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REV. RICH MISERENDINO *Continued from page 1*

in 2009, I entered the seminary for the Diocese of Arlington to discern whether God was calling me to be a priest. That was one of the best decisions of my life, and the catalyst to a lifelong adventure. After two years of philosophy and language studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, I was assigned to complete my theology studies in Rome at the Pontifical North American College. This past fall, I was blessed to be ordained a deacon in Saint Peter's Basilica.

My time spent in Rochester with the Newman Community was one of the most influential and wonderful gifts God has given me. God definitely used Newman to bring me to a deeper relationship of prayer at a critical moment in my life. Without it and the ministry of Fr. Cool and everyone at Newman, I would not be where I am today, and would be nowhere near as happy.

"My time spent in Rochester with the Newman Community was one of the most influential and wonderful gifts God has given me."

—Rev. Rich Miserendino '07



Gabe Condon '15 walks across the stage to receive his master's degree at Eastman School of Music.

COOL THOUGHTS *Continued from page 3*

who have been employed by Newman as chaplains, administrative assistants and faith formation directors. Many have been Rochester alumni, including Anne Cilano Thomas, who currently serves as our campus minister.

The same CARA* research tells us that those who participate in campus ministry are more likely to consider becoming a priest than those who do not. It is astonishing that today our University can count over ten alumni who are priests or who are currently in formation to be ordained.

The latest one joined the priesthood on June 6th, when Fr. Richard Miserendino was ordained for the Diocese of Arlington.

We take our responsibility seriously and are deeply engaged in creating leaders for the future in all aspects of what we do. At the helm of over one hundred programs each year, our seventy five student leaders engage many other students to be formed by Gospel values, become rooted in the Sacraments and engage the great intellectual and faith tradition of the Church. This newsletter shares with you just some

of those who have answered the call to serve the Church in varied ways. We are extremely proud of them and all who serve the Church on campus and beyond. Playing this role in creating and developing Church leaders is a humble blessing!

**"The Impact of Catholic Ministry on the Beliefs and Worship Practices of U.S. Catholics." Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. Fall 2005. Accessed on May 18, 2018 http://cara.georgetown.edu/Publications/USCCB_CampusMin_final.pdf*



NEWMAN

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HEART *Speaks* TO HEART

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EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SPIRIT-FILLED FUTURES

In 2007, our St. Sebastian Society for Varsity and Club Athletes received the "Developing Leaders for the Future Award" from the Catholic Campus Ministry Association. It was the first of three national awards the Newman Community received recognizing the vast and diverse programs we have established here on campus at Rochester. These award-winning programs have over twenty students in leadership roles to make all of this happen! They join over seventy five students that we have in leadership positions at Newman today who meet to plan, organize, and execute events that engage over 1,600 Catholics at Rochester. As you will see in this newsletter, they are carrying this leadership in vocations of service to the Church well beyond Newman, and we couldn't be prouder!

COOL THOUGHTS

from

Rev. Brian Cool



*The J. Nelson '55 and Joan Dutcher Hoffman '55
Director of Catholic Newman
Community Pastoral Care*

Developing leaders for the future is an aspect of campus ministry emphasized in the US Bishops' pastoral letter "Empowered by the Spirit," and it forms the basis of all we do here at Newman. And it shows!

Many of us already know that lay ministry is essential to the mission of the

Church in the modern world. Women and men working for the Church in a whole host of capacities has exploded over the last fifty years! There is every sign this will only continue to grow here in the United States and around the world, and we here at Newman will play an important part.

Today, parishes, campus ministry sites, schools, and families are enriched by the commitment women and men offer the Church and its role in the world. In their vocations, lay women and men transform lives each and every day with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and give birth to the great faith we have been given to share.

The Catholic Newman Community itself here at Rochester has benefited greatly from many lay women and men

Continued on page 4

FROM MUSIC AND SCIENCE TO CASSOCK AND STOLE

Rev. Rich Miserendino, '07

My name is Deacon Rich Miserendino, of the Diocese of Arlington in Virginia, but by the time you read, this, I will be Fr. Rich Miserendino, as I will be ordained a priest on June 6th. Originally, I was born in Rochester, but my family relocated to Burke, Virginia, which I now call home. I returned to Rochester as a dual degree student. I graduated with degrees in physics and math from the College of Arts and Sciences and music performance from Eastman.

After graduation, I worked by day as a scientist with SAIC (now Leidos) and at night playing gigs in and around the Washington area. Yet I always had the feeling that God was calling me to more. So

Continued on page 4



Ordained a priest for the Diocese of Arlington, VA, on June 6th, 2015, Rev. Rich Miserendino, left, serves at Mass with Pope Francis in May.

