

## Cool Thoughts: *Building Our Future*



Some days I wonder what it would like to be Pope Francis. Don't get me wrong, I have zero desire to be Pope. Actually, I truly love what I do as a Campus Minister. I even find it hard to express the deep joy I have for the energy, passion, goodness and faith our students possess and share each and every day. It is inspiring.

My wonder comes simply from what it must take to organize a worldwide organization of over one billion Catholics. No doubt, the Church in each country faces significant challenges and has many real needs. The Pope must not only worry about them, but he must name them, and work to address them in real and substantive ways. And he must do so motivating others, like you, who are willing to lay down their lives to let Christ shine. He must find the resources, both human and financial, to build a spiritual response that reveals the love and divine presence of Jesus for those who seek him.

Fortunately, I am not the Pope! However, I am a leader of the Catholic Newman Community here at Rochester Institute of Technology. In this role I take seriously the same challenges of human and financial challenges as we build a spiritual community centered around Christ. I worry deeply about the students I serve. They have hopes, dreams, and aspirations. Increasingly, they face pain and confusion in a world with so many contrary voices. Above all, they have a deep and abiding faith that inspires me, as it would you, each day.

Every previous chaplain who has served here, Fr. Appleby, Fr. Sauers, Fr. Catanise, Sr. Marlene and Alice Miller Nation (to name only a few) have guided our ministry for now over 60 years! And like all those in the Universal Church, our students desire to know Christ and they seek a relationship with Him. With you, I hope to be able to make this relationship grow and become stronger. Like you,

I know in it they will find strength, joy, hope along with the grace to confront all obstacles and become the person God creates them to be.

Each Wednesday, when I walk into the Interfaith Chapel, I encounter ten to twelve students. They are just hanging out on the couches. They gather to talk while they do homework or discuss their lives. They are gathering before mass, joining fifteen other students, knowing that they will be fed with the Bread of Angels and by which they become leaven to one another. They truly hunger for God.

***"For far too long, Newman has struggled day to day, and year to year..."***

It is for them that I am pleased to announce the formation of Newman's Advisory Board. The seven members will soon be joined by others and work to create the first strategic plan to build a sustainable ministry at RIT for generations. For far too long, Newman has struggled day to day, and year to year. The Advisory Board will work to meet the challenges of present day and those the future may bring. Will you join me in praying for them and supporting their efforts on behalf of Newman? I am so deeply grateful for their wisdom, generosity and keen insights. More to come about their work!

Pope Francis no doubt feels the stress of building a Church, as do I. However, with our Newman Advisory Board, the students I serve daily and with you, I am confident the Catholic ministry here at the Rochester Institute of Technology is being touched by the spirit, and our future, and the Church's future is bright.

Peace,  
*Fr. Brian C. Cool*  
Rev. Brian C. Cool  
Director

## Photo Album



Students hanging out at The Center Wednesday before Mass!

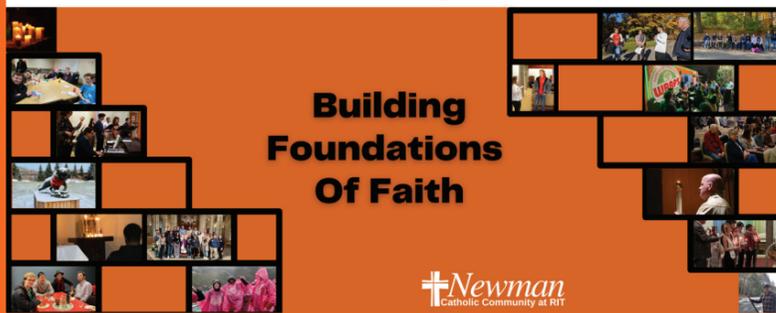


Newman Hangouts



Kairos XXXVIII, February 12-14, 2023 at Notre Dame Retreat House

## Day of Giving | 4.19.23





Spring  
2023  
Events

**WEEKLY MASS**

Sundays 9:15 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.  
Wednesdays 5:30 p.m.  
Adoration, 5:00 p.m.–5.30 p.m.

