

Newman: The Field Hospital

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was ministered to by some very wonderful and faith-filled families, ministers and peers who brought me care, focus, love, hope and a deeper understanding of God in my life. They made ALL the difference! One very astute freshman student later wrote me, "Because of your talk, I realize how important this time in college is. How formative it is. Thank you."

Newman at RIT today is indeed a field hospital tending to the spiritual needs of some very beautiful and gifted students. We do so with our Sacramental life including Mass twice each Sunday, confession, opportunities for scripture study, socialization, service opportunities to serve vulnerable populations, and of course many opportunities to attend much needed retreats off campus to build community and grow in their Catholic faith. The Newman Community desires to be the "field hospital" the pope is calling the Church to be, but as you can imagine,

our students' needs are greater than our resources! A Church that is a 'Field Hospital' is critical to our work in sharing Christ's healing and love at a most crucial time in the lives of young adult students.

Your support, as a parent, alum, local resident, friend or student gives us the resources necessary to stock our shelves of the right supplies to do this critical work. And while many things still need to be accomplished, like a strong presence among graduate students and our Deaf community, we remain ever vigilant to these and other needs that come to our door. The Church on campus is a field hospital, and while some wounds are being healed daily, there is so much more that needs to be done and we are grateful for the opportunity to minister to such a beautiful group of students. Thank you!

Fr. Brian Cool
Fr. Brian Cool

Exploring God in the Cold

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RIT's rigorous and prestigious academics bring a hectic pace and enormous pressures into the lives of its students. Newman's retreats give them the chance to take a break, to take time for themselves, and most importantly, to take time for God. The opportunity to disconnect with daily life and reconnect with God through nature, silence, prayer, and one another is vital for a student's faith journey.

Students return from the retreats rejuvenated in their faith and friendships. They bring a passion for God back to share with Newman. The student who sat alone at Mass now has a friend to sit with. The retreat leader has gained new skills to put to work in building the community.

These retreats have been an essential part of Newman's growth and success in meeting students' spiritual needs.

Newman By The Numbers

CURRENT STUDENT, PARENT, ALUMNI, AND LOCAL RESIDENT DATABASE:

1670

BUDGET:

\$63,500.00

CHOIRS: **2**

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

20

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

8

STUDENTS AT MASS:

250

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

30

STUDENT PROGRAMS:

65



Newman 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.

www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/religion/catholiccampusministry.php



R.I.T. Newman Community

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

**COOL
Times**

from

Rev. Brian Cool



Newman: The Field Hospital

Blessings to you this Easter Season!

Last September, an interview quoted Pope Francis comparing the Church with a field hospital. "It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else. Heal the wounds, heal the wounds." This analogy articulates very well what campus ministers have known for a very long time. Here at Rochester Institute of Technology, there are many students challenged by serious and personal needs. It must be the responsibility of the Church on campus to meet these students and their varied needs.

Earlier this month Newman hosted a retreat for over twenty students from RIT. It reminded me of a similar encounter I had one time with a student on a similar retreat. I was asked then to give the "Life Graph" witness. As you can imagine, the witness asked me to discuss my life. With 48 years, I had many things to share. Throughout the witness, I shared how God has been ever present. In my own collegiate career, I

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Exploring God in the Cold



Camp Stella Maris Retreat - March 2014

Campus ministry lacks the blessing of a typical parish, where a sense of community flows naturally from the families in the congregation who have known one another for years, or even generations. The Newman Community's retreats help build this family connection here at RIT, among students from different parts of the country and indeed the world. At the Abbey of the Genesee and at Letchworth State Park, students develop relationships with one another that bring a vibrant life back into Newman long after the weekend is over.

On a secular campus, sharing one's faith can be an uncomfortable experience, bogged down by fear of being judged or ridiculed. In forming friendships, then, Catholic students often hold back an integral part of their iden-



Letchworth State Park Retreat - Feb. 2014

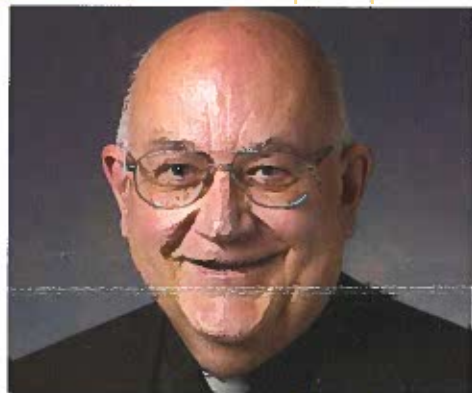
tities. But on retreat with others who share their faith, no such barriers exist. Relationships that last years are forged in prayer in the freezing snow of Letchworth and the quiet isolation of the abbey.

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Priests Serving at RIT

The Catholic Newman Center is fortunate to have several Sacramental Ministers who volunteer their time each semester, building and strengthening RIT students' relationship with the Church.

These priests say Mass weekly, hear confessions, and provide spiritual guidance for our community. We thank them for their service, dedication, and support of RIT students.