NEWMAN SERVING THE CHURCH

Andrew Scala, '11

My father and grandfather attended the University of Rochester, so it seemed inevitable that I would, too. In fact, I did fall in love when I arrived there for a college visit. I met Father Cool as well, and that cemented that I was supposed to attend Rochester. Newman became a staple in my college life almost immediately. By graduation, I had served on the Steering Committee as president, led five Kairos retreats, and helped Newman earn national accolades. All of these opportunities made me a better person, Catholic, and professional candidate in countless ways. Most notably, I realized that I should be listening to my heart – a pull inside me – a little bit more. Upon graduating from the U of R in 2011, I began my career as a mechanical engineer. However, I recently decided that I could no longer deny the pull inside me to dedicate my time to helping children with special needs – a pull that I had long since recognized as God's call.

As I began a new job working with students with disabilities in school, I also decided to answer that pull in my heart in other ways. I began teaching children the importance of engineering through an organization called "Engineering for Kids." I instruct classes on various engineering

"I will know I am where God wants me if I find peace in what I do."

—Whitney Williams '14

disciplines in a way that motivates children to become interested in science and mathematics. I had also been volunteering with my church's teen youth group, and now began to devote more of my time to it. I was blessed to be offered the position of youth minister when it became available, as well. I could only possibly say "yes" to a call to



Andrew Scala, '11



Whitney Williams, '14

be a symbol of faith to kids, a gesture that I know is also saying "yes" to God.

I now realize how Newman got me to this point in my life. Back when I first got involved, I certainly never imagined that part of my purpose in life would be a vocation to the Church in any way. But as I look back and see how the twists and turns of my life have brought me to this new stage, it's obvious how crucial the Newman Community was in constructing the person I am today. I'm certainly far from figuring it all out, but I wouldn't have had the courage to explore this path in the first place if it weren't for my time with Newman in Rochester.

Whitney Williams, '14

During my time at Rochester, Newman became my family and my refuge. It renewed me in the busiest times of the semester and helped me to keep my faith alive. Newman provided me with many

useful resources through retreats, talks, and a wealth of other events as I began the process of discerning my vocation in this world. My own leadership as a member of the Executive Committee and a Newman Night facilitator helped teach me to lead an active faith life, and helped form me to live a life of service towards others.

Since leaving the U of R, I have been serving others through the year-long Franciscan volunteer program, FrancisCorps, and it is one of the best decisions I have ever made! Living in community and serving others has allowed me to grow tremendously, and I have encountered God and love in a more profound way than ever. I am living in Costa Rica and serving at La Fundación Hogar Manos Abiertas, a place that takes care of people with disabilities and terminal illnesses. Most here have been abandoned and are living at Manos Abiertas as a permanent home.

Wherever I go, I will know I am where God wants me if I find peace in what I do.



Todd Flowerday, '81

And I know that Newman was the best group I could joined during my time at the University of Rochester; it helped guide me towards my call to serve the poor. In fact, it was former chaplain Nathan Drahts who inspired me to go to Costa Rica. Without Newman, I never would have found my way to the life I lead now.

Todd Flowerday, '81

I grew up in Rochester, and came to the University of Rochester in 1976 to study biology. But I bounced around in various sciences until I graduated. Still drifting as a twenty-something, I felt a strong nudge into ministry. After theology studies at St Bernard's in Rochester, I moved to the Midwest. I've been in full time ministry in parishes, mainstream and university, for the past 27 years. The Newman Community certainly planted a seed for that nudge.

It was at Newman that I was challenged as a young adult to live a life of committed



Antony Amato, '09

faith. There was more to Catholicism than Sunday Mass and devotions. The intellectual and spiritual traditions of the Church were opened up to me, especially through our retreats at the Genesee Abbey. I cannot offer enough gratitude for our chaplains of the late 70's and early 80's, Bill Lum and Sue Hoffman. They helped me realize that the call to a life of service, discipleship, and intentional spirituality was open to the baptized.

In my ministry today, especially with college students, I often think of the encouragement I received at Newman and I strive to pass it on to others.

Antony Amato, '09

Rochester has been my home my entire life; I attended Our Mother of Sorrows School and then the Aquinas Institute of Rochester (2005) before the University of Rochester (2009). Going to college and living on campus was an entirely new

experience, even though it was only a short drive from my house. The Newman Community instantly provided me with an environment to connect with fellow students on the most important aspect of our lives: the Catholic faith. I began my studies as a computer science major, but by the end of my first year, my electives in philosophy and religious studies were leading me in a different direction.

After graduation, I began a master's in systematic theology at Boston College. Once I began to delve into the rich academic and spiritual history of the Church, the calling to the priesthood that began at Aquinas took on a new strength and focus during my study and prayer.

Since I began the process of discernment and study for the priesthood for the Diocese of Rochester, I have been on a great journey, with many challenges as I continually strive to conform my will and my whole life to the will of Christ.

So much can change in our beliefs and

"I often think of the encouragement I received at Newman and I strive to pass it on to others."

—Todd Flowerday '81

values as we begin college, and we are subject to so many influences that can affect our choices, that it was crucial to my own formation as a Catholic – and especially for my vocation to the priesthood – to have Mass as a constant during that new stage of my life on campus.

I look back on the beginning of my college years with gratitude for Newman. Though made of people from different parts of the world with many different life and faith experiences, we shared the faith that we held in common as we journeyed together, seeking the face of God.