

Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 58, NO. 2 — FALL 2023

Welcome and Welcome Back!

As we've been preparing for the Fall 2023 semester-- building our calendar of events, producing materials for orientation, and sharpening our social media tools, I've been reflecting on some of the research from the Springtide Research Institute, an organization that focuses their research on young adults. What they've discovered isn't really surprising to people working with this population but may come as a shock to many people.



Their reports say that one in three young adults feel completely alone most of the time. 45% feel that no one really understands them. Nearly 40% say they have no one to talk to, and often feel left out. SRI calls this an epidemic of loneliness. Some of it was fueled by the isolation of the Covid pandemic, but it has multiple causes.

I see it on our RPI campus as well. Last spring a student said to me (only half-jokingly), "I'm studying Computer Science. I never have to leave my dorm room." I thought: *at least he's talking to me. Gotta keep this conversation going.*

Our mission at the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and the Chapel + Cultural Center is to encourage Rensselaer students to come out of their dorm rooms, look up from their screens, and make connections. The Newman Catholic Fellowship works to build a community of Catholic (and other!) students. The Knights of Columbus Council fosters a shared faith as well as a commitment to service and mutual support. And all our other activities serve the same purposes: enriching the lives of RPI students with faith, arts, and friendships.

This fall we will be participating in ESTEEM, a program designed to develop leadership skills and promote intergenerational connections through mentoring. Through their participation in ESTEEM, our students will build the confidence and relational skills that will help them become leaders in their careers as well as their faith communities.

Over the past two years I've seen tremendous growth and renewal in our campus ministry at RPI. If you've been a supporter, thank you! Your gifts to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation are the fuel that powers our work in the RPI community. If you haven't made a gift to the RNF, please consider partnering with us to sustain this important ministry.

You are in our prayers and remembered at our Masses every day.

Peace. — Fr. Larry Rice, CSP
Chaplain



Summer Programs at the C+CC

The C+CC added new programs for RPI Summer Arch students and the community

Movie Nights



New Yoga Class

- Offered on Tuesday evenings starting at 6:00pm

Sound Baths



Welcoming New Parishioners

- Throughout the summer Fr. Larry hosted a series of small gatherings with a tour of the residence and building with history of the furnishings and artwork. It was an opportunity for new members to meet each other and learn more about the church at Rensselaer.

Dinner and Game Nights

- Fr. Larry hosted students by cooking a meal and providing some down time during the busy academic semester.

Capital Pride Singers Concert



Private Piano Recitals

- This end of school year the C+CC hosted numerous piano recitals with area music schools. We had many unique visitors across all ages.

Barbara Rice Art Exhibit

During the months of July, August, and September we have the paintings of Fr. Larry's mother, Barbara Rice on exhibit in the C+CC gallery.

This is the first solo exhibit for Barbara. We are excited to have her works on display for students kicking off the Fall semester.

Barbara Rice is a current artist member and a past-president of the Penfield Art Association in Penfield, New York. After raising her seven children, she began painting in her 40's in the studio of Kathleen Piunti, a well-known landscape artist in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. After moving to Rochester in 1991, she took classes at Memorial Art Gallery, and then began painting at the Penfield Community Center with Martha Sweeney.

As an oil painter, she enjoys working from her own photographs of a variety of subjects: landscapes,

architectural scenes, wild life, and her grandchildren, and she has done several memorial portraits of beloved pets for friends and commissions. Photographs of her foreign travels have become a source of inspiration in recent years.

Barbara believes that seeing the world through the eyes of the artist is a privilege, and interpreting that vision is a source of great satisfaction and pleasure.



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*This list reflects all information from our Fiscal Year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Donor recognition does not reflect donations made at Masses

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If you, or someone you care about, has benefited 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.

Updates from our Associate Chaplain Tracy Watson

“Why not change the world?” is a motto of RPI as students, parents, and alumni see when exploring the website. I feel that this motto, this challenge, connects to my work as an Associate Catholic Chaplain at RPI: I strive to mentor students by encouraging and guiding them to build strong foundations for their faith life rooted and grounded in Catholic Social Teaching. This will then better position them, if you will, to be change-makers in the world with hands and feet more firmly anchored in their “why” (which is deeply connected to their faith life) rather than what is simply the most profitable, expected, etc. These are not easy conversations to have for many of our young people, and creating safe spaces for those deeper conversations I feel is one of my primary functions as a Chaplain. It is surely sacred space.

