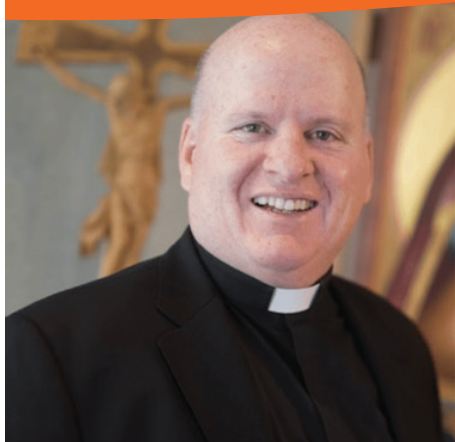


RIT

Rochester
Institute of
Technology

 **Newman**
Catholic Community at RIT

FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER



Cool Thoughts

Growing Catholic Life at RIT: *A Strategic Initiative*

Dear Tiger Catholics,

The Newman Catholic Community at Rochester Institute of Technology is undertaking a major multi-year revitalization effort aimed at deepening its campus presence and expanding engagement with students. As the first step in this initiative, Newman has submitted an ambitious \$35,000 grant proposal to the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Causes and will be seeking additional foundations and supporters—alumni, parents, and benefactors—willing to join our revitalization project.

Since its founding in 1950, Newman has been an essential part of spiritual and community life at RIT, this year serving over 2,500 Catholic students, with over 700 actively participating in our ministry. Newman is the largest religious group and one of the largest student groups on the RIT campus. We offer a variety of services, including Mass, sacraments, pastoral care, and over 60 distinct programs annually, all led by more than 45 student leaders.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic presented substantial challenges, both financially and programmatically, to Newman's operations which we are planning to overcome. In response, we have partnered with RIT Advancement and other stakeholders, working diligently to strengthen our connections with Catholic alumni and parents. Our efforts, including initiatives like ROAR DAY—a campus-wide giving day—have led to a 10% increase in funding compared to last year. This achievement has helped Newman achieve a balanced budget for the first time in four years, but with increased student involvement and operational costs we seek to expand our mission and engagement.

Our community's resilience and dedication are stronger than ever. With support from our donors and partners like you, we have the opportunity to turn challenges into growth and deepen our faith commitment to the young minds, hearts and souls of those we serve each day on campus.

Once funding is secured Newman can offer expanded and enriched programming throughout the year, providing greater

access to daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, retreats, urban service projects, leadership development opportunities, rosary groups, Bible studies, social events, and community meals.

When asked why this all matters, Alex Velez '25, President of the Newman Student E-Board, recently shared with me, "Our mission to build a vibrant Catholic community that supports students on their unique faith journeys is critical because we would not get it

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anywhere else on campus." Mickey Sosa '28, a first-year student and active Newman member, told me, "Newman has been a cornerstone for me as I begin my college experience at RIT. The community and programs have played a crucial role in helping me connect with my faith and fellow students."

By investing in these vital programs, Newman continues its commitment to being a "Home away from Home" for students, fostering an environment of faith and community that is needed now more than ever, especially as young adults seek meaningful connections on secular campuses.

Will you please join me and pray for our students, for this initiative, and for foundations or individuals to step forward and share in our mission? We know through your prayer, and the generosity of all that share our aspirations, we can continue to transform lives with the great gift of our Catholic faith.

Director

Expanding Our Handprints Across Campus: Mural Project Completed

The Catholic Newman Community E-Board at RIT is proud to announce the completion of its highly anticipated mural project, now on display in the student dormitory tunnels. This vibrant mural stands as a beacon of faith, unity, and community, reflecting the shared spirit that defines Newman at RIT.

The project, initiated by the Newman Student E-Board under the leadership of Alex Velez '25, aimed to strengthen the visibility of the Catholic community on campus. Following an exciting art contest and a collaborative selection process, Paige Hinton's design was chosen as the winning piece by her peers.

Hinton's mural beautifully portrays interconnected student hands, symbolizing the mutual support, faith, and unity that binds the Newman Catholic Community. Reflecting on her inspiration, Hinton shared, "The hands in the mural represent the collective strength of Newman—a testament to how students build and uplift one another in faith."

Beyond adding a vibrant touch to the campus, this mural serves as a lasting invitation for future generations to find connection and belonging within the Catholic Newman Community. To further commemorate the mural, its design will feature on the Annual Newman T-shirt, given to all students who register with the community. (If you would like a t-shirt, email: Newman@RIT.edu.



Anthony Rosati Jr. '28



2025 Newman T shirt



Left: Alex Velez '25; Right: Charles Von Goins II '26



Maxwell Hendershot '28

RIT Catholic Community Calendar

November 8 - College Night at the Strong National Museum of Play

November 9 - Mercy Spirituality Center Clean up Morning

November 9-10th - Mercy Spirituality Center Overnight Retreat

November 15 - 16th - Collis Catholic Conference at Cornell

November 16 - Big Newman/Little Newman Social Event

November 17 - Hangout, 6-8pm, 1829 Room

November 24 - Agape Latte

December 2 - Giving Tuesday

December 4 - Advent Day of Confession, 4:30-7pm, Jones Chapel

December 5 - End of Semester Exams Christmas Basket Deadline (Use QR code to order)

December 8 - Christmas Party, 1829 Room

December 9 - Midnight Mass and Dinner 11:30pm - 2:00AM, UR Interfaith Chapel

December 10 - Bowling Night, 7pm



Scan to deliver a study break gift basket during exam week

Fall 2024 Around Newman



Niagara Falls Trip



Newman E-Board
2024-2025



Tiger Stripes
Service Day



Picnic at Father Cool's house



Family Feud during a
Newman Hangout



Orientation Selfie
with Father Cool!



Sunday
Mass



Eve Away Retreat

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Schmitt Interfaith Center
40 Lomb Memorial Drive | Rochester, NY 14623