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#### Meet the Newman Student Eboard!



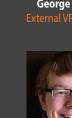




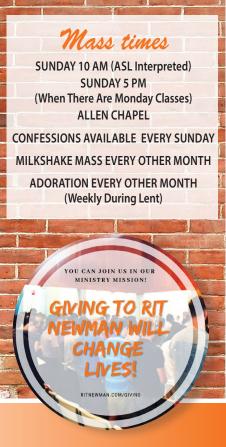




Marcela Lopez









CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 40 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 Phone: 585.475.5172

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 of Rochester Institute of Technology

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# **2019** • Spring Newman Catholic Community

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

## Living a Life of Service ...



Happy Spring! We are finally starting to see signs that Spring is here, and there is a new and refreshing feeling all around RIT campus thanks to the sunshine and more davlight! It's amazing

the energy and calmness the sunshine can bring, not to mention the relief of not dealing with piles of snow! We have had a super busy semester full of programs, worship, and outreach.

This semester we were able to get rolling with

our Tiger Stripes Service and Outreach, and we are in the works of planning even more for Tiger Stripes for the Fall semester!

As I interact with all of these wonderful students at RIT Newman, I become more and more inspired by their desire to serve others. We have many conversations about how service is so core to our Christian identity and our faithful journey. Pope Francis says "we must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peace." What a beautiful mission to follow. Living a life of service, spreading love, including the excluded, and preaching peace. Can you

imagine how beautiful it would be if everyone followed these simple rules? RIT Newman students are eager and ambitious to live this out; to be the hands and face of Christ for others.

Baptism calls us to be disciples of the world. How empowering is that? We listen to scripture and homilies each week about being disciples, but what are we doing to take action on this? Hove this quote found in the USCCB Sacraments and Social

Pope John Paul II writes, "Because of the one dignity flowing from Baptism," every baptized person "shares a responsibility for the Church's mission"

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# Tiger Stripes Ministry ... Living the Gospel, Being Disciples

We are so excited to be adding more and more opportunities to serve others! Thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministry Foundation, we received another annual grant to be able to continue our Tiger Stripes Service and Outreach ministry program. This program not only promotes service and outreach, but allows us time to look inward, challenge ourselves, and get involved at RIT and in the larger community. This semester, our new Tiger Stripes Student Coordinators started, and they have been such blessings to the Newman Community as well as the communities we serve.

Maggie Blaisdell is a first year student majoring in graphic design. She is a true leader encouraging and inspiring many others in the Newman family to get involved and serve others.

Mondi Mulya is an international student from Indonesia in her third year majoring in computer science. She is eagerly preparing to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil this year in the RCIA program, and she co-leads Tiger Stripes Service and Outreach with a humble and peaceful approach.

So far we have had the opportunity to serve at...



Maggie Blaisdel (left) and Mondi Mulha (right)

The Margaret Home – a sustainable home that cares for pregnant moms who are experiencing homelessness or unstable living conditions in the Rochester region.

Mercy House of Spirituality with the Sisters of

St. Joe's House of Hospitality - a Rochester Catho-

lic Worker community which provides food, clothing, shelter and spiritually-centered care to its guests.

Barakah Muslim Charity (helping to prepare food bags for those in need with MSA and APO)

Right after Easter we will help for an evening of hospitality for the homeless, providing food, useful items, and even shelter for the night for those who need it.

In the Fall we will hit the ground running early in the semester with service to a number of Sisters of St. Joseph ministries, including providing meals for the Bethany House. The Bethany house is a Catholic worker house of hospitality, providing shelter for homeless women and children without expecting payment through Social Services. We already have a service learning retreat scheduled for November, where our students will stay at the Sisters of St. Joseph retreat home and serve in the community while also having time for reflection and prayer.

Thank you to all of the students and staff who serve on our Tiger Stripes team. Keep those we serve in your prayers.

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"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

—Ephesians 2:10

#### **Living a Life of Service ...** continued

(Christifideles Laici, no. 15). The baptized must work as disciples of Christ by caring for the sick, the oppressed, the debilitated, and the sinners. We are called to carry out this work not only in our local communities, but also in the global community of which we are also members.

And that is exactly what our students at RIT Newman are doing - working as disciples of Christ by caring for others. Through Tiger Stripes Service and Outreach, Knights of Columbus, and Interfaith opportunities, our students have numerous opportunities to be disciples of Christ by serving others. I hope this newsletter will outline some of the many ways our community is joining in on this mission.

At our Spring Kairos Retreat, we explored all of the Catholic Sacraments, and how they pertain to our daily lives. We talked about how the sacraments are not just some items on an initiation checklist to be Catholic, but rather, they are living in our everyday lives in very authentic ways. One of the very moving discussions was when we talked about the Eucharist. We talked about how it is such a beautiful thing to come to the table together as we are, bringing our brokenness, celebrations, fears, anxieties, and all. We break bread together, bringing in Jesus Christ, but that it can't just stop there. We need to then go into the world and pour Jesus Christ out to all we encounter. The Eucharist is a very recursive and cyclical process, if we allow it to be. Service and outreach is one of the many ways we can pour Jesus Christ out to others, living the Gospel in real and life-changing ways.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we continue to provide opportunities for our students to explore their faith and live out the Gospel in ways they might not otherwise experience in their college years. God Bless you and all that you do to support our mission and our students. As always, we can't do this alone.



## What's Happening at R.I.T. Newman?



Service Day at the Mercy Spirituality Center





Eve Away Retreat, Camp Stella Maris Team-Building, 2019 Enjoying a meal at the Kairos Retreat in February 2019.

### Tiger Stripes Ministry ... continued



#### **Maggie Blaisdell**

"I volunteer because, first of all, I believe that it is what God calls each of us to do in our own way. Whether it be monetary donations, serving others, or simply being kind - we are called to love our brothers and sisters. Tiger Stripes is the perfect place for me to live out my call with a great group of people at RIT!"

#### **Mondi Mulva**

"My involvement in service and outreach activities has brought me closer to God. I always feel like the more I'm involved, the more I can see how His love has touched my life and others in such a beautiful way. Moreover, I always hope that one day I can be the light who can inspire others to do the same. I believe that if we all do this together, we can achieve a peaceful world."

# Knights of Columbus ... Following in Jesus's Footsteps



The Rochester Institute of Technology Knights of Columbus Council 14336 is a Catholic Fraternal Men's Organization helping serve the community through charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. They eagerly co-sponsor many events with RIT Newman including social events, service opportunities, and in prayer/ worship.

Pictured above are K of C Council 14336 members (from left to right) Jose Varela, Ethan Dell, Nathan Nasby, Scott Court, Darren Chee, TJ Wasik, Alan Gesek. Members not present are Matthew Bartlow, Mark Nicolella, Diego Gomez Merlos, and Jacob Custer.

The Fish Fry Friday Volunteer Team pictured below included Knights of Columbus and RIT Newman members.







Knight

"I joined the Knights of Columbus here on campus during my second year. While I admittedly joined to make more personal connections with like-minded guys, being able to help those in need of charity is an incredible reward. I began meeting all sorts of people through the Knights, and especially during our charity events. Trick-or-Treat for canned goods, the various Christmas parties here on campus, and many other events have given me a genuine sense of fulfillment. And although I graduate this May of 2019, I will continue to be a part of the Knights of Columbus and continue to give back to the community."



#### Alan Gesek, **Grand Knight**

"Being a part of the Knights of Columbus is a huge honor as a Catholic gentleman. When you become a

knight, part of that commitment is a promise and a devoted sense of altruism to helping others as Jesus would. This takes on many forms through what the Knights do by helping unify Christ's community through charitable, religious, and social works."







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