

**Cameron Hudson takes home the RIT t-shirt quilt!**

**This project supports Newman's annual outreach to the homeless with the support of the Diocese of Rochester Consistent Life Ethic Grant.**



**Newman Catholic Community @RIT**

Located in the Schmitt Interfaith Center

**Semester Events:**

- Service Learning experiences
- Leadership development-
- Retreats each semester
- Community Service • RCIA • Agape Latte

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or by appointment

**Mass Times**

Sunday 10 a.m. (interpreted) and 5 p.m.  
Holy Days - noon

# Newman Catholic Community

A PUBLICATION OF THE CATHOLIC NEWMAN COMMUNITY AT ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

## Arms Wide Open



**When out and about, I am often asked about the faith of young people. At times I hear phrases like, "the faith of young people is not like the faith of their parents and grandparents." Upon hearing a statement similar to this, I often smile and agree. I have discovered the faith of young adults does look very different from the faith of earlier generations. It is much more grounded in the gospel values of service and caring for**

**the least among us, without concern for differences. I have discovered young adults are hungry for rich experiences of prayer and opportunities that help them discover God in moments of quiet and contemplation. They look for engaging homilies that challenge them to value things that might rub against the values of our society. Young people are looking for mentors who also struggle to live the same values we so often speak about daily. Young adults look to us to nudge them gently towards the incarnation – God's presence in our midst.**

I have a little rule for myself that I learned from someone a bit older and wiser. When a young person asks me to pray, serve others or simply hang out, I drop everything I am doing and join them immediately! Sometimes the invitations

aren't always clearly stated, and often disguised as something else, but upon further clarification and reflection, it suddenly becomes crystal clear. Yes, my plans for the day might suddenly change and I might not accomplish as much as I had intended, but the benefits! Ah, the benefits!

As Holy Week began this year, I had the opportunity to quietly visit with Ibrahim, a young man who would celebrate Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. He simply smiled and said, "I am so excited!" Enthusiasm seeped from his pores. As he left me that afternoon, I was aware he energized me. I can still feel the energy and hope he has for his life and the world. A few days later as I watched him spontaneously kneel before the waters of Baptism, close his eyes and wait for the moment the water would be poured over his head,