**TUTORING**

Thursdays 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.  
Nativity Prep Academy

**SERVICE PROJECT**

March 8, 2023 &  
April 26, 2023  
5:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Bethany House Catholic  
Worker

**WOMEN'S RETREAT,**

March 11, 2023  
9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.  
Sisters of St. Joseph's Virtual

**NEWMAN HANGOUT**

March 26, 2023  
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.  
Interfaith Center

**HOLY WEEK**

Liturgy of the Hours  
Daily 5:00 p.m.  
Holy Thursday 5:00 p.m.  
Allen Chapel  
Good Friday 5:00 p.m.,  
Allen Chapel  
Holy Saturday 11:00 a.m.

**Palm Sunday**

Mass 9:15 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Holy Thursday**

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
7:30 p.m.

**Good Friday**

Veneration of the Cross  
12:30 p.m.

**Holy Saturday**

Vigil 8:00p.m. at Uof R Chapel

**Easter Sunday Mass**

9:15 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**DAY OF GIVING**

April 19, 2023

**Baccalaureate Mass**

May 11, 2023  
5:00 p.m.  
Allen Chapel

## Student Embraces Faith

By Mike Latona, *Catholic Courier*

Although their stories unfolded 2,000 years apart, it's easy to see why Chase Lear likens his spiritual journey to that of St. Paul.

Both were young men who refused to accept Christ into their lives before undergoing conversions. Thereafter, they became consumed with spreading the good news.

Lear's said he had harbored "a deep and dark conviction of atheism" during his adolescent years. Yet the 22-year-old senior at Rochester Institute of Technology gradually came to embrace the Catholic faith, going through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process through the school's Newman Catholic Community. He was baptized, confirmed and received his first holy Communion this past Easter Vigil.

Now a highly active student leader in the Newman Community, Lear embraces his new Catholic identity.

"It's my favorite thing to talk about, my favorite thing to participate in," he said. "But it's weird, because I haven't even been Catholic a year yet. I feel so, like, at home."

Although he said he grew up in a family with "deep roots in the Catholic Church," Lear turned to rebuking the church and other institutions during his teen years.

"I was a very rebellious child," he acknowledged.

However, even when he rejected God, "He was nonetheless right by my side, walking through my dark and sinful life with me all along," Lear said.

Unlike the conversion experience of St. Paul, a persecutor of early Christians who was temporarily struck blind on the road to Damascus, Lear had no dramatic encounter with Christ. Rather, he said, his conversion was gradual.

"Ultimately, there was no profound logical argument from a theologian or apologist that moved my heart," he said, noting that he drew closer to Jesus thanks largely to "the presence of the loving and faithful Catholics around me."

Thus began what Lear described as "a deep love for the Catholic Church. ... I found myself gradually drawn more and more to the beauty of the sacraments."



Chase Lear '23

This summer, Lear took part in a missionary service program at the Youth Apostles Institute in Virginia. Now, back with RIT's Newman community, he's serving as a leader for the current four-person RCIA class.

Lear is majoring in new media interactive development. He acknowledged that his academic workload is intense — but never to the point that he'd ignore his faith life.

"It's simple. If I give up that, all the other things will fall apart," he said. "If I give up praying, I won't be able to keep up the other things. You can put off Mass, you can put off prayer, but it's never going to work."

Instead, Lear said he pops into the Schmitt Interfaith Center "pretty much every day" whether to attend Mass, pray the Liturgy of the Hours with fellow students or just get homework done.

"Our (5:30 p.m.) Wednesday Mass is always fun. There's always a solid, regular group of people. We usually go out to dinner afterward," he said.

Lear said his Catholic faith will remain a big priority regardless of where his career may take him after graduation from RIT, scheduled for May 2023.



Chase Lear '23 at daily mass

"Your witness doesn't stop. You are always an example, a hand of Jesus to other people," he said.

Lear said he plans to continue stressing Catholic theology and traditions to counter a secular world he said "openly rejects" Catholic values on such matters as chastity, marriage and family. Through his evangelization efforts, he seeks to connect not only with people immersed in the Catholic faith but also those who are unchurched — even if they initially resist his message.

"I love when people have qualms or questions. I see my old self," he remarked. "Converts lead converts. I love being that person."

*Used with permission Catholic Courier.*

Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
8th Bishop of Rochester  
1937 - 2023



## Remembering Bishop Matthew Clark

The Catholic Newman Community remembers with great affection, Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark who died Sunday, January 22, 2022 following a period of declining health. Clark was 85.

