

URI CATHOLIC CENTER NEWS

Fall is in the air! Many thanks to parishioner **Arlene _____**, who generously volunteered her time to refresh the planters around the Catholic Center and to add some Fall mums. The planters look great. If anyone would like to volunteer their time and talent in helping Arlene keep the planters seasonally updated throughout the year, please let me know. Thanks, Arlene!

The Catholic Center played host last weekend to a revived tradition in our parish: the annual **Pet Blessing!** Sunday happened to be the Feast of Saint Francis, so the blessing was all the more significant. Many thanks to **Georgann Lardaro** and **Brenda Tougas** who helped coordinate the effort and many thanks to all who turned out. I blessed a few hermit crabs, a couple of turtles, a parakeet, some rabbits and *many* dogs, including Reggie! The cats knew enough to stay away! Thanks too, to one of our Newman Club Social Chairs, **Katie Yorke**, for preparing refreshments for those (animals and humans!) who participated! I'll be looking forward to next year's blessing.

This past week, we had our **first mission trip meeting**. The team of over twenty student-missionaries who will be led by Marybeth Nunnery, Ken Pelletier and Jen Marran are off to a great start. A number of students who have already been to Nicaragua will be returning, which I am told makes things much easier for the new missionaries. I look forward to updating you as the meetings progress. Until then, keep them all in your prayers.

Jen Marran and I also held our **first RCIA meeting** this past week at the Catholic Center. We're delighted to be aided in the effort by some parish volunteers who will help to accompany the candidates throughout the process. The RCIA program here is a perfect example of the collaboration between our parish and the campus ministry program at URI. If you know of anyone from either the parish or university communities who would like to learn more about becoming Catholic, please send them me or to Jen. It's not too late to join us!

This past week we also hosted the second installment of **Soul Food**. We discussed the relationship between faith and reason, certainly a timely topic. More on that gathering next week.

Many thanks to our FOCUS Missionaries for organizing a visit by a nationally known Catholic speaker, **Lisa Cotter**, this past weekend and thanks to Fr. Jared and the CTK staff for allowing us to use the parish hall. The ladies enjoyed an afternoon tea with Lisa while the gentlemen prepared a meal for everyone. In the evening, Lisa addressed all interested students in a talk called "People are Souls," and then the night ended with a movie marathon. Thanks to Lisa for coming, thanks to FOCUS for organizing the event, and thanks to all those who participated!

Lastly, I've been so impressed by the number of students who volunteer their time to serve in **liturgical roles** at our weekly University Mass on Sunday evenings. If you are a student at URI and would like to get involved with our 8PM Sunday Masses in any way, please speak with me or our Newman Liturgy Chair, **Carl Nordstrom**. We could always use extra help. And a special thanks to **Kelly Caton** and our **music ministers** (a group of about six or seven student singers and instrumentalists) for providing such prayerful and uplifting music! **-Fr. Joe**

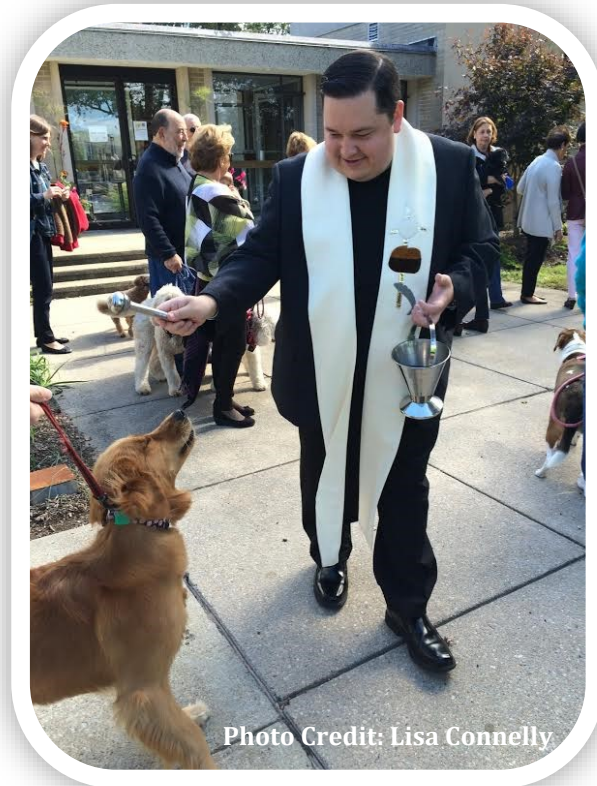


Photo Credit: Lisa Connelly