*continued inside*

## Welcome my friends, welcome....

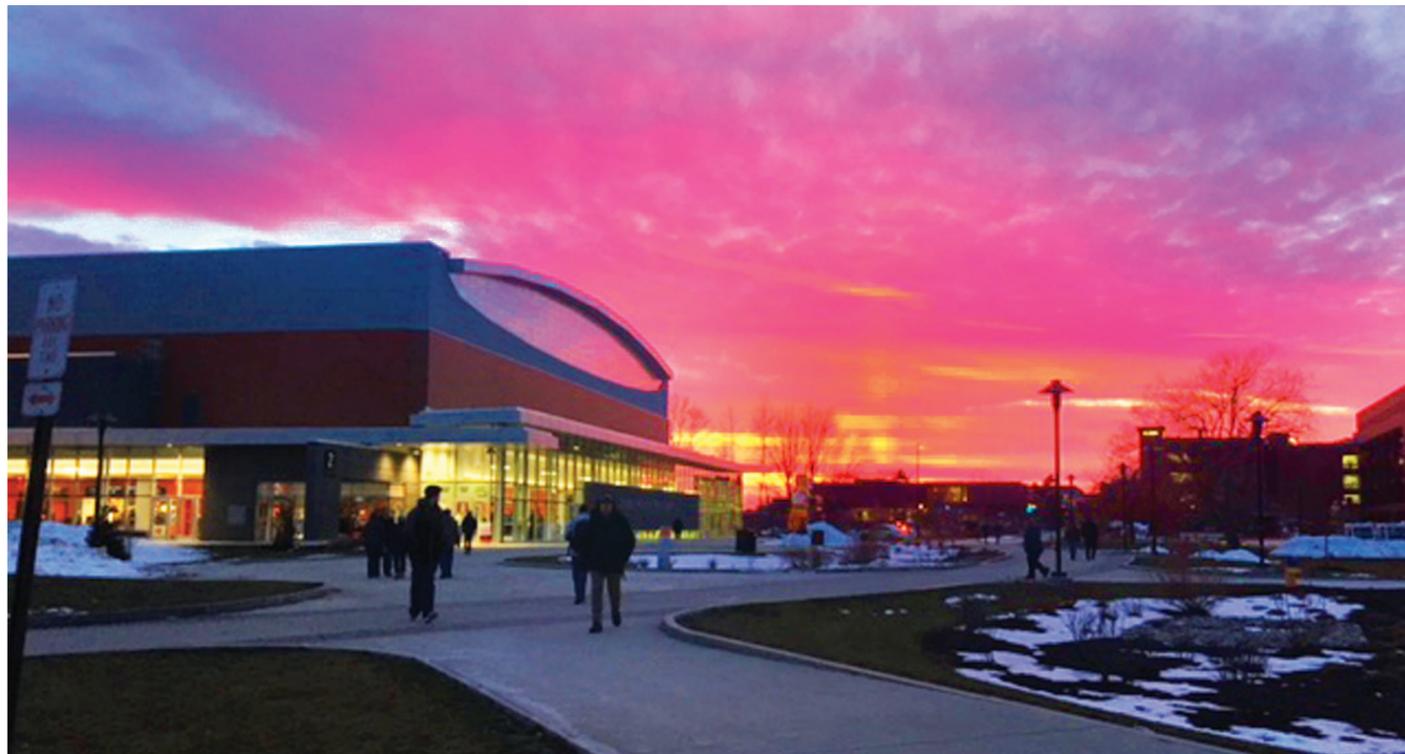
Holy Week at RIT began like most: the weather flipping between 50 degrees and sunshine one day and snowflakes and wicked wind along the quarter mile the next, students in the midst of a busy week as the semester comes to a close, whispers of graduation and future plans over coffee in Java Wally's. Wednesday evening brought our last RCIA gathering as those preparing for Easter sacraments met in the Allen Chapel for a quick rehearsal and prayer before the Saturday evening Easter Vigil.

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Team, made up of students and Newman staff gather weekly with those interested in learning more about their faith and preparing for Easter sacraments. When all is said and done, each gathered around the table could say they learned



Five student at the Easter Vigil: David Agcaoli , Ibrahim Cisse, Tatianna Auguste, George Owusu, and Eric Beishline

*continued inside*



# Newman

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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The Newman Community is a year-round campus ministry within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, New York, serving the students, faculty, staff and local residents to Rochester Institute of Technology.

[ritnewman.com](http://ritnewman.com)

## Arms Wide Open *continued from front*

I am still aware of the humility and genuine love this young man approached this experience of God's love and mercy. I am sure Ibrahim will share this mercy and love with those he encounters each and every day.

Throughout the year, Newman offers several retreats: Kairos, Busy Person Retreat, Intercollegiate Retreat at Mt. Irenaeus, An Evening Away at RIT, Service Learning Retreats and, this year, two new opportunities: An Afternoon with Francis and Clare and Senior Retreat. I am often humbled by the number of students that take several hours, a weekend or week to step away from the many demands on their lives to reflect, learn and grow with others through a retreat experience. The most recent service learning retreat to the St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia over Spring Break, offered a group of students the chance to challenge stereotypes and biases. We worked hard! We engaged in difficult conversations and we learned more than we ever imagined – about ourselves and others. We drove back to Rochester knowing none of us would ever be quite the same.

Yes, faith is alive and well in the hearts and lives of our young adults. I find them hungry and filled with excitement as they discover God within and around them each and every day. And like many of us, it simply takes others who will walk with us, nudge us and teach us the many ways God is revealed in our complex world. I indeed find young people today living with Arms Wide Open – open to others, to possibilities and to the recognition of God – alive and well in our midst. May each of us learn from the young people we encounter each day. They have much to teach us!

