Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award

2012

This year’s recipient of the Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award began his studies at Newman in 2007. He came to us after completing his Bachelor of Philosophy from Collegio Ecclesiastico Internazionale Sedes Sapientiae in Rome.

Originally from Mexico, our recipient moved to Canada during his youth with his parents and numerous siblings. Involvement and participation in the Church were central in their lives. This focus inspired an interest in the priestly vocation and so our recipient entered St. Joseph’s Seminary in 2007, beginning his studies at Newman that same year.

Right from the beginning of his time at Newman, our recipient demonstrated a deep faith and dedication to the church in all his interactions both inside the classroom and out of it. He also received excellent academic grades throughout his time at the College and is graduating today with distinction.

Our recipient demonstrated his willingness to serve not only the Newman Theological College and St. Joseph Seminary communities but also the wider Edmonton Catholic community throughout his time at NTC.
He served the Newman Theological College community through his involvement in student council as a graduate representative and later as editor of the student newsletter, the Newman Nickel. He also represented the College at the 2008 Canadian Theological Students’ Conference and participated in fundraising for the foundation of NTC and SJS. He also assisted the College during the transitional year in Sherwood Park by working as the receptionist for one summer before a new full time receptionist was hired.

Our recipient was also highly involved in serving the St. Joseph Seminary Community serving on the liturgy and Ad Gentes Committee in 2007/2008 and on the community, music and sports committees in 2008/2009. Between 2010 and 2012 our recipient took on a number of leadership roles including chair of the Ad Gentes Committee which put on Jazz night and serving as the editor of the seminary newsletter, Exiit Qui Seminat.

In the wider Catholic community, our recipient served on the Archdiocesan Vocations Committee and served the people of Holy Trinity Parish in Spruce Grove during his internship.
Our recipient engaged in all these activities joyfully, diligently and with an enthusiasm that was contagious.

This year’s recipient is a man rooted firmly in his Catholic tradition who is known around the College for his friendly interactions with fellow students and professors.

For exhibiting these and other qualities of excellence, faith and service to the NTC community, the Church and the wider ecumenical and interfaith communities, it is with great pleasure that we announce this year’s recipient of the Archbishop Joseph N. MacNeil Outstanding Achievement Award, Fr. Miguel Irizar.