

## 31st ANNUAL NEWMAN GOLF CLASSIC THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS!

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The weather was perfect, the course was in tip-top shape, and the players came in droves! The 31st Annual Newman Golf Classic SOLD OUT and raised more than \$233,000 in support of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College.

This great success is due, in no small measure, to the continued commitment of the Catholic community in Edmonton and area, our golfers, sponsors, donors and volunteers.

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**2023 Winning Team:** With Jack Michaels (far left): Mervyn Kootenay, Lanny Potts, Jarius Kootenay and Willis Kootenay.

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**Tournament donors**  
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**Elmer MacGillivray Award**  
Joyce Tutt  
*In recognition of outstanding contributions to the Newman Golf Classic.*

**Mark your calendar for the 32nd Annual Newman Golf Classic:**  
**Monday, June 24, 2024**

### Board of Directors

Joe Ladouceur, Vice Chair and Acting Chair

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Keith Jones

Kaygen Simon

Scott Venne

Rev. Sylvain Casavant

Dr. Jason West



## Welcome and celebration

Dr. Jason West, President, Newman Theological College

There have been many things to celebrate at the College this fall. Most notably, we welcomed our new Academic Dean, Dr. Pablo Irizar, to Newman. Dr. Irizar was the Kennedy Professor of Catholic Studies at McGill University, previous to which he was the Director of McGill's Newman Centre. He has Ph.D's in both theology (from the Catholic University of Leuven) and philosophy (from the Institut Catholique in Paris). A prolific author, he has written books on St. Bernard of Clairvaux and St. Augustine. His next book is about the thought of the College's namesake, St. John Henry Newman. We are thrilled to have him join the College family.

We also had the joy of celebrating the graduation of the first students to complete our new BA program in Catholic Studies. These seminarians persevered through the difficulties of navigating a new program through the pandemic and have now moved on to the M.Div. Degree to study theology and continue their discernment of the priesthood. Our ability to continue developing such innovative and relevant programs is in large part dependent upon your continued generous support, for which I thank you deeply.

## Change amidst the familiar

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

If a person has lived at the seminary for a while, the sense is that daily life seldom changes. The schedule does not change, the class subject is still philosophy or theology and the building is just as beautiful as ever. What does change, however, is the community. We bid farewell to those that have departed and we welcome the new. Those new to our community, arrive with enthusiasm, joy, and a bit of trepidation. Entering into an unknown experience is bound to create a little unease. Yet, they all have a desire to encounter the Lord here. Afterall, they have felt His tug to come and stay.

It is Christ that brings us together and the seminary celebrates this regularly. We begin by offering our very day to Him as we adore Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. It is the first act of our day which reminds us that this community has one Shepherd and He directs us. This needs to be forefront in our every thought because we can be swept away by particular events and people throughout the day. At midday, the community celebrates Mass. This is a moment in which the Lord feeds us so that we may be sustained in our relationship with Him.

*Continued on page 2*

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## We are looking for an Executive Director

The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College is currently seeking a new Executive Director to lead and implement the Foundation's strategic plan that builds, advances, and reimagines donor and fund development. This modernized strategic direction shall assist to secure the Foundation's endowment and the future.

For more information visit: [caedm.ca/careeropportunities](https://caedm.ca/careeropportunities)



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The Foundation of  
St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College



Change amidst the familiar

Leading the New Evangelization

(continued)

During this celebration, the substance of the bread and the wine are changed not for their own sake but for the sake of those that consume, who by receiving become the Living Body and Blood of Christ; we become Christ for the sake of others and for our personal salvation.

Before we go to our evening meal, we go before the Lord again – a necessary reminder that Christ sustains us and another moment in which we enter into his ministry through our prayers.

What I have described is the formal spiritual schedule we have at the seminary. There still remains the time of private prayer in which each one of us opens our heart to the Living God. Our personal prayer, however, is relational, not individual. It is a prayer that takes place through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ. Through this grace, our prayer with the seminary community sustains our personal communal prayer with the Lord.

When a new seminarian enters into the seminary, the community changes. It is sustained anew by the Person of Christ made manifest in this particular man. A new face of Christ is seen through the lens of this individual's life, and the community is enriched again. From the outward appearance, one may get the impression that nothing changes in the seminary but nothing could be further from the truth. It is during the times of our prayer that we come to see the gift of the transformation taking place daily. St. Joseph Seminary is blessed to have such a community that brings the Light and Life of Christ to us all.

BXVI Releases Report on New Priests

Did you know that 41% of new priests are eldest children? That the most common prayer practice priests engaged in prior to entering seminary was participating in Eucharistic Adoration? That Canada needs to increase its number of seminarians by 3.5 times to achieve its “replacement ratio of seminarians to priests”? This fall the Benedict XVI Institute released new research on the state of vocations in Canada. This report outlines twelve key findings about recently ordained priests in Canada, provides a baseline for future research into vocations, and is currently being distributed to thousands across the country.

BXVI Hosts National Conference in Toronto

The vocations report was first presented and launched at the recent Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops meeting in September; this was followed by an additional two-day conference for Canada's Bishops, Seminary Rectors, and Vocation Directors who gathered to discuss the implications of the report for the renewal of priestly vocations in the country.

