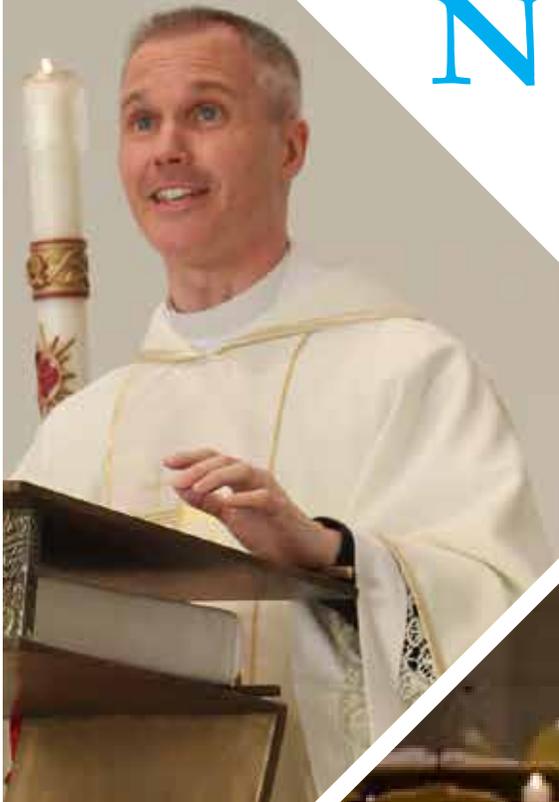




The **Foundation** of
St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College

Spring 2021
NEWS and
NOTES



NEW OPPORTUNITIES, REV. STEPHEN HERO



It is safe to say that we have never quite had a seminary year like we did this year! In fact, at one point last spring, we were not sure that we would be able to have the seminarians return to the seminary at all, due to the risk of Covid-19. But “God takes care of fools and saints,” as we like to say here. The priests and staff of the seminary worked over the summer to figure out how we could keep our seminary residence a healthy place. With the help of God and reasonable protocols in place, we have been Covid-free and have had another blessed year together.

What did life look like here this year at the seminary? Numbers were a little smaller with 30 seminarians from ten different Dioceses, but — in some



ways — this helped us to observe the necessary pandemic protocols and made it possible to keep physical distance in the chapel and at tables. Everyone cooperated well with the various measures intended to help keep our community safe, and it was a great opportunity for all of us to grow in patience and charity towards our neighbour. The breaks at holiday times were very important for everyone’s morale, but each time, we enacted stricter protocols until we were sure that everyone was healthy.

Seminary life and formation continued this year with some creative adaptations. Bishop Hector Vila from the Diocese of Whitehorse led our opening retreat in September, but he had to give his exciting conferences via the internet and live-streaming. With the help of technology, we were able to make it possible for him to see us as a group gathered in our community room and for us to see him. Unable to receive guests at the seminary this year, the internet became an important vehicle for communication. Although we were able to have some classes in person with seminarian cohorts at Newman Theological College, a number of classes were online. Various experts in psychology and ministry were able to animate some formation sessions online this way and our seminarians even organized a virtual *Come and See* Event

for young men discerning the priesthood. Our annual fundraising event for the missions likewise took on a new form as an online Trivia Night which was very successful.

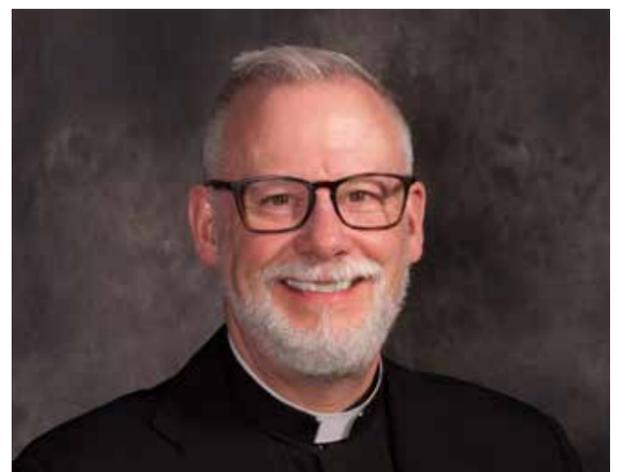
The seminary is normally a place of hospitality, so this year was difficult especially in not being able to welcome the public to our First Friday Masses or other special events. We missed the contact and seeing many of our friends and benefactors on a regular basis. Although the seminarians were not completely house-bound, it was also not possible for them to do their weekly pastoral placements out in the community, e.g. in parishes, schools, hospitals, or other venues. I know that the seminarians greatly missed this way of serving others directly and practically, as this is such a large dimension of priestly life, a life given completely to the service of others. A good part of discernment also happens through actual experience of Christian service. Nevertheless, the pandemic context certainly led us to focus on some other important areas of formation, e.g. self-care in busy times and looking at new and creative ways to minister to God’s people.

