

RIT Newman Catholic Community

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



INSPIRED BY SCRIPTURE, ACTING ON LOVE

Kim Winden

Seasons Greetings! This semester has been an absolute whirlwind, in only wonderful ways. We hit the ground running with an eager student board ready to rock-n-roll in August, and haven't slowed down this great momentum. We have been busy with Liturgy, milkshake masses, Alpha, Agape Latte, on campus retreats, monthly meals after mass, and more!

We have also added more events to draw in staff and faculty such as staff lunches and student/staff rosary prayers. I can't put into words the love and pride that I have for this RIT Newman family. In order to meet the needs of those coming through our doors, we have built on a number of student committees full of hard-working student leaders. Some of these committees include Alpha, Tiger Stripes Service and Outreach, Liturgy, and Agape Latte. The committees and the Eboard officers have worked hard to continue programming that is drawing students in, and are also brainstorming ways to evangelize and reach Catholic students who are not yet served by us. Their eagerness, creativity, and connectedness are an inspiration, and they are making an incredible difference in the community. I look forward to see these ideas come alive even more during the Spring semester as we prepare for more retreats and events. As I interact with all of the Newman students, I become more and more inspired by their faith, and their willingness to learn how to live out their faith in life-changing ways. In October we had a great opportunity to serve at St. Francis Inn in Philadelphia. We had time to not only serve others, but to dig deep and reflect on why we serve others, how we serve others, and how that transforms us as disciples of Christ. We also chatted about the importance of allowing scripture to encourage us in our serving of others. After all, to live the Gospel, first we need to know the Gospel! Ephesians 5:2 reminds us to "Walk in Love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us," and I am so blessed to have opportunities to walk in love with these faithful students who so deeply desire to serve others with humility and grace. Our Tiger Stripes team is working hard to be the hands and face of Christ for others and for each other. 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. May your Christmas and New Year be filled with God's blessings, joy, and peace.

Please feel free to reach out to me at kpwccl@rit.edu to chat at any time!

MEET THE RIT NEWMAN MINISTRY STAFF



KIM WINDEN
Associate Director



ALAN GESEK
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Deacon and Campus Minister



JIMMY MILLER
Business Manager



MIKE VERNARELLI
Campus Minister





WE COME TO SERVE

Maggie Blaisdell



Hello everyone! I am Maggie Blaisdell, one of Newman's Tiger Stripes coordinators. First I want to take a moment to thank all of the Tiger Stripes volunteers for their hard work this year. I'd also like to thank the parents of our volunteers; a love of service comes from the nurturing of our faith by those we love! Here's a quick shout out to my parents for always encouraging service in my life.

We recently wrapped up our first "Operation Christmas Child" program. With the help of the Newman community, we were able to fill 30 shoeboxes with toys and essential items (like toothbrushes and pencils) for children in need. All of the items we packed in the boxes were donated by students and local residents. On packing day, everyone who participated also wrote a letter to the child whose box they packed. The shoeboxes have been shipped to the Operation Christmas Child national program headquarters, from which they will be dispersed throughout the globe! The Sisters of Saint Joseph also recently hosted a retreat for Newman students called "The Service Learning Retreat." As the Tiger Stripes coordinator, I often plan service outings, but my busy schedule means that I can't always attend them. However, I made this retreat a priority on my calendar - and I was not disappointed. The sisters were extremely welcoming; they opened up their home to us and it truly felt like a comfortable weekend with old friends, even though we just met. After dinner and a prayer service on the night of arrival, we played games late into the night. The next day, we were split into 3 groups of 3 and sent to different locations to complete volunteer work. My group painted the pantry floor and did housework for Bethany House, a Catholic worker women's shelter. Another group cooked and served a meal at the House of Mercy, serving the homeless community in Rochester. The final group volunteers at Morningstar, a foster care home fostering children with exceptional physical and/or emotional needs. When we returned, we had a nice discussion and activity learning about Catholic Social Teachings, and we reflected on our days as a group. Lastly, we played a hilarious game of "Scribblish" with the sisters before heading back to RIT. These two service activities are only a small sampling of what Tiger Stripes is about. Mark 10:45 sums up our mission clearly: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many." Our lives are about much more than just ourselves - God did not put us here to live in a bubble. Tiger Stripes not only promotes opportunities that allow students to serve their neighbors in need, but also fosters service to others through relationships. I go to Newman when I feel down and out, when I need a shoulder to lean on - and I know this is true for many. We do not need to perform grand gestures to be in service to others. Being a dependable friend, a welcoming face, and a kind person, are examples of some of the best service we can complete. Tiger Stripes builds bonds between students that are not easily broken. We serve each other so that we can better serve our community. Thank you for your support of Newman - it means more than you know. God bless!

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"Through the services of RIT Newman, my spiritual needs have been met and strengthened. Even in the face of doubt and stress from academics and even life, the Mass has given me hope and strength to keep going in spite of my current struggles. As for the Knights, there's nothing better than the fraternal bond between men who share in the causes of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. We all strive to help our brothers and sisters in Christ, and through our fraternal bond, we have strength and courage to do what is right."

Mark Nicolella, Class of 2020



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"Through the joys and trials of college, my faith life got a little rocky, but I kept going on retreats. I love having a group of students to share my thoughts and experiences with and a special time away from my busy academic life to really reflect on my faith."

Ally Pritts, Class of 2021



Tiger stripes

