

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION VOL 57, NO. 1 - SPRING 2022

# **EASTER GREETINGS**



WAIT... what's that up ahead? That tiny spark on the horizon.... could that be light at the end of the tunnel?

As I'm writing this, we're just past the Feast of the Presentation, which means we're past the half-way point between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. Winter is more than half gone! Days are noticeably longer, and despite the groundhog's dire predictions, six more weeks of winter takes us only four days past the start of spring. So much for meterologically-inclined Marmota monax.

Mercifully, we're also starting to see some

light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. Infection numbers, hospitalizations and casualties are trending sharply down. Barring the emergence of another unpredictable variant, we have reason to hope that we're past the worst of this.

It's not too soon to ask what we've learned through 28 months of the pandemic. I suspect we'll find that it has revealed both the best and worst of us. We've seen how the life of our institutions — including Churches and universities — can adapt, and the ways they struggle. The pandemic has certainly pulled back the veil and revealed the irreversible cultural shifts that were challenging us even before the emergence of COVID-19.

In the midst of this wave of change, Pope Francis has challenged us to engage in a process of listening and dialogue: a synod on synodality. This process asks us to look deeply and honestly at how the Church lives in and serves the world and its people today and in the future. It asks us to examine our willingness to accompany those outside our churches. Rather than focusing on the Church's internal struggles and crises, the synod process calls us back to our mission in the world.

We are just beginning the synod process in the Diocese of Albany, but there is reason to have hope. Where ever you are, and how ever you understand your relationship to the Church and its mission, I urge you to participate in the synod process. If we do this well, with honesty, vulnerability, and authenticity, the synod may even provide us with the tools and experience we need to start bridging our cultural and political divisions.

Our presence on the RPI campus has historically placed us at the intersection of Faith and Culture, a juncture where the Paulist Fathers have always engaged in our ministries. As we work together to serve the RPI community, perhaps we can see in the synod process a light in the darkness. May this Easter season bring us all renewed hope!

Fr. Larry Rice, CSP *Chaplain* 

## **Student Parishioner Highlights**

WE are Church is a weekly post in the Christ Sun of Justice bulletin. These are some recent highlights from Rensselaer students.

### **MOLLY MONGE**

You might not know that:

Favorite CSJ memory:

Molly Monge '21

"I grew up in the country and we have chickens! A few days before Easter we added 6 new chicks to our family."

My favorite memory at the C+CC is performing with the choir at Christmas Eve Mass on my flute! My family enjoyed attending Mass and listening to the Christmas carols. Being a part of a beautiful Christmas Eve Mass made it one of my most memorable Christmases. I am very grateful for the C+CC community. I hope one day I can return and play on Christmas Eve again!





### ETHSON DESTRA

WE are Church

### **QI HAN ZHENG**



### **DENNIS COLUCCI**

#### ou might not know that:

-fm an Earge Scout I her been a Scour since first grade in 2006, and only earned my Sagle on January 2nd, 2020. In an avel Model Skinosetter in addition to hoving a large personal objection of transis at 1006 scale. Jan also the president of the RPI field Railward Dub, who model at 1287 scale. Tim a Type I Diabate? I was diagnosed with Type I Diabates in 2017, and I rowshwar an midda pamp which a continuous glacose memory fails being when yet a scale and a scale that the president field report of the analysis of the scale and the scale of the leader scale and the scale and the scale and the scale is the being when yet and the scale and the scale of the scale test point of the scale and the scale of the scale of the scale of the leader scale of the test point of the scale of the test point of the scale of the s

#### Favorite CSJ memories:

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Dennis Colucci '24

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ANDY BOUFFARD

you might not know that:

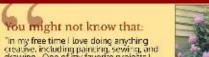
- I was born and raised in Los Angeles and I'm a die-hard Lakers fant
- I have learned how to play 5 different instruments throughout my tile tinctoding the recorder in 4th grade. Now I play bass, gutar, and occasionally plano.
- I wanted to attend college on the East Coast ever since visiting on a trip with my 8th grade class.

Favorite C+CC memory: Attending Mass with friends every week and hanging out with Nowman and the Knights of Columbus in the Hospitality House!

Andy Bouffard '22 landhis dog. Blando

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"In my free time I love doing anything creative, including painting, sewing, and drawing. One of my favorite projects I have done is making a quit. for college."

### My Favorite CS] activity:

"These enjoyed getting to meet people within the church community! These seeing friends and meeting new people on Sundays, as well as getting brunch afterwards every week."

Kaitlin, ennings '24



### **ELISE KULKA**

You might not know that: " really love singing! Outside of church choir, I'm in an a cappella group on campus - the Renssetyrics. In addition to our weekly rehearsals, we hold our semesterity performances in the C+CC." (dick here for into an upcoming performance)

Favorite CSJ memory: "Attending the dimiter on Holy Thursday held by Father Ed. It was such a nice way to come together with other members of the parish community."

Elise Kulka '22



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## **Acknowledgement Notice**

When the new semester began, we started some reconfiguring of our staff resources to help us respond more effectively in these challenging times. One change you may notice is that we will no longer be able to mail individual acknowledgement for gifts of \$100 or less. Not that we don't appreciate every contribution - we do! But rising costs and short staff time mean we just can't acknowledge every individual gift. Rest assured that we will send a summary of your contributions to help with your tax preparations.

If you're getting this newsletter, you've been connected to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and our mission at RPI, and you understand how important our work is, bringing together faith, humanities, science and engineering. Please consider making a gift to the Foundation to continue our work; know also that we're praying for you at every Mass at the Chapel + Cultural Center.

