

## Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award

2018

The Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award is given out annually to a graduate of Newman Theological College who has:

- demonstrated academic excellence,
- contributed to the building up of the College community, and
- shown outstanding commitment to their faith in service to the wider community.

This year's recipient has been exemplary in all three of these areas throughout his studies here at NTC.

### **Demonstrated Academic Excellence**

In the demonstration of academic excellence: our recipient was very committed to his studies, and worked extraordinarily hard to do his best in each and every course taken at NTC. Through this effort he was able to maintain a spot in the top percentile throughout his studies. Often seated at the front of the classroom, he actively participated in class discussions with great vigour and enthusiasm. He could often be spotted in class and in the corridors with a huge bag full of books from the library, surely an outward sign of the seriousness with which he took his studies.

He also brought a spirit of discipleship and mission into each class discussion. His hard work and dedication paid off and today he is graduating with distinction because of a high GPA.

### **Contribution to the Building up of the College Community**

In terms of building up our college community: our recipient gave many hours to Newman's communal and spiritual life. He purposely worked to create a welcoming community at Newman College. He encouraged his fellow students to eat together rather than alone in the gathering area where he would engage them in discussions on a variety of topics, often with an emphasis on spiritual life. When preparing for his comprehensive exams he also encouraged his fellow students to form study groups so that they could support each other in their academic studies. Our recipient served on Student Council for two years, first as the Vice President-Academic and last year as the Vice President of Spiritual Life. In this latter capacity, He initiated and led "Faith-Sharing Circles" for students. He also made sure that our Eucharistic Celebrations ran smoothly by preparing the lectionaries and communion vessels the night before, and by arriving early to solicit volunteers for the various liturgical ministries. He also served in all of these ministries when the need arose. He made a concerted effort to involve all the students in the liturgical ministries at the College, including part-time students (especially Catholic

school teachers) when they were on campus. He led the NTC community and ecumenical guests from Kings, Concordia and Taylor universities during the “Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service.” Finally, in April of this year, our recipient was nominated by his peers to receive the Sr. Anne Honig Student Service Award for service and leadership to the College community, fostering a community spirit at the College and for demonstrating a Christian spirit to all.

### **Commitment to Faith and Service**

In service to the wider community: one thing that is most notable about this year’s recipient is that he is a person of deep faith who is always there for other people. He first came to the College as support worker for people with addictions living at Edmonton’s Hope Mission. During his studies, he worked to recruit fellow students as volunteers at the Edmonton Remand Centre, he organized clothing drives and a Christmas caroling expedition to the Marian Centre. Also as a student, he was known to keep track of prayer intentions that he became aware of throughout his day and he would often bring these intentions into the common worship of the students and faculty.

Our recipient’s warm smile, cheerful attitude and concern for others make it easy to forget the enormous responsibility he carried on his shoulders during his studies. As a married man with 11 daughters (two who were born during his

studies), engaged in his parish and in street ministry it is remarkable the extent to which he has excelled during his time with us. As one student said of our recipient, "That he is able to manage his familial responsibilities, his volunteer activities and his academic workload, I think, are sure signs of his utter reliance on God."

### **Concluding Comments**

This year's recipient is an excellent student, a remarkable servant leader and an incredible witness of faith to all at NTC. He is an extraordinary man whose love for God radiates from his person and a very worthy recipient of this award.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with heartfelt thanks and admiration that I present to you this year's recipient of the Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award: Darryl Tymchuk.