



2015 • Volume III Issue 2

# R·I·T *Newman* Catholic Community

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

## Grateful Hearts and Growth



I find Wednesday evening conversations to be lively and engaging. The group gathered has learned to trust one another with the experiences of our days and the prayers of our hearts. Together, we laugh

and question, wonder aloud and quietly as those preparing for Easter sacraments grow to care for one another as we learn about the Church we are growing to love. I am describing a typical Wednesday evening with students in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults.

The Newman Catholic Community at RIT has eight students in RICA this year. It is a delight to watch this group of students come together each week to learn and support one another as we build Church from the bottom up! Yes, this lively and energetic group of young people understand Church in an absolutely beautiful way. They care for one another, serve those who are struggling and have a deep desire to offer hope and light in places where darkness abounds. It will be a joy to welcome these young people into our Church this Easter season.

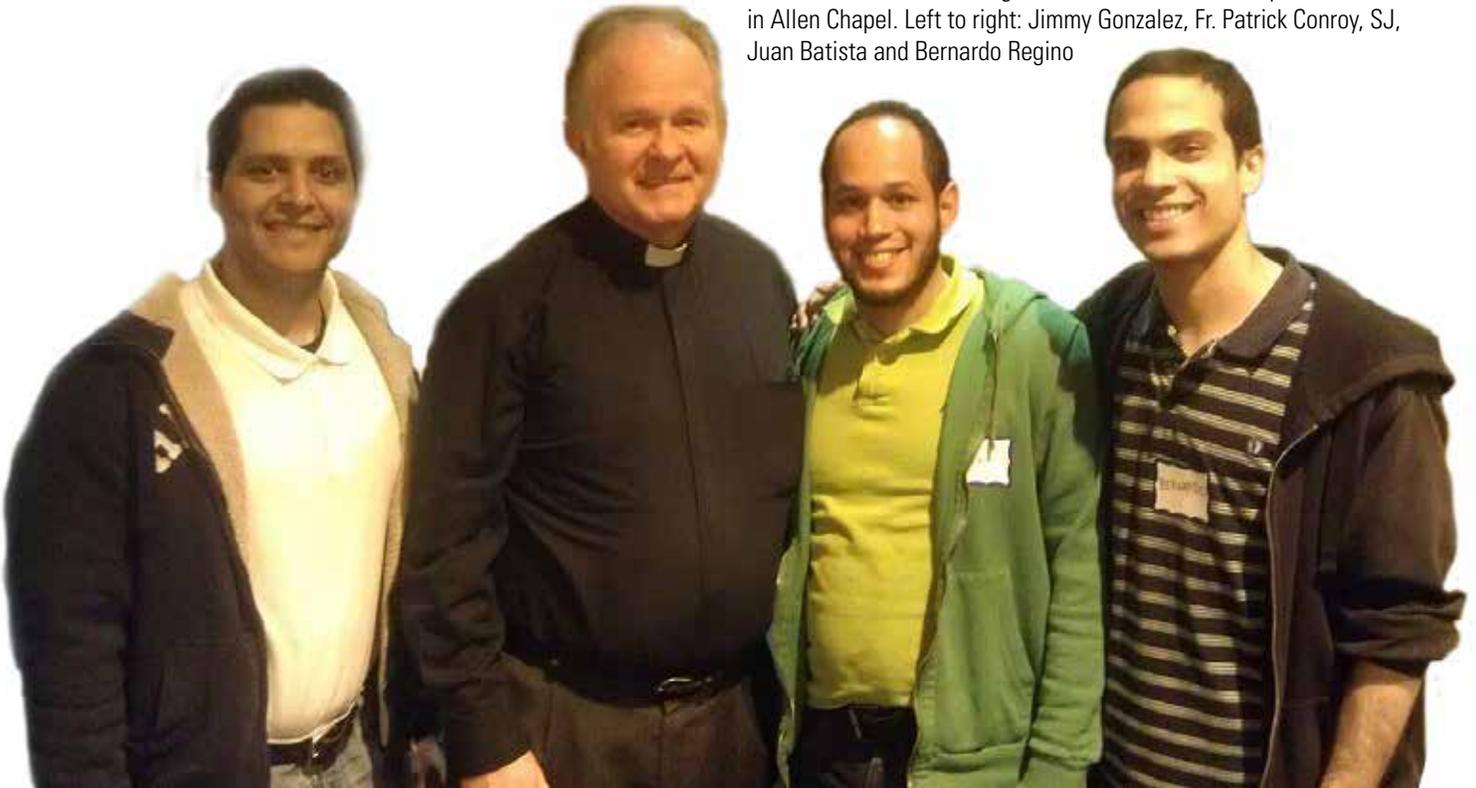
This is just one story of many that make up a semester at the Newman Catholic Community at RIT. The Newman community is continuing to grow. Most of our retreat and service learning opportunities have wait lists for student participation. Many weekends over