On behalf of the priests, seminarians and staff of St. Joseph Seminary, I would like to thank all of our friends



and benefactors for your wonderful support again this year. Although a financially difficult time for everyone, God always provided for us through each of you when we needed it. The generosity of our friends and benefactors, thoughtful gifts sent to seminarians, cards and expressions of care and prayer, were beacons of light and strength for all of us because, as you know, the restrictions caused by the pandemic — as necessary as they may be — can make life lonely and depressing at times.

The seminarians will be returning to their Dioceses at the end of exams in April. There will be challenges this summer as they find work or serve in parishes. At the same time, I will be ending my nine years as Rector of the seminary, so there will be further transitions for the priests and seminarians this coming Fall. As a ‘last word,’ I would like to express my gratitude to God and to all of you for this opportunity to participate in the great ‘work of God’ which is St. Joseph Seminary. Being surrounded by so many fine young men discerning priesthood, brother priests, and so many faithful friends in the community has been a powerful incentive for me to strive to be a better priest for God and for the Church. Kindly keep us all in your prayers as we follow where God is leading us. We will be praying for you!



“(We) have the great joy of informing you that (during the time of designing this newsletter) the Holy Father, Pope Francis, has named Reverend Father Stephen Hero, currently Rector of Saint Joseph’s Seminary in Edmonton, as Bishop of the Diocese of Prince Albert in Saskatchewan. (...)

Although we are saddened by the departure of Bishop-Elect Hero from the Archdiocese of Edmonton, nevertheless we rejoice with the clergy, religious and lay faithful of his Diocese as they welcome their new Chief Shepherd. They will soon come to know him as a wise and gentle leader, who will lead them with clarity and conviction in fidelity to Christ and His Church.

Let us be sure to keep Bishop-Elect Hero and the Diocese of Prince Albert in our daily prayers.”

✠ Most Rev. Richard Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton



New Rector at St. Joseph Seminary

We are pleased to announce that Archbishop Richard Smith has appointed Reverend Father Sylvain Casavant as the new Rector of Saint Joseph’s Seminary. This appointment takes effect immediately.

Let us all be sure to support Fr. Sylvain, and all members of the seminary formation team, with our prayers.



DISCERNMENT DURING A PANDEMIC, DANIEL SALÉ

In the summer of 2019, I decided not to enter the seminary that year. I had a host of excuses to put it off, and I made a vague commitment that I would probably enter in 2020. With that I had another year to discern, and I could continue living my life.

I came to seriously regret that decision. First, in October 2019, when after going to confession and adoration, I finally accepted that God was indeed calling me to enter the seminary. And again, in late March 2020 when it became apparent that the COVID-19 pandemic was not going to be short-lived and my entry to St. Joseph's Seminary was not going to be as smooth as I had expected.

The routine of my life was upended last spring, as it was for everyone. At my job with Edmonton's Food Bank all my work was pushed aside as I instead helped with the distribution of hampers and shifting our fundraising efforts online. When churches closed and I was cut-off from the True Presence in the Eucharist, and my prayer life had to go online to survive. With a group of other young Catholics, I prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and the rosary via Zoom every night, and that became the heart of my faith life for several months.

Nonetheless, countless doubts about my vocation plagued my mind throughout the spring. Would the seminary even be open in the autumn? Would we be totally isolated, and unable to visit our families and friends at all? Was it prudent to leave my job considering the pressing demand on the organization? What would I do if we were sent home when the next wave of the pandemic inevitably came? How long did I have before I could back out of my commitment?

These nagging questions didn't vanish when I learned that I had been accepted and that St. Joseph's would be open in September. I think these doubts persisted because they lent some level of legitimacy to pre-existing anxieties I had about the seminary, about leaving my home, my work, and my friends and venturing into something altogether different.

