

# Newman Theological College



College grads make a 'massive difference' in Catholic schools



As principal of St. Joseph's High School in Edmonton, Brad Koshka appreciates the gift of education at Newman Theological College.

"I grew up in a staunch Catholic family; I thought I understood my faith tradition," says Brad. "I came to realize pretty quickly after becoming a department head that I really didn't.

"I came to realize that on a daily basis, eight to nine hundred times a day in Edmonton Catholic schools, there are teachers who are referring to a Newman grad for support."

Brad himself studied at Newman for a graduate diploma in religious education, an experience he describes as transformative both personally and professionally.

"Not only does it change you as a teacher, it changes you as a human being. It really helped me get a newfound understanding of my faith tradition," he says.

"The fact of the matter is that we have a lot of people that we work with in our schools who are broken people, and you can't fix that with money,

status or possessions. Christ's message is just as valid today, if not more so. It's impossible to educate the whole child void of faith."

For Brad and many other Catholic school teachers, studying at Newman has been both a privilege and a blessing, and he is grateful for the financial gifts through *Together We Serve* that help make it possible.

"Your support is hugely appreciated, and you need to know it's making a massive difference in our Catholic schools at a time when it is so desperately needed. Thank you so much for your ongoing support, and here's to many more years of changing lives, because that's what this experience does."

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## About the College:

Newman Theological College prepares men and women to assume roles of Christian service and leadership. Seminarians attend the college for their theological education. In addition, many lay people study at Newman to assist them in their professional roles — hospital/prison/military/school chaplains, Catholic teachers, pastoral assistants, and youth ministers — or for personal enrichment as Christians living their faith.

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# St. Joseph Seminary

'What am I asking?'



JD Carmichael, an avid outdoorsman, was building a promising career as an environmental analyst with an oil and gas company and dreamed of one day owning a farm. "I liked what I was doing and it had a lot of potential. I had a plan, you know," he says.

But the plan began to change after his work took him to Fort McMurray, where only two priests were serving the bustling oilsands city, both of whom came from other countries.

"Even though they were doing such an excellent job, it kind of boggled my mind – we've got 100,000 guys working up here, and not one of 'em wants to be a priest!" he recalls.

He knew Father Paul Thekkanath was extremely busy, so he asked what he could do to help. "He says, 'Can you read at Mass tonight?' That's easy, I can do that, but what can do to *help*?"

Father Paul replied, "What are you asking?"

"It got me thinking, what *am* I asking? All of a sudden the Prayer for Vocations at Mass started speaking to me a bit more, and it felt kind of exciting."

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About six months later, JD quit his job, put the house up for sale, and began his discernment at St. Joseph Seminary in the fall of 2013.

Would he encourage others to try it out? No question: "If a guy is coming to seminary, even if you only come for one year, guaranteed you're going to be stepping out a better Catholic man."

JD and his fellow seminarians are truly encouraged by the prayers of our community of believers and the gifts offered through *Together We Serve*.

"It's really encouraging to know we have a community of believers behind us and supporting us in our call, in our discernment. I think you're probably getting a pretty good return on your investment...and I hope someday to be able to pay it back to you by serving you. Thank you so much!"

## About the Seminary

St. Joseph Seminary is a place for men who think that God's plan for them might be to serve the Church as a diocesan priest. Currently 45 men are enrolled at the seminary, 12 of whom are studying for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. More than 600 of our graduates have been ordained to the priesthood since the seminary began operating in 1927.

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