

For Immediate Release

David & Cathy Bouchard are first joint recipients of Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award

Edmonton, June 10, 2019 – A Red Deer couple who have inspired countless others through their shared passions for faith, family, education, and social justice will receive the 2019 Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award.



David and Cathy Bouchard are the first to be named as joint recipients in the 15-year history of the award, which is named for the first layperson to serve as president of Newman Theological College. The honour recognizes individuals whose outstanding Christian leadership reflects the values of the college and the qualities that Carr cherished and exhibited in his work.

“David and Cathy Bouchard have a long history of living out the implications of their faith in service to the community,” said College President Jason West. “It is notable that for the first time the award will be presented to a couple who are inspiring witnesses of Christian leadership through their marriage.”

Ever since they married in 1978, Cathy and David have been active in Church and community life.

Together they founded the Magdalene House Society, a non-profit recovery home in Red Deer for women who have been trafficked/exploited. The home provides a safe, supportive sanctuary where clients can heal from their experience and reclaim their sense of self-worth and dignity. Partner organizations provide the necessary medical, psychological and legal assistance along with education and employment to assist their recovery. The Bouchards continue to advocate for government action to eliminate human trafficking.

They have also served in leadership positions in the Serena Natural Family Planning Association and in Third Order of St. Francis, a community of lay Catholic women and men who seek to pattern their lives after Jesus in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.



They are dedicated members of the Catholic Women's League and Knights of Columbus. Cathy currently serves as the National Chairperson of Resolutions for the CWL of Canada. She has also served at two other levels of the League as Edmonton Diocesan President and Alberta Mackenzie Provincial President, representing thousands of Catholic women. David has been a member of the Knights of Columbus since he was 16 years old, and this year he marks 50 years of fraternal service with the Knights.

David enjoyed a long career as a teacher in Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools and also served on the board of trustees. Both he and Cathy have been involved with the Religion and Moral Education Specialist Council of the Alberta Teachers Association.

Mary Hunt, who nominated the Bouchards for the Carr Award, calls them a dynamic Catholic couple who truly live lives of servant leadership and Christian witness.

"Cathy and David have inspired and supported countless others in their faith journey," she wrote. "They 'walk the talk' but manage to do so with humility and an attitude of gratitude, which makes them approachable and able to foster a willingness in others to be receptive to their support and mentorship."

Carl Fakeley, a fellow teacher who has known David over 15 years, described him as brilliant mentor. "He worked diligently to teach well and to bring students into a deeper relationship with Christ and His Church," Fakeley wrote in support of the award nomination. "As a teacher he was a true model of faithfulness to staff and students alike."

The Bouchards are members of Sacred Heart Parish, where they have served in virtually every lay ministry from RCIA to Marriage Preparation to Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to Lectors.

They love spending time with their four children and eight grandchildren.

The award will be presented the 16th Annual Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award Luncheon on October 30, 2019.

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