

Sun & Balance

THE RENNELLAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 59, NO. 2 — FALL 2024

Welcome Welcome Father Jordan Lenaghan!

The Rensselaer Newman Foundation is pleased to welcome Fr. Jordan Lenaghan as the new Chaplain for the RPI students and community. Fr. Jordan comes to us from Quinnipiac University where he served as Executive Director of Religious Life for more than 10 years.

We sat down with Fr. Jordan recently to learn more about him and what drew him to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and to RPI...



What prompted you to apply for the position of RPI Chaplain?

After more than a decade working at Quinnipiac University, I was ready for a change in my life and ministry. I was finishing my doctorate in transformational leadership at Boston University, and I wanted to find a new ministry at which I can begin to apply all that I had learned in a new Catholic context. RPI is an amazing institution and when I saw that they were looking for someone to do exactly what I had been praying for, I knew this was the place to apply.

As a young man, what first drew you the ministry, and to a life of service to God and to humanity?

That's a great question. It seems straightforward but it's quite complex. I grew up in a Catholic community in which the priest was still the community leader as well as the religious leader. And while it seems rather basic, I had always seen priesthood as a viable life choice. But as I said, this is a more complex question because the reasons that first draw anyone to ministry are not the reasons that you remain in ministry, in my case, for more than 25 years. So, I'm not sure telling you my answers from when I was in my early 20s would let you learn too much about me!

Tell us about your work at Quinnipiac, as the Director of University Religious Life.

In my position at Quinnipiac University, I oversaw all aspects of religious life for the institution. I supervised the work of the chaplain staff as well as the outside religious advisors who worked with students on campus. Additionally, I directed the work of the university's Center for Religion. Primarily, I was the senior student affairs person who dealt with all matters of religious life and practice on campus.



(continued on page 4)

Congratulating the Class of 2024

Our heartfelt congratulations to the RPI Class of 2024! This remarkable group of students has demonstrated dedication, hard work, and commitment throughout their journey.

Among their many achievements, several students were honored with special cords signifying their active involvement in Newman Catholic Fellowship, the Knights of Columbus, and Bible Study.

One of the memorable moments leading up to the final exams was the Blessing of Brains Ceremony (photo below). This blessing was offered by Fr. Larry Rice during the weekend Masses, providing spiritual support and encouragement to students as they prepared for their final exams.




 Congratulations to the
Class of 2024
 from the Rensselaer Newman Foundation &
 Christ Sun of Justice Parishioners

 DANIEL COSULICH MAJOR Architecture INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship, Knights of Columbus	 JUSTIN VIET MAJOR Dual Aerospace Mechanical Engineering INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship	 Samantha BRABANT MAJOR Biology & Philosophy INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship, Bible Study, EWTN, and Area Student Retreat participant	 KALEB HERNANDEZ MAJOR Mechanical Engineering INVOLVEMENT Bible Study, EWTN participant
 DANIEL MORELET MAJOR Business Analytics Graduate Student INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship, Bible Study, EWTN participant	 OZIOMA Wwandiagwu MAJOR Information Technology (MS) Graduate Student INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship	 GRETA PEREZ INAOK MAJOR Mechanical Engineering INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship	 DANIEL ROMANILLO MAJOR Business & Analytics Graduate Student INVOLVEMENT Newman Fellowship, Bible Study, EWTN participant, EWTN retreat

"Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will succeed."
 -Proverbs 16:3

Recognizing Ozioma Ozioka

Congratulations to one of our favorite people... Ozioma Ozioka, PhD, MECL '28! Ozioma is the recipient of the Anthony Ihedoha Anaebere, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to one Nigerian-born or first generation Nigerian American student pursuing engineering studies in the United States. The award is based on the strength of a candidate's academic background and demonstrated leadership.

Dr. Diana-Andra Borca-Tasciuc, RPI Professor Mechanical, Aerospace and Nuclear Engineering, who recommended Ozioma for this scholarship award, offered the following words of praise:

"[Ozioma] is an exceptionally mature and dedicated student, committed to working hard and achieving excellence. She began her PhD studies in the Fall semester of 2023, having recently arrived from Nigeria. Despite facing the challenges of cultural adaptation and the emotional strain of being separated from her family, including her three young children

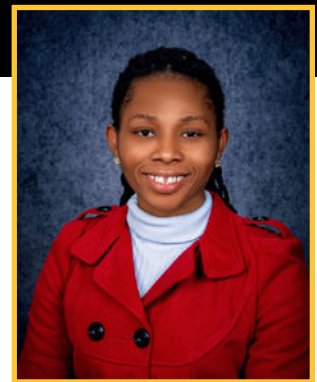
aged 7 months to 4 years, Ozioma has excelled academically."

