



 **Newman**
Catholic Community at RIT

2022–2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Cool Thoughts

Dear Tiger Catholics,

As we come to the end of another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude and awe for all that we have achieved together. It is with immense joy that I reflect on the past year, marking my ninth year with the Catholic Newman Community. The support and dedication of individuals like you have made it possible for us to accomplish incredible things.

In this year's report, you will witness the profound impact we have had on the lives of our students and the wider community. Week after week, we have welcomed over 250 students who have found solace and inspiration at our Sunday masses, social programming, spiritual growth opportunities, and service initiatives. Whether it was through our 60 programs, we have fostered a warm and nurturing environment where students can find a sense of belonging and strengthen their Catholic faith.

The numbers speak volumes of our collective efforts. We have recorded an astonishing 200 hours of tutoring and mentoring services, highlighting our commitment to service and academic success for young minds and hearts at the Nativity Preparatory School and Boys and Girls Club of Rochester. Sunday Masses, attended by over 300 unique individuals, have been a source of spiritual nourishment and communion. The return of our signature retreat program Kairos was an experience of transformation for almost 40 students. Additionally, we are proud to have witnessed the full initiation of four students into the Church, and feeding over 400 meals to students throughout the year have further enriched our community. And let's not forget the joyous trip to Niagara Falls and the Maid of the Mist boat into the falls itself. To be honest, I am still drying off 😊.

While we have achieved so much, we also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Like any organization, we face rising costs in these times of high inflation. Balancing the financial demands of providing competitive salaries and health insurance for our staff while meeting the growing ministerial needs of our students has been a daunting task. However, we remain resolute in our commitment to overcome these obstacles and continue our important work.

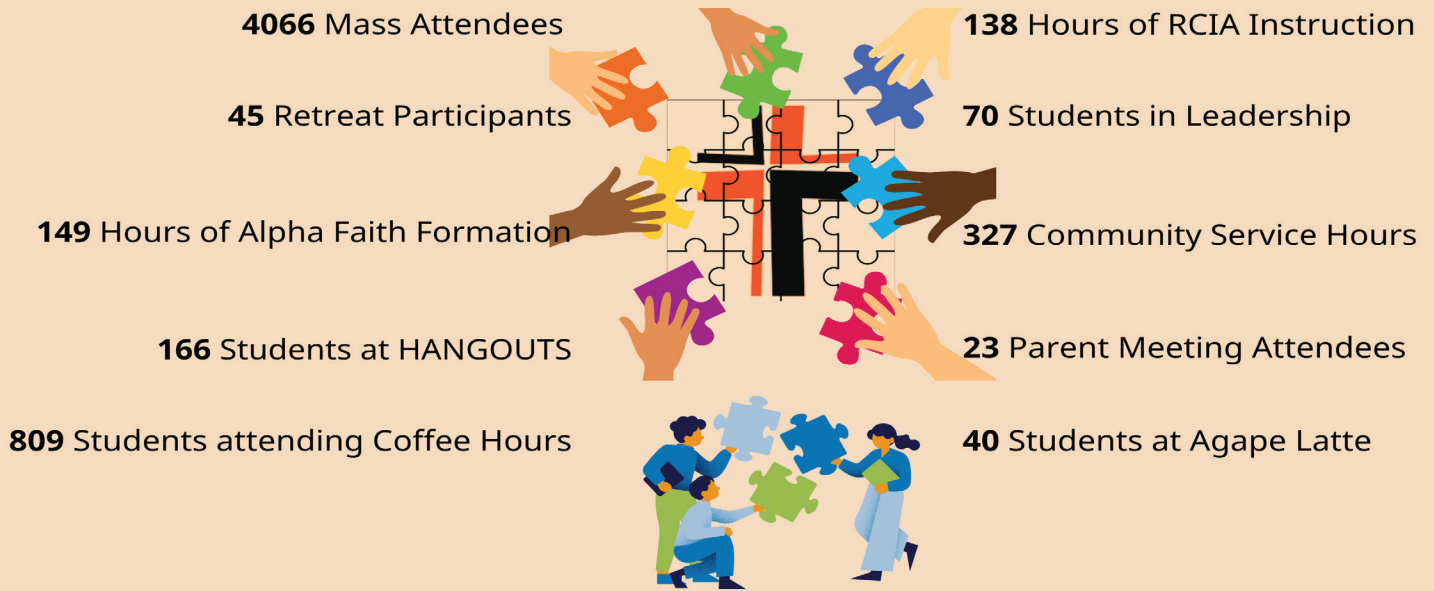
As we bid farewell to this year, and already look forward to welcoming the Class of 2028, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, whether through your presence, prayers, or financial contributions, has been instrumental in creating an environment where students can thrive spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. Together, we have made a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

