

URI CATHOLIC CENTER NEWS

On Wednesday, March 2, the Catholic Center welcomed **Bishop Tobin** for an evening of prayer, discussion and fellowship. He was joined by **Msgr. Albert Kenney**, the diocesan Vicar General, and **Fr. Jeremy Rodrigues**, who serves as the bishop's Administrative Assistant and Director of the diocesan Office of Divine Worship. **Lauren Clem**, a reporter from the RI Catholic, was also present and we're grateful for the use of the pictures she took throughout the evening.



We began the evening with Mass in our chapel, at which Bishop Tobin discussed the importance of examining our motives for following the commandments. Following the liturgy, the Bishop was able to tour the facility and mingle with the students as they enjoyed dinner.

Toward the end of the meal, members of our executive board and our FOCUS team presented the Bishop with tokens of the three pillars of our fiftieth anniversary celebration: *faith, learning* and *service*. Our spiritual chair, **Kelsey Sheehan**, provided Bishop Tobin with a card containing all of the commitments that students had made for the coming days and weeks to pray for the Bishop and his ministry in our diocese. Our FOCUS team director, **Maria McDonough**, provided letters from students who have participated in our bible studies. And our service chair and CTK parishioner, **Erin Hall**, presented a report detailing the many charitable activities we have engaged in as a community throughout this academic year, as well as a check for Keep the Heat On (the charitable effort that Bishop Tobin began in our diocese shortly after his arrival as bishop). Our president, **Pete Swanson**, and vice-president, **Andrew Daley**, presented the Bishop with his own bag of URI gear and even had a gift bag ready for Annie, the Bishop's cockapoo!



Bishop Tobin then addressed those gathered on the concrete applications of religious belief, and cited a text from Pope Francis on the unique role that faith can play in shaping our understanding of ourselves, others and the world. He then took questions from the students which ranged from, "What is your favorite scripture passage of all time?" to "What is your vocation story?" to "What is the hardest part of being a bishop?" After answering the students' questions, we even got the bishop to take a "selfie" with the community! Everyone had a great experience.

Many thanks to the large crowd of students who participated and to our executive board for their help in making the evening a success. A few members of the parish who helped prepare for the day in different ways were most helpful, as always, and I owe them a debt of gratitude: **Sally Szumita**, **Arlene Reynolds** and **Paula Ampone**. Thanks to **Christ the King**, too, for providing us with linens and pitchers. And of course, without the expert help of **Doug Carr** and **Judy Klopfenstein** the event wouldn't have been possible at all! Thank you!



A few days after his visit, I received the following note in the mail, which I thought I would share with you. "Dear Fr. Upton, Please accept and share with the staff and students of the Catholic Center my very sincere gratitude for providing such a wonderful visit yesterday. What a very enjoyable evening it was! Thank you for the opportunity of celebrating Holy Mass, visiting with the students, participating in a thoughtful discussion and, even, my first encounter with a selfie stick! And thanks, too, for the very thoughtful and useful gifts for me and for Annie. We are both grateful. Please be assured of my admiration and continued prayers and blessings for all the members of the Catholic Center community. May God continue to be with you as together you grow in understanding and living the joy of the Gospel and the beauty of our Catholic faith, and particularly in this season as we all prepare to celebrate the mysteries of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. Again, thank you and God bless you! Sincerely yours, Bishop Tobin."

Thanks to the generosity of the diocese, of Bishop Tobin and his predecessors, of our Christ the King family, and of many other friends, we have been able to provide a presence of faith and prayerful support at URI for fifty years. And thanks to that continued generosity—and especially with Bishop Tobin's support and encouragement—we hope to continue that ministry for fifty years to come! **-Fr. Joe**