Ozioma is a dedicated parishioner at Christ Sun of Justice, and one of our most dependable volunteers. We asked Ozioma why she is such an avid volunteer at the parish:

Her answer:

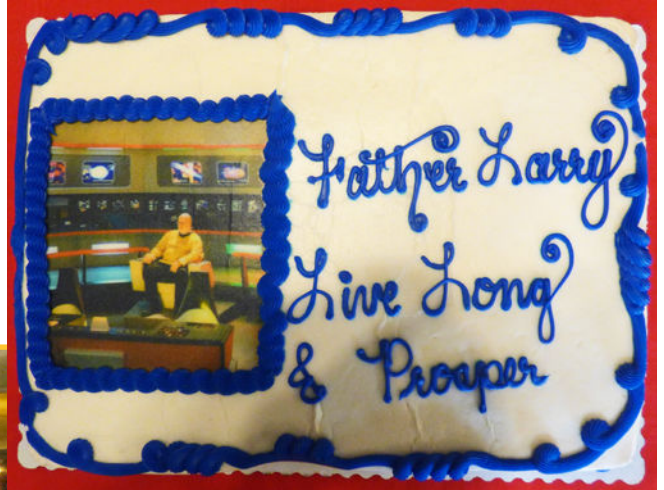
1. My love for God.
2. My care for people.
3. My call for service.

Read Ozioma's inspirational story at <https://aiascholarship.com/2023-2024/>



Father Larry's Going Away Party

"Greetings from my new assignment at St. John XXIII University Parish, in Knoxville TN! I've had a warm welcome from the staff and parishioners, as well as my Paulist brothers. This Fall promises to be filled with new programs and projects for me, but I'm excited to dig into this new assignment. I miss all my friends and colleagues in Troy, but I know you're in good hands with Fr. Jordan. I'll always be grateful for all the love and support I felt while I was with you. You're all in my prayers!"



Fr. Larry extends his sincere thanks for his going-away reception, the many gifts he received from parishioners, and all the kind words.

Newman Catholic Fellowship: New Academic Year, New Location!

Last year the Newman Catholic Fellowship experienced dramatic growth in our Tuesday Nite Newman dinner gatherings - so much so that we will be using the Lounge at the C+CC for dinners during Fall semester! "We are excited to see how the Holy Spirit will lead us this year!" -Associate Catholic Chaplain and Newman Catholic Fellowship advisor Tracy Watson.

On Mission: on the fourth Tuesday of each month, Newman Catholic Fellowship will be engaged in service work within the greater Troy area and on campus as students dive more deeply into the corporal works of mercy which undergird our Catholic faith. Be on the lookout for updates!

Thank you in advance for your prayers and continued support as we strive to be about "Food. Fellowship. Faith. And fun!"



Summer Activities at the C+CC

This summer, the Chapel + Cultural Center has been a vibrant hub of activity, offering a diverse range of programs and events that reflect the dynamic spirit of our community. From musical performances to mindfulness sessions, the facility has hosted an impressive array of events that cater to varied interests and age groups.

June was particularly musical, with twelve piano recitals showcasing the talents of students from various instructors. These performances brought together over a thousand attendees, including some incredible talent from our own community.


In addition to musical events, the facility hosted a variety of community-oriented activities throughout June and July. Regular Tai Chi and Mindfulness Meditation classes promoted physical and mental well-being, while TYP AA Meetings provided crucial support and fellowship. The Pilgrimage Group Overnight from July 12 to 14, emphasized the center's role in supporting spiritual journeys.

In August, the Chapel + Cultural Center continued to be a place of fellowship and connection, with exciting movie nights, including a showing of Kung Fu Panda 4 for RPI Summer ARCH Students and visiting High School Students.



Chinese Community Chorus Performing at the C+CC this summer.

The Chapel + Cultural Center's ability to host such a diverse range of events demonstrates its vital role in the community. It serves as a place where people can come together to celebrate, learn, reflect, and grow. This summer has been a testament to the center's commitment to offering enriching experiences for all.

We look forward to continuing this tradition of excellence and community engagement in the months to come. Whether you're attending a concert, participating in a meditation session, or enjoying a movie night, the Chapel + Cultural Center is the place to be. 

Welcome Welcome Father Jordan Lenaghan! *(continued from page 1)*

You've been with us since early July. Tell us your early impressions about RPI, the C+CC, and the community here?

I have been impressed by the commitment and energy people bring to the work of Catholic chaplaincy here. Everyone has been friendly, warm, and welcoming. We have an incredible building, a great history, and deep potential for significant growth!

What excites you most about your new position?

That's an easy question! It's working with incredible people at a fantastic institution. It's also that challenge that I'm carrying the awesome work of my predecessors into the future.

How have you spent your free time so far? Are there things that you are looking forward to doing or seeing in the weeks ahead?