As September drew nearer, the Lord thankfully took matters into his own hands. I finally told the rest of my co-

workers and friends about my decision in early August, and afterwards I found confirmation of the decision in both my social life and my prayer life.

The anxieties were still there, but God ensured that my tendency to procrastinate and double guess myself would no longer stand in the way. In spite of my concerns, I arrived at the seminary on September 1st.

COVID-19 has been a devastating experience for the Church and for many Catholics. Amidst uncertainty, God can feel far off and the concrete experiences and realities of our faith may not seem so certain. It can be hard to realize, but God is always present and active in your life.

For months I thought my decision to wait another year to enter the seminary was a terrible mistake; the pandemic has prevented me from having a pastoral placement that every seminarian before has experienced, and has limited interactions between our community and the larger Catholic community. But upon reflection, it wasn't a mistake. At the height of the lockdown, I witnessed unparalleled acts of charity from donors and volunteers at the Food Bank, and I was able to serve those most in need on the front lines. I was also able to find God present in friendship and prayer with other young Catholics amidst unprecedented turmoil.

These experiences provided me assurance I needed to finally enter the seminary. If we keep the Lord always before us, he will show us the path of life (cf. *Ps.* 16: 8, 11).

Daniel is in his propaedeutic year at St. Joseph Seminary studying for the Archdiocese of Edmonton



NEW PROGRAMS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES, DR. JASON WEST

Dear Friends;

It is a great joy to reach out to you after this very unusual year. As you will expect, dealing with the pandemic has been an ongoing struggle. But we have been rising to the occasion by migrating most classes online, while providing as many opportunities for on campus learning as is safe and in keeping with provincial guidelines.

Last summer we received historic news that the Alberta government had approved NTC's first provincially accredited B.A. program in Catholic studies. This concluded a two-year accreditation process and meant we were launching a new degree program on short notice in the midst of an unprecedented health crisis.

But, in spite of the challenging conditions we pulled it off. This program is unique in Canada in following an integrated 'great books' curriculum and providing dynamic Socratic style seminars. Instead of textbook summaries, students read first-hand original works by some of the greatest minds to have written; instead of only giving lectures, professors lead the students in dynamic conversations about ideas that have formed our culture and our Church.

The program began with a first cohort of 11 seminary students (10 from St. Joseph's Seminary and one from the Ukrainian Catholic Holy Spirit Seminary.) We are aiming to welcome a new and larger class of students this

coming fall that will also include young women and men studying to provide leadership in the Church and broader society as lay people.

In order to meet the high standards set by provincial accreditation we have hired a new professor of philosophy after an international search. In July we will welcome Alberta native Francis Fast to our faculty. Francis has been completing his Ph.D. in philosophy on the political thought of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of Dallas and has worked widely in the great books movement. We also welcomed Ann Marie Engler as our new director of marketing and recruiting. Ann has extensive experience in communications and marketing having worked for two dioceses and most recently at Star of the North retreat centre. We are thrilled to welcome both of these talented individuals to our community.

Of course, it is a difficult time to make these strategic investments and bring on new staff to the College. This is only possible with the tremendous support of our many donors. I would like to personally thank each of you for the support you have given us through generously sharing your time, talents and treasures.

Your gifts make possible the transformation of our students lives, so from the bottom of my heart I thank you.

God bless.

*Ann Marie Engler
Director of
Marketing and Recruiting*



*Dr. Jason West
President, NTC*



*Dr. Francis Fast
Incoming professor of
philosophy*

Newman Theological College's distinctive Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies provides an integrated immersion in the Great Books of Western Civilization and of Catholic culture. (...) By engaging students in the fundamental works of Western theology, philosophy, literature, history, science, and the fine arts, this Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies seeks to inculcate what Cardinal Newman called an integrated habit of mind, a power of "viewing many things at once as a whole, of referring them severally to their true place".

*For more info, please visit
newman.edu/BACath*



Rev. Mike McCaffery - a pastor, mentor, teacher, community leader and supporter of the Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College for more than 50 years — died on Jan. 19 due to complications related to COVID-19. He was 85.

“Father Mike was real, he was himself, and that gave the people with whom he came in contact permission to be authentic, to be themselves in his presence,” Archbishop Richard Smith said in his homily during the funeral Mass.

