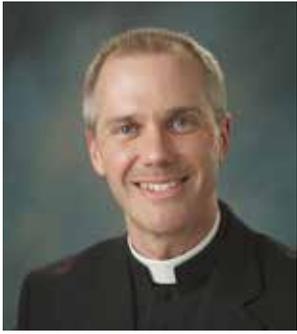




*Deacon Curtis Berube,
Archdiocese of Edmonton
Scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood
on June 22, 2020
at St. Joseph's Basilica, Edmonton.*

Spring 2020 NEWS and NOTES

FOUNDATION OF ST. JOSEPH SEMINARY & NEWMAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE



A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

On the First Sunday of Lent each year, we listen to the story of the Lord Jesus' 40-day fast in the desert. When the Tempter tries to incite the hungry Jesus to turn stones into delicious bread, our Saviour replies with a quote

from Scripture: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Mt 4:4 and Dt 8:3) Little did we know when we heard those words just a few weeks ago that this Lent would be a time of strange and unusual fasting due to the COVID-19 virus and the necessary measures taken to stop its spread. Many of God's People around the world are unable to assemble for the Eucharist and to receive the Bread of Life. Many are learning to "live on every word that comes from the mouth of God," that is, by turning to the nourishment of the Scriptures more frequently and by patiently trying to accept God's Word that is uttered in the midst of the sufferings and hardships of this pandemic.

With increasing restrictions on ministry (due to physical distancing,) gatherings for worship and university classes, it became clear to us at the Seminary that it would not be possible to continue our communal life and formation program without significant risk to the health of our seminarians, staff, and priests. As the virus spread in Alberta, it was alarming for us that young men in their 20s and 30s (i.e. the age of our seminarians) make up a growing number of cases of the infection. So, on St. Joseph's Day, March 19, in consultation with Archbishop Smith, we prayerfully took the decision to send the seminarians home early this year. By March 24, most of our community had dispersed, about a month earlier than usual.

Although this came as a disappointment to our seminarians, I have to say that they understood the gravity of the situation and cooperated marvellously. They packed up their things, cleaned their rooms, and moved back to their dioceses in very short order. They are all currently completing their courses in an online format and will even do their exams this way in the week or so after Easter. I think this abrupt end has been felt the most by our Deacons, who are finishing their programs this spring and are awaiting ordination to the Priesthood. Although ordination dates

were announced for June, at this time, it is not clear that the celebrations will be able to take place on the dates originally planned. The priests on the formation team are still at the Seminary and are completing their final evaluations of the seminarians and their classes. Planning for next fall is turning into a creative endeavour. As there is a possibility that there will be a second wave of the pandemic in the fall, we are examining various scenarios for our start up and formation next year.

We appreciate very much the prayers and support of our benefactors at this time. We have all been affected by this pandemic and we appreciate the struggles, including financial, that each of you must be faced with. However, with all of our fundraising events cancelled for the year (the Friars' Ball, the Faith, Fitness, Fun Run, and Newman Golf Classic) we are very much in need of your generous prayers and support more than ever. We are very disappointed that we will not be able to meet up with you in person at these various events and look forward to a return to normal next year.

The Priests of the Seminary continue to celebrate Masses for your intentions and are praying for an end to this "plague" that has even caused a sort of Lenten Exodus at the Seminary. May the Word of God continue to sustain us in the desert and, as we share now in Christ's Cross in all sorts of ways, may we also know the power and grace of His Resurrection.

Rev. Stephen Hero and Formation Team at SJS



Jake M., Archdiocese of Edmonton packing up his things.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Like everyone else, we at Newman Theological College have been dealing with the implications of COVID-19. We followed the guidance of Provincial health authorities ending on-campus classes 3 weeks early.

Our Faculty and staff really stepped up and within a couple of days students were able to continue their classes online seamlessly in most cases. At present College staff continue to work, faculty are teaching their classes online mostly from home. Students are heading into exams. These are now "take-home" exams. In the background, college faculty and administration will continue work over the summer to ensure everything is in place when our students, hopefully, return to campus in the fall.

One of the major projects we are working on is a new BA in Catholic Studies. We have been successfully moving through the accreditation process and it has been recommended that we start in the fall.

We are currently evaluating whether this is possible. But, whether it starts this fall or next, we have developed a really unique and valuable program. Catholic Studies is an exciting multidisciplinary program that makes use of a Great Books curriculum and a Socratic pedagogy.

Instead of studying textbook summaries, students read the works of past and present masters of philosophy, theology, literature, etc. Instead of passively taking notes in lectures, much of the teaching is done in dynamic seminars where professors guide the students' inquiry through probing and directed questioning.

I would like to assure you that I am continuing to carefully monitor our activities to ensure we are making the most effective use of our resources, especially at this difficult time. Please continue to pray for our students and staff as they rise to the challenges this new situation presents. And as always, thank you for your much needed support.

Dr. Jason West and Faculty and Staff at NTC

RRSPs/RRIFs

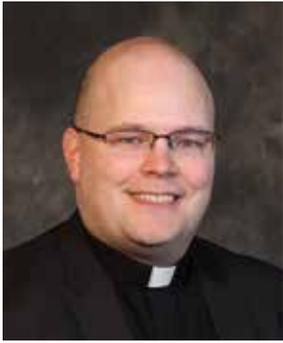
Give wisely! RRSPs and RRIFs are the most heavily taxed asset in your estate. Make the Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College the beneficiary of your plan and receive the benefits of a charitable donation for your estate. Simply contact your plan administrator directly and request an RRSP/RRIF Multiple Beneficiary Designation Form to make this change or addition. There is no cost to do this and no lawyer is involved.

Tax Advantages

Donations of RRSPs or RRIFs, whether under the terms of a will or as a direct designation, result in a charitable tax receipt to the donor's estate that can be used on the donor's final tax return to offset up to 100% of the income tax owing.

If you are thinking of making a gift of RRSPs or RRIFs to The Foundation of St. Joseph Seminary & Newman Theological College, please contact the Development Office at 780-469-1010 for further information.

Your continued support and prayers are most welcome and needed! The goal of the Spring Campaign is \$120,000. Costs are kept to a minimum at 6.5% thanks to our volunteers who help.



SEMINARY: A JOURNEY OF FORMATION

Dcn. Christopher Juchacz, Archdiocese of Regina with John van den Bosch

What led you to seminary?

My time helping as a sacristan at Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa assisted me in following Christ's call. I was asked to be sacristan there for their Sunday evening Masses.

Helping different priests who came to celebrate Mass at the cathedral, I began feeling an interior desire to want to be a priest. As I thought more about a priestly vocation, I also pondered what it would be like to serve God without any conditions, which then led me to this journey of a life of service. When I initially thought about a vocation, my desire led me to think about being a priest for my own archdiocese in Saskatchewan that I am currently studying for right now. However, at the time that I was contemplating a vocation, I contacted the Archbishop of Ottawa and made arrangements with him to discern only for his diocese. Shortly after that conversation, the Archbishop of Regina contacted me and asked if I was interested in studying for Regina. Because of my previous arrangement, I had to decline the offer made by the Archbishop of Regina to study for him. It took me several more years of additional discernment to eventually come back to that point; but in the end, it all worked out in God's own time and way.

Who have helped you most along the way?

Many people come to mind, but I shall name four. The first is Msgr. Ken Miller. When I was a young man in an RCIA program at his parish, he asked me if I had ever thought about becoming a priest. In a way, he planted a seed in my life. I told Msgr. Miller that I was not interested. I said to others, after the fact, that I just tick all the right boxes: I'm single, male, Catholic, and interested in the Church. However, years later, Msgr. Miller's words would occasionally come up in my thoughts at different times. The next priest is Fr. Roger Keeler. I met him when I was living and studying in Ottawa. Fr. Roger was a great inspiration to me because he was a very pastoral priest. He was both a gentle and spiritual man. One day, after I had served a Mass for him, he asked me if I had ever thought about the priesthood. I was surprised because I had never expressed any interest in wanting to be a priest. His question, like Msgr. Miller's, left

me thinking. Fr. Roger's witness inspired me to think about being a priest. For me, he is an example of the kind of priest that I would like to be. Another priest that was a genuine inspiration for me is Fr. Joseph Dorniak. Fr. Joe is a Conventual Franciscan priest from the U.S., and he is someone that I would describe as down to earth. He is a priest who is very human, very funny, and also very pastoral. This is a trend that I see between these priests. They are all loving, caring, and fatherly figures who just want the best for you, and they are also willing to support people. The last priest that I would add to this group is Fr. Stephen Hero, our Rector here at St. Joseph Seminary. In my second year of formation, I began questioning whether I should pursue a priestly vocation. I began contemplating ending my seminary journey. Fr. Stephen, however, talked with me and said, "If there were no problems and everything was okay, do you still think that God is calling you?" I responded, "Yes," and he replied, "Stay the course and we will see what happens. Whatever happens, it will all work out." Without Fr. Stephen's sage advice, I know that I would not be where I am today.

Can you comment on your experience of spiritual direction?

I have found spiritual direction to be very helpful. My spiritual director has encouraged me throughout my discernment to think deeply about my vocation. He has helped me to face my own limitations and challenges, and to offer them to God. Prayer, as he has taught me, is the foundation of all vocations, and it is a point that he emphasizes regularly in our spiritual direction sessions. The most important aspect of a vocation is being in constant dialogue with God and saying, "Thy will be done," rather than, "My will be done."

You recently completed a year of pastoral internship. How was that?

It gave me a different perspective of ordained ministry because during my internship I occasionally experienced the intimacy that a priest experiences with his parishioners. The faithful share things with you that you would otherwise never know. Another gift that I gleaned from this experience is the wisdom that parishioners shared with me. My internship helped to clarify for me what the spirituality of a diocesan

priest is: it is being a man of and for the People of God. It entails realizing that I am called to both lead this community, while also remembering that I am a member of it too. Having this kind of understanding, I think, allows a seminarian to be a good leader, because it challenges him to be willing to be both a learner and a good follower. As a future pastor, I know that I will not have all the answers to all the questions that people will ask me; however, I will have the humility to ask for help when I need it.

What is one moment that stands out for you from internship?

The one highlight that sticks out for me was the privilege of being a godparent for an RCIA candidate and her young son. To be asked to take on that responsibility was very touching. Walking with someone as they come closer into communion with Christ is a wonderful experience. To be there at the Easter Vigil, and to watch them being baptized and welcomed into the Church was a joyful moment for me. I remember having towels in my hands ready to help dry them after they came out of our full immersion font. In the case of my godson, it was wonderful to be able to hold him throughout the celebration because he is quite tiny. Being a godparent foreshadows for me the call to the priesthood and the duty to be a spiritual father for the family of God.

What advice would you give to someone discerning a call to religious life or diocesan priesthood?

Listen to where God is calling you. When God speaks to us about a vocation, He is generally quite clear. When we discern a vocation, there are always going to be many competing voices or ideas floating around in our minds. The best thing that we can do is to listen to God's voice because He knows what will make us genuinely happy. So, when you are discerning something, you need to listen attentively to where God is calling you. He will do that in a variety of ways. For some people they are blessed in just knowing, others God will lead through a spiritual experience, while others He will guide through the scriptures, and there are still a variety of other ways that the Lord can talk to us. But whatever way God is calling you, follow that, and follow it closely, because that is where God wants you. Take the risk of following Him. Give a year to seminary. Even if you spend only two or three years to discern and realize that it is not for you, it will not have been a waste of time. You will leave a better-formed Catholic, which will help you for the rest of your life.



Dcn. Curtis Berube
Archdiocese of Edmonton
June 22, 2020



Dcn. JD Carmichael
Archdiocese of Edmonton
June 22, 2020

UPCOMING ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

*Please note that due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19, the ordinations may be postponed or not open to general public. Please follow your Archdiocese's website for updates.
Please keep these men in your prayers.*



Dcn. Christopher Juchacz
Archdiocese of Regina
June 26, 2020



Dcn. Andrew Lindenbach
Archdiocese of Regina
June 26, 2020



Dcn. Brian Trueman
Archdiocese of St. Boniface
June 13, 2020

“COME, FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF PEOPLE.” (MATTHEW 4:19)



by Rev. Andrew Schoenberger, St. Joseph Seminary

As I come near the end of my first year on the formation team, here at St. Joseph Seminary, I look back with wonder and amazement at how the Lord has brought me to this point in my life. A question I have frequently been asked is, “Have you always wanted to be a priest?” I chuckle inside when that question is raised, because the answer to that question is “no.” In fact, there was a time in my life when I would have told you there were two things I would never be when I grow up: a priest and a teacher. The full irony of this early teenage resistance was realized when my bishop, Most Rev. Paul Terrio, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Paul, told me last spring that he was loaning me to the Archdiocese of Edmonton to work in the Seminary and to teach at Newman Theological College. Despite my early teenage rebellion, I am eternally grateful to God for his call and role in my life. As the saying goes, “If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Although I was raised in a Catholic family, internally I was lost. When I was 16 years old, I sincerely started looking for meaning in my life, because at that point my life seemed meaningless. It was then

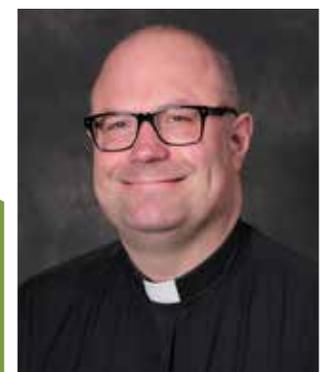
that I had the opportunity to attend a weekend youth retreat called Search, and it was a weekend that would mark a turning point in my life. After that weekend, my faith became extremely important to me and my prayer life became more and more central to my life. That summer I volunteered at Camp St. Louis, the summer youth camp of the Diocese of St. Paul, where a talk on Vocations inspired me to reflect deeply on God's call for my life. This led me to the seminary and, after my time of formation, to the priesthood.

God has certainly blessed me throughout my priestly ministry and I have always felt that I have received more than I have ever given. After I was ordained a priest on June 22, 2007, I was appointed as the associate pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort McMurray, Alberta. I spent two years there before I was sent to Rome to study Dogmatic Theology at the Gregorian University in 2009. After I graduated with my Licentiate in 2011, I returned to my diocese where I worked in our Diocesan Pastoral Centre as Director of Liturgy and served as the pastor of two small parishes east of St. Paul, Alberta. In 2013, I was appointed pastor of St. Dominic Parish in Cold Lake, Alberta along with its cluster parishes. Then in 2015, I was once again assigned to

St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort McMurray, Alberta, this time as the pastor, before being sent here to St. Joseph Seminary in August of 2019. One of the most rewarding parts of my priesthood has been forming many strong relationships with my parishioners and others I have served. God has a way of using our unique gifts, hobbies, and interests to help foster them. I enjoy sports and playing board games, both of which have been great ice breakers in building bridges between me and my parishioners.



I have often told young people that following God's call is an amazing journey and although it may be difficult and you may not be able to see where you are going, you will never regret the decision to accept Christ's invitation to follow him.



Do you think God is calling you to the priesthood?

Are you interested in talking to someone about the seminary? Please contact me!

Fr. Marc Cramer at vocations@caedm.ca or 780.469.1010 ext 2154



AN ANACHRONISTIC BURIAL

by Andrew Sheedy, Archdiocese of Edmonton, 2nd year, Philosophy

When you ask someone about the highlight of their summer, you might expect to hear stories of a vacation, an important family event, or perhaps some memorable time spent with friends. If you were to ask me

about my summer, you would get a very different reply. Without a doubt, the best part of last summer was burying three dead people. Now, before you put down this article in disgust and mutter "Seminarians these days...", I should probably tell you that these weren't just any dead people. They were none other than Ven. Bishop Vital-Justin Grandin, Fr. Albert Lacombe, and Fr. Hippolyte Leduc - three Oblate missionaries who played a crucial role in the founding of the Church in Alberta.

You would of course be justified in asking why men who have been dead for over a century would need burying, and how on earth I ended up doing the job. The three missionaries had been interred in the crypt of St. Albert Parish, but it had become water damaged, necessitating the removal of their caskets. The Oblates in charge of the parish decided to move them to the Oblate section of the church's cemetery, in the interests of making their graves more accessible. This is where I come in, because this summer I worked for Edmonton Catholic Cemeteries, and we were called in to help.

The first thing I did on my very first day on the job was go to St. Albert to help with the burials of Frs. Lacombe and Leduc. I had already heard rumours about plans to move the Oblates' remains from the crypt to the cemetery, but as my coworkers and I drove into St. Albert, I began to piece together that I was going to play a part in it. I was immediately excited.

In addition to being an important missionary and peacekeeper whom I had heard much about, Fr. Lacombe was the founder of St. Albert, where I have lived for much of my life. I was accustomed to regularly passing by a large statue of him in front of St. Albert Parish. Watching as his casket was lowered into the ground was a moving experience. I knew less about Fr. Leduc (just that he is the namesake of another Albertan city), but I later learned that it is thanks to him that we have publicly funded Catholic education in Alberta.



Bishop Grandin's burial was a bit more complicated, because of his status as Venerable, so it wasn't until a couple weeks later that he joined his fellow Oblates. I had to contain my excitement a bit when I found out that Adam (another seminarian working with me) and I were not only going to assist with the reinterment, but were going to be pallbearers!

As I carried the remains of my first bishop to his final resting place, I prayed to him (though I can't remember what about). It was a truly unique experience. The ceremony itself was quiet and very simple. The whole affair was shrouded in secrecy because of a Vatican requirement that when a Venerable's body is moved, it cannot be publicized. Thus, I was one of a privileged dozen-or-so people who were able to witness the burials of the bishop and the two priests. It is not an event I will soon forget.



Interested in getting
a copy of the Foundation's
Annual Report?
Email rsvp@caedm.ca
to request one.

CANCELLED FOR 2020!

Faith, Fitness and Fun Run and Newman Golf Classic

Alberta's Chief Medical Officer has given us important guidance on how to slow and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This includes physical distancing protocols and restrictions on social gatherings. As a result, we have decided to cancel both these events for this year.

Thank you for understanding that your safety and our responsibility for the common good of all our neighbours remain our top priorities.

If you are able, we would most gratefully accept donations in lieu of your attendance and support of these events. Please use the enclosed envelope or go online to the NTC or SJS website and click on the donate button on their front pages.

We pray you are able to stay healthy and connected through this crisis and look forward to seeing you at the events in 2021!

Do you want to stay current and informed as to what is happening with the Foundation, NTC and SJS?
Do you want to receive the Archbishop's latest messages? Will ordinations go ahead this June?
Will the new BA at Newman start up this fall? Send in your email address to RSVP@caedm.ca



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