Tuesday Nite Newman became one of those safe spaces for relationship building and deeper faith-rooted conversations. “Food. Fellowship. Faith. And FUN!” is our Rensselaer Newman Fellowship motto that we strive to live by not only on Tuesdays but each day to the best of our ability. Being a part of the University Parish Christ Sun of Justice is a vital extension of our TNN ethos, and it has been awesome to witness a growing number of students becoming more deeply involved in the life of the parish. This groundedness in our CSJ faith community allows students to experience how post-grads/alum/adults practice their faith life beyond their college years which is so important for our students who will become our leaders of tomorrow! **These ministries are made possible by your continued generous support and commitment. Thank you.**

Here is a sampling of some of our 2023-2024 goals and programming:

- Build on popular programs and events such as CSJ parish-wide Welcome Back BBQ, Bible Study, Tuesday Nite Newman, dinners, game nights with goal of increasing first timers as well as retention of these students
- Encourage our incoming student-leaders to take the lead with activity planning in general
- Work to deepen relationships between Newman student leaders and parishioners with hope of creating organic mentoring connections
- Work on creating a structure or mechanism for creating mentoring connections between recent Newman grads and current students
- Personal goal: Increase visibility and connections with RPI students, parents and RPI faculty. For example, I will co-facilitate one of the First Year Experience Breakout Sessions with a faculty member (themselves a CSJ parishioner), and possibly one of our second year Newman students. This breakout session will offer a few practical tips for transitioning to college life for students and their families, and is an excellent opportunity for students to become much more aware of the Chaplains office, RNF programming, and campus ministry in general

Thank you again for making all of this possible.

Submitted with gratitude, Tracy Watson,
RPI Associate Catholic Chaplain



Send Off to the Class of 2023

This is the first year The Rensselaer Newman Foundation handed out honor cords to the students involved with Knights of Columbus (red), Student Parishioners (white), and Newman Catholic Fellowship (gold). The students were proud to be able to wear the cords at graduation to show connection to their faith.



Class of '23 Students receiving their cords at the Baccalaureate Mass



Red, white, gold Honor Cords

New Student Leaders of Newman Catholic Fellowship

Student Leader:
Cameron Yergeau

Hometown: Buffalo, NY

Major: Architecture

Clubs at RPI: Rensselaer Music Association, Knights of Columbus, American Institute of Architecture Students, and Newman Club

Favorite thing(s) about Newman Club and parish: The close-knit community I have developed here. I have many devoutly Catholic friends who I know are always there to talk to or share a meal with.

Goals/hopes for Newman 2023-2024: I pray and hope that Newman Club at RPI grows into a large community where students and other members of the parish are able to get together and express their joys and sorrows in their walks of faith. I also hope that we may continue to extend outreach for those on and off campus that desperately need our help and love that our Lord can provide.



Student Leader:
Toby McDonald

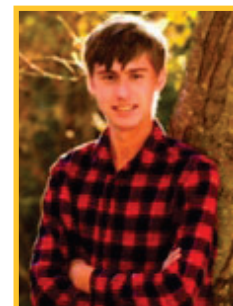
Hometown: South Riding, VA

Major(s): Dual majoring in Computer Science and Information Technology & Web Sciences

Clubs: Outside of Newman, I'm a member of the Union Executive Board, the Union Programming & Activities Committee, and RPI Ambulance.

Favorite thing(s) about Newman & the parish: My favorite thing about Newman and the CSJ parish is the strong faith community right on campus for us students and for the wider RPI community. I know it has certainly helped me keep my faith strong and focused through the busyness of school, and in many other ways helped me through the stresses and rigor of RPI.

Goals for Newman: This year, I'm looking forward to working with our other student leaders to continue growing the Newman club to bring our fellowship to more students. I'm also aiming to find more opportunities for our club to provide service to our community, both on campus and in the capital region.



Student Leader:
Riley Scritchfield

Hometown: Michigan Center, Michigan

Degree: Majoring in Chemical Engineering, Minor in Sustainability Studies

Clubs in Addition to Newman: SWE, Engineering Ambassadors, Rensselaer Outing Club

Favorite thing(s) about Newman and Parish: Newman provides an intentional community that welcomes anyone and everyone. For me, Newman provides a time in my week to reflect, pray, and have a great meal with friends! The parish and parishioners are all so welcoming and understanding of the busy schedule of a college student, and I love that there is a 'come as you are and when you can' mentality.

Hopes for Newman in 2024: I hope to continue growing our club's numbers as we leave covid days behind. I would love to see some new faces joining us this fall and hope to use social media alongside other methods to spread the word so that students can find their way to us!



C+CC New Doors and Champagne Celebration

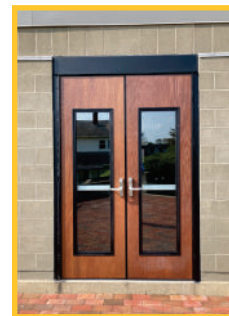


Photo of before and after



The RNF Trustees toasting the installation of the new doors!

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 1	6:00PM	International Student BBQ
September 3	6:00PM	Welcome Picnic
September 8	7:00PM	Giancarlo Magic Show
October 7		Animal Blessing - (Saint Francis of Assisi Oct. 4)
October 14-15		RPI Reunion Weekend - Reception after Masses
October 27-29		RPI Family Weekend - Reception after Masses
November 3	7:00PM	RAAGA Acapella Concert
November 18	8:00PM	Rensselyrics Acapella Invitational

To see all of our events please visit:
<https://rensselaernewman.org/all-events/>

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