

Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 57, NO. 3 — WINTER 2022

Dear Friends of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation

There are great things happening at RPI, and the Chapel + Cultural Center! As we've mostly emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, and RPI has welcomed the largest first-year class in the history of the Institute, there's a great energy on campus, and we're moving on to a more normal footing. There's always the possibility that there will be a resurgence of COVID, but we're hopeful that the worst is behind us.

Our two student organizations, the Newman Catholic Fellowship and the Knights of Columbus council, have restarted, and we're seeing some great growth. Our Wednesday night Bible study is attracting more students than ever, and Sunday Mass attendance continues to increase.

The Chapel + Cultural Center itself has seen some significant renewal, especially the long-needed waterproofing that will help preserve this unique facility for future generations.

My own work as the RPI chaplain has been particularly rewarding this year, with more collaboration with Institute staff, and more in-person contact with students needing pastoral counseling, access to the sacraments, or just a listening ear.

This is all very good news! At the same time, this increase in ministry activities also means an increase in our expenses. The largest source of our support is the community of alumni, parents, and friends who receive this newsletter, and who respond generously. I hope that as you're considering your year-end giving, you'll consider a gift to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation. If you, or someone you care about, has benefitted from the work of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation, the Chaplain's Office, or the C+CC, please help us with the financial support that will allow us to continue to bring faith, arts, culture, and community to the RPI campus. You can set up an online gift here: <https://rensselaernewman.org/give/>.

I'm very grateful for your help and support! You are prayed-for at every Mass at the C+CC.

Peace.

Fr. Larry Rice, CSP



Fr. Larry decorating Mexican sugar skulls – a traditional folk art for Dia de los Muertos (the Day of the Dead) at the Rensselaer Union.