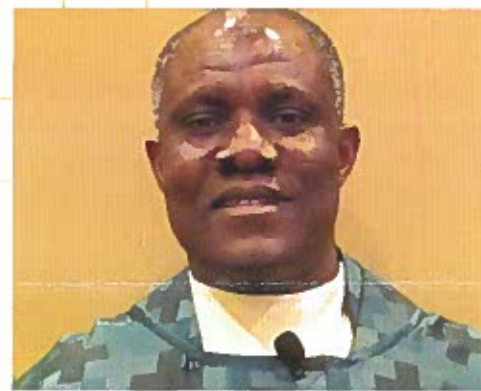
Father Bill Graf's interest in the priesthood began in grade school. He recalls hearing of two influential priests, Saint John Bosco, a teacher and the patron of youth, and Saint Isaac Jogues, a North American missionary and martyr. "I wanted to do what they did," he says. He keeps the spirit of these patron saints alive in the RIT community. "In some ways, I've been a missionary, but most of the time I have been in the classroom working with young people." Each day, he's excited to celebrate the sacraments, preach, teach, and share the special moments listening to others as they share their joys and challenges.

and full of all kinds of experiences," Father Erdle says. Like Father Graf, Father Erdle was enamored throughout grade school with Saint Isaac Jogues' missionary works, which ultimately led to his decision to be ordained. Father Erdle celebrates Mass with our students and hears confessions. One of the high points for him, he says, has been working with the Deaf community at RIT and in greater Rochester.

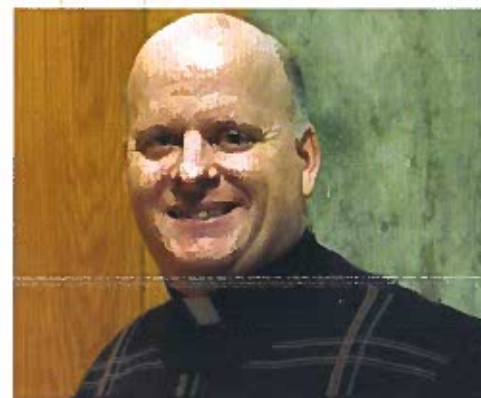


Father Bill Donnelly is a retired priest of the Diocese of Rochester who began his ministry in the influential '60s era. "In those days, Northside Hospital became a counseling practicum for rabbis, ministers, and priests," he says, "with the idea of giving us some tools to help the people who were coming to us, and to learn where more intervention was necessary." He applies the principles he learned at Northside to RIT's Catholic Newman Community, where he is an enthusiastic and energetic leader, saying Mass and teaching the church's ministry with a contemporary approach.

Father Peter Nkansah generously aids the Newman Community when our regular Sacramental Ministers are not available. At 16, he was actively involved with the pastoral activities of his parish in Ghana. He was called to the priesthood during college on his one-



year national service for his country. At RIT, he continues to spread a Catholic message. "I encourage the faithful to develop interest in reading the Bible," he says, "and developing a personal relationship with Jesus through personal prayer and meditation." He guides the youth towards the Lord as their fellow companion in their journey of success.



Father Brian Cool is the Director of Catholic Newman Community Pastoral Care at the University of Rochester. He grew up in Upstate New York, and began his time in the priesthood after graduating from Nazareth College. He says Mass and hears confessions for RIT students, but gets the most enjoyment from providing spiritual guidance. "I just really love helping the students fulfill their spiritual enlightenment," he says. "I think that's one of my greatest gifts to the RIT community."

Faces in the Crowd

Marc Protacio '14, a fourth-year engineering student, grew up in Catholic household in Cherry Hill, NJ. "Religion has certainly played a central part in my life," he says, "along with standards of excellence enforced by my parents." With the recent switch to the semester system, Marc feels an even greater pressure to succeed. "Because of the longer term, more material can be crammed into courses," he says. As he adjusts to the new semesters in his final year at RIT, Marc turns to the Newman Community for a spiritual outlet amidst his hectic workload. It's a place where he can connect to his family roots while he's away from home. As he approaches graduation, Marc believes that RIT's rigorous curriculum has prepared him for work as a mechanical engineer, and that the Catholic Newman Community has strengthened his faith, which he'll carry with him for the rest of his life.



A Ministry of Service

When young men and women emerge from adolescence in the context of a university education, what is the role of the Church in that developmental process? As those young people discern their gifts, vocational inclinations, and life-long passions, where does spiritual development fit in this growth pattern? The ritual and tradition of the Mass provides a spiritual platform to support academic exploration and the changes of burgeoning adulthood. Nothing about it changes, but emphasis can be on prayers, hymns, and intentions important to the life of college students.

Helping students bring the gospel message of Jesus Christ into the classroom and the dorm room is what campus ministry is all about. So the gospel is proclaimed in a way that emphasizes



Deacon's Corner

By Deacon Phil Yawman

issues that are relevant.

The recent gospel story of "the woman at the well" provided a good example of a woman discovering Jesus and being the first evangelist when she invited her friends to come and see Him. Preaching in campus ministry is always sensitive to the listener: anticipating the connections between God's word and the student's worries.

While it sounds simple enough, being present to students is an integral element of campus ministry. Being sensitive to the kaleidoscopic nature of their lives and supporting their sometimes unpredictable attendance at events carefully planned out for them can be challenging at times. Taking delight in their participation whenever that occurs has the makings of a grace-filled moment.

Visit RIT Newman online at

www.rit.edu/studentaffairs/religion/catholiccampusministry.php