Office of the Archbishop

Archbishop comments on assisted suicide bill

Archbishop Richard Smith issued the following statement following introduction in the House of Commons of Bill C-41 An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying):

Today, April 14, 2016, our federal government has introduced legislation that legalizes assisted suicide and euthanasia. As I have often said, this makes legally acceptable in some circumstances what is morally wrong in every circumstance: the taking of innocent human life. It is deeply worrisome to see law thus separate itself from a fundamental moral norm.

Time is needed to study this bill. What is already clear is that this legislative step introduces into law the chilling message that some lives are less worth living than others. In a truly just and ethical society, our communal response to those who suffer is not killing but compassion. In this respect I repeat the urgent call echoing throughout Canadian society for increased access to good quality palliative care.

From numerous conversations held throughout the Archdiocese of Edmonton I have heard from many people who are profoundly troubled by the legalization of assisted suicide. I encourage all who are against this legal development to: make their views known to elected officials; continue their advocacy on behalf of palliative care