



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

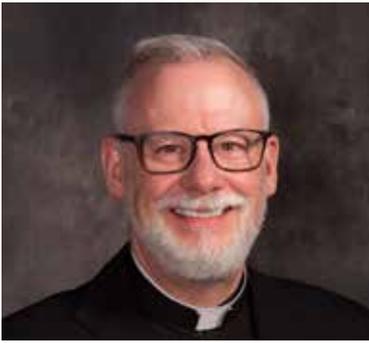
Spring 2022 NEWS and NOTES

Pictured below is Rev. Mr. Chad Miciak from Camrose who is studying to be a priest for the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Chad came to study at St. Joseph Seminary in September 2015 and was ordained to a transitional Diaconate in May 2021 during a Holy Mass following COVID-19 restrictions.

Chad's ordination to the Ministerial Priesthood will take place on Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Basilica in Edmonton. We hope that for the first time in two years, the ordination will be open to the public. Watch the Archdiocese's website page for more details.





BEING CHRIST FOR EACH OTHER

*(Rev. Fr.) Sylvain J.Y. Casavant, PSS
Rector, St. Joseph Seminary*

“Christ has no body but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.”

of the Holy Spirit. The graciousness of the seminarians and the thankfulness of the guests were palpable. It was one of the best *Come and See* weekends that the seminary has had.

This is the beginning of a prayer written by St. Theresa of Avila. Its beauty is found in the profound simplicity of the statements and reveals a deep truth of the Christian's life. We are not our own. We belong to Christ and have accepted

Has this weekend helped men to decide to apply to the seminary? This is something that will be manifest in time, but it has been a moment of discernment for them. The impact of the seminary community revealed

to be His hands, His feet, His compassion. Christians make Christ present. This

Our presence makes a difference to others and when Christ is the centre of that presence, we make Him known.

has not been an easy task these past two years of pandemic existence but we have done the best we could. At the seminary, we tried to help men who sensed God was calling them. In 2021, we had a virtual event at which we had 21 men speak of their experiences of God. They spoke of how they were being challenged to consider discerning priesthood and we offered them encouragement and hope. Seeds were planted and watered.

to them the extended hand of Christ and the invitation to come and discern the call of the Lord. As for the seminary community, Christ has blessed us

and let us be His living presence for these men. What more could we ask for? We continue to pray that these men will respond to God's call and we ask that you do the same.

I leave you with the Prayer of St. Theresa of Avila:

This year, we decided to have a *Come and See* weekend in which men stayed at the seminary. It was the first in-house event we have had in two years, and what a joy it was. Having this physical presence made us acutely aware of the prayer of St. Theresa and its impact. Yes, we kept masks on, sanitized hands often, and were socially distanced but we were present to each other. Because of this, the words of St. Theresa's prayer became a living reality.

***Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks
to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He
blesses all the world.***

***Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.***

The seminary — nay, our seminarians and formation team priests — opened their hearts to 15 men and helped to reveal Christ to them. Along with these in-person guests, seven men joined us online via Zoom. The whole experience was filled with the action

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Jason West, PhD., NTC, President & Vice-Chancellor



Dear Friends;

It is a joy to greet you as we look forward before long to the end of another academic year. There are, of course, many things happening at the college. We are developing our next strategic plan, as well as engaging in a period of self-study as we prepare for our accreditation visit in the fall of 2023. In the midst of this, our students continue to study during a second year profoundly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as worries about Ukraine. These last worries, of course, have a special resonance for our students from Holy Spirit Seminary, of the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Canada. In the midst of these challenges, we have also been especially blessed with a grant of nearly \$988,000 USD from the Lilly

Endowment to fund a three-year Pathways to Ministry project. This project is vital to the future of the College, and indeed for the Church in Alberta. A sign of the importance of this work can be seen in Dr. Ryan Topping taking on the lead of implementing this new project.

For many years, a significant majority of our students have come to us through long-developed institutional partnerships with Catholic dioceses and Catholic school districts. While lots of hard work behind the scenes went into nurturing these relationships, the stability this provided also meant we did relatively little in terms of marketing and student recruitment directly to individuals.

Recently we have begun to change this. In recent years we developed a thorough marketing plan, and hired for the first time in well over a decade a full-

time staff person, Ann Marie Engler, to work on marketing and recruiting. The Pathways project looks to build on this, leveraging our relationships with Catholic parishes, schools, and agencies that work with young people, to identify and build relationships with future leaders.

I will leave it to Dr. Topping to share more specifically the vision and approach to this exciting new development. As we reach out to you, our closest supporters for continued help this year, we are profoundly mindful of our blessings. We also recognize the many challenges facing the local church and each of us individually.

It is with gratitude that the College community acknowledges the many sacrifices you have made to support our work and the prayer and material resources with which you continue to bless us.



