

Sun & Balance

THE RENNELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 54, NO. 3 — WINTER 2019

Dear Family, Alums and Friends,

A small group of parishioners, accompanied by several canine and a couple of feline friends, gathered outdoors at the Chapel + Cultural Center early on a cold, chilly Saturday morning for a blessing of the animals and prayers of creation. In communion with Christians around the globe we joined to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi (October 4th). He is the patron saint of the environment and animals because he loved all creatures and, according to legend, preached to even the birds. St. Francis gave up a life of wealth to live a life of poverty, a life dedicated to preaching the Gospel, not by use of words, but through his actions.

The saint's life was profoundly influenced by the simplicity and the poverty of God, who entered our world as a poor, vulnerable person. In his passionate love and zeal for the incarnation of God that is revealed in Jesus of Nazareth, Francis invented a dramatic way to preach about this great mystery. In 1223 he created the first Christmas creche so that the people around the Italian village of Greccio could have a practical and personal experience of the incarnation of Jesus and what it meant for ordinary people. We continue this tradition in modern times in our homes and places of worship.

Christmas reveals the good news about God that we could never come upon by ourselves. Unprompted by us, God chose to become a human person by entering the cosmos through Mary's womb. The wonderful news of creation - "God looked upon everything God had made, and found it very good" (Gen 1:31). The message of God - God, who is Love - choosing to live among us is the reason for such a great celebration by humans, not just at Christmas, but every day!

Christmas is a feast about Love and Love's decision to become part of the cosmos by becoming human. By understanding how we love, we can appreciate God's decision to become flesh, which is the deepest meaning of Christmas. All of us want to be united with those whom we love. We want to spend time together, to get to know another. In deeply intimate loving, we want to become one together emotionally, spiritually, and

physically. I'd like to think that this is the very nature, purpose, and mission of this faith community at the University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice and The Rensselaer Newman Foundation.

Thank you to all who encourage and support us

in ministering to our students and faculty here at Rensselaer and the community beyond.

At moments throughout our lives, and hopefully during the Christmas season, it is our prayer that each of us may catch glimpses of the deep, infinite longing of God. May we be humbled by its mystery. May we understand this in momentary fragments: in the beauty of a magnificent sunrise or sunset or a splendid lighted tree, or while holding a newborn baby, or watching the grace of others. Even with these momentary glances of the mystery of God's incarnation, we ultimately return to our "ordinary" lives. We forget so quickly. But may we be encouraged, even through grace, to believe that our forgetfulness does not deter God from being "God with us" - Emmanuel -, from being Love incarnate in our world.

So be still and quiet. Let yourself be loved - by yourself, others and God. Trust that God's love is infinitely vast, good, awesome and beautiful. When we believe we are loved, when we experience Love, we'll know what we are supposed to do.



Joseph Romand, deacon
interim parish administrative coordinator (CSJ)
interim campus minister (RPI)
trustee and treasurer (RNF)



Charmayne and Tom ('71) Tilston's pet Winston receives a blessing from Deacon Joe on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.



10 Things You May Not Know About the C+CC Director

Kevin Krolik joined the RNF staff as the Director of the Chapel + Cultural Center in October of 2015. Since that time, he has learned a great deal of information about The Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the people, the building and its history. Here are 10 things you may find interesting about Kevin.

1. 100% Polish
2. Also a DJ in his spare time
3. A member of the RPI Class of 2012
4. Was a former Slavin House resident
5. Earned the rank of Eagle Scout
6. Certified American Red Cross Lifeguard Instructor
7. Has 10+yrs experience in Hospitality and Food Services
8. Kevin Enjoys Hiking, Camping, and Fishing
9. Born and raised in Brooklyn, NYC
10. Kevin is the oldest child with two sisters 

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 or (518) 276-6517. 

Town/Gown Breakfast

The 36th annual McCarthy-Wiberley Town/Gown Breakfast was held on Tuesday, 15 October 2019.