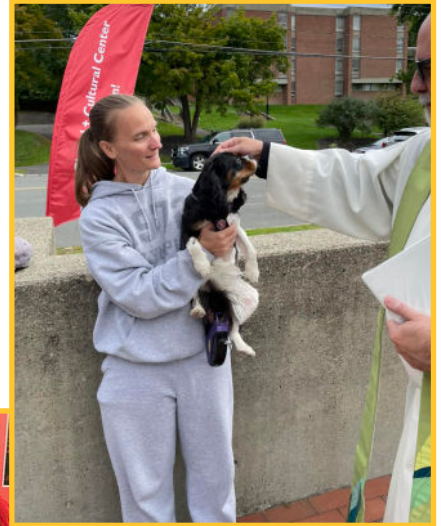


Activities at the C+CC

Yard Sale

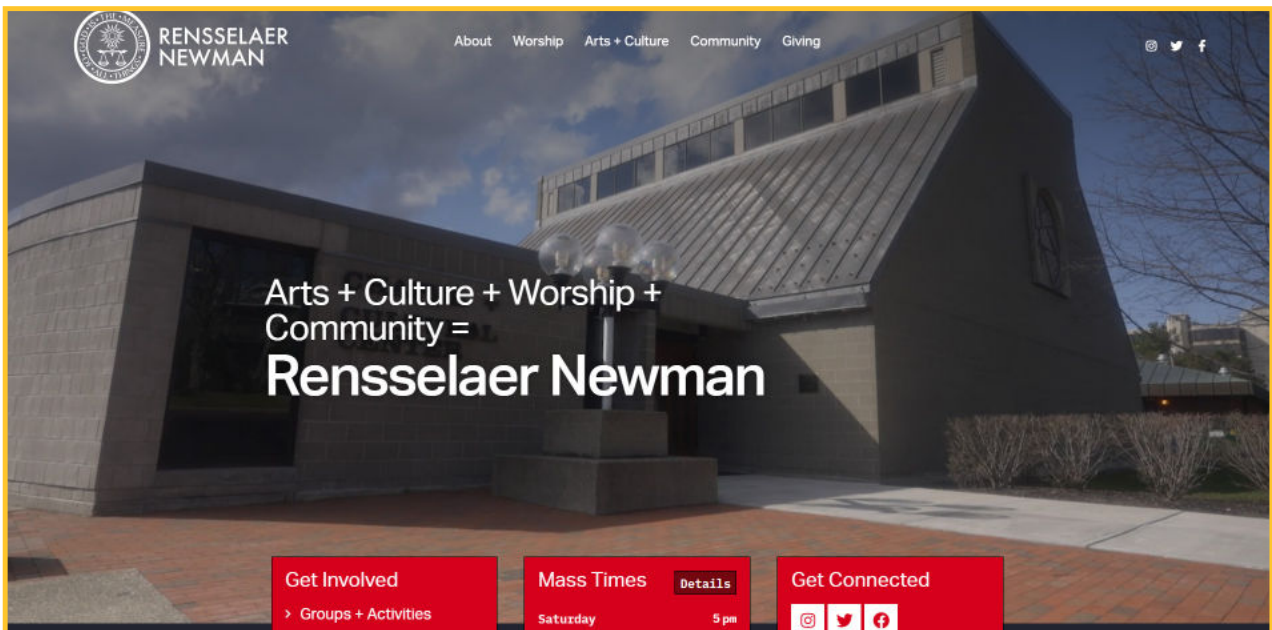


Animal Blessing



The Knights of Columbus meeting in the C+CC lounge weekly on Thursday evenings

Check out our new website: RensselaerNewman.org



Upcoming Events

December 1	9:00-3:00PM	Red Cross Blood Drive
December 2	7:00PM	Piano & Cello Recital
December 3	7:00PM	Duly Noted Acapella
December 4	1:00PM	Student Piano Recital
December 4	7:00PM	RAAGA Acapella Performance
December 7	7:00PM	Capital Pride Singers Concert
December 8	12:15 and 5:00PM	Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass
December 9	7:00	Partial Credit Acapella Fall Show
December 10	1:30PM	Student Piano Recital
December 11	1:30PM	Student Piano Recital
December 12 - 21		Final Exams - Pray for our students!

Newman Apple Picking and Pie Baking at the Chaplain's Residence



Newman Fellowship students taking a wagon ride at the apple orchard



Students preparing and baking apple pies at the Chaplain's Residence

The RNF Welcomes Shannon O'Brien onto the Board of Trustees

Since becoming the head coach of the men's and women's swimming & diving teams in 1995, Shannon O'Brien has built a program of excellence as a coach, teacher, motivator and role model. Now in her 28th year, her teams have enjoyed unprecedented success.

With an all-time, overall record of 400-186, O'Brien coached the only swimming National Champion in school history when Meghan Hartman won the 200 breaststroke at the 2004 NCAA Division III Championship Meet. Hartman is one of 18 NCAA All-Americans coached by O'Brien.

Within the Liberty League, RPI has had eight Swimmers of the Year and 12 Rookies of the Year, while winning a conference record 11 men's championships. A dozen student-athletes have garnered COSIDA National Academic All-America honors, including Lin three times and Trevor Maxfield twice. A former assistant coach for the Engineers, she has been the recipient of a dozen Coach of the Year awards.

The Troy native was a standout at Troy High School, where she is a member of the school's Athletics Hall of Fame. O'Brien went on to Ithaca College, where



Shannon E. O'Brien

she earned a degree in Exercise Science with a minor in Coaching in 1993 while becoming an All-American swimmer for the nationally-ranked Bombers. She earned a Master's of Science in Management with a concentration in Organizational Behavior from Rensselaer in 2005.

Welcome, Shannon! Thank you for joining the RNF Board!



Mary Holbriter Receives the Sun & Balance Award at the Committee of 100 Dinner



The 2022 Sun and Balance Medal was awarded to Mary Holbriter, former RNF Office Manager, at the Committee of One Hundred Dinner.



Fr. Ed, Dan Horvath, Mary Holbriter, and Fr. Larry

Christ Sun of Justice Welcome Picnic

The Welcome Picnic was a huge success. Students and community members gathered outside the C+CC enjoying grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, games and activities, and live music to compliment the occasion. 



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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

If you're getting this newsletter, you have 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.

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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 the Chaplains' Office at rnf@rpi.edu.

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