



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

December 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the Book of Genesis, Abram questions God's promise that he, Abram, will be the Father of Many Nations ("Abraham"). To strengthen Abram's faith, God takes him outside and says:

"Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then He said to him, "So shall your descendants be." Genesis 15:5

We are then told that Abram believed the Lord, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. While I don't presume to compare myself to Father Abraham, I can understand how he feels. When I leave the Pastoral Office at this time of year, the sky is often dark and full of stars. If I look to the south, I can see the lights of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College adding their brightness to the night sky. For decades now, these two Catholic institutions have been forming new diocesan priests, Catholic teachers, and lay leaders that have, in turn, gone on to form countless others. Like Abraham, we may never see all the descendants but we can know in faith that they will "be."

Your support for the Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College is essential to the continued mission of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Edmonton. I encourage you to read the enclosed newsletter to see how these two Catholic institutions are doing their part to fill the darkness of our present time with stars that will endure. Of particular note, the Benedict XVI Institute at NTC has released the results of the Lilly Foundation funded study on priestly vocations in Canada – the first of its kind.

If you are not already a supporter of the Foundation, there are many ways you can give. To make a one-time or monthly gift, use the return envelope in this package, or visit www.caedm.ca/Foundation to give online. To explore how you can make a legacy gift, please email the Foundation at planned.giving@caedm.ca or call Jenny Dela Cruz at 780-469-1010 ext. 2138.

On behalf of the future "stars" in our Archdiocese, thank you for your generous and continued support.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton