

continued from front

Could she assist me with great love and tenderness? This time her response was thoughtful and filled with purpose. With a smile, she replied, "When can we get started?"

During the distribution of the ashes at the first Mass on Ash Wednesday, I spotted her in the crowd of students, faculty and staff gathered to begin the season of Lent. A tear ran down her cheek as she heard the words over and over and over, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is just one example of the richness of my experience here at the Newman Catholic Community at RIT. The days are all very different, and yet, there is one common thread... hungry students! Yes, we do feed students home cooked meals on a monthly basis and yet we have discovered the young people on campus are hungry for God. Hungry for experiences that help them connect with others in service and community as well as prayer. The young people I encounter each day are looking to live lives with passion and to learn more about their faith and what it means to be a beacon of hope and joy in a world that can seem very troubled at times.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for all the ways you support and hold the Newman Catholic Community at RIT with care. We would not be able to do what we do best, which is to be a caring, Christ centered presence for students if it were not for your generosity. Please continue to keep this community and the young people on our campus in your thoughts and prayers. May each of us know the joy of God's mercy and love this Easter season.

Peace and good,
Alice Miller Nation
Newman Catholic Community @ RIT

Selfie with the Bean!



Newman Catholic Community Mass Times:

Sunday 10 a.m. (interpreted) and 5 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

Semester Events:

Bible Study – Thursday evenings at 7 pm in the Sun Room

Winter and Spring Break Service

Learning Retreats

Community Service

RICA

Retreats each semester

Milkshake Mass each month

Community Events

Newman@ RIT receives two grants totaling \$6200

The Newman Catholic Community began the season of Lent with the announcement that we had received a generous grant from the Ministry Foundation Board of the Sisters of St. Joseph. We will now be able to expand our opportunities for outreach and service to the greater Rochester community.

For each service opportunity the Newman Catholic Community offers to students, we find ourselves with a wait list. Students are hungry to share their gifts and talents with others and to learn and experience life through the eyes of others. Service Learning does just this for our students.

This generous grant will allow Newman @ RIT to partner with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester in their outreach ministries by offering more opportunities for service to others. Included in the service experience will be a remember, reflect, respond dialogue so that our reflection and learning goes beyond the one day experience.

The same week we learned of the Ministry Foundation Board Grant, Newman was also notified that we received a Consistent Life Ethic Grant from the Diocese of Rochester. The Service and Outreach Committee of the Newman Catholic Community has partnered with the Rochester Homeless Coalition as well as St. Mary's Church Downtown to minister to the homeless of Rochester. In addition to the grants, the students are fundraising to support this outreach ministry and in April will deliver meals and personal care packages to the homeless of Rochester.

We are very thankful for the support for the ministries of the Newman Community. The seeds have been planted. It is now our responsibility to see that these programs grow in good soil for future generations of students!



Newman Catholic Community

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

LIVING in a WORLD that is HUNGRY



The bag of dried palms, sitting in the corner of the Newman office had been waiting to be burned in preparation for the Ash Wednesday services for too long. This year found us celebrating an early Lent, the remnants of Christmas still lingering. As I was thinking about cleaning out the clutter, a student came into the office and asked if she could sit down.

"In my country we don't have Ash Wednesday. We have Lent, but I don't know about Ash Wednesday. Can you teach me?" And so we sat down with a cup of hot cocoa and we visited about the significance of ashes. After our conversation, I invited this student to assist me in burning the palms from last year to prepare for the Ash Wednesday liturgies on campus. She happily responded, "Sure." I caught her glance and let her know that what we were about to do was very significant. We would take the palms outside behind the chapel. Together we would say a prayer for all who would have ashes spread on their forehead in just a few days. What



we would be doing was a simple task, but vital. We were going to help others prepare themselves to grow closer to the God who loves each of us.

continued on back

Welcome Home!

Winter Service Learning Retreat 2016

The last hour of the trip was a very long hour. The snow was heavy, the roads difficult to navigate and the van was filled with apprehensions about the week ahead. Upon our arrival, the doors of the RIT van were opened and each of us was greeted with a warm, "Welcome Home," and a hug.

It was a week we will remember for a very long time. Before arriving at Nazareth Farm, we knew we would be challenged and stretched farther than we imagined possible. We overcame our fears and many felt as though they had climbed a mountain! We learned about living simply by

continued inside



Students from Rochester Institute of Technology, Ithaca College, Cornell University and LeMoyne College gather in front of the wood shop at Nazareth Farm.

PLEASE HELP US GROW!

When you make your gift to RIT, 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 questions, please feel free to call the Newman Office 585.475.5172



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 of Rochester Institute of Technology.

ritnewman.com

LENT
2016

... Arms Wide Open...

