

ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY & NEWMAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

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FOUNDATION OF

NEWS *and* NOTES
FALL 2019

Celebrating



YEARS
OF FORMING
MINDS
& HEARTS



NTC 50th Anniversary

Dr. Jason West, NTC President

We are already well into the celebration of our 50th anniversary year at the College. On

Wednesday, Oct. 9, I had the great privilege to host an open house and celebrate the feast day of our newly canonized patron, St. John Henry Newman.

During the celebration we had a chance to welcome guests to a preview of our new work of art presenting scenes from the life of Jesus. We also installed a relic (strands of hair) of St. John Henry Newman in the College chapel, where it will remain permanently for veneration. Additionally, guests were able to see a 10'x13' ceramic wall with images of St. Francis and the early Franciscans. This work had been housed in the former rectory chapel of St. Francis of Assisi parish (now Bosco Homes). It has now been restored and is located in the College library. I encourage you to

visit the College at the next open house on Feb. 5 and see these new installations first hand.

This anniversary year is also a good occasion both to remember and to look ahead. The College grew out of the faculty of St. Joseph Seminary. This new development was inspired by Archbishop Jordan's experience of the Second Vatican Council and his vision of seminarians and laity studying theology together, mutually informed by each other's experiences.

Newman was in many ways a primary instrument for the reception of the Council in Western Canada. The understanding and implementation of our unique mission has evolved in step with the Church over five decades. Avoiding stale partisanship or an excessive focus on intellectual fashion, the College continues to succeed at conveying the full variety of missions and theological approaches found within the Church. Here the texts of the Council, the thought of St. John Paul II, Benedict XVI and our Holy Father Pope Francis are taught in ways that mutually

inform each other and are deepened through reflection in light of the professors' and the student's own pastoral experience.

It is also an exciting time of new developments within the College. We are currently working our way through the Alberta Government's process of accreditation as we seek approval for a new three year BA program in Catholic Studies. This program will feature a great books curriculum with small classes and an interactive seminar style pedagogy, making it unique in Canada.

After fifty years of teaching theology and preparing students for ministry our founding vision remains as relevant as ever as we seek to bring the wisdom of Christ's redemptive love to a fractured world that is so much in need of the Church's message of Christian joy.

Carrying on this legacy into the next fifty years and beyond is, of course, only possible through your generous support. For the many gifts you have shared with us I thank you deeply. Please continue to keep our work in your prayers.

Linda Chiupka, who graduated with a master of divinity degree, began her studies part-time and then switched to full-time. She came to Edmonton to study while her husband remained in Ontario. "It was my first time living alone," Chiupka recalled. "It was surprisingly easy because I had so much support from the college. I thought, both my kids had degrees so I saw it as doable."

Linda Chiupka and Jane Samson took different paths to Newman.

Samson had considered ordination in the Anglican Church when she began studying at the college, the alma mater of her parish rector, Rev. Eileen Conway, and Bishop Jane Alexander of the Anglican Diocese of Edmonton. Conway is also a former member of the Newman college senate.

Sometimes Samson was only able to take one course a year at Newman, depending on her teaching load at the U of A. Other times, she would spend late nights and weekends studying, researching and writing. Samson would drop her son off at day care during the times she had to be on the Newman campus. "I never felt like I wouldn't make it," she added. "I thought I could do it, and at times it was hard, but I always did what I could manage."

Coincidentally, Samson graduated less than a week after the canonization of the college's namesake. John Henry Newman, the 19th-century English cardinal and theologian, was canonized along with four women at the Vatican on Oct. 13. Newman is considered a saint in both the Anglican and Catholic traditions.

Although she decided against ordination, Samson said her theological studies degree helps her personally and professionally. "Over the years, the theology courses at Newman have helped me in my own research," Samson said. "As I learned more, it helped me understand the theology of mission."

When she began her studies, the current college building was under construction. Samson and other students took classes in rented space in Sherwood Park, which made for an interesting winter commute about 11 years ago when she was temporarily on crutches. Franciscan brothers helped out. "I had a good relationship with the Franciscans in my class. They would come to my house, pick me up, carry my books and help me into class. I had an entourage with me! Without them I wouldn't have made it. I loved them all so much," Samson said. "I've met the most fantastic people along the way."

When Linda Chiupka began her studies, she said she

was a living example of Newman Theological College's motto: Faith Seeking Understanding. A lifelong Catholic, she twice found herself strongly on the defensive and that was one time too many. "I couldn't handle it. I had to get up, leave the conversation," she recalled. "I found myself having to defend my faith and not feeling equipped to do it. I felt like my faith was under attack. From then on I was determined never to be in a position where I couldn't defend my faith."

Chiupka immersed herself not only in Scripture, but in apologetics, research and commentary – so much so that when her husband Wayne casually suggested she take up formal study, she took it seriously.

Chiupka was working as a supervisor with Parks Canada at time. "I laughed it off, but it led me to a deeper thought: Maybe it was the Holy Spirit setting me on a path. So I took a leap."

Chiupka chose Newman because it was a Canadian institution and it had a bachelor of theology program which, for an older student like her, meant a more concentrated form of study compared to a bachelor of arts degree. Later on, the college allowed her to take the master's program.

In 2014, Chiupka began as a part-time student, taking courses online from her home in Marathon, Ont. While at Newman, Chiupka immersed herself in student life. She served as secretary and later president of the students' association. She successfully auditioned and sang with the choir at St. Joseph's Basilica. And she completed a practicum at the Edmonton Remand Centre.

Since then, Chiupka – now a grandmother of two – has moved to an acreage in Brandon, Man., where her son lives and where she was hired as synod implementation coordinator with the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. Chiupka's husband plans to join her.

At 58, Chiupka was asked when she plans to retire. "Never! Working for the Church is something that I love, so it doesn't feel like work for me. I've always identified strongly with my faith, so I think this has been part of God's plan."

And Chiupka said although she has a master of divinity degree, she feels she's barely scratched the surface when it comes to faith seeking understanding. "God is so big that I always feel like I'm just at the beginning of learning about Him."



Linda Chiupka

NTC Grads grateful for love and support on road to degree

Andrew Ehrkamp, Grandin Media



Jane Samson

Some students spend a long time earning their college degrees. For Jane Samson, it took 16 years.

You can't blame her for taking so long to earn her master of theological studies degree from Newman Theological College. She was taking courses part-time, trying to fit them into free time, while working full-time as a history professor at the University of Alberta and a single parent to her son, Alexander. He was three years old when she started and is now a first-year classics student at the University of Alberta. Still, Samson said she wouldn't change a

thing. "I loved being at Newman. I loved the courses and the people. I guess it's a product of being an academic," said Samson. "When someone is good at a sport, participating in that doesn't feel like work. It's what I'm used to."

Samson is among 35 students who received their diplomas at the Oct. 19 convocation ceremony.

Graduating students say they are grateful to Newman Theological College for giving them the flexibility to work their studies around jobs and family life.

¹ Adapted from an article printed in October in Grandin Media by A. Ehrkamp, NTC grads grateful for love and support on road to degrees

Calendar of Events - You Are invited! Newman 50TH Anniversary

Please go to newman.edu/50thAnniversary for full details!

2019 November 20	Dr. L.P. Mousseau Memorial Ethics Lecture Series "Conscience" Keynote: Rev. Dr. Andrew P.W. Bennett with Hon. Mr. Justice Kevin Feehan, Dr. Christina Lamb, Mr. Dean Sarnecki, Dr. Jason West, and Mr. Dan Williams	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
2019 December 4	Foundation Annual General Meeting Includes mass and luncheon RSVP required: rsvp@caedm.ca or call Jenny at 780.469.1010	11:30 a.m.
2020 February 5	NTC Open House hosted by the Foundation of SJS & NTC Come see the new Donor Gratitude Wall, the St. John Henry Newman Relic, and the newly installed St. Francis artwork. Light refreshments included	4-7 p.m.
2020 March 20-21	St. John Henry Newman A Conference "Celebrating his Life and Legacy" Keynote: His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins with Rev. Ian Boyd, Dr. Ryan Topping, and Dr. Ryan Marr	7-9 p.m.
2020 May 1	51st Annual Friars Ball	6 p.m.
2020 May 23	15th Annual Faith, Fitness and Fun Run	9:30 a.m. - 12 noon
2020 June 12/13	Welcome Back! Join us for the Alumni Reunion Weekend Friday Night Dinner and Talk * Saturday Mass and Family Picnic NTC reunions are all about friends and honouring 50 years of service of Rev. Dr. Don MacDonald. The Alumni Association has arranged an exciting weekend filled with faith, friends, and food. During the weekend, you will have an opportunity to connect with old and dear friends, meet new friends, visit with past colleagues, tour the College and Seminary, enjoy good food, be inspired by the words of Rev. Ron Rolheiser, celebrate the Holy Eucharist with Archbishop Richard Smith, and participate in a fun and casual alumni picnic. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming celebrations	
2020 July 6	28th Annual Newman Golf Classic	11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
2020 July 29 August 2	Faith and Reason Seminar	



Convocation 2019



2019 NTC Graduates

Master of Divinity
Salomon Rene Beguel, B.A.
Linda Louise Chiupka*
Shane Joseph Gerard Lambert, B.Ed.*
Parker Maxwell Love, B.A.*
Peter Joseph Pitchko, B.B.A.*
Anupama Mintaka Ranawana, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Master of Theological Studies
Jane Dianne Samson, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.*

Bachelor of Theology
Tran Buu Phung
Solomiia-Mariia Savaryn
Chinh Van Vu, B.A.

Master of Religious Education
Adam George Andrusiak, B.Ed.*
Monique Aultman, B.Ed.*
Stephanie Shannon Bajac, B.Ed.*
Diane Bowers-O'Neill, B.A., B.Ed.
Susanne Angela Campiou, B.Ed.*
Leo James Chauvet, B.Ed.*
Maria Diebolt, B.Ed.*
Joseph P. Faught, B.Ed., B.P.Ed.
Alicia Fenton, B.Ed.*
Lisa Marie Giacobbo, B.Ed.*
Ashley Orilla Kirk, B.Ed.
Jennifer Lynn Koehler, B.Ed.
Sara L. Kovick, B.Ed.*
Kristen Nicole Lien, B.Ed.*
Lori Ann Lundeen, B.Ed.*
Susanna Nigro-Vecchio, B.Ed.*
Maureen Theresa Kennedy Offenberger, B.Ed.*
Alison Claire Piwowar, B.Ed., B.P.Ed.
Michael Robert Pundyk, B.Ed.
Kathleen N. Salt, B.Ed.*
Sandra-Jane Savrtka, B.Ed.
Jana Siller de Leon, B.A., B.Ed.
Elizabeth Stachniak, B.Sc., B.Ed.*
Elise Eileen Thorne, B.Ed.*
Deana Louise Valacco, B.Ed.

* graduated with distinction

The Fall Campaign 2019 hopes to raise \$120,000 in support of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College. Thanks to our great volunteers, our administrative costs are kept down to 6.5%. Thank you very much for your continuing support that ensures well-formed Catholic leaders of faith (both lay and ordained) in our parishes, schools, institutions and families.

The Foundation of SJS & NTC
8421 101 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T6A 0L1

2019 Award Winners



David & Cathy Bouchard, 2019 recipients of the Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award.



Peter Pitchko, recipient of the Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Outstanding Student Award presented by Friars. Pictured with (from left) Dr. Jason West, Archbishop Richard Smith and Julian Savaryn, Friars Co-provincial General 2019.



Adam George Andrusiak, recipient of the Emmaus Award. Pictured with Dr. Jason West & Archbishop Richard Smith.



Chad Miciak, recipient of the 2019 Doreen Melton Scholarship. Pictured with (from left) rev. Stephen Hero, Jessie Sandmaier, Cheryl Boom, Mary Molloy and Annette Valstar.



NTC Welcomes Canonization of Patron

Dr. Ryan Topping, Academic Dean

In 2010 Pope Benedict XVI's widely televised Apostolic journey to the United Kingdom returned the world's attention once more to this saintly scholar. The Holy Father's beatification of Cardinal Newman opened the path for his canonization, which came – along with a second confirmed miracle of a young mother and child from Chicago – sooner than anyone guessed. As of October 2019, the world welcomed into its midst Newman the Saint.

Here at Newman Theological College, nestled in the heart of Western Canada, we take particular pride and joy at the canonization of our patron in this our 50th anniversary. John Henry Newman, 1801-1890, lived during a century of enormous political, economic, cultural, and religious upheaval. During Newman's

life, Catholics still could not hold public office and could not enter universities in Britain. In Victorian England, British Protestants widely regarded Catholics as socially backward and educationally inferior, that is, until Newman's conversion. The witness of his life and his work remains an inspiration for us especially today when Christianity no longer binds together the cords of our culture; in the years ahead, Newman's inspiration is destined to increase among all those who wish to give a coherent "reason for our hope" (cf. 1 Pet 3:15) in the risen Christ.

As an Oxford Don, parish priest, and a cultural commentator, by his 40s, Newman found himself as the leading public figure in a bid to return the Anglican Communion to a more vibrant and liturgically robust expression. Prophet that he was, he feared that the Reformation had too closely allied itself with subjectivism in religion, and paved the way to agnosticism in politics. Newman was ever a seeker after the truth about first principles. His own deep study, particularly of the early Fathers of the Church, gradually drew him closer to Catholicism. In 1845, after a long and arduous search, and

at great cost to his reputation and career, Newman forsook his eminent position as a man of letters within English society to join the Catholic Church.

For his remaining years, Newman devoted his enormous energy to advancing Catholic causes. His scholarly output is staggering. During his life he published some 37 volumes, including a celebrated book of poetry (Edward Elgar composed an oratorio to the text of Newman's poem *The Dream of Gerontius*), two novels, numerous historical and theological works, in addition to some 20,000 letters. Whether it was establishing the Oratorian religious community in England, a school for boys in Birmingham, or the Catholic University of Ireland, Newman was indefatigable in his service for others. Many sought his advice as a guide and friend. He never failed to encourage others, as he did himself, of God's particular call to greatness. As he once reflected: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another..."

Shortly after NTC opened its doors, our founding Archbishop, Anthony

Jordan, OMI, delivered a lecture during which he reflected on the choice of Newman as this college's patron. The Second Vatican Council, he suggested, was "Newman's Council," an often repeated sentiment. For Archbishop Jordan, the Church in Western Canada needed Newman because "the problems that he was working on and working for on the intellectual level" are the same problems that have "come to the fore" in our own day.

A brief survey of Newman's major works gives some sense of the close connection between his questions and our own. As a theologian, Newman wrestled with the way that truth can remain constant amidst the expansion and amplification of ideas over time in his *Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine* (1845); as an educator, Newman defended the liberal arts as the only humane foundation for learning in his *The Idea of a University* (1852); as an apologist, his spiritual autobiography *Apologia pro Vita Sua* (1864), stands as one of the great testimonies to faith against the trials of doubt; as a philosopher, Newman produced a stunningly modern analysis of the psychology of belief in his *An Essay in Aid of the Grammar of Assent* (1870); as a debater, he launched his open letter to the English Prime Minister in defence of Catholics' right to actively

participate in politics in his *Letter to the Duke of Norfolk* (1875); and so on.

Newman's efforts bore tremendous fruit. His generous witness and his massive intellectual labour lifted Catholicism in the English speaking world out of its relative obscurity into a new radiance. The effect of Newman's conversion was immediate. The first wave of converts largely came from among those Anglicans seeking a deeper union with the historic Faith, and included such luminaries as Oscar Wilde, a deathbed convert, and Gerard Manley Hopkins, perhaps the finest poet of his age – whom Newman received personally in 1866. The second wave of converts was dominated by the likes of Ronald Knox, Hilaire Belloc and G.K. Chesterton, who himself came into the Church in 1922. During the mid-twentieth century, the third wave of converts and others influenced by Newman include the Harvard historian Christopher Dawson, the novelist Evelyn Waugh, as well as the community of imaginative writers known as the Inklings. And the circle continues to widen.

The saint is a rare type. The saint is not the one who has lost his freedom; the saint is the one who has lost everything except his freedom. Just as every age breeds its own vices, so

also at no time is the Church bereft of heroes. For that is what defines a saint: they are Christian success stories. Anyone who has gained familiarity with this type knows well that these successes are not without their own failures, or temptations, or sufferings, or trials; the difference between them and most of us lies in their fidelity.

In Newman we find perhaps the greatest of modern saints who faithfully combined both sanctity and scholarship, a credible witness and a profound wisdom of things human and divine. As Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI said of Newman's contribution:

The drama of Newman's life invites us to examine our lives, to see them against the vast horizon of God's plan, and to grow in communion with the Church of every time and place: the Church of the apostles, the Church of the martyrs, the Church of the saints, the Church which Newman loved and to whose mission he devoted his entire life.

Here at NTC we give thanks for so noble a patron and continue to look to his intercession as we enter our next 50 years of service to the Church in Western Canada.

Saint Newman, *ora pro nobis!*

¹This essay adapted from an October Grandin Media article by R. Topping, "St. Newman's Gifts Uniquely Suited to the New Evangelization".



Oct. 9, 2019 - Archbishop Smith processing St. John Henry Newman relic to NTC Chapel.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities

Did you know that you can choose to donate your investments in publicly traded securities such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds? These investments can be transferred directly to the Foundation in support of the work of the college and/or the seminary. Gifts of securities also have an added tax-benefit! The donor is not taxed on the capital gain when these securities are transferred directly or before they are sold. And the donor receives a donation receipt for

the full market value of the securities on the date they are received into the account of the Foundation. For more information or to request a transfer form, please contact Joan Harrison at joan.harrison@caedm.ca or 780.469.1010



27th Annual Newman Golf Classic Thank you to our sponsors, donors, golfers and volunteers for another amazing year of fun and fellowship! The 2019 tournament raised \$165,000 in support of SJS & NTC.

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SPRATT**

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2019 winning team from left: Eamon McCann, Rob Taylor, Rev. Paul Moret, Chad Miciak & Pat Larkin.



Anna Jaremko, recipient of the first annual Elmer MacGillivray Award for the outstanding commitment to the Newman Golf Classic. Pictured with Scott MacGillivray.



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FFF photos by Lito Soco

14th Annual Faith Fitness & Fun Run/Walk

A sincere **THANK YOU** to all who supported our 2019 event!

With the help of our sponsors, 80 volunteers, seminarians, priests, and the participation of 323 individuals accompanied by family and friends, the event was a total success.

Together we raised almost **\$34,000** through donations, pledges, and sponsorships in support of St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College.

Save the Date for the next **15th Annual Faith, Fitness and Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, May 23, 2020.**

For more information, please contact us at funrun@caedm.ca



Join us on **Monday, July 6, 2020** at the beautiful **Blackhawk Golf Club** or another day of fun and fellowship.

For more info, please contact Anna at golf@caedm.ca.