

## **Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award**

**2016**

The Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award is given out annually to a graduate of NTC who has demonstrated academic excellence, contributed to the building up of the College and Seminary community, and shown outstanding commitment to their faith in service to the wider community. This year's recipient has demonstrated high proficiency in all three areas.

Today's recipient of the Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Award was admitted to the College in 2014 and graduates today with distinction, demonstrating significant academic excellence.

Our recipient is a person who reads a great deal and is passionate about his studies. He has been described by his instructors and others as intelligent, articulate and perceptive. At the same time he was characterized by one person as "the most humble man they had ever met."

Our recipient holds a philosophy degree from Concordia College, and is currently taking an after degree in Education at Concordia University. He is a critical thinker,

articulate both verbally and in the written form, and he is quickly establishing himself as a popular social commentator on faith-based topics. He has published numerous papers, articles and letters as well as several YouTube videos on topics of religion, ethics and philosophy. Until just recently, he was also a regular contributor to the Western Catholic Reporter, with over 25 articles to his name.

Our recipient served for two years on the Newman Theological College Student Council: first as the representative of the graduate students and last year as the Vice President of Student Life. He was instrumental in hosting a number of NTC social events for the student body including two very successful Theology on Tap evenings. In 2015, he was selected to represent the College at the Canadian Theological Student Conference, where he also presented an academic paper.

Our recipient actively seeks opportunities to serve others. He is generous, compassionate and sensitive to those who are poor and suffering and has the ability to walk with others in their brokenness. This ability was attested to by those who worked alongside him at his job at the Salvation Army Thrift Store and when he volunteered at the Marian Center. He also serves regularly as a lector and acolyte at NTC and in his parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help. He also taught

confirmation classes at St. Theresa's Parish and also helped lead the youth group there.

Our recipient is rooted in the Catholic faith which he embraced as a young adult, but also stands on the solid foundation of roots in the Protestant tradition in which he was raised. He is seen by those at NTC and in the wider community as a strongly committed Christian, a man of deep faith, who as one person said "is a gift to the Catholic Church." He views the world from the perspective of faith, is committed to the highest ethical values and lives his life according to those principles. He is self-aware, very reflective and committed to personal growth.

For exhibiting qualities of excellence, faith and service to the NTC and St. Joseph's Seminary communities, the Catholic and ecumenical church communities, it is with great pleasure that we announce this year's recipient of the Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award, Brett Fawcett.