This year's speakers were from the former Rensselaer County Historical Society (RCHS), now the Hart Cluett Museum: Karin Krasevac-Lenz, Executive Director, Stacy Pomeroy Draper, Curator & Archivist and Kathryn T. Sheehan, Historian for Rensselaer County, the City of Troy and RCHS. The topic was "How We Work(ed): A Smithsonian Collaboration". RCHS was chosen through a competitive process as one of 10 museums in the United States to participate in a Smithsonian pilot project to develop a unique humanities-based exhibition about local work history.

The resulting exhibition will reflect the long history and culture of innovation and development of cutting-edge technology in Rensselaer County. The presentation provided a preview of images and objects that will be part of this exhibit focused on work of all kinds. From innovations in agriculture, trade, commerce, and manufacturing along with the rise of the labor movement, to advances in gaming, artificial intelligence, healthcare, and nano-technology of today, Rensselaer County has a tremendous story to tell about the evolution of work and how it shapes our communities. 



Karin Krasevac-Lenz provides an overview of their collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution

If you would like to receive an invitation to our next Town/Gown Breakfast, please contact the C+CC Director, Kevin Krolik.

Welcome Picnic

The picnic this year was a blast with live music that filled the surrounding area with great ambiance. The band, Big Fez and the Surfomatics were a big hit. Students and members from the community enjoyed great food, games, activities, and fellowship.

Thank you to all the volunteers who teamed up to make the event a success!



The grill masters at work



Big Fez and the Surfomatics entertaining



Cardinal Newman Canonization

On Sunday, 13 October, Cardinal John Henry Newman was named a saint by Pope Francis in Rome. We celebrated the canonization here at the C+CC on Wednesday, 16 October with a special evening Mass, followed by a communal meal and speaker on the topic, "Lead, Kindly Light."

"Lead, Kindly Light" is a hymn with words written by St. John Henry Newman. The event was attended by students and members of the community.



Fr. John Cronin concelebrates Mass with Rev. Corey Bassett-Tirrell



Guest Speaker Rev. Corey Bassett-Tirrell, from the Diocese of Boston.

Sun & Balance Award



Congratulations Jenny ('85) and Paul ('85) Kraus, our 2019 Sun & Balance award recipients, for their years of outstanding support of the work of the Church at Rensselaer in so many ways.

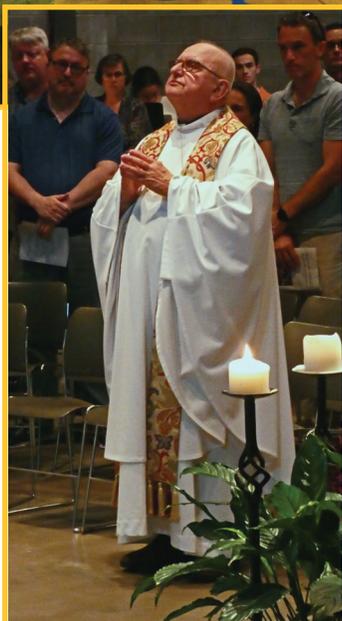
Saying Thank You and Godspeed to Fr. Ed Kacerguis



On Friday, 20 September, we celebrated the retirement of Fr. Ed. Mass was held at the Chapel + Cultural Center and a reception followed at the RPI Heffner Alumni House. Good luck, Fr. Ed! We ask God to bless you as you move on in your journey of faith.



The Chapel was filled with parishioners, students, alums, and friends to thank Fr. Ed for his ministry.



At the RPI Heffner Alumni House, Fr. Ed received accolades for his 30 years of service.

Committee of 100 Dinner



John Kolb ('79) speaking at the Committee of 100 Dinner

As a legacy, alum, administrator, parent, and RNF trustee, John Kolb delivered the keynote presentation at the Committee of 100 Dinner. John has a unique perspective of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His talk took the audience through the early days of Rensselaer, known as The Rensselaer School, through current times, as Rensselaer becomes, The New Polytechnic.