With faith in Christ Jesus, and with confidence in your continued support, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and inspire them to live out their Catholic faith with passion, vigor and purpose. There is so much more being planned for the coming year! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment. Thank you for being an essential part of the Catholic Newman Community at RIT.

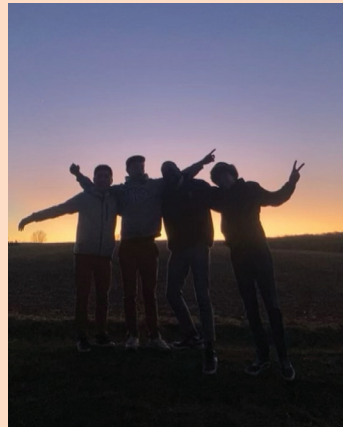
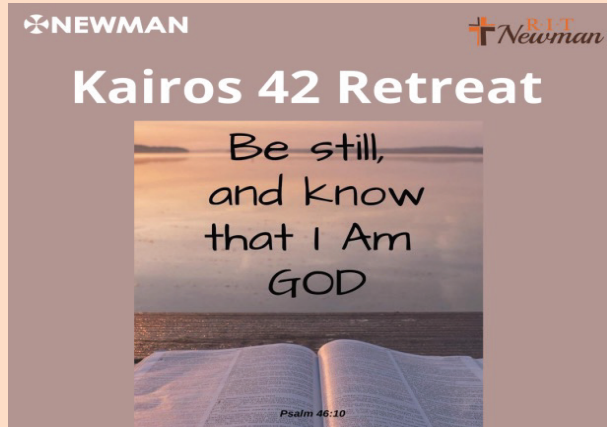
Yours in faith,

PS...Be on the lookout for RIT Newman's first ever strategic plan being created by the Advisory Board which will be published this fall! We are on the move!!

Newman by the Numbers



KAIROS 42—Be Still, and Know I Am God.



Each February, Newman presents the Kairos 42 Retreat at the Notre Dame Catholic Retreat Center, which overlooks the picturesque Canandaigua Lake in Canandaigua, NY. This serene location adds to the tranquil atmosphere of the retreat, a perfect setting for students from the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology to come together and delve into the enriching experience of unity, spiritual growth, and self-discovery. The breathtaking surroundings complement the theme of the retreat, “Be STILL and KNOW I AM God,” providing a peaceful backdrop for the transformative journey that awaits all participants.



WHY NEWMAN?!

Meet the E-Board Catholic Tigers!

Name: Christis Shepard
Graduation Year: 2026
Major: Museum Studies
Hometown: Bayonne, New Jersey



Why Newman: “It’s fun to be able to practice our faith among our peers. You don’t normally get to have that in college. You can also make a lot of friends with people of the similar faith.”

Name: Ian LaForest
Major: 3D Animation
Graduation Year: 2024
Hometown: Shaker Heights, Ohio



Why Newman: “It keeps my faith strong thanks to its community of people. It is a constant reminder of the most important task in my life. Being forced to love God and choosing to love God are two different things and produce vastly different results. Choosing to love God by your own will, even if it’s slow, will result in an improved sense of happiness. I urge others to get involved at Newman for this reason.”

Name: Thomas Pawlak
Major: Computing and Information Technologies
Graduation Year: 2025
Hometown: Clarence, New York



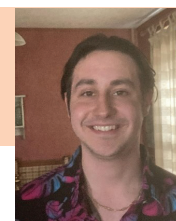
Why Newman: “It helped me grow in my faith and continue practicing it in college, with a group of like-minded peers. If you are a Catholic at RIT, this is your parish, and it is available to you. Newman thrives when new people bring their own experiences to the table and relies on new membership each year to keep itself running. I’ve personally made excellent friends and don’t doubt that you will, too!”

