

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

—Ephesians 2:10

Newman Catholic Community at RIT

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 70 percent of Newman's annual support comes from alumni, parents and friends.
- Newman engages 50 student leaders, sponsors more than 60 programs, and holds 3 Masses a week for over 325 students.
- Catholicism represents the largest religious denomination on campus with more than 2,000 Catholic undergraduate and graduate students. Only about 25 percent are involved in our ministry.

The Kairos retreat strengthened my Catholic faith and brought me closer to God and the Newman community, my home away from home.

Priya Chiriyankandath (PhD. Cand.)
Kerala, India
Biomedical and Chemical Engineering



Light The Way: A Campaign for Catholic Life

"The making of a living and the living of a life," the motto of Rochester Institute of Technology, encapsulates our commitment to development and nourishment of Catholic life at RIT. Newman strives to nourish the spiritual and emotional lives of students at RIT. Since our founding and notably since the establishment of full-time chaplaincy in 1966, Newman has faithfully served an expanding number of Catholic students on campus.

Today, Newman is actively exploring approaches to be an example of a strong, active Catholic campus ministry. Our goals include:

- engaging more than 2,000 Catholic students across RIT who are currently not connected with our ministry
- addressing the distinct needs of our growing international Catholic student population
- providing comprehensive spiritual and emotional support to a student body that has surged by 20 percent over the past three years
- establishing and expanding our ministry among graduate students and university-wide

As an independent student ministry on campus we have relied on the annual financial support of alumni, parents and friends throughout our history. As we advance and embrace the profound call to live our Catholic faith, we seek their prayers and backing to develop a ministry that will uphold Newman for generations to come.

There is much more that we can do. Throughout this increased endowment, we can provide enrich the sacramental life of the student body at RIT, increase pastoral presence, develop faith and reasoning skills, and expand our student programming and outreach. Please help us meet the challenges ahead.



"Becoming President of the E-Board has deeply impacted my life and will shape my future, fostering essential leadership skills in organization, planning, and effective communication, crucial for my aspirations as a future Church leader."

Tom Pawlak '25
Clarence, NY
Computing Information Technology



How You Can Help

All gifts help build meaningful and joyful experiences for our Catholic students. Please consider any of the following giving opportunities.

- Make Annual Gift:** Your annual support is what keeps Newman going on a day-to-day basis and allows us to continue the programs that we know work well with our students.
- Participate in ROAR Day:** Newman alumni, parents, and friends who join us during the University's annual Roar Day helps sustain and strengthen our Newman community for current and future generations. This demonstrates the critical importance of Catholic Life on campus to students and the University.
- Create a Legacy:** Visionary gifts by alumni, parents, and friends of the University and Newman can build a legacy by establishing and endowment for Catholic life on campus. In time, these gifts will help ensure that the future generations of Newman students will enjoy a welcoming and vibrant community in which to grow their Catholic faith. An endowment is a critical opportunity to change a budget model which is currently dependent on year-to-year giving.



Key Facts:

One part time priest
40% time on administrative duties
limited ability to focus on ministry, student engagement, and counseling

Two part time chaplains and 1 volunteer
limited scope and availability

One part-time bookkeeper



85% of budget is generated annually from external sources



Meanwhile, student engagement continues to grow and many Catholic students on campus not yet served



Annual Income has decrease of \$30,000 for over 4 years



For more information contact:
Rev. Brian C. Cool, Ed.D.
Director
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585-275-8523



Sacramental Life

Our Newman challenge is to expand opportunities university-wide for students to lead meaningful, sacramental lives during their time on campus.

Sacraments play a crucial role in establishing a connection with Christ and fostering a deeper Catholic identity. Engaging with the church's sacramental practices is vital for every Catholic individual to nurture more profound relationships, uphold personal integrity, and strengthen their faith. Those who experience positive sacramental engagement through campus ministry often emerge as influential Christian leaders in their homes and professions. By participating in sacramental rites, students undergo transformation and become genuine proponents of Christian values, drawing others into the church community.

Access to the sacraments such as Baptism, the Eucharist, and Reconciliation transforms lives and is at the heart of relationship with Christ and His church.



Pastoral Care

Our Newman challenge is to enable priests and chaplains to serve in the most effective ways by devoting their time to building relationships with students and the University community, providing pastoral care in times of crisis, and responding to the spiritual needs of a growing and evolving student body.

The pastoral support that Newman provides, particularly in times of personal crisis or during a campus-wide tragedy, does not happen haphazardly. They are intentional and a core aspect of the Newman mission.

For more than 50 years, Newman priests and chaplains have played a pivotal role on campus by providing pastoral care, not only to Catholic students, but also to the entire University community. They can do more of this important work if they are relieved of other responsibilities. For instance, today they spend more than 40 percent of their time on fundraising.

It is essential that our faith leaders focus on continuing the mission and ministry of Jesus to reach out to those in need with spiritual, emotional and practical support. Our priests and chaplains encourage and counsel students while establishing relationships in their formative years.



Faith and Reason

Our Newman challenge is to provide students with frequent opportunities to enhance their understanding of the Catholic tradition so that they gain greater self-awareness as Catholics and can articulate their faith on campus and as future Christian leaders

A university setting demands the honest engagement of intellectual questions. The Church's long tradition of seeking the intersection of faith and reason provides students and the university community the ability to profoundly contribute to the academic discourse across all fields of study. When there is open discourse between faith and reason, all are enriched.

In a contemporary world, and especially within an academic setting steeped into technology and engineering, Catholic students must have new and creative opportunities to deepen and articulate their faith and benefit from the rich Catholic intellectual tradition. These offer a framework for dealing with ethical issues related to their academic fields and a way to understand the power of grace and scripture to help students live out Christian life. Transforming the world with justice, peace and truth.



Programming and Outreach

Our Newman challenge is to expand the exemplary social, spiritual, and evangelical programs and reach Catholic students within all groups and programs at the University.

Newman has a long history of engaging students in programs that offer the opportunity to serve others and grow personally, building life long relationships while developing valuable leadership skills.

Programming has increased immensely since 2020, Now offering 60 distinct programs.. Some of these inspirational programs include, Sunday Mass, Insta-Mass, Newman Hangouts, Big Newman-Little Newman, Coffee Hours, Newman dinners, and TigerStripes Service ministry to the poor and vulnerable.

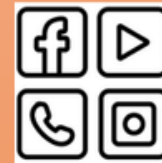
While these programs have worked well, there is a need to reach to more students, including the growing international student population and graduate students.



Establish a Catholic Center on campus that meets and enhances social, spiritual and communal needs



**Return to 3 Full-time Staff
2 Chaplains
1 Administrative Assistant**



Develop robust social media strategies and experiences which connects and evangelizes Catholic and non-Catholic students on campus



Increase Evangelization to serve all Catholic students including 4,200 not yet being reached



Create dynamic programs which engage students for sacramental, faith formation, service and apologetics