Ann Marie Engler

THERE'S A NEW GREAT BOOKS PROGRAM IN TOWN!

Francis Fast, PhD., NTC Professor of Philosophy and Director of the B.A. in Catholic Studies Program



Newman Theological College has just launched the first three-year Catholic Great Books program in the country.

With aspects of the curriculum drawing on examples of prestigious and respected institutions like Thomas Aquinas College (California),

University of King's College (Nova Scotia), and Thomas More College (New Hampshire), NTC's Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies is designed for students who want to develop what John Henry Newman called an "integrated habit of mind," and learn to think with the wisdom of the ages and the mind of the Church.

NTC is affiliated with both St. Joseph Roman Catholic Seminary and Holy Spirit Ukrainian Catholic Seminary, so the program combines the philosophy prerequisites for seminarians with a foray into the traditional liberal arts, such as logic and rhetoric; the fine arts, such as iconography and sacred music; and the Great Books of western civilization. The BA in Catholic Studies program seeks to develop future leaders of the Church in both lay and clerical states.

The program offers the unique opportunity for seminarians and laity to participate in Socratic seminars on thinkers such as Plato, Homer, Virgil, Dante, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas, and to discover the full breadth of Catholic identity. The BA program will equip students to pursue their vocations within a network of serious-minded Catholics

who share a common education, a common vocabulary, and are committed to advancing the Church's mission in the modern world.

The program is built to be affordable, recognizing that most people who pursue a liberal education will explore further training for their professional careers. A three-year course of studies balances depth of understanding with quick completion. Competitive tuition rates and generous bursaries mean that no student should be prevented from attending for financial reasons.

Come to Edmonton. Study in Newman's

Bachelor of Arts in Catholic Studies. Discover the Catholic identity and hone your mind by studying the greatest works of philosophy, theology, literature, and art that the world has yet produced.



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AWAKENING VOCATIONS THROUGH CATHOLIC CULTURE

Dr. Ryan N.S. Topping, NTC Professor and Director of the Benedict XVI Institute



Where Canada was once a 'sending' nation for priests around the world, for the last two generations our churches have depended significantly upon the generosity of foreign-born clergy. Why this cultural shift? Why have young men and women in Canada, in Alberta, found it so hard to 'hear' the call of God? What strategies can we enact to reverse this spiral?

We must "no longer walk as the Gentiles walk," St. Paul insists; we are called to put on "the new man" (*novum hominem*) (Eph 4: 17, 24).

This past February, we brought to our campus some 30 leaders in youth ministry from across Western Canada to tackle this question. We invited those institutions and leaders who are enjoying a degree of success at accompanying young Catholics on their walk toward either marriage or the priesthood and religious life. For those who care to look, amidst distressing news, there has also arisen in recent decades apostolates, orders, communities, and new movements, where vocations are indeed blossoming.

At this 'Vocations Workshop' we asked leaders from CCO (Catholic Christian Outreach, Canada's largest university-campus apostolate), St.

Thérèse School of Discipleship (Saskatchewan's dynamic school of faith program), Catholic Family Ministries (organizers of the annual Family Life Conference held outside Edmonton at Lac Ste. Anne), and other key leaders, these questions: Where do you see success? What practices, what structures, are helping high school and college-aged young people hear the call of Christ? How can we strengthen each other's mission?

The results so far have been promising. Over the next months as we plan, hire, and organize, we are preparing for the official fall 2022 Re-Launch of the Benedict XVI Institute – the outreach arm of NTC where these new vocations-related initiatives will be housed. In upcoming months, I also look forward to speaking with you, our friends and supporters, about some of the practical strategies in detail that we are developing with these partners to help reverse negative trends.

But allow me for now to draw attention to one key idea about which we've already been convinced: the transformative role of *culture*.

Wherever the Church is seeing growth, wherever apostolates are thriving, wherever young people are taking on the risk of marriage or the call to the seminary, we are seeing a renewal of the habits of Catholic culture. By 'culture' I don't mean simply 'doctrine'. We need fidelity to doctrine, of course. But by speaking of culture, I refer to a wider pattern of social, communal, habits. In the Church, if doctrine is the seed, culture is the fruit. What we at Newman hope to strengthen in Alberta and our part of Canada, is the

Catholic culture of our young.

Through commissioning the first-of-its-kind national study on the priesthood in Canada, through launching Catholic culture workshops for youth, through sponsoring new faith-formation internships for college students, through strengthening our new Great Books classical liberal arts BA program, and more, we are poised to begin rebuilding – alongside others and under the leadership of our Archbishop – the culture of vocations here in Alberta.

How could we do anything less? The Church asks from us not only belief, but a new modality of life. We must "no longer walk as the Gentiles walk," St. Paul insists; we are called to put on "the new man" (*novum hominem*) (Eph 4: 17, 24).

