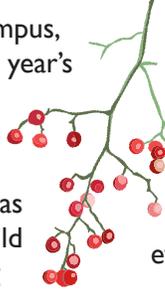


Parish Wine Tasting Event at the C+CC



# Christ Sun of Justice Welcome Picnic

To greet all the new and returning students to campus, the Parish hosted its annual welcome picnic. This year's theme was life-sized Monopoly. Jean François, as well as other members from the Parish created the scaled up version of the game and transformed to fit the local settings of Troy and RPI. Street names such as 15th St. and Sunset Terrace were properties that could be purchased in the game. The prizes for the winning



teams were actual monopoly games.

Students enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hotdogs and variety of snacks, desserts, and beverages served by volunteers from the parish. Great weather, good music, and the passion and enthusiasm of the parish made this event a great success. Thank you to all who made this event possible.



# The McCarthy Wiberley Town / Gown Breakfast

This year Mr. Claude Rounds, Vice President for Administration at RPI, spoke about “The Economic Impact of The Rensselaer Plan 2024 on the City of Troy.” Mr. Rounds was born and raised locally and offered insight into the history of RPI and Troy. He provided his perspective of the economic impact on the City of Troy. He discussed the recent development and future outlook, also addressing communitership as a powerful partnership with far-reaching implications for our shared communities. In many ways the urban environment of Troy has been enhanced by The Rensselaer Plan and guests had the opportunity to learn about these impacts, while enjoying a hearty breakfast.



RNF welcomes Claude Rounds as our guest speaker at this year's Town/Gown Breakfast.

# Town Hall Event ~ A Dialogue on Mental Health Policy

The Chapel + Cultural Center in partnership with the Empowerment Exchange hosted a Town Hall event that focused on Mental Health Policy in the State of New York. The event was free and open to the public and allowed all in attendance to share their unique experiences and concerns, and to hear about new and emerging government mental health policies. This was an opportunity to bring together a broad range of stakeholders— people who utilize mental health services, their families and friends, those who work in the mental health field, and other community members.

The panel discussion featured special guests including Congressman Paul Tonko, Senator Neil Breslin, Assemblyman John McDonald, Congressional candidate Joe Vitollo, and NYS Senate candidate Chris F. Davis.

The evening was hosted by Cathy Cave, community advocate with the Mental Health Empowerment Project, and began with speakers stating their viewpoints and experiences with Mental Health policies, followed by an informative discussion on how mental health matters affect our whole community. Many in attendance had the opportunity to share their stories and offer examples of potential ways to create changes and make improvements to the existing Mental Health Policy in New York State.



Community leaders and members gather to discuss mental health policy in New York State



# Resident Advisor Welcome Dinner



In late August, just before students returned to campus for the Fall Semester at RPI, the C+CC invited all of the resident advisors (RA's) to a dinner. The event began with a prayer and greeting from Fr. Ed, followed by an introduction of the building, parish, and chaplaincy. The services available to students from each of these areas were explained in detail. We also distributed a schedule of our events so that each RA can then share that information with the students that they oversee in their residence halls. The mission and charter of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation was also discussed.

Approximately 120 students were treated to dinner prepared by Fr. Ed. from the Slavin House kitchen. The menu included fresh tomato and mozzarella, pasta, Spanish rice, and chicken. For dessert we had cobbler and ice cream.

Everyone was very pleased with the meal. Several students made remarks, and were surprised by the amount of programs and services that The Foundation provides.

We look forward to making this an annual event.



Great food and fellowship were shared by all.



Fr Ed. greets the new student resident advisors at the C+CC.



## The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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

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

# Feeding and Nurturing Students

## Fr. Ed hosts Athletic Dinners at Slavin House