I must laugh. My free time so far has been filled with cleaning, unpacking, and getting my life sorted out here in Troy. I will say, however, that my best find to date has been the Troy Farmers' Market. It reminds me of living in Europe. So, first thing, every Saturday morning you will find me doing the weekly shopping there!

The RPI Community will get to know you better in the weeks and months to come, but is there anything else that you'd like people to know about you now?

I feel incredibly blessed to have been called to minister to such a wonderful community. And I look forward to working together to create an innovative, creative, and dynamic Catholic presence at RPI.

You can reach Fr. Jordan in the RPI Chaplain's office at 518-276-8622 or at lenagi@rpi.edu. 

The Advancement Corner

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ON-GOING SUPPORT!

Many thanks if you were one of the more than 350 donors to the RNF in 2023-2024 whose dollars helped to fund the mission and the programs that are so important and beneficial to the Catholic students at RPI. We couldn't do it without you. **Thank you!**

To make your contribution for 2024-2025, please use the enclosed gift envelope, give online at rensselaernewman.org, or point your phone camera to the QR Code on the back page of this newsletter. Consider making monthly, recurring gifts this year. A little each month can be easier on your budget, and provides us with a consistent, dependable stream of revenue.

Thank you for all you do for the Rensselaer Newman Foundation!

LEAVE A LEGACY

"I decided to include the Rensselaer Newman Foundation in my estate plans because I recognize the importance of nurturing and growing a life in the Church, both in college and beyond. The Foundation did that for me in the past, and I wish to do my part to enable it to continue to do so in the future." - Anonymous, RPI Class of 1981.

These are the words of our newest member of the Phelan-Wiberley Society, a community of people who share the vision of our early leaders, Fr. Thomas Phelan

and Steve and Betty Wiberley, and who support the mission of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation by including us in their long-term financial and estate plans.

We hope that you will consider including The Rensselaer Newman Foundation in your estate plans to help sustain our mission for generations to come. Legacy gifts are donations that have the potential to be forever transformative in furthering our mission and supporting our students.

To discuss further, or if you have already included the RNF in your estate plans, contact George Hauenstein, Director of Advancement at haueng@rpi.edu, or at (518) 276-3138.


SPECIAL SPONSOR SHOUT-OUTS

A big THANK YOU to Nielsen Direct, Inc., Window Depot USA of Albany, and to Crisafulli Bros. Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc. for their partnership with us, and for their sponsorship of the RNF Sun & Balance Award Banquet.

Check them out on their websites:

Nielsen Direct, Inc.:
<http://www.mailprep.com/>

Crisafulli Bros. Plumbing & Heating Contractors, Inc.:
<https://www.crisbro.com>

Window Depot USA of Albany:
<https://windowdepotalbany.com/> 

Fall Programs at the C+CC!


The Chapel + Cultural Center is thrilled to announce a lineup of exciting new fall programs designed to engage and enrich our community. This season, we are introducing activities that cater to a wide range of interests, ensuring there's something for everyone.

We are introducing a weightlifting program for those looking to stay active, offering an opportunity to build strength and improve fitness. Additionally, we are delighted to launch the Cigar Patio, a sophisticated space where enthusiasts can gather to enjoy fine cigars in a relaxed, outdoor setting. For music lovers, our Acapella and Choir rehearsals will begin with auditions and culminate in performances showcasing the diverse and impressive talents within our community.

In addition to these new offerings, we continue to

host our popular Yoga, Meditation, and Tai Chi classes, which promote physical and mental well-being. Regular meetings for the Knights of Columbus and the Newman Catholic Fellowship Dinners also remain a staple, fostering community and connection.

RPI is celebrating significant events this month and next, including the Bicentennial Carnival Celebration, Reunion & Homecoming, and Family Weekend! These special occasions provide perfect opportunities to experience the vibrant community spirit at the Chapel + Cultural Center.

Check our website, rensselaernewman.org for dates and times for these activities. We look forward to seeing you and continuing to create memorable experiences together. 

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.renselaernewman.org



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 20	7:00PM	Giancarlo Magic Show
September 28	8:00AM	RPI Reunion & Homecoming - Alumni Open House & Breakfast at the C+CC
September 29	10:00AM	RPI Reunion & Homecoming - Reception after Mass
October 5		Animal Blessing - (Saint Francis of Assisi Oct. 4)
October 18-20		RPI Family Weekend - Reception after Masses
November 3	7:00PM	RAAGA Acapella Concert
November 23	8:00PM	Rensselyrics Acapella Invitational

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

Giving QR code

Please consider giving to the Rensselaer Newman Foundation online at:

<https://renselaernewman.org/sbgift/>

or by following this QR code or link



We've also included a return envelope if that is a more convenient way for you to send your gift.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our mission!