This new identity, when coherently lived, gives birth to new kinds of community, a new culture. St. John Paul the Great extended the summons this way: "a faith that does not become culture is not fully accepted, not entirely thought out, not faithfully lived".

We ask for your prayers and thank you for helping us answer this thrilling call. In the upcoming months, I look forward to sharing more details with many of you through our newsletter, our blog, or in person.



COME AND CHECK IT OUT, SEE FOR YOURSELF

Rev. Marc Cramer, Mission Vocations Lead

"Come and See" (John 1:39) are the words of Jesus to those He would eventually call to be His apostles. Basically, He was saying to them 'come and check it out, see for yourself.' This is great advice for anyone discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Many people sense a tug on their heart or an attraction to the priesthood or religious life. They

may not always know what that exactly means. Are they simply attracted to religion, or is it more? Are they simply inspired,

or is it more? Asking these kinds of questions is a good beginning. I have always advised that if there is an attraction or tug towards priesthood, to go and check it out. The natural sexual desires are so strong in all of us, it is easy to think we are called to marriage. But not all of us are meant for marriage. Marriage is not the only vocation nor is it the default

vocation. So, if there is even an inkling that there might be a call, it is worth checking out.

The *Come and See* weekends at St. Joseph Seminary are a wonderful opportunity for young men who are discerning a possible call to the priesthood or at least thinking about it, to go and check it out. You can only admire a girl from afar so much, before you have to ask her

**That is all we can do in life:
to discern God's will in the moment
and take the next step.
Let us go and see
what the Lord has in store for us.
Go and check it out!**

out. Similarly, you can only discern the priesthood for so long from the outside, eventually you have to go and check it out more deeply.

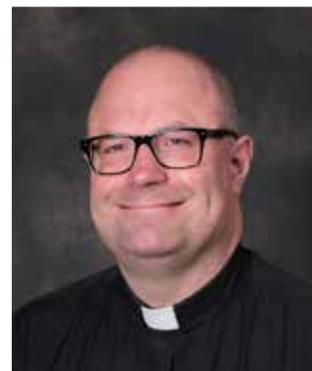
At a *Come and See* weekend you get a real taste of what seminary life is like and what it means to prepare for lifelong service to God. You will experience the life of the community in which priests are formed and grown. You pray together. You worship together. You serve together. You have fun together.

You eat together. You grow together. It is just a taste, but it is enough to see if

you want to take the next step of discernment and enter the seminary.

My job as the Vocations Lead, is often calming young men down, when they are freaking out that they will have to become a priest tomorrow. They know that this is not true, but they freak out as if it is. I calm them down and let them know that they are not really discerning or deciding to become a priest today. They are just deciding to take the next step to discern that and to see if that is where God is calling them to be right now.

That is all we can do in life: to discern God's will in the moment and take the next step. Let us go and see what the Lord has in store for us. Go and check it out!



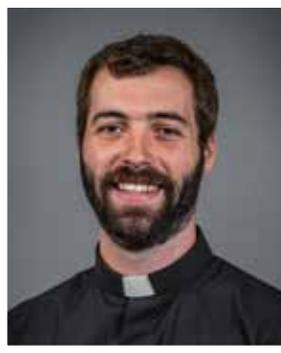
UPCOMING ORDINATIONS



REV. MR. TAI LE
Presbyteral Ordination
Friday, June 10 at 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart Cathedral
Prince Albert, SK



REV. MR. CHAD MICIAK
Presbyteral Ordination
Thursday, June 30 at 7 p.m.
St. Joseph's Basilica
Edmonton, AB



REV. MR. SERGE BUISSÉ
Presbyteral Ordination
Friday, July 8 at 7 p.m.
Cathedral of Saint Boniface
Winnipeg, MB



SANTIAGO TORRES
Diaconal Ordination
Saturday, May 21 at 11 a.m.
All Saints Parish
Lethbridge, AB



CALLED IN LOVE: MINISTRY, DISCERNMENT, AND LIFE AT ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY

Sr. Zoe Bernatsky SSMI

Assistant Professor, Pastoral Theology

As a collaborator with the St. Joseph Seminary formation team, I have been involved in the pastoral placement of seminarians. This

placement provides seminarians with the opportunity for two to three hours of volunteer service at parishes or social service organizations each week. This volunteer ministry is in addition to a very full schedule of prayer, academic coursework, and community responsibilities.

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions last year, there were no pastoral placements, so there was great anticipation and joy as each seminarian was missioned to their new role of service. At the end of the semester, each seminarian reflected on what was learned, intellectually and pastorally. They also received feedback from those with whom they worked throughout the year.

I must say that the feedback from both the seminarians and those with whom they ministered, brought much joy to my heart.

Two Scripture passages came quickly to mind. The first was from Chapter Ten in the Gospel of St. Luke. There, we are told that Jesus appointed 72 disciples and sent them out to every town and place. The 72 returned with joy, as did the seminarians!

Let me share a few examples of the sources of the jubilation! Seminarians who assisted with RCIA were inspired by the catechumens seeking to grow in their faith, anticipating reception into the Church at Easter. Those working with youth and young adults became

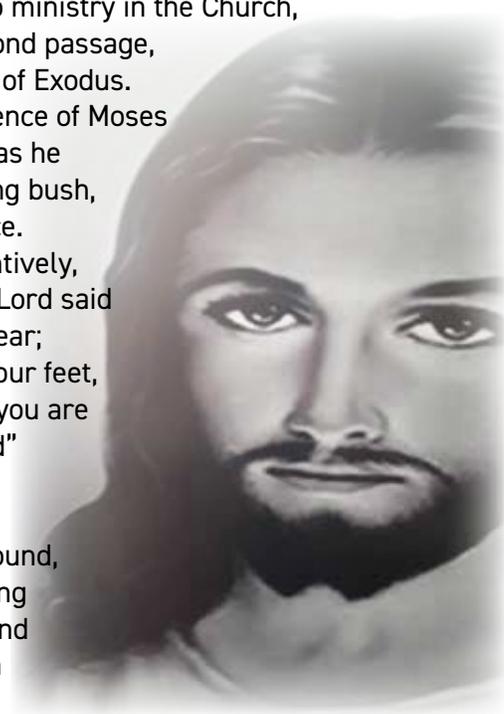
more confident in their ability to evangelize. The deacons were excited to share the Good News through preaching on the Word of God at Sunday Mass. Reflection upon the call to minister brought a sense of awe and humility.

Each of us is an unworthy child of God who is loved beyond measure and who is invited to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. We who minister, are also evangelized by the dedication of others to ministry in the Church and by the witness of those who hunger to know, love, and serve God more deeply.

Reflection on the call to ministry in the Church, brings to mind the second passage, this one from the Book of Exodus.

It describes the experience of Moses as he heard God's call as he encountered the burning bush, a sign of God's presence. Moses responded attentively, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

I also stand on holy ground, a witness to God working in the lives of faithful and courageous young men who so generously dedicate themselves to discerning God's call to the priestly ministry. For that, I am grateful!



THE FOUNDATION NEEDS YOU!

Is the future of a Catholic Church important to you? Are you a compelling storyteller and a compassionate spirit who can build genuine and lasting relationships with donors? Are you looking to do what you love while making a difference in your community? We have an opportunity for you.

The Foundation is looking for a full time **Planned Giving and Major Gifts Lead** to join its fun and energetic team to help advance its mission and to raise funds in support of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College.

Visit caedm.ca/careers for a full position description or contact Executive Director, Stéphane Haché at Stephane.hache@caedm.ca or 780-469-1010 (ext. 2140).

WELCOME AND GRATITUDE

Today, I want to take a moment to recognize five outgoing members of The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College Board of Governors. These individuals generously invested their time, talent and treasures over the past six years, ensuring that the Foundation has had the funding and support required to advance vocations and Catholic post-secondary education throughout our diocese and Western Canada. We are blessed by your contributions and thank you sincerely for your ongoing support:

**Mark Anielski, Patti Walsh,
Joe Ladouceur, Bill Kenny and Mary-Beth Jankovic**

At this time, we also welcome four new Board of Governors members to the Foundation. We hope the

coming years will provide many opportunities for you to share your expertise and passion towards this essential and inspiring work:

**Kaygen Simon, Catharine Smith,
John Caputo and Keith P. Jones**

I welcome you and thank you for your commitment. I look forward to working with you over the coming years as we make the Foundation even stronger, with God at the centre of our efforts.



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✠ Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton

Are you an **accountant or a lawyer** with a passion for the future of our Catholic Church? Do you know anybody that might be interested in serving on the **Board of Governors**? **We need you.** Please contact our Executive Director, Stéphane Haché at Stephane.hache@caedm.ca or 780-469-1010 (ext. 2140).

NEWMAN GOLF CLASSIC 30TH ANNIVERSARY

The **Annual Newman Golf Classic** will celebrate its 30th Anniversary this summer and we want you to be part of this exciting event.

We invite you to combine your love of the game with your love of the Lord, and join us on **Monday, July 11 at the spectacular Blackhawk Golf Club** for this highly anticipated gathering.

Your support will be crucial to the success of this tournament. Please visit caedm.ca/golf for more details and to review the sponsorship matrix. Find the sponsorship opportunity that is right for you and contact Anna Jaremko at golf@caedm.ca or 780-952-6437.

We look forward to seeing you on the greens and sharing this special Anniversary with you.

With sincere gratitude,

Michael Norris
Golf Committee Chair

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*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 thanks to our helpful and dedicated volunteers.*

DONATE NOW!