

As I mentioned in last week's bulletin, we recently hosted our latest installment of **Soul Food** at the Catholic Center and discussed the relationship between faith and reason. Discussion was spirited and at times intense! Being able to address the claim that religious belief somehow requires the suspension of reason or rational thought is an urgent need. I was delighted to hear the thoughts of our students about this important topic. Our next Soul Food session will be held on October 22 and we'll be discussing the importance of personal prayer and communal worship.

The **Newman Club** has been busy! They've been working on a number of recreational, spiritual and charitable events. This past week they organized and participated in a **scavenger hunt** around campus, before getting ready for **homecoming festivities** this weekend. Next week, they'll come together to **decorate and fill Halloween treat bags** for the kids at Hasbro Children's Hospital. And a number of our Newman students are working on our **Fall Retreat** which will be held from November 13-15 at the Rejoice in Hope Youth Center in Cranston. Many thanks to all of our Newman Club members for their hard work.

Last Friday we hosted guest speaker, **Lisa Cotter**, who gave a wonderful presentation on the centrality of personhood in developing healthy and holy relationships. The event was well attended and everyone enjoyed Lisa, especially those who had the chance to hear her speak at past events. We even welcomed the FOCUS team and some students from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT. Thanks to our own FOCUS team for organizing this event., and thanks to the CTK staff for generously hosting us at the parish hall.

Speaking of our own FOCUS team, this past week we held a **"Missions Fiesta"** at the Catholic Center to familiarize students with over 70 mission trip opportunities in over 30 countries for spring and summer breaks. For those who have already been to Nicaragua or who cannot go on a mission trip during winter break, these opportunities will be most appreciated. Having FOCUS at our campus makes these trips open and available for our URI students. The Missions Fiesta got the conversation started and we hope for a good response come spring.

At tonight's 8pm University Mass, I'll announce that next week's Mass (the 8pm on Sunday, October 25) will be a **"Teaching Mass."** In the past, especially after the Second Vatican Council, "instructional" Masses were not only celebrated to help the congregation better understand the changes that had been made to the ritual of the Mass, but also to appreciate more deeply the historical and theological significance of the signs, symbols and gestures of the liturgy. Some of the students felt that this opportunity would be great for our own university community. Next week's 8pm will provide just that opportunity.

Thanks again to all those who make these events and activities possible! And say a prayer for all of the prospective students who will be visiting our campus today. **-Fr. Joe**

