



RIT Newman Catholic Community
ritnewman.com

Intercession Service Trip 2014 Newman On The Road

Ever thought of participating in a week long service trip? Are you ready to have your stereotypes challenged a bit? What about living a bit more simply than an average week?

Here is your chance: **January 17-22, 2015.** Come back to Rochester the week before classes begin for spring semester and join us on this adventure. The cost will be \$60. per student and will include transportation to and from RIT, most meals and housing at the Inn. Space is limited to 10 participants for this service experience.

St. Francis Inn is a Catholic Franciscan community located in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia where they minister among the poor and homeless with a soup kitchen, a thrift shop and women's center. The community seeks to empower persons to break the cycle of homeless and poverty through addressing structural injustices by building relationships, respecting human dignity and helping the guests restore hope in their lives. The Franciscan community lives a simple lifestyle in the neighborhood among the poor and homeless.

If you are interested in participating in the service learning experience or supporting this experience, email Alice Miller Nation at amncpm@rit.edu



Newman On the Road
in Philadelphia



R·I·T Newman

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 to Rochester Institute of Technology

ritnewman.com



Newman Catholic Community
Mass Times:

Sunday: 10:00 a.m. and 5 p.m.
Holy Days: 12:00 p.m.
in the Allen Chapel

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Third Sunday of the month
after the 10:00 a.m. Mass
or by appointment before or after
Masses

Semester Events:

First Friday Adoration in the Jones
Chapel
Bible Study
Service Learning Trips
Community Service
RCIA
Retreats
Monthly Newman Night dinners
Prime Time – contemplative prayer



2014 • Volume II Issue I

R·I·T Newman

Catholic Community

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

New Beginnings!



This is an exciting time on the RIT campus! The Newman Catholic Community is experiencing newness and growth. We are growing into a strong community that supports

students' Catholic identity as well as invites them into opportunities and experiences that will nurture their personal faith as well as "being a light" on the RIT campus and in the circles in which they travel.

Please allow me to introduce myself: I am Alice Miller Nation, the Catholic Chaplain here at RIT. I arrived at RIT in July after 29 years of parish ministry. My husband Paul and I are the parents of three children and an exchange student from China who has lived with us for three years. All of our kids are between the

ages of 16 and 20. Life is full and exciting and loud at the Nation home!

I have found campus life exciting as well as thoughtfully stimulating. I am constantly very impressed at the depth and passion the students bring to the Newman Catholic Community. Many in our world might argue that young adults are not committed to their faith life. I would disagree. Each day I meet young people who are thoughtful and committed to growing both intellectually and spiritually. The young people on this campus are filled with compassion and interested in being a light in a world that sometimes seems very dark. The Newman community seeks to offer a "home away from home" for all students. Students come for encouragement and food, laughter and some candy! Yes, much like when my family gathers around the island in our kitchen, the Newman community offers a place students can call home.

America magazine published an interview with Pope Francis in 2013. The Pope said, "I see clearly, that the thing the church needs

most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity. "This is what Newman Catholic Community attempts to do here on the RIT campus. We offer a "home away from home" for the students attending RIT. It is our hope that Newman offers students a place to come when the days are long, a place to reflect upon and celebrate their "nearness to God". Through our service learning, day and weekend retreats, Sunday Masses, Newman Night dinners and Reconciliation services, opportunities for "nearness to God" are available as each of us grows into the person God created us to be.

We need your prayers as well as your support. As we grow into a vibrant and visible ministry on the RIT campus, your support will allow us to expand and engage more students with more programs and availability.

Peace,

Alice Miller Nation

Be Still and Know

By Veronica Zoeckler

The weekend of November 7-9, seven RIT students headed out to "the mountain", a Franciscan community at Mt. Irenaeus. The occasion was to participate in an intercollegiate retreat, hosted by Mt Irenaeus and led by students from St. Bonaventure University. We arrived Friday night in the dark, winding through gravel country roads. Alice brought lots of chili, but there was no need to fear – all were fed and fed well.

The theme of the retreat called us to reconsider where our foundation lies. We discussed this as a large community and within small groups. Juan Bautista, a graduate student, shared some of his thoughts, saying

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he had a wonderful experience this weekend. He explained, "First, I had the opportunity to redefine the foundations of my life and I discovered that this foundation is God. We all come from God and we are going to God. I also had the opportunity to remember people that have helped me to build my foundations in faith and pray for them." The sense of community was strong, even though most of us had never met each other before. Juan says, "One wonderful thing that I learned in this weekend is that we all have to help other people and share our faith and love with them. I really liked sharing with students from other colleges, with different backgrounds, and I realized that beyond our differences, we are all a big family called 'church'."