“Whether in the confessional, in the course of pastoral counselling, or even just over a coffee, he heard and saw first-hand that life can get very messy, that categories of black and white rarely apply in people’s lives. Father Mike willingly stepped into the grey, he did not hesitate to go to the edge, if that is where he would find people and help them encounter Christ.”

“Father Mike” married, buried, and baptized hundreds of people. From his ordination in 1961 until 2003, Father McCaffery served various parishes in Edmonton, Maskwacis, Leduc, Mearns and Red Deer. A former chancellor of the Archdiocese, and beloved professor at Newman Theological College, Father McCaffery had many roles in ministry. Out of all of them, he enjoyed being a parish priest best.

“I’ve done many jobs but I’ve always considered pastoral ministry to be the most fulfilling,” Father said in an interview in 2011. “I enjoy journeying with people — the good, the bad and the ugly.”

Father McCaffery’s death leaves a gaping hole in the hearts of those who remember him and the far-reaching impact he has on so many. He’s the priest who couldn’t say “No” whenever dozens of organizations and hundreds of individuals asked for help.

In retirement, Father McCaffery kept his legendary sense of humour. His business cards said: “C.M. McCaffery — Retired but Hatching, Matching and Dispatching.” And when he said Grace, he included a prayerful pitch for whichever of the city’s sports teams was in need of heavenly intervention.

Since his death, what emerges from friends and family is a more fulsome portrait of a priest whose unassuming, easygoing nature made him approachable to anyone.

Father Mike loved the game of golf and in the past went to what he called “the Holy Land” (Palm Springs) to golf each November, also enjoyed golfing in Kauai for a few weeks in January or February.

Now in his 90s, Rev. Frank Stempfle — a retired priest in the Edmonton Archdiocese — is mourning the loss of Father Mike, one of the self-described ‘Three Amigos,’ along with Father Leo Floyd, who would go on golfing trips together.

“Mike would be in charge of our accommodations on our trips,” Father Frank recalled. “So Mike, we’re calling on you to arrange our heavenly accommodations. I will miss Mike. We will all miss Mike. He was a hell of a good guy, and a true friend.”

On the day of his funeral, in final farewell to his brother priests, the hearse drove past the Villa Vianney retired priest’s residence. Many of them came out, prayed at the coffin, and then silently went back inside.

After graduating with a Master’s of Sociology degree at Fordham University in New York, Father McCaffery earned a Religious Leader Certificate at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. His family recalled he loved that school and attended the ‘Fighting Irish’ football games whenever he could.

And he loved the Oilers, love them or hate them, who were often included in his prayers.

In 1987, Father McCaffery became rector of St. Joseph’s Basilica where he famously hosted the 1988 wedding of Wayne Gretzky and Janet Jones, both non-Catholics in a ecumenical celebration. Longtime friend Tim Spelliscy said the wedding was a testament to Father Mike’s outreach to everyone – Catholics, non-Catholics, people of other faith backgrounds or none at all.

“Wayne Gretzky’s wedding is what I’m remembered for,” Father McCaffery said in an interview. “That certainly made me famous for five seconds!”

McCaffery taught at Newman Theological College and was president of the college from 1978 to 1983. His tenure had such an impact that his name and legacy were cemented with the establishment of the Fr. Mike McCaffery Chair in Pastoral Theology in 2007. And he was chancellor of the Edmonton Archdiocese throughout the 1990s.

Among his many awards and honours, Father McCaffery received the Paul Harris Fellow, the highest award given by the Rotary Club, and the Monsignor Bill Irwin Award of Excellence in Community Leadership. He was also named to the Alberta Order of Excellence in 2005.

For all the accolades, at the heart of Father Mike was a priest who ministered to the vulnerable and wasn’t afraid to be vulnerable himself, in particular when it came to presiding at high-profile funeral Masses.

“I think that a lot of people thought that Mike just kind of took that for granted. And he didn’t,” recalled Rev. Don MacDonald, a professor and former president of Newman Theological College.

“He said to me ‘You don’t know how much that takes out of me. I get nervous about it. It’s draining. Sometimes I can’t sleep because of it.’ He said ‘If I take this load upon my shoulders, it’s to serve people. It’s not because I get any type of kick or any type of enjoyment out of it.’ I think that is something that a lot of people don’t know.”

In ministry, Father McCaffery worked with recovering heroin addicts. He took on duties in Edmonton studying alcoholism in isolated northern communities. And he served as a fifth-step listener for recovering alcoholics, listening to their stories and helping them come to terms with their actions.

