

News Release

NTC honours Msgr. Frank Patsula and Dr. Gwen Miller as Professors Emeriti

Edmonton, October 19, 2013 – Newman Theological College has honoured the distinguished service of two retired professors by conferring on them the title “Professor Emeritus.”

The new Professors Emeriti are **Msgr. Frank Patsula**, one of the founders of the College and a canon law professor for 43 years; and **Dr. Gwen Miller**, who was much beloved by students for her broad range of intellectual interests and her commitment to interdisciplinary studies. The honours were presented by Chancellor Kevin Feehan and President Dr. Jason West on Saturday at Convocation 2013.

Msgr. Francis (Frank) Patsula, who was ordained a priest in 1955, is renowned as a canonist and a compassionate counsellor. He served as judicial vicar of the Alberta Marriage Tribunal for more than 20 years, and served several terms as an executive member of the Canadian Canon Law Society. In 2009 Msgr. Patsula received the Society’s highest honour, the Jean Thorn Award of Merit, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the field. In 1985, he was named Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II.

In addition to his teaching and tribunal responsibilities, Msgr. Patsula served as Associate Pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Sherwood Park for 23 years. He is much appreciated by his fellow priests for his willingness to help out with weekend ministry, especially in Sherwood Park and later at Good Shepherd in Edmonton.

Dr. Gwen Miller began her long association with Newman Theological College as a student, completing Bachelor’s degrees in Religious Education and Theology and a Master of Theology at the College before earning her Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion and Theology at the Claremont Graduate School.

After teaching in Edmonton Catholic Schools and Sherwood Park Catholic Schools, Dr. Miller worked as a counsellor at the Redemptorist Centre for Growth, and as a consultant, workshop facilitator and speaker throughout Alberta. She began teaching at Newman in 1987, covering a remarkably wide range of courses, from Aesthetics to Ethics, from Women in the Church to Religious Education.

Jason West, President and Academic Dean of Newman Theological College, paid tribute to both honourees for their unfailing commitment to the College.

“It is largely thanks to your contributions to Newman Theological College, and your service to Christ, your students and your community, that we have such a rich history on which to continue building a strong future.”

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