Most of the time we hung out in the house, reading, napping, hiking, cooking, cleaning, chatting, praying. Dimple Joseph, a second year undergraduate student, loved being able to read for fun, while reconnecting with herself and her faith. She told me, "I read a book about



Mother Teresa in which she said 'Don't just give things that you can live without, but give things that you cannot live without.' This quote made me reflect on all the blessings that have made me the person I am today. There have been some times when I have been doubtful of sacrificing something for someone else or didn't think it was worth my time or enough." Another quote from Blessed Mother Teresa came to mind – "Do small things with great

love". Dimple reflects, "It is these small acts of kindness, paired with love, that make a giving more influential."

I had more of a contemplative experience during the retreat. It was deliciously quiet on the mountain. Not a lonesome, uneasy silence, but a distilling, clarifying silence. I felt all the stresses and concerns of my Monday to Friday melt away and I was simply THERE. The theme of the mountain is: Be still and know that I am God. And a strong sense of God is what I felt during the weekend, of a loving God and a healing God, and a God who is constantly working in me, fashioning me into a more devoted child of His.

Each of us brought something to the mountain, and took more away. By returning to our foundation in Christ, we became better equipped to return to RIT and to make some sense of our busy lives. We chose to draw away from the hustle and pressure of the world, and to encounter the One who is love itself and the source of all things. St. Irenaeus, pray for us.

Really? A Deacon and a Cop?



Hi, I am Deacon Wil Johnson. I am thrilled to be your deacon. I have been married to my wife Linda for 29 years and we have two children, Kelly and Erik who are in their 20's. Kelly graduated from RIT in 2010 and lives near Baltimore, MD. Erik is married to his wife Diana and they have a one year old, John-Carlos.

I spend about 10 hours a week at RIT as a deacon. In addition, I spend time with family and working in the secular world. I have been a sworn member of the City of Rochester, NY Police Department since 1982. I'm currently a Captain in the department.

Sometimes people see police work on television, Facebook or YouTube and they wonder how I can do both jobs because they seem so different from each other. But you see, they really aren't all that different to me. Both positions give me the opportunity to minister to God's people. Police work is most often about helping people in need. The same with ministry. Ministry is more about living your life in a way that shows people about Jesus than always talking about Jesus. Many of us try to live our lives for Christ in a world that may not always have an appreciation for Jesus. As a result, most often we do a more effective job

of spreading the Gospel message of Christ through the way that we live our lives, than we do through words alone. As a Police Officer, I have the extra challenge of spreading the Gospel by the way I conduct myself while wearing a uniform and 30 pounds of equipment. Whichever "uniform" I wear, it really is all about serving God's people.

Another piece of personal history that I bring with me is that before I became a police officer, I was a dorm counselor/teacher at Rochester School for the Deaf. Consequently, I have the ability to sign. However, you can do the math and figure out that it has been a long time since I used sign language on a regular basis. Obviously, I am not interpreter quality, so I humbly ask for your patience as I try to brush up on my signing and challenge myself to learn more.

I look forward to becoming acquainted with you and am excited as we spend time together as we journey the road of faith that lies ahead here at RIT/NTID.

In Christ's Love,

Deacon Wil

● Catherine Tepper is a first year computer engineering technology major from Boyertown, Pennsylvania. She clearly remembers sitting with her Dad in Gracie's on December 6, 2013 at the end of a campus tour. She looked at her dad, smiled wide and declared, "I'm ready to go." He quickly responded, "Catherine, we

just sat down to eat!" She smiled wider and clarified, "No, Dad, I'm ready to go here!"

Catherine attended Berks Catholic High School and believed she would not have all the same faith opportunities she had grown accustomed to during her high school experience. She was pleasantly surprised when she happened upon the Newman Catholic Community information table in the field house during orientation.

Catherine has jumped right in to life on campus as well as life in the Newman Community. In addition to embracing a challenging academic schedule this semester, Catherine is a member of the Vis Viva Dance Team on campus. After 13 years of dance growing up, the dance team has allowed Catherine to continue

her dance career, meet others, and have fun.

But campus involvement doesn't stop there! Catherine is on the leadership team for RCIA, the process for students to become Catholic or complete the Sacraments of Initiation. After being the Confirmation sponsor for her sister, she thought this would be a good way to continue to grow in her faith as well as share the faith with others.

Catherine brings a vast experience of social ministry to the RCIA experience. She has participated in several week long service learning experiences in both Pennsylvania and Appalachia. Through her high school and parish, Catherine has volunteered at an animal shelter and in soup kitchens, as well as raising awareness about homelessness in our country.



More Faces in the Crowd from an October 2014 retreat at Letchworth State Park:

