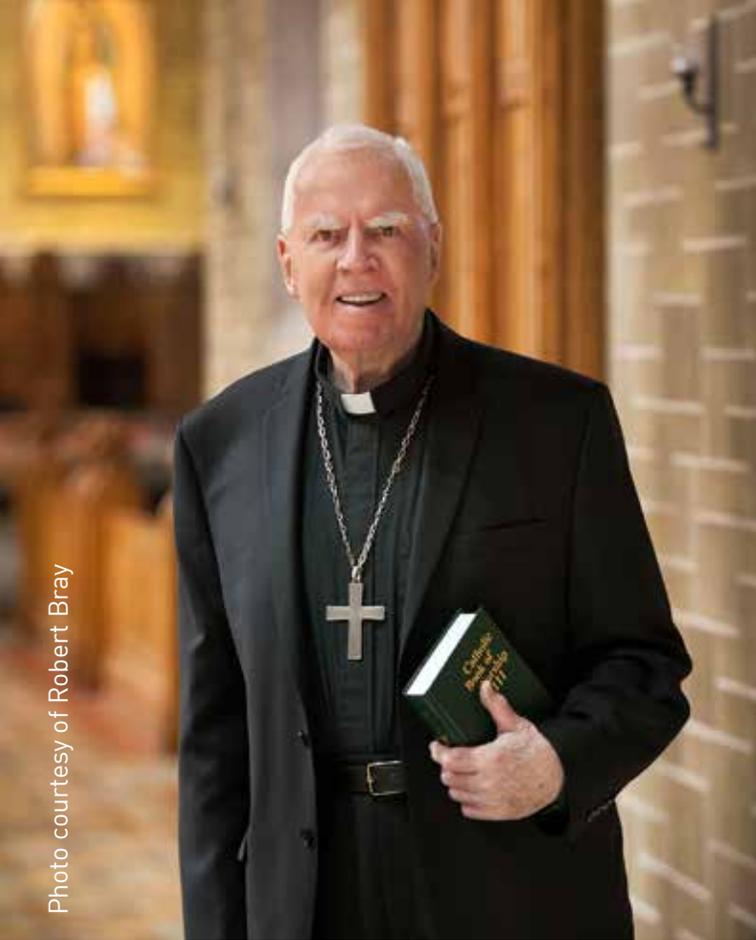




NEWS & NOTES SPRING 2018

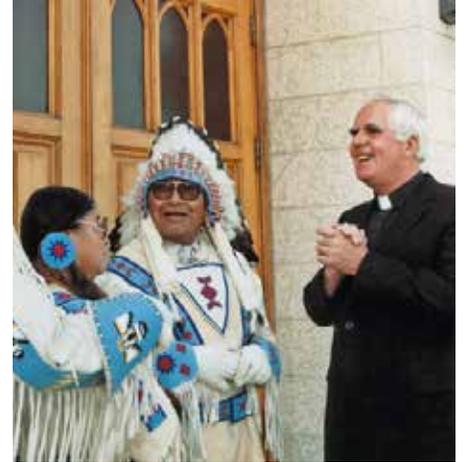
# THE FOUNDATION OF ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY AND NEWMAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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First, he could live with ambiguity and not panic when tension seemed everywhere. He was not frightened or put off by polarization and criticism. He sorted them through with patience and charity. Good leaders put up with ambiguity so as to not resolve tensions prematurely. He was a good person and a good leader. He could be patient with unresolved tension.

Second, he understood the innate tension that comes from our baptism wherein we are perennially torn between two loyalties, that is, the tension between being loyal to the church and its dogmas and rules on the one hand, and being loyal at the same time to the fact that we are also meant to be universal instruments of salvation who radiate God's compassion to everyone within all the churches and within the world at large.



## THE PASSING OF A GOOD SHEPHERD

*By Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI (excerpt)  
March 5, 2018*

Last February a wonderful leader within the faith community in Canada died and it could profit us all to more fully receive his spirit.

How do we do that? It can be helpful for us, I believe, to highlight those places where his life, his energy, and his leadership more particularly helped steady us in our faith and helped us to use our own gifts more fully to serve God.

Who was this man? Joseph Neil MacNeil, Emeritus Archbishop of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

He led us well, nothing too daring, nothing reactionary, just good, steady, charitable leadership that helped us, among other things, be more pastorally sensitive, more ecumenical, less self-absorbed, less clerical, more open to lay involvement, and more sensitive to the place of women.

Among his many gifts, three qualities of his leadership, for me, particularly stand out as a challenge for us all to live out our own discipleship more deeply.

Finally, as a faith leader he understood the difference between catechesis and theology and he honoured and defended the special place of each of them. Catechesis is needed to ground us; theology is needed to stretch us. He understood that.

In church parlance, a bishop, an archbishop, a cardinal, or a pope is considered A Prince of the Church.

He was that, a Prince of the Church ... not because the church anointed him as such, but because he had the intelligence, grace, and heart of a leader.



# TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF EDMONTON:

Thank you for your presence and prayers on the occasion of the passing of Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil. Thanks to one and all. God bless you all. Let us continue to grow together into Christ.

*From Donald MacNeil (nephew) and Fr. Malcolm MacNeil (brother)*



## WE REMEMBER HIM *by Andrew Ehrkamp, Grandin Media*

A holy man with a common touch, a socially conscious leader who inspired clergy and lay people alike, a man as comfortable with popes and priests as with students at his namesake high school, and a giant who leaves a lasting legacy – that’s how Emeritus Archbishop Joseph MacNeil is being remembered.

The beloved archbishop, who led the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Edmonton for 26 years, died on Feb. 11 after suffering a stroke. He was 93.

During his tenure, the archbishop increased the role of lay people in the Church and focused on making them an integral part of the Church. Archbishop MacNeil expanded their role in Catholic institutions, including Newman Theological College.

MacNeil led the creation of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council and the Council for Women Religious.

Notre Dame Sister Frances MacDougall, a former Newman Theological College professor, said MacNeil had “a great respect and reverence for the priests and at the same time he spent so much energy to advance the place of the laity of the Church.”

Kevin Carr, the first lay president of Newman Theological College, once described Archbishop MacNeil as a true shepherd leading his proverbial flock. “I found him to be a shepherd in the true sense of the word in that he would provide the guidance and the direction that was necessary. But one of the things I found about Archbishop MacNeil is he empowered people



to do the tasks that were assigned to them.”

As archbishop, MacNeil focused on poverty, homelessness, labour rights and inequity by creating the Archdiocesan Social Justice Commission.

“I think he was a bishop who carried a strong pastoral vision and who supported and invited people to become part of that vision of Church. I think the real building of a post-Vatican II diocese will be his legacy,” said Bob McKeon, a professor at Newman Theological College who was hired by MacNeil

to lead the commission in late 1970s. “We’re talking the creation and life of a social justice office. It’s very much inviting the laity to assume responsibility in the Church.”

Father Mike McCaffery, the former archdiocesan chancellor and president of NTC, said MacNeil took to heart the tenets of the Second Vatican Council, the 1960s assembly of Roman Catholic leaders that addressed relations between the Church and the modern world.

“I think he epitomized the kind of bishop that Vatican II talked about in their documents — that a bishop should be one that follows the Scriptures, respects his people, treats his people as creatures of God and listens to them,” McCaffery said.

“One of his greatest traits, I think, was that he always seemed to put people first. I always found him very respectful of people – it didn’t matter who they were or what they did, he treated them as God’s children.”

Friends, colleagues and fellow priests say MacNeil will be remembered most for his humble leadership, iron-clad memory for detail, self-effacing humour and as someone who enjoyed telling stories and meeting people at whatever stage they were in.

# THANK YOU FROM THE FOUNDATION

Archbishop MacNeil was visionary in many things he did for the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton. The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College is particularly thankful for all that he did to ensure a financially secure future for the seminary and college.

Archbishop MacNeil, early in his years in Edmonton, became increasingly concerned for secure funding for the education and formation of new priests as well as for laity. He was concerned that Catholic teachers needed good theological education as they were increasingly the educators of school children rather than priests and sisters. He saw the great need after Vatican II, for more and more people to be able to take responsibility for the Church. He said, "It's our Church. All of us. So we should be prepared to take responsibility."

In the early 1990s, Archbishop MacNeil was instrumental in establishing the Foundation to support both the seminary and the college. Interest rates were high at that time and setting up a foundation after the model of universities and colleges made great sense. Many people and religious communities responded generously to Archbishop MacNeil's invitation to share their gifts of time, talent and, of course, treasure to start this process.

Wishing to encourage people to think of leaving legacies through their wills to support our faith through the seminary and college, Archbishop MacNeil consented to his name being used for the Archbishop

Joseph MacNeil Society. This group of donors, who have let the Foundation know that they are leaving a gift in their will to the seminary and/or college, are prayed for regularly and invited to a mass and luncheon annually. When asked about this group Archbishop MacNeil said, "I'm very proud of them and proud of the example they are giving to all of us! It is their way of participating in the life of the Church."