John explained how Rensselaer's founding fathers' mission, "for the purpose of instructing persons ... in the application of science to the common purposes of life," to the broader goal, of The New Polytechnic, instilling in our students, intellectual agility, multicultural sophistication, and a global

view, and that is driven by fundamental markers of excellence, leadership, and community.

The work of the Newman Foundation works collaboratively to address local and global problems. The New Polytechnic has proudly brought together people, platforms, programs, and partnerships to advance the Institute in addressing Global Challenges and, by building a world-wide community of supporters who are also bound by the common purpose of "changing the world." John thanked each and every one for their contributions to The Rensselaer Newman Foundation and for their part in preparing our students to change the world.



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation would like to express sincere thanks to Nielsen Direct, Inc. for sponsoring our 2019 Committee of 100 Dinner.

Building Projects Update

4 Sherry Rd painting with Newman Catholic Fellowship



Before



After

Re-finished countertops in C+CC and Slavin House kitchens



Before



After

Organ restoration continues



Community Events and Celebrations

Halloween



Family Weekend



Wine Tasting



Inter-Faith Event



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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

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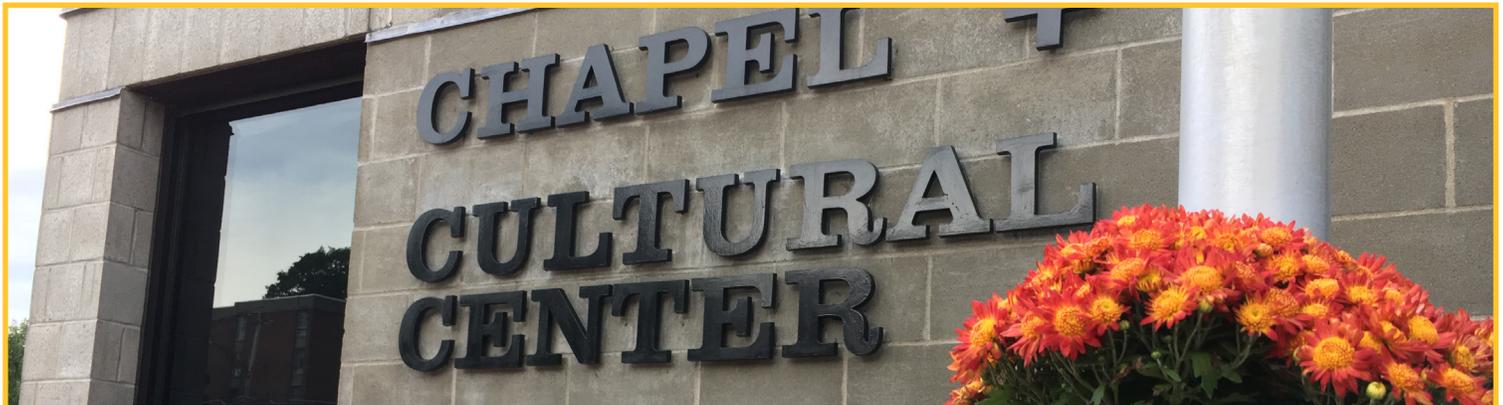


Phone: (518) 276-6518 Chaplains Office
Phone: (518) 274-7793 Chapel + Cultural Center
Email: rnf@rpi.edu

www.chapelandculturalcenter.org



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



Upcoming Events

DEC. 4	CAPITAL PRIDE SINGERS CONCERT	7:00PM
DEC. 7-8	C+CC CRAFT FAIR	AFTER EACH MASS
DEC. 24	CHILDREN'S MASS	5:15PM
DEC. 24	MASS OF THE DEEPEST NIGHT	10:30PM
DEC. 25	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS	10:30AM
JAN. 18	MARIMBA CONCERT	7:00PM
JAN. 19	GIFT PROGRAM	11:30AM
FEB. 26	ASH WEDNESDAY	MIDNIGHT, 12:10, 5:15, 7:30PM
MAR. 4, 11, 18, 25, APR. 1	LENTEN WEDNESDAY SPEAKER SERIES	7:00PM

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