Ash Wednesday gave us the opportunity to distribute 400 wristbands to students, faculty and staff who attended one of the two Masses or distribution of ashes. Again this year, the Newman Community was pleased to welcome Bishop Matano to campus for the 5 p.m. Ash Wednesday Mass. It is always a delight to have him be part of and see the faithfulness of our students, faculty and staff.

Arms wide open is the theme for Lent at Newman this year. Every day, our God greets us with arms wide open. And yet, many of us are hesitant to fully accept God's unconditional love, mercy and forgiveness. We think of the reasons this might be meant for others, but maybe not for us. You and I are sometime quick to think of the troubles we have brought upon ourselves, our shame and our guilt. On the other hand, God looks at our graces, not our disgraces. Newman is challenging students, faculty and staff to use Lent as a time to walk towards our loving God,

right into God's arms of acceptance and compassion. When we can see ourselves as God does, we then can see others with the same loving eyes of God.

Lent has offered many opportunities for our students to experience God's love with arms wide open...

An Evening Away @ RIT where students from St. Bonaventure University involved in ministry at Mt. Irenaeus came and shared an evening of reflection and dinner. Fifteen students are paired with a Sister of St. Joseph and together are participating in the Busy Person's Retreat on campus each week for four weeks. Eight students traveled to the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard, NY for the 2:30 a.m. Vespers service and then breakfast at Denny's in Geneseo to be back on campus before daybreak! Benediction is offered once a month as well as Stations of the Cross throughout Lent. Yes, the season of Lent offered many opportunities for each of us to experience God's love and compas-

Nazareth Farm *continued from front* conserving water and food, electricity and heat. By day, we built porches and underpinned homes in eight degree weather. Many spent time at a soup kitchen and visited with the guests. The experience gave us an opportunity to see life from a different perspective. We were awed.

Evenings were spent praying and playing



The woodshop at the Farm offers the opportunity for volunteers to create a memory to leave at Nazareth Farm. Sarah Kridenoff, a second year furniture design major, created this artwork to hang at the Farm.

together as well as learning about Catholic Social Teaching. We learned about the environment and about the fragility of our mother, the Earth. For many, our eyes were opened, hopefully to never close again.

Seven members of the Newman Catholic Community @ RIT spent a week at Nazareth Farm in Salem, West Virginia with students from Ithaca College and Cornell University in Ithaca and LeMoyne College in Syracuse. Along with the staff at the Farm, we provided home repairs to those living in substandard housing in the Appalachian area of the US.

Silva Matti posted a poem on her Facebook page after returning to RIT.

LOST IN TIME & SPACE:

Once upon a time in rural West Virginia in a place full of love called Nazareth Farm, I was there, I met some strangers,
We prayed together,
We worked together, with amazing crews in blessed and humble work places that were more than inspiring,



sion with arms wide open. It is our hope that each of us can carry God's love and hope to those people and experiences we encounter each day. Keep living life with... arms wide open...

In April, we welcome members of our local community as well as four college students to the Easter sacraments. The RCIA process has been a joy this year as all of us have grown in faith and learned new ways to allow God to "whisper into our ear". Blessings and peace to our candidates and catechumens.



Chalkboard in the dining room of the Farm.

We laughed a lot,
Some crazy funny games also,
We even shared our tears and worries,
Then! We had to say our goodbye to those who were strangers and became family.
It was a simple life of community, service, prayer and simplicity.
Once upon a time it was heaven on earth.

-Silva Matti

Silva is a member of the Newman Catholic Community as a Fulbright scholar studying at RIT from Iraq.

"Agape" is a Greek word for a kind of love that seeks nothing in return.

Agape Latte?

Thanks to the Church in the 21st Century at Boston College, the Center for Religious Life and the Newman Catholic Community, our first Agape Latte event was held on February 11th in the Fireside Lounge in the Campus Center.

"Agape" is a Greek word for a kind of love that seeks nothing in return. Latte simply means we served awesome desserts, coffee and hot chocolate along with an inspiring serving of hope and passion from Ernest Fokoue, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the School of Mathematical Sciences at RIT.

Ernest spoke of his belief and love for God and shared that as he comes onto campus each day his prayer is to be a blessing to all those he meets. Ernest told those gathered, "I have no time to focus on the shortcomings of others when I arrive on this campus. I simply try to look into the eyes of each person I meet and discover the God reflected through that person." In an engaging and passionate way, each of the 65 participants was invited to live their lives adopting this attitude of presence for and with others.

We look forward to a long relationship with Agape Latte @ RIT. The Church in the 21st Century at Boston College has been absolutely awesome as they have mentored our leadership team this year.

You can look forward to our next Agape Latte on Thursday, April 14th at 8 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge when Coach Mike Maiorano, the assistant women's basketball coach at RIT will be our featured speaker. All are welcome!



Ernest Fokoue speaks to students at Agape Latte.



65 students gather for desserts, coffee and inspiring words from Ernest Fokoue.



Join us
Thursday, April 14th at 8 pm
in the Fireside Lounge.