Bishop Clark was ordained a priest in 1962, became a bishop and was named the eighth Bishop of Rochester on June 26, 1979. He served for over 33 years until his resignation in 2012. Bishop Clark was long known to support the missions of academic universities having received honorary doctoral degrees and had a special passion for campus ministry, often visiting campus yearly.

"Bishop Clark was one of the finest and most well-rounded individuals I have ever known: loving, prayerful, learned, engaging, lighthearted, well-spoken, forward-looking, interesting," observed Father Joseph Hart, pastor of Brighton's St. Thomas More/Our Lady Queen of Peace parishes. Father Hart served as diocesan vicar general and moderator of the curia under Bishop Clark from 1998–2012.

*"...one of the finest and most well-rounded individuals I have ever known..."*

# Newman Establishes First Ever Advisory Board: **Building Our Future**

**A**s Catholic life at RIT continues to grow Newman has established our first Advisory Board Committee. The goal of this Board is to provide critical direction to enable the mission of the Catholic Newman Community by articulating strategic goals and initiatives and build a sustainable ministry at RIT. We are grateful for their willingness to serve and provide this essential leadership as students, the University and the Church face challenging needs.

## **Dimple Joseph**



Dimple Joseph attended and graduate from Rochester Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in Industrial Engineering and master's degree in Engineering Management. During college, Dimple joined Abbott as an intern and after graduation, she joined the team and is now Lead Operational Excellence Engineer, most recently as part of the BinaxNOW team, Abbott's COVID-19 Ag Rapid Test. In 2022, she was awarded the Emerging Leader Award by Kate Gleason College of Engineering at Rochester Institute of Technology.

## **Thy Do**

Thy is currently a validation engineer at Microchip Technology and graduated from RIT in 2018 with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. During her time at RIT, she was involved with the Newman Center and served on the Eboard helping to organize retreats, social events, and service opportunities. After graduating, her time with the Newman center inspired her to spend a year as an Americorps serving at Maggie's Place to support women in crisis pregnancies.



## **Kevin Sheldon**



Joined CareJourney in 2017 and serves as Chief Operating Officer overseeing marketing, finance, investment strategy, member services, business development, and human resources. Prior Kevin had a long career in digital marketing and business intelligence for start-ups and large companies including AOL. Kevin received an MBA from the William E. Simon School of Business, University of Rochester and a Bachelor's degree in MIS from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Kevin also served as President of RIT's Alumni Association and as a RIT Trustee.

**Dr. Mike Vernarelli**

Mike holds a Masters in Pastoral Studies from St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry and a Doctorate in Economics from the University of Michigan. He has 20 years’ experience in youth catechesis at the parish level including 8 years as Youth Minister in the Diocese of Rochester. Mike retired after a 40-year career at RIT as a Professor of Economics. Currently Mike volunteers as a Newman Chaplain eagerly helping to plan and implement various student events.



**Dr. Richard DeMartino**



Richard DeMartino holds the Albert J. Simone Endowed Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and serves as director the Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In this capacity, he works to develop diverse and inclusive experiential and multidisciplinary innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the RIT Community.

Rich has taught at the McIntire School of Commerce, Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia where he received PhD.

**Rev. Dr. Brian C. Cool**

Fr. Cool has served at the Rochester Institute of Technology since 2010 and the University of Rochester since 1999. He has degrees from Nazareth College of Rochester, St. Mary’s Seminary & University, Baltimore, Md., and a Doctorate from the University of Rochester. Additionally, he is on the Board of Directors at Catholic Charities Family and Community Services in Rochester and past chair of the Diocese of Rochester Public Policy Committee and New York State Bishop’s Public Policy Committee.



Over the next year, the Advisory Board will be seeking to expand its membership, strengthen the working relationship with RIT Advancement and Leadership while developing a strategic plan to address critical needs.

**Mark Saunders**



Mark Saunders is an Avionics Engineer at ABL Space Systems, where he applies his expertise in software engineering, embedded systems. Mark graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Engineering, and during his time at RIT, he earned the distinction of Amateur Radio Extra Class License from the FCC.

Along with his team of two freshman and a fourth-year student, Mark designed and constructed a BLE-enabled smart pillow, which won against all the senior design projects.