In the late 1970s, he co-founded a workshop called “New Beginnings” which has helped countless participants deal with feelings of loss and grief stemming from divorce, separation, and death. Perhaps it’s the influence of Father McCaffery’s late friend, Msgr. William Irwin.

“We’ve all lost a wonderful example of what humanity looks like when it’s at its best,” Troy Davies, chief executive officer of Catholic Social Services, said of Father McCaffery’s death. “If Father Bill Irwin was the spiritual father of Catholic Social Services, then Father Mike McCaffery was its spiritual uncle.”

Davies said he was humbled that CSS was selected as the charity of choice for memorial donations. “He has, as we all know, just a very, very spacious heart for the vulnerable, the addicted, the abandoned, those who are abused — precisely the kinds of people that CSS serves.”

In a family video, shown at the prayer vigil the day before his funeral, the McCafferys shared the human side of Father Mike that the public rarely saw: He loved movies so much he would sometimes watch two in a row; his delight in a gourmet or home-cooked meal, but equally a “PB and J with vanilla ice cream and weak tea for dessert”, his fondness for long drives, his lead foot putting “the pedal to the metal” — and the rumour that he would read a novel while driving great distances.

In their grief, his niece Megan spoke for the family about the lasting legacy of Mike McCaffery: “These are the lessons we will take from him: Help others. Be present. And bloom where you are planted.”

The Edmonton Archdiocese lost a giant this year.

Andrew Erkhamp
Grandin Media



NEW FACES IN THE FOUNDATION'S OFFICE

Marion Haggarty-France oversees the Archdiocese's Strategic Planning, Communications and Donor Engagement as the Mission Advancement Senior Lead.

Prior to joining the Archdiocese in October, Marion worked in senior administration at the University of Alberta. She wrapped up twenty-five years of increasing responsibility by serving as the University Secretary, the most senior advisor on governance and associated legislative and administrative policy and procedures.

Engaged in the Catholic community, Marion served on the Newman Board and currently serves on the St. Joseph's College Board. Marion and her husband Dave are active members of St. Thomas More parish, and have two daughters who keep them busy (much busier before COVID slowed them down)!

She is grateful to be a part of the Archdiocese and to support Archbishop Richard Smith. She knows she has an incredible team, dedicated and committed to meeting your needs, advancing our Mission, and to Living in the Word of God.



Stéphane Haché joined the Archdiocese in the role of Donor Engagement Lead on January 4, 2021. He also holds the position of Executive Director for the Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College.

Stéphane brings over 30 years of experience in fundraising, non-profit management and business development to the team. From Edmundston, NB to Edmonton, AB with a stop in Victoria, BC, his career in the sector has taken him right across the country in many roles.

In his spare time, Stéphane is an avid sports fan focused mostly on golf, baseball and hockey. He is also a proud dad of two teenagers who make him smile every day.



Two seminarians to be ordained to transitional diaconate

We are pleased to announce that two men who are studying for the diocesan priesthood at St. Joseph Seminary will be ordained as transitional deacons. The transitional diaconate is the last phase of formation for a seminarian. As an ordained deacon, he can baptize, witness marriages, preside at funeral services outside of Mass, and preach the homily at Mass.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, these ordinations will be livestreamed:

Tai Le for Diocese of Prince Albert on April 30, 2021 and Chad Miciak for Archdiocese of Edmonton on May 17, 2021.

WELCOME TO THE NEWMAN GOLF CLASSIC 2021!

We are back! After the unprecedented year of 2020, it is our pleasure to welcome you to the **2021 Newman Golf Classic** that will be held once again at the beautiful **Blackhawk Golf Club on Monday July 12, 2021.**

Your contribution in any form would be most helpful and truly appreciated. For more information, please visit www.caedm.ca/golf or contact Anna Jaremko at 780-952-6437 or golf@caedm.ca or Lianne Shaigec at 780-934-8124 or lshaigec@volvoedmonton.ca.

Proudly presented by

V O L V O
OF EDMONTON

This tournament will also be different for one more important reason. For the first time in our tournament's history, Fr. Mike will not be welcoming our golfers. As we all feel his absence, we dedicate this tournament to commemorate his memory and love for golf.

Your continued support and prayers are most welcome and needed! The goal of the Spring Campaign is \$100,000. Costs are kept to a minimum at 6.5% thanks to our volunteers who help.