When Archbishop MacNeil retired in 1999, he agreed to have an endowment fund set up in his name. That way, people who wished to acknowledge his leadership or thank him could make a donation to this fund in his honour. This fund supports both the seminary and college. It has grown to an amazing \$400,000, providing its annual earnings to the life of the seminary and college.

Archbishop MacNeil commented about the Foundation and his endowment fund, "This is a way for all of us to be part of the gift – the gift that God has given to each one of us that we share with one another in our own way. And we do it humbly, not because we are so wonderful and so good, but because God has been so good to us and we want to share that with others."

Archbishop MacNeil saw the incredible value and potential of both St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College in leading and supporting the faith of Catholics in Western Canada. The legacy of his efforts to ensure secure funding will live on for generations.

Thank you Archbishop MacNeil.

## LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH

Leave a legacy of faith by becoming an Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Society member. On the occasion of his retirement in 1999, Archbishop MacNeil kindly consented to the naming of this Society in his honour. Join our late shepherd in ensuring a strong Catholic presence into the future by supporting St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College in your will.

Create a legacy that will give witness to the importance of faith in your life.

Ensure that our Catholic community remains strong for your children and grandchildren for generations to come. Share some of the financial gifts that our generous God has blessed you with in your life.

Become a member by planning a gift to SJS and/or NTC through a bequest in your will, a life insurance policy, or by naming the Foundation of SJS & NTC the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, RRSPs or RRIFs. Benefits of membership include:

1. An invitation to an annual Mass and Luncheon at the seminary
2. An additional 3 masses celebrated annually for the intentions of the members of the Society
3. No membership fees
4. This charitable gift can allow tax credits on your final tax return
5. The satisfaction of knowing you have left a legacy that will support our Catholic faith for generations to come.

## MUSIC IN SEMINARY LIFE

*Ryan Beaupré, 2nd year Philosophy, Archdiocese of Grouard-McLennan*

Music is very much a part of our life at the seminary. If you decided to take a walk around the seminary after supper, you would start by passing the chapel, and you would hear someone playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Then, you would continue on towards our community room, where you could hear a choir practicing for Mass the next morning. As you reached the rooms of the seminarians, you would hear the sounds of a guitar or a violin coming through certain doors. And you are sure to find someone tickling the ivories somewhere along the way.

We seminarians love music, and it is an essential part of our spiritual

formation. This is because we are taught to appreciate beauty, and to see and hear how God is trying to speak to us through it. Music is so often the Holy Spirit's means of communication. There are times when a hymn at Mass has the perfect words to express what we want to pray at that moment, or there are times when a song comes on the radio which inspires us and gives us the desire to give ourselves to Christ once again. Music, when done well, brings us back to God time and time again.

Music is also an incredibly important part of our human formation, that is, our training to become well-rounded men of community. By singing and



practising together, we become aware of our brothers' individual gifts, and learn to appreciate them and work with them. This happens primarily through our choirs. Each seminarian is in one of our choirs, which sing at Mass one day of the week. In addition, special choirs are often put together to help celebrate a solemnity more fully. These choirs and other forms of music here at the seminary build up our sense of community and bring us closer to Our Lord, and we continue to thank Him for this gift of Music.

## DEACON ROBERT'S JOURNEY

Once a hesitant seminarian, Robert Lee is now a deacon with a goal of priesthood in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Bob was a recent high school graduate in Spruce Grove when he was invited by Father Paul Terrio — then a parish priest, now Bishop of St. Paul — to come along on a hospital visit after Sunday Mass.

He watched as Fr. Paul prayed with patients in the hospital and brought them Holy Communion. "What I saw there was that the people loved the priest and the priest loved the people," he remembers. "It was a kind of joy I saw in the eyes of the people that made me think that I want to give that too ... I wanted to be a part of that ministry of Christ."

But he was far from sure about entering the seminary. With Father Paul's encouragement, he agreed

to try it out for four months.

"When I entered seminary what I found was a fraternity, a healthy community and a place of prayer that really gave context to what God wanted for me in my life, and here I am ... seven years later."

Deacon Bob candidly admits that his journey has not been without struggles. In his early years at St. Joseph Seminary, he questioned whether he could really accept the demands of priesthood — celibacy, obedience, and not being able to pursue his dream job or favourite outdoor activities.

"My vocation is no longer about rejecting things, but about accepting love and about offering that love to others."

Deacon Bob encourages anyone who thinks they may have a call to the priesthood, even just a tug, to come to St. Joseph Seminary to discern.

"The seminary here in Edmonton is a pillar of the Catholic community in the city — not just a sign and symbol but a very practical form of ministry in the Archdiocese."

"Our vocation is for the community, and our vocation is from the community. With your help, we can discern God's will and spread his Gospel throughout the world."





## A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Towards the end of his 2013 Exhortation, The Joy of the Gospel, Pope Francis calls for “Spirit-filled evangelizers” (#259) in the Church today, and he states clearly that the primary motivation of such missionaries “for evangelizing is the love

of Jesus which we have received, the experience of salvation which urges us to ever greater love of him.” (#264) Seminary life attempts to cultivate this personal encounter with the Lord Jesus on a daily basis and form the heart of a future priest who will also be a Spirit-filled evangelizer to the people of our day, on fire with the love of God that has been experienced personally in prayer, reflection on the Word of God, study, community life and regular experiences of ministry.

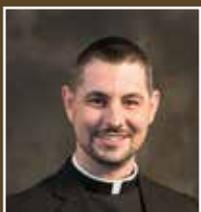
Our seminarians were involved in a variety of ministries through the second half of the year that allowed them to meet the Lord in his people and to also attempt to bring him where he was less known. Our 15 seminarians in their propaedeutic or foundational year, for example, had an intense “apostolic month” in January that – due to their numbers – sent them further afield than in past years. Eight of them went to live as volunteers in L’Arche communities in Calgary, Comox, Edmonton, Lethbridge and Saskatoon. Three resided at the Marian Centre in Edmonton close to

the inner city poor, and four more went to Canada’s far North in Dawson City and Telegraph Creek.

This being sent to the “peripheries” on a mission taught these seminarians to face their own limits, to find new ways of listening and communicating, and learn a deeper dependence on God whose “forerunners” and “heralds” they are. Our philosophers and theologians, for their part, had weekly “missions” in parishes with youth groups and with those inquiring in the RCIA, in our Catholic schools, in hospitals, and (this year) a prison as well. Six more of our seminarians are living full time in supervised placements in parishes in their dioceses – a full year outside the seminary as they learn intensely to be pastors of parishes. Listening to all these young men speak of their experiences, we can see that they are being challenged and stretched to find God and to help others to know God’s presence – sometimes in situations of great darkness and suffering. It is the joy that comes from knowing God that makes their weakness strong and courageous to walk these sometimes difficult paths with people.

It is in these experiences of ministry, I think, that all of the rest of the formation comes together – the prayer, study, and personal work on character and virtues – and a missionary disciple grows “feet” to walk the highways and byways of our world today. The course of seminary formation is long but these full years pass increasingly quickly for the men in formation, as these “feet” become increasingly eager for the mission.

## WHERE ARE OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS?



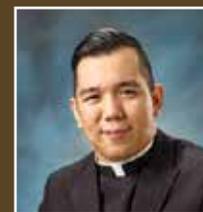
**Fr. Ross  
Campbell**

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown, ON



**Fr. Vincent  
Lusty**

St. Martin of Tours Parish, Swan Lake, MB



**Fr. Arpee  
Urquico**

Resurrection Parish, Regina, SK



**Fr. Joshua  
Gundrum**

St. Stanislaus Parish, East Selkirk, MB



**Fr. Roger  
Niedzielski**

St. Joseph Basilica, Edmonton, AB



**Fr. Michael  
Yaremko**

St. Augustine Parish, Humbolt, SK



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The New Year began with a bang at Newman Theological College. In January the College's Board of Governors

approved a new strategic plan for 2018-2021. This was the culmination of several months of work involving discussions with over 11 stakeholder groups and input from more than 100 people. I am proud to say the entire process was open, transparent and collaborative. The results truly reflect the entire community and those that we serve.

This process began with revising our mission statement. The new mission is:

"Newman Theological College is a Roman Catholic School of Theology committed to theological education and missionary discipleship. The College prepares laity, religious, and ordained ministers for Christian service and leadership in Western Canada and beyond."

This statement is similar to the previous one. Of particular note is the addition of the concept of "missionary discipleship." This is a concept that has been emphasized recently by Pope Francis. Including it in our mission highlights that the College's approach to theological education is not merely academic and intellectual. Education at Newman aims to develop the whole person for service within the Church in order to bring all closer to God.

Missionary discipleship also suggests the work of the College's Benedict XVI Institute in providing opportunities for faith formation in models that are short, inexpensive and convenient, allowing all to benefit from the expertise the College provides.

Finally, the new mission says that we prepare people for service and leadership in "Western Canada and beyond." This reflects both our collaboration with St. Joseph Seminary in the formation of future priests

in Western Canada and the development of online degrees and certificates that reach students beyond our region.

The Board also approved a new vision statement. While a mission statement says who we are and what we do, a vision statement is aspirational and future oriented. In keeping with this the new vision of Newman Theological College is: "To develop life-long disciples and ministers of Christ through the formation of minds and hearts."

This vision reflects Newman's increased commitment to an integral formation that addresses intellectual formation, awareness of cultural context, personal and spiritual formation, and capacity for ministerial leadership. It also highlights the importance of the College as an educational institution committed to life-long theological formation nourishing Christian life and ministry.

The Strategic Plan includes six fundamental priorities that I will address more fully in the next newsletter.

All of these goals and more are made possible by your generous support. Without your prayer and financial contributions, the work we do to prepare priests, Catholic teachers and educational leaders, chaplains for hospitals, prisons, and universities would just not be possible. As we work towards the ambitious goals set by the Strategic Plan, your continued support gives us the ability to move forward in confidence. Thank you so much for making it possible for the College to successfully carry out its mission.

In Christ,  
Jason West, Ph.D., *President*



Photo courtesy of Jason Ness

*The goal for this campaign is is \$100,000 with 6.5% expenses .  
Thank you to our volunteers who help us keep costs down.*

Interested in getting a copy of the Foundation's Annual Report?

Email [rsvp@caedm.ca](mailto:rsvp@caedm.ca) and request one to be sent to you.

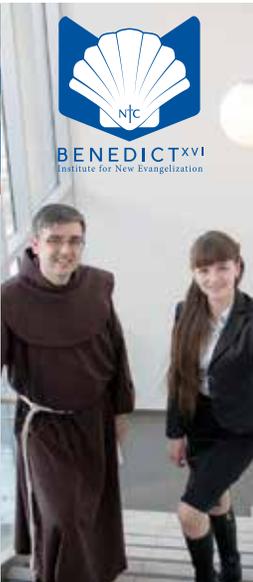
**Registration is now open** for the 2018 Faith, Fitness & Fun Run/Walk that will take place on **Saturday, May 26**, on the grounds of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College, 10012 - 84 Street. Enjoy scenic views of our river valley on your 10K run, 5K run or 3K walk.

Register for this family-oriented event via [www.events.runningroom.com/site/?raceId=14983](http://www.events.runningroom.com/site/?raceId=14983).

Registration fee includes t-shirt, hospitality, prizes & fun. Chip-timed.

For more information about this event contact Maria Baca at 780.469.1010 or email [FunRun@caedm.ca](mailto:FunRun@caedm.ca).





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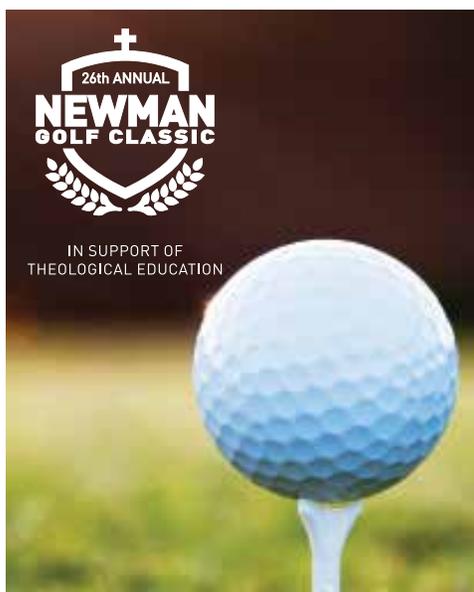
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**UNDERSTAND YOUR FAITH | STUDY THEOLOGY | PREPARE FOR MINISTRY**



**Join us** for the 26th Annual Newman Golf Classic at the beautiful Blackhawk Golf Club on July 9, 2018 in support of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College.

Over the past 25 years this fine event has raised \$2.8 million. You too can be part of this!

For more information on how to become a sponsor or Tournament Patron or to register, please visit [www.caedm.ca/golf](http://www.caedm.ca/golf) or contact Anna at 780.469.1010 (cell: 780.952.6437) or [golf@caedm.ca](mailto:golf@caedm.ca).

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