225 students worship at Mass on campus. Newman now has a student leadership team which consists of an Executive Board and five committees. The Executive Board is taking on projects like: working with the Diocese of Rochester to create a new website, offering Midnight Monastics at the Abbey of the Genesee, new and improved lector and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist training, ministry and outreach to the homeless of Rochester as well as beginning the process to establish club status on campus for Newman.

It is an exciting time on campus for the Newman Catholic Community. Right in the middle of the excitement and growth is the reason why we exist: RIT students. An academic career can be filled with wonderful  
*continued on back*

## Fr. Patrick Conroy, SJ, Chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives, visits RIT Newman Community

International RIT students gather with Fr. Pat after the presentation in Allen Chapel. Left to right: Jimmy Gonzalez, Fr. Patrick Conroy, SJ, Juan Batista and Bernardo Regino



## A visit from Fr. Patrick Conroy, SJ, Chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives

The Newman Catholic Community welcomed Fr. Patrick Conroy, SJ to RIT October 13 and 14, 2015. Fr. Pat is the 60th Chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives. While on campus he spoke in the Allen Chapel about Integrating Faith and Politics as well as sharing with us his journey and experiences as the Chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives. One student summed up Fr. Pat's talk this way, "Work hard in school, do your best but don't let the world's definition of success get in the way of giving God a chance to lead you into a successful life." Amen.

Fr. Patrick Conroy, SJ, 60th Chaplain to the U.S. House of Representatives. talks to RIT faculty, staff and students at What Matters to Me and Why.



in  
service



Samantha Abraham (RIT 2015) and  
Alice Miller Nation.

**M**any might recognize Samantha Abraham (RIT 2015), better known on campus as Sam, from RIT's ambulance as well as the clarinet player at the 10 a.m. Mass each Sunday. Sam graduated last May from RIT and is now serving a year in Franciscan Volunteer Ministry in Silver Spring, Maryland. FVM is a group of lay men and women, living in community, who dedicate themselves to ministry in collaboration with the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Name Province. Their volunteer year is based on the Gospel message to express love in action. The volunteers commit to serving the poor and marginalized, personal and interpersonal development, spiritual growth and an active prayer life.

[www.franciscanvolunteerministry.org](http://www.franciscanvolunteerministry.org)

Newman at RIT first became acquainted with FVM at the St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia, the site of two week long service learning retreats Newman sponsored last year. We met and ministered with these engaging young men and women at the Inn and from that experience, Sam decided to find out more about a year of volunteer service before

pursuing a master's degree.

Sam is at a new site for FVM in Silver Spring. She lives in community with two other volunteers. The volunteers in their community serve at the St. Francis International School, teach ESL classes to immigrants and refugees at Langley Park and minister to active duty and veterans and their families at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Their days are varied and filled with many opportunities to see the face of God in everyday experiences.

I was able to visit Sam and her FVM community while they were on their fall retreat at Mt. Irenaeus in West Clarksville, NY. I was warmly welcomed into a vibrant community on what was a cold and rainy October night. We had a wonderful dinner and celebrated Mass together. After spending some time with Sam and her community members, I was quickly reminded of all the opportunities we have to learn in this lifetime. This year of volunteer service to others will give Sam and her community members a lifetime of memories as well as the tools to lead using compassionate service as the model.



### Upcoming events:

Begin the season of Lent with Bishop Salvatore Matano, Bishop of Rochester, on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 for the 5 pm Ash Wednesday Mass in the Allen Chapel in the Schmitt Interfaith Center. All are welcome!

Pictured at left, Dimple Joseph and EJ Omiyi with Bishop Matano, Ash Wednesday 2015

# AgapeLatte

is coming  
to **RIT!**

Agape Latte trip  
September 2015:  
Cella Mahoney and  
Alex Mallory spend a day in  
Boston learning how to bring  
Agape Latte to RIT.



