

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

Many thanks to all those who turned out on Monday, August 10, for the volunteer clean-up day at the Catholic Center. We had a great turnout, including many of our parish youth and families. We accomplished necessary weeding, pruning, and trimming that will make the grounds look most welcoming for our incoming and returning students. Special thanks are due to Fr. Jared, who helped organize the effort, and the parish Garden Crew, who helped guide us and supply us with the necessary equipment. Bruce Waidler and his family generously led the effort to take down a dead pine tree and trim branches that were hanging over the chapel roof. Doug Carr graciously came back the next day to remove a few stumps. I'm incredibly grateful to have those projects done before the start of the school year. Everything looks great! We're also grateful for the donation of professional assistance with some necessary pruning of trees near the parking lot. Many hands really do make light work. Thanks to all who were involved in any way. Your generosity is deeply appreciated! –Fr. Joe

THE CHAPLAIN'S PONDERINGS

The Catholic Center was dedicated by Bishop McVinney and opened for student use in 1966. For nearly fifty years, the Catholic Center at the University of Rhode Island has opened its doors to Catholic students and faculty, to our brothers and sisters of other faiths, and to all seekers. It has always been a place of special encounter with Jesus and of fellowship in his Spirit. One of the many blessings that characterizes the rich history of the Center is its relationship with Christ the King Parish. Before the Parish Hall was built, the Catholic Center played host to parish functions and religious education events. In many ways, the Catholic Center at URI was like the "Parish Center." To this day, we share staff, resources, programs and an overall generous spirit of cooperation. I can only hope that cooperation will continue and deepen in the years to come, especially as we look forward to marking the Center's fiftieth anniversary in 2016. I wanted to provide a "who's who" at the Catholic Center, so that throughout the coming year you'll be able to put a name with a role.

- Judy Klopfenstein, the **Associate Director** of the Center—who is certainly no stranger to the communities at either the Christ the King or URI—has been remarkably generous with her summer vacation, volunteering time to open the mail, organize the bills and keep an eye on the million other details that occupy our attention on a day-to-day basis. I'm looking forward to working with her full time once the school year begins.
- We've had a busy summer clearing out and cleaning up, getting re-organized and prepared for the year ahead. In that regard, thanks are especially due to Doug Paquin, our **Custodian**, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty these past few months.
- We have an outstanding group of young adults known as the **Executive Board** who will assist in the planning and execution of social, spiritual and service-oriented activities. These young adults are elected from year to year by their peers in the Newman Club

and I am told that this year's batch of leaders is most impressive. You'll recognize many of them from our parish family.

- We welcome FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) back to our campus for a third year. The **FOCUS Missionaries** assist with programming and campus outreach. This year, we welcome a new team director, Maria McDonough, who along with a new missionary, Lauren Lagassie, will be joined by returning team member Justin Harper and his wife, Bridgette. (Justin and Bridgette are expecting their first child in the Fall!) We said goodbye this past Spring to Meagan Kline, team director, and missionaries Maura Donnelly and Andrew Vilcan. We're grateful for their service and are looking forward to welcoming the new missionaries. Many have asked what FOCUS is! Take it right from their website: *"FOCUS is a national outreach that meets college students where they are and invites them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith."* The bottom line of their mission is *"Inviting college students into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, inspiring and equipping them for a lifetime of Christ-centered evangelization, discipleship, and friendship in which they lead others to do the same."* To say that FOCUS missionaries are in high demand at universities and colleges throughout the United States is an understatement. We are truly blessed to have them here at URI. I hope you'll join me in welcoming them in September.
- CTK parishioners Mary Beth Nunnery and Ken Pelletier have graciously agreed to serve as our volunteer **Mission Trip Coordinators**. One of the many aspects of Fr. Matt's legacy at URI is the initiation of a relationship between the Catholic Center and the Mustard Seed Communities. Dozens of students from URI and adults from our parish have experienced the life-changing transformation that comes about from directly serving the most vulnerable of God's children on mission trips. We hope to continue and deepen our relationship with Mustard Seed in the years ahead. Both Mary Beth and Ken are experienced missionaries, and will help organize and run future trips from the Catholic Center. I know that we'll have plenty of opportunities to get behind them and support their efforts in the months to come.

In the coming weeks and months, be prepared for a regular column in our soon-to-be redesigned parish bulletin on the goings-on at the Catholic Center. And please, as so many students already do, continue see the Catholic Center as a "home" away from your "parish home!" If you ever have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at fatherupton@gmail.com.

-Fr. Joe