Thank you so very much for your support and prayers for the Newman Catholic Community at RIT. We could not do what we do each day without your great care and support. May we all continue this Easter season with *Arms Wide Open*.

*Peace and good,*

*Alice Miller Nation*

*Newman Catholic Community @ RIT*



Claire Finnerty (left) and Thy Do (right)



**Newman @ RIT offers prayers and support to Claire Finnerty and Thy Do as they begin a year of service after graduation. Claire will join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps: NW. Thy will be serving at Maggie's Place in Arizona offering housing, education and support to pregnant and new mothers.**

## Graduation Mass...



As graduates and families prepare for Graduation Weekend 2018, plan to join the Newman Catholic Community for

**BACCALAUREATE MASS IN THE ALLEN CHAPEL ON THURSDAY, MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 7 P.M.**

This celebration welcomes all who would like to celebrate the accomplishments and faith of those who will be walking at commencement this spring.

So that we can prepare for this liturgy, graduates, please register at Mass or email: [amncpm@rit.edu](mailto:amncpm@rit.edu)

## Reflections on the Newman experience...

I remember walking through the fieldhouse on my first day on campus. Welcome Days offered first year students the opportunity to see all the organizations that RIT had to offer. I found the Newman Catholic Community table among the dozens of other campus groups offering information and encouragement to new students. I was invited to come to Mass that weekend and little did I know, it would be one of my best decisions during those first few weeks.

Because of the Newman Catholic Community, I became very involved in volunteering while at RIT and serving others has become a big part of my life. As I prepare for graduation, I realize the Spring Break 2017 service learning trip to the St. Francis Inn was an experience that has impacted my life in many ways. Because the Inn is so close to my home, I often volunteer over summer break and this past Spring Break met the Newman group at the Inn for an evening. The Inn has a special place in my heart and has introduced me to people and situations I would have never experienced if not for the Newman community.



Amanda Olsen #33 and the RIT Women's Basketball team played in the Sweet 16 of the NCAA D3 tournament this past season.

Newman has helped my faith grow stronger and stronger during my years at RIT and I am grateful and proud that I have stepped out of my comfort zone to meet amazing people and participate in eye-opening activities that I would have never done without the support and encouragement of the Newman community.

I thank Newman for the opportunity to grow and enrich my RIT experience. These have been the best four years of my life and it is my hope that others continue to have the same opportunities I was offered while at RIT.

*-Amanda Olsen*

*Packaging Science 2018*

## Welcome *continued from front*

about themselves and their faith – all seemed to be students at the end of the day.

We prayed together, questioned our beliefs and learned about the traditions of our Church. We became a community that grew to care for one another over time. And finally, after making our way through the Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and finally arriving at the Easter Vigil), the light of Christ was carried into the Allen Chapel and our celebration began!

After hearing stories of God saving God's people throughout history, the initiation liturgy began. During the Litany of the Saints, each of those to be initiated were invited to quietly remember those who could not be with them that evening. As holy men and women of the church were sung into our presence, we remembered our parents and godparents, mentors and friends who brought us to this day.

Ibrahim Cisse humbly knelt on the floor as he was Baptized. As each of the candidates were anointed with the sweet smelling Chrism, Eric Beishline, Tatianna Auguste, George Owusu and David Agcaoili stood before the community, eyes bright and hearts engaged in the celebration unfolding before them.

Yes, this is one of the many ways our rich traditions fill us and form us. When I quiet myself enough, I can still smell the incense and see the smiles of our newly initiated. Throughout the season of Lent, we prayed for these five men and women, remembering it is their presence among us and their desire to know our loving God more closely that inspires each of us to do the same.

As we make our way through the season of Easter and into the warmer days of spring, may the stories of these young men and women hungry to know God inspire us to do the same.



## PLEASE HELP US GROW!

When you make a gift to RIT, designate the gift recipient as

Catholic Campus Ministry  
(Newman Community).

This is a win-win. You support RIT and the Newman Catholic Community also gets your support.

You can also give through our website:

[www.ritnewman.com](http://www.ritnewman.com)

If you have any questions, please call the Newman office 585.475.5172