Name: Tobi Fadipe
Major: Psychology
Graduation Year: 2025
Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria



Why Newman: “It gives me a way of staying connected to my faith while going through the college experience. I think others should get involved with Newman because you will make friends who you have something in common with no matter what differences you have.”

Name: Noah Decker
Major: Chemical Engineering
Graduation Year: 2025
Hometown: Schenectady, New York



Why Newman: “At Newman, everyone is committed to growing together as a community. The community welcomes all and encourages each other to be their best. Becoming involved at Newman, is a great way to develop in a personal and spiritual way, which I think is important for a happy and successful life.”

Name: Theresa Haas
Major: Psychology
Graduation Year: 2025
Hometown: Chester, Pennsylvania



Why Newman: “I can grow in my faith with people who love God like I do!... It is easier to make friends when you get involved!”

Name: James Fay
Major: Mechanical Engineering Technology
Graduation Year: 2026
Hometown: Nicholson, Pennsylvania



Why Newman: “I love Newman because it has inspired me to grow deeper in my faith through the events hosted by Newman and because I have made many good friends. Newman has become my home away from home. I think others should get involved at Newman because the community has helped me grow to be a better disciple of Christ while also building many friendships and having a good time.”

Congratulations Newman Class of 2023!

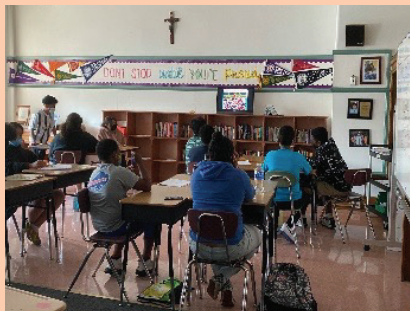
Ikenna Ajah
 Oliver Alonzo
 April Arbutiski
 Anthony Bacchetta
 Maryalice Ball
 Renee Banagan
 Meghan Barker
 Ethan Bartiromo
 Derek Basta
 Benjamin Blakley
 Rebecca Bober
 Andrew Carbonari
 Gia Caruso
 Giovanna Caruso
 Andrew Cochrane
 James Coppola
 Julio Cuello Paiewonsky
 Sarah D'Souza
 Dominic DeByle
 Erika Doroshenko

Sean Duffy
 Jessica Edwards
 Gerald Galano
 Jose Garza
 Holland Gillis
 Dylan Green
 John Hackett
 Kayla Houston
 Swath I Jacob
 John Kinsley
 Gina La Rosa
 Jesse Martin
 Dominic Melchiorre
 Christina Nguyen
 Afe Omiyi
 Robert Opielski
 Cashmere Pascual
 Anthony Peruma
 Nicholas Piwko
 David Prichett

Joseph Pulsoni
 Victoria Rea
 Luke Roberge
 Michael Romano
 Anthony Roonan
 Jack Ryan
 John Ryan
 Patrick Sammon
 Katherine See
 Allen Smith
 Christian Steiner
 Matthew Stoffolano
 Ryan Torpey
 Swetna Annette Tribhuvan
 Joey Trumbull
 Alessandria Vigneri
 Liza Ward
 Peter Wengert
 Michelle Yim
 Nicholas Zarach

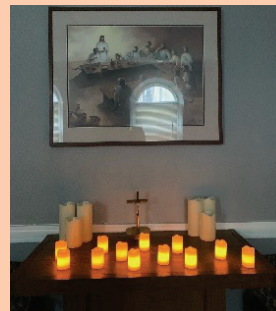


Serving Those In Need With Love and Faith



Nativity Preparatory School

Noah Decker '25 helping students with math homework (left).
 RIT Students tutoring Nativity Prep Students (right)



Bethany House For Women and Children

Prayer Service (left).
 Tobi Fadipe '25 making dessert for guests (right)

The RIT Newman Catholic Community, through the Tiger Crossways Ministry program has been making a significant impact in the community. Volunteers engage in activities including Nativity Prep Academy, Bethany House, St. Anne's Nursing Home, St. Joe's House of Hospitality, The Boys and Girls Club, and Mercy Spirituality Center to uplift those in need. This year we provided CASE Training (Creating A Safe Environment) through the Diocese of Rochester for 50 students who want to volunteer with Newman, through Tiger Crossways. Through their volunteer work, they have touched the lives of many individuals and organizations.

