

URI CATHOLIC CENTER NEWS

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! On behalf of the Catholic Community at the University of Rhode Island, please be assured of our prayers for a happy and holy Easter!

Because Spring break this year fell during Holy Week, two students who have been preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation will be part of a special celebration at the 8pm University Liturgy *next* Sunday, April 3. **Emily Dietzel** will be received into communion with the Catholic Church, will be confirmed, and will receive the Eucharist for the first time. **Steve Carvalho** will be confirmed, completing his Christian initiation. I'm so grateful that these students have made the commitment to respond to the invitation of God who is writing a new chapter of faith in each of their lives. I'm also grateful to our parish RCIA formation team for their help and guidance throughout this past year. **Jen Marran and Phil and Sarah Tracy** were generous with their faith, their learning and their witness as they worked with not only the students from URI but also the two parish candidates—**Judith Boss and Laurel Murphy**—who completed their initiation at last night's Easter Vigil. Congratulations to Judy and Laurel! And please keep Emily and Steve in your prayers as they make their final preparations this week.

While the students were on Spring break this past week, our facilities director, **Doug Carr**, completed a phenomenal Spring cleaning of the Center. All of the floors were cleaned, stripped and waxed. Thanks, Doug, for doing such a great job! Your work is greatly appreciated!

Prior to Holy Week, we hosted a **men's trip to Philly** for a conference, a **ladies' paint night**, and a **movie night**. We also had our first **CO21 event** (Catholics Over 21), which was well attended. Discussion centered on "big questions" like *Why does God allow good people to suffer?* and *Do you think that God has a plan for everyone's life?* We hope to schedule another event in the near future. The **university newspaper** also covered the Catholic Center in a recent issue as part of a series on the different religious groups on campus. Check out the article here: <http://rhodycigar.com/2016/03/10/my-search-for-faith-catholic-center/>.

I also had a chance to present a report to the **Parish Council** on the activities and ministries of the Catholic Center at their recent meeting. I was so impressed yet again by the level of commitment and interest expressed by the council members. Christ the King has been so generous in supporting the Catholic Center not only through time, talent and treasure, but also through encouragement and enthusiasm! We are deeply grateful!

Now we're gearing up for our **spring retreat**, *Made for Greatness*, which will be held from April 66 to 68 at Mother of Hope Camp in Chepachet, RI. Spring retreat is always a major event for connecting students to the Catholic Center before the end of the year. While we try to keep expenses down and while we've changed the venue this year for even more savings, there are always students who wish to participate but are not able to afford the registration fee. If you would like to sponsor a student, or would like to help defray the cost of the retreat, please call (874-2093) or email (FatherUpton@gmail.com). Any help would be greatly appreciated! And thanks to our outstanding **Lead Team**, under the direction of Spirituality Chair, **Kelsey Sheehan**, for their help in planning and preparing for the retreat.

Lastly, our **Fiftieth Anniversary Committee** will be meeting this week. If you know of any alumni who might be interested in helping us out, please send them our way! Our alumni database is also growing. Any alumni who might be interested in the mission and ministry of the Catholic Center should send their contact information to rhodycatholic@gmail.com. And thanks in advance to the committee for their hard work and the sacrifice of time.

Again, a blessed Easter to all! **-Fr. Joe**