**“Agape” is a Greek word for a kind of love that seeks nothing in return.**

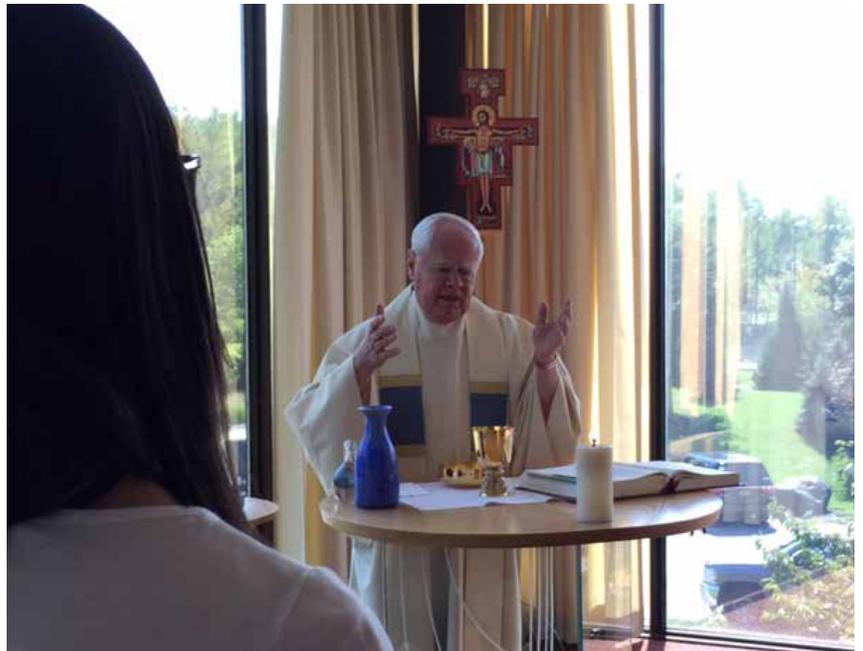
The Church in the 21st Century Center at Boston College has offered the Newman Community at RIT a wonderful opportunity. Agape Latte is a monthly event designed for students seeking to learn more about faith and religion in an inviting and social environment. The C21 Center brought Alice Miller Nation, Cella Mahoney and Alex Mallory to BC to experience an Agape Latte event so that we can bring it back to RIT.

While on campus, we had the chance to meet with students and staff who organize and orchestrate each Agape Latte event on campus. They answered questions, offered lots of information and are mentoring us as we bring this program to RIT. The event we attended was awesome. Music, an inspiring talk and questions and answers along with absolutely delicious desserts and coffee made up the evening.

Our planning team is in place and we are planning our first Agape Latte event in Fireside Lounge on February, 11. All are welcome! If you are interested in joining the Agape Latte leadership team, contact Alice Miller Nation [amncpm@rit.edu](mailto:amncpm@rit.edu)



Sr. Jody learns about video gaming from RIT Newman students! Kevin Dodd and Sr. Jody Kearney, RSM



Fr. Jerry Appleby celebrates Mass at RIT and kicks off the first of many Milkshake Masses! (Milkshakes are served after Mass.)

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experiences and memories, some very difficult classes and brutal exams. I often take a walk around campus to find a student who needs a listening ear or someone to offer a smile. I sometimes walk into the chapel to water flowers and find another student with questions. I have walked miles around the Gordon Fieldhouse with students raising money for those with cancer and driven hours with RIT students to serve the poor and marginalized, together we then discuss what it means to be a beacon of hope in the world beyond RIT.

Yes, Newman at RIT does make a difference in the lives of young people here on campus and in the world where they will one day work and live. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for all the ways you have supported Newman in the past and for what you will do in the future. Please keep us in your prayers. And know that you are in ours each weekend at our Sunday liturgies.

Peace,  
Alice Miller Nation  
*Associate Director of the  
Newman Catholic Community @ RIT*

Lucas Battisti, Mark Saunders, Jim Burke, Sarah Wright, Eric Kanis At the Intercollegiate Retreat at Mt. Irenaeus.

**When you donate to RIT, you can designate your contribution to the Newman Catholic Community.**

**Please help Us Grow!**

When you make your gift, 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. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Newman Office at **585.475.5172**.



**RIT Newman  
Catholic Community  
ritnewman.com**

**Help Newman @ RIT reconnect...**

The Newman Community at RIT is attempting to reconnect with "lost" Catholic alums. If you have friends who do not receive our newsletter, please send us their name, address, email and graduation year. We will send out a newsletter and get them reconnected.



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:**

After 10 a.m. Mass  
or by appointment  
before or after Masses

**Semester Events:**

Bible Study – Thursday evenings  
at 7 p.m. in the Sun Room  
Winter Break and Spring Break  
Service Learning Trips  
Community Service  
RICA  
Retreats each semester  
Milkshake Mass each month  
Community Fun events



*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**