One initiative is tutoring at Nativity Prep Academy Middle School, where we provide academic support and mentorship to over 25 middle school students, helping them unlock their full potential. Through this experience, they discover how their own gifts and talents are strengthened. Brendan, from McKinney, TX, has tutored weekly shared, "Being a tutor has not only allowed me to make a positive impact on these young minds and be a positive role model for them but has also been a way for me to be a light to others."



Annual Donors

We are deeply grateful for the support of the following alumni, parents, student and friends who support Catholic life at RIT. You are critical to our ministry! We aim to acknowledge and regret any inadvertent omissions. Please contact us with any changes.

Doctors of the Church (\$5,000 and above)

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Ministry Foundation, Inc.

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Venerable Disciple (\$500–\$999)

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Thomas and Megan Wasik
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Robert Zimmerman



Grants Awarded to RIT Catholic Newman Community



We are delighted to share that the RIT Catholic Newman Community has been chosen to receive a grant from the Congregation of St. Basil based in Toronto, Canada. The Basilian Fathers were impressed by Newman's exceptional dedication to promoting justice, peace, and empowerment, which strongly aligns with their own principles. The grant will pave the way for the creation of the inspiring "Tiger's Crossways" project. This initiative aims to bring together RIT students and young individuals from the City of Rochester in a mentoring relationship, fostering connections and bridging the gap between various communities. This remarkable acknowledgment highlights our commitment to our Catholic faith and the biblical vision of justice and peace shared by the Basilian Fathers.

Additionally, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Ministry Foundation in Rochester, NY. Awarded, for the sixth consecutive year, a generous community grant seeking partnerships and ministries that align with their mission actively contributing towards alleviating ignorance, poverty, and oppression within our community. Newman's focus is on providing service in places where the Sisters themselves serve, including the Bethany House for women and children, and the Nativity Prep School that serves underserved youth, both of which have been highlighted in our report. This grant also empowers RIT students to explore their own sense of purpose through deep reflection on how they can serve others, guided by faith and prayer.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed ministry partners, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Rochester and the Basilian Fathers. Their belief in our ability to make a positive difference in the world, inspired by our Catholic faith, motivates us to continue our meaningful work.



SAVE THE DATE

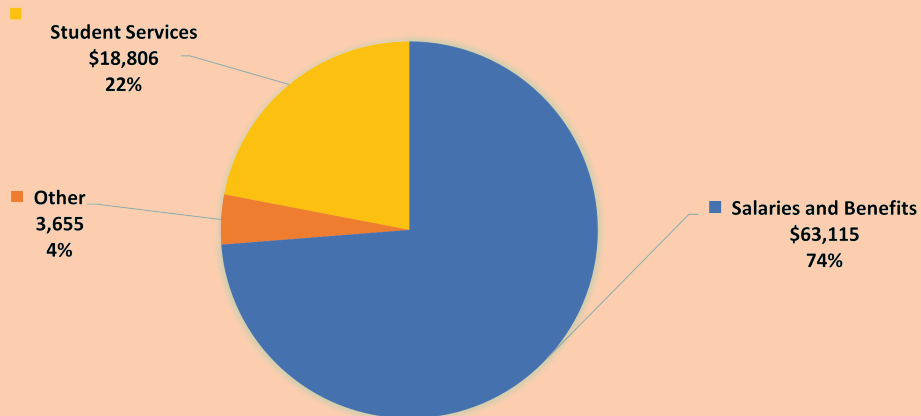
SEP 28-29, 2023

MAKE A GIFT [RIT.EDU/ROAR](https://rit.edu/roar)
DESIGNATE CATHOLIC NEWMAN COMMUNITY

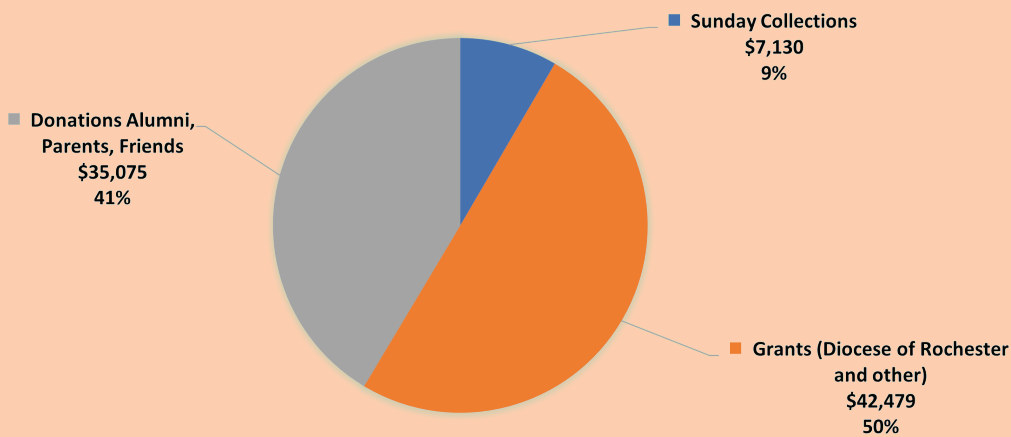
Financial Report

Year-End Fiscal Result
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

OPERATING EXPENSES: \$85,576



OPERATING INCOME: \$84,684



Our Team

ADVISORY BOARD

- Rev. Brian Cool
- Richard DeMartino
- Quynh-Thy Do
- Ron Dufort
- Dimple Joseph
- Katie Linendoll (Honorary)
- Dan Rosica
- Mark Saunders
- Kevin Sheldon
- Michael Vernarelli

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Rev. Brian Cool
- James Gaudet
- Laurie Martin
- Dan Rosica

STAFF

- Rev. Brian Cool, Director
- Sr. Leandra Kosmoski, SSJ
- James Miller
- Kristen Smith
- Michael Vernarelli

Connect with us! www.ritnewman.com



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

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

As 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 '18



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 '19

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 '02



Kevin 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, Ph.D.

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, Ph.D '09

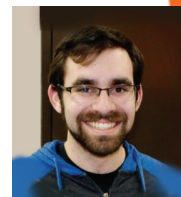


Richard DeMartino holds the Albert J. Simone Endowed Chair for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) and serves as director the Simone Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. In this capacity, he works to develop diverse and inclusive experiential and multidisciplinary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

Mark Saunders '18

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.



Ron Dufort '15

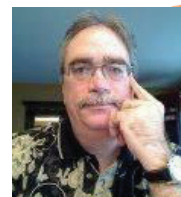


A Systems Engineer and Technical Program Manager at Xerox Corporation, Ron specializes in product design and delivery supporting the A3 and A4 Multifunction printers within Xerox's Global Development Group. He has worked at Xerox for over 25 years, gaining experience in various positions including serving as Design Engineer, Subsystem Engineer, and Module Manager for various modules within High-Volume Production Printers, A3 printers, and new technologies. Ron has a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the RIT. At RIT he was active in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Student Music Association (president) and RIT Players.

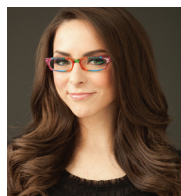
Today he is active with many non-profits boards including the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee; The Penfield Players Theater and current Vice President of The Company Theater and the Catholic Newman Community choir.

Dan Rosica '90

An experienced professional in higher education and technology, Dan holds a degree in Business from the State University of New York at Alfred. By leveraging technology for enhanced learning, his diverse career began by managing national restaurants in upstate NY before transitioning into entrepreneurship, where he successfully bought and sold distributorships in the heavy construction industry. Dan also established and sold one of the pioneering Internet Service Providers in NY. Recruited by RIT he played a pivotal role in unifying the colleges and became the Director for Global IT overseeing campuses in Dubai, Kosovo, and Dubrovnik, and providing IT support to the Office of the President. Recruited from retirement by Paychex he manages the cloud services' extensive IT usage. Dan served as a Board Director for 20 years at both the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund and the McGowan Rosica Family Foundation



Katie Linendoll '05



Katie is an American television personality, speaker, journalist, singer, consumer technology expert, and one of the leading women in the field of technology. As one of the most in-demand technology experts worldwide she has frequently appeared as an expert contributor for major media outlets including NBC's Today show, The Rachael Ray Show, Hallmark's Home & Family and others. An RIT graduate, Katie takes pride as a devout Catholic and in 2021, she released her passion project—her Christian EP, Jericho Battle Cry.

Rev. Dr. Brian C. Cool, Ed.D.

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 within the student centered ministry.