



Kim Winden

Associate Director

Wow...what a turn of events our Spring semester took due to COVID-19! When I first heard that the remainder of the semester was going to be online,

I was a bit shocked. I anticipated it would happen, but once it was official my mind raced with the changes to come...the changes to our Newman programming, the changes to our funding, the changes to how we reach students, and the changes to how we gather socially and spiritually. Beyond that, I reflected on the changes to our world and our safety. After the shock set in, we as a ministry team decided that we had no time to waste - we had to jump in full force moving our ministry to virtual engagement if we were to give our students the faith experiences they needed and longed for. This was a big undertaking that seemed a little scary, but we kept praying for God to meet us where we were, so that we could minister to our students who so very deeply needed Christ and community in that moment. We pushed

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forward with Virtual Hangouts, Virtual Prayer Services, Zoom Alpha, student-led small groups, 1:1 spiritual care talks, and four Friday mini retreats, each one hosting an internationally-

recognized Catholic speaker/songwriter. We even had some virtual coffee hours to catch up and check in with each other after mass.

In Isaiah 43:2 we are reminded that God will go with us when we go through deep waters. Every step of the way I kept praying "God, bless this ministry. We are in deep waters and we need you. Join us in the eye of the storm and take control." Multiple times I listened to the song In the Eye of the Storm by Ryan Stevenson. The refrain brought so much hope and comfort to my heart...

In The Eye of the Storm

In the eye of the storm
You remain in control
And in the middle of the war
You guard my soul
You alone are the anchor
When my sails are torn
Your love surrounds me
In the eye of the storm

He sure took control, and continues to guide and protect us in these deep waters. Our virtual ministry journey took off and hasn't slowed down since. We trust that Jesus is guiding all our efforts and is inspiring our students, staff, and local residents a new energy. Christ is alive and well in this wonderful community, even if we are physically separated by screens and Zoom links.

The world is a scary place right now, but I thank God everyday for the opportunities we have to maneuver this unprecedented time, such as technology to allow us to gather in unique ways, priests and other leaders willing to stream liturgy and prayers, and frontline essential workers doing everything they can to protect others. Due to the resources we have, we can continue our religious practices and faith formation in the safety of our homes.

Every day I pray for all of you. You know how important it is for these students to have a Christ-centered college journey. You are essential to our students and our ministry, and you are so appreciated for your support and your prayers. Thank you for staying connected and being an essential part of allowing us to live out Newman's mission.

God bless you and your families during this trying time. May God meet you in the eye of the storm and guide you with His mercy and grace.

Peace,





Newman prepares for a community Zoom call.



Students sport their new Tiger Stripes volunteer shirts before heading to Mercy Spirituality Center for the annual clean-up.



The Knights of Columbus Trick-or-Treat for canned goods that they donate to Food Link.



Students learn about trust with Camp Stella Maris



Maggie Blaisdell

Treasurer
Tiger Stripes Coordinator

School can be hectic; that is not a profound or original statement. Every student faces the challenges of the semester, and some weeks are definitely

rougher than others. But no matter how difficult the week is, or how many projects fill the calendar, there is one place that I know I can turn to: Newman.

The door is always open, and often times I find myself wandering into the Interfaith Office just to see a friendly face and make myself a cup of tea. The new couch is exceptionally comfy and the conversation is always uplifting. Even coming in for work is a stress-relieving experience. Once in a while Kim will let me know that I can take a day off, but I never do. Mass is the same; I look forward to Sundays when I get to pass out hymnals with Mike and Alan, and welcome everyone into the Allen Chapel.

Yet, there is one aspect of Newman that I love above all, and that is volunteering. This fall semester, Kim asked me to organize Newman's own "Operation Christmas Child." We were fortunate enough to donate 30 shoeboxes filled with essentials and toys for kids in need to the national organization (www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child). Students and local residents donated items, ranging from toothbrushes to teddy bears, and then we had a big "stuffing party" after mass. Volunteers filled the boxes with the donated items and then grabbed markers and paper to create Christmas cards for the children. The generosity and support of the community was inspiring.

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Newman allows me to express my faith through service. Volunteering helps me to put my own life into perspective. When I am helping others, my own problems fade away. Tiger Stripes gives RIT Newman students the opportunity to share in that aspect of their faith, and I am thankful every day that I get to be a part of it. Even though school is hectic, I always have time for Newman!



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“ To me, being part of Newman means being part of a warm, accepting, caring group that gives me support when I need it, guidance when I ask for it, and laughter at all times. ”

Marcela Lopez

5th year senior

“ Newman has been a rock for me. In hard times and in good ones, I can always rely on my faith, which has been generously supported by Newman. ”

Mark Nicolella

3rd year



“ Through events like Alpha and Agape Latte, being part of Newman at RIT has helped me grow in my Catholic faith in ways I never thought possible. Not only that, but I consider the people within Newman to be a part of my family. There's an incredible amount of love and support from the moment you walk into any room. ”

Ellie McCullagh

3rd year

“ Even in difficult times, the Newman Community at RIT has found ways to be there for students who want to keep faith strong when hope and joy are harder to come by. I'm thankful to everyone who has made that happen. ”

Dylan Green

2nd year

