

# CHAPLAINCY INFORMATION



## Cooking with Culture: African Students Host Chaplaincy Celebration of Faith & Food

On April 26, the Rensselaer Catholic Chaplaincy hosted "Uso Amara Africa - A Taste of African Grace," a joyful celebration of African culture, cuisine, and faith. The event was organized by African international students who are active members of the Catholic community at RPI.

More than 150 students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to experience a rich array of traditional Nigerian and Ghanaian dishes. The students themselves planned the menu, did the shopping, and spent the day before the event cooking together at the Hospitality House. From preparing two goats to brewing refreshing hibiscus tea, they brought the flavors and traditions of their homelands to campus.

Before the feast, the African Students' Choir offered a powerful musical contribution to the Saturday vigil Mass. Their voices lifted in Igbo hymns and an African setting of the Agnus Dei brought a profound sense of catholicity—truly embodying the universal spirit of the Church.



*"It felt like a nice and meaningful way to give back to the community while sharing how Catholicism is celebrated at home -through the songs and hymns we sang at church, that memorable Saturday, April 26th. While it's not exactly common practice to have such a celebration after Mass, it was still a joy and a lot of fun to prepare. Additionally, it got me really excited thinking about the different ways I could share my culture, even if just through food and songs, with other people. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who volunteered and helped to make the event a success. And to everyone who participated, thank you to everyone who participated thank you for enjoying and appreciating a little taste from home."*

**Chinenye Princess Urama '25**  
Biological Neuroscience & Psychology

# CHAPLAINCY INFORMATION

## Faith in Action: Partnering to Make an Impact in the Community



This year's Support Youth Sports campaign was a major success! Co-sponsored by the RPI Track & Field Team, the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, and the Rensselaer Catholic Chaplaincy the wristband fundraiser generated strong campus support – selling 328 wristbands and raising \$723.

All proceeds from the campaign went directly to the Sports and Recreation Programs of the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Capital Area, helping provide local youth with greater access to healthy, active opportunities.

Thanks to everyone who contributed – your generosity is making a difference in the lives of young athletes in our community!

## 2025 Commencement Activities



**Rev. Jordan Lenaghan, D.Min.**  
Chaplain, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, RPI

Commencement weekend at RPI was a flurry of activity, joy, and well-earned celebration. Among the highlights, Fr. Jordan, Catholic Chaplain, offered the invocation at the main Commencement ceremony, where his words struck a balance of humor, reflection, and gratitude.

Fr. Jordan was also honored to deliver the invocation at the Air Force ROTC commissioning ceremony the day before, offering a blessing to the cadets as they stepped into a new chapter of service and leadership.



Your partnership makes our ministry possible!



*The newly commissioned Air Force officers and their guests conclude the ceremony in EMPAC with a series of push-ups!*