

THE CATHOLIC CENTER AT URI: FIFTY YEARS OF FAITH, LEARNING AND SERVICE

MUCH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

Words cannot express my profound gratitude for those who did so much to prepare for our fiftieth anniversary celebration and who came to celebrate with us last weekend. With **over two-hundred people in attendance**—current students and alumni, current and former staff, parishioners and friends—we were given a glimpse at a cross-section of the many lives that have been changed for the better through the ministry of the Catholic Center.

Our co-chairs **Nancy Drennan** and **Carol Maddock** worked so very hard and expended so much time and energy in planning for the anniversary event. I am deeply indebted to them. Their service to the Catholic Center and to the parish of Christ the King throughout the years have helped define those communities in so many ways. Nancy and Carol, many, many thanks!

Our committee members—**Brendan and Andrea Krupp, Tim Marran and Julie Grasso, Paul McConnell, Jay and Karen Swoboda, Rich and Karen Gauthier, Peter Barton and Joni Guilfoyle**—also worked in so many different ways to make the celebration a true success. From coordinating the caterer and entertainment, to preparing a slideshow of photos from across the years, to the headaches of setting up and breaking down, to being mindful of the details of décor and arrangement, to taking photos of the event itself, they thought of everything! Without them, the celebration would not have been possible.

Brian Dill and his fellow singers serenaded the guests at our reception. On hand throughout the night were **Norm LeClair** and **Tom Sylvia**, parishioners of CTK who helped keep the food replenished and the bars stocked! And without the generosity of **Kelli DeBeau**, we could not have boasted such a wonderful décor and celebratory environment for our reception. Please be assured of my sincere thanks!

A word of thanks to **Fr. Randy Chew** for preaching at the liturgy prior to the reception and to the former chaplains, other clergy, and former staff who were present. **Seven** of the ten chaplain-directors were present for our liturgy and reception (including **Fr. Ray Collins**, who was the first chaplain to begin a new academic year in the then-recently constructed Catholic Center in 1966)! Thanks to our magnificent **parish choir and music ministry team**, including our new assistant director of music, **Heather Skidds**, for lifting our hearts and voices in song during the liturgy. To commemorate the fiftieth anniversary, **Tom Kendzia** prepared an original composition titled “Heart to Heart,” based on the motto of Blessed John Henry Newman, after whom Newman clubs around the world are named. Tom, thank you so very much for lending your singular talent to our celebration. And many thanks to **Fr. Jared** for his constant support of our campus ministry program and his generous hospitality.

And lastly, without **Doug Carr** and **Judy Klopfenstein**, the event would not have come together. I am truly blessed to be able to work with such dedicated and caring staff. Expect pictures from the celebration next week!

RHODY CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION (RCO) UPDATE



In other news, our student executive board is finally complete! After elections a few weeks ago, we rounded out our numbers, and I know that given the amount of talent, energy and enthusiasm already displayed, we have a great year ahead of us! The members of the 2016-2017 board are: **Tom Jancura** (President), **Tim Legg** (Spirituality & Catechesis Chair), **Carolyn Cote** (Social Chair), **Tim Sanzi** (Liturgy Chair), **Megan Eaton** (Hospitality Chair), **Morgan Walsh** (Service Chair), **Bridget Holte** (Campus Outreach Chair), and **Olivia Tagliaferri** (Communications & Social Media Chair). More info next week! -**Fr. Joe**