BXVI Summer Interns served as camp counsellors at the St. John Paul II Catholic Leadership Camp hosted by NTC at Our Lady of Victory Camp



BENEDICT<sup>XVI</sup>  
Institute for New Evangelization

Culture and Vocations Summer Internship

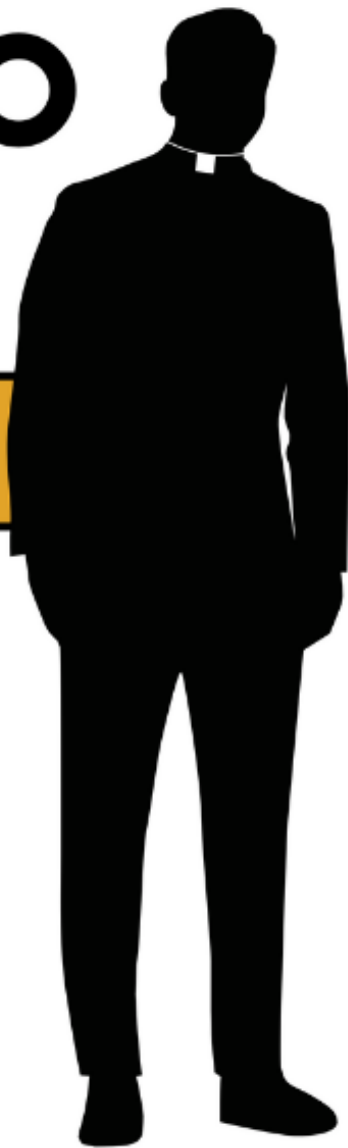
The Catholic Culture and Vocations Internship is a team of students who spend the summer hosting and helping at youth events in Alberta. This past summer, the interns

ran a vocations lecture series, a weekly book study, and NTC's first summer leadership camp, and assisted other Catholic organizations such as Pure Witness and Face to Face Ministries' tents at the Family Life Conference at Lac St. Anne, helped as counsellors for two weeks at Camp Oselia at Wabamun Lake, and joined Face to Face Ministries for Ignite.

Adoremus & Credo Going Strong!

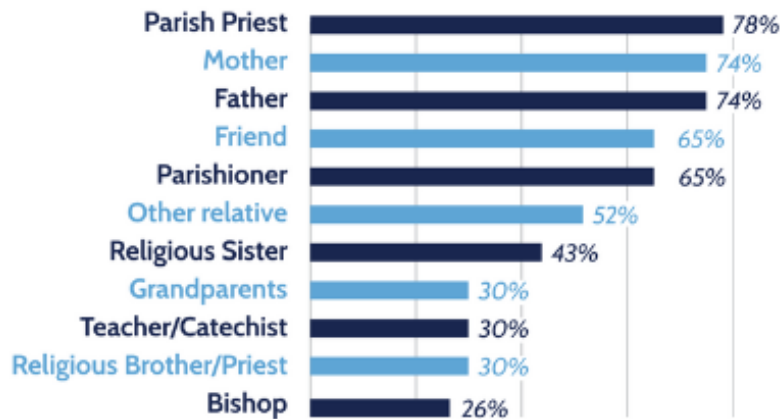
The BXVI Institute has also been busy close to home. Besides hosting again NTC's fall retreat for students, throughout the academic year the BXVI Institute is once more hosting Adoremus (“Let us Adore”), a monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration held at St. Joseph Basilica, and Credo (“I Believe”), a coffee-house style evening of Catholic Apologetics – both events geared toward young Catholics.

# WHAT LEADS TO PRIESTHOOD?

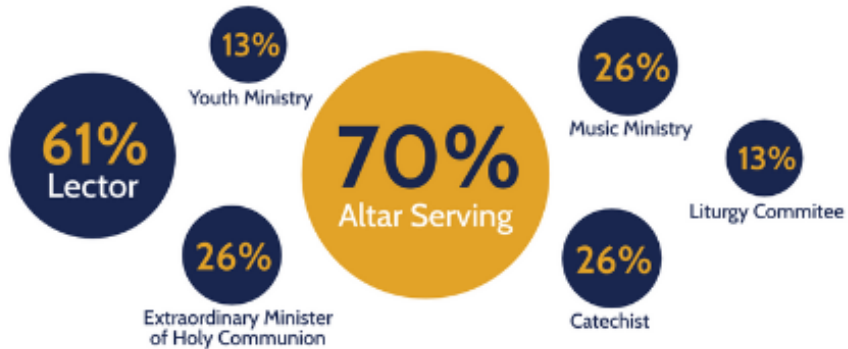


We asked new priests in Canada what and who most supported them in their vocational discernment. This is what they said:

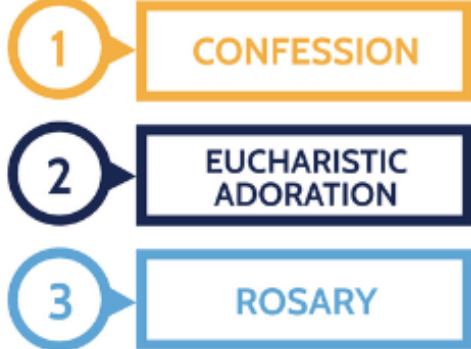
Have the following people encouraged you to consider priesthood?  
(Check all that apply)



When asked if they had served in a ministry within their parish, the most common ministry in both the US and Canada, was **altar serving**.



MOST COMMON PRAYER PRACTICES BEFORE ENTERING SEMINARY



Dr. Ryan Topping, Director of the Benedict XVI Institute at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, has written a report on vocations in Canada based upon a ground breaking study on new Canadian priests.

To download the full report, to take the 'Vocations test', or to learn more about vocations research in Canada go to [BXVI.Newman.edu](http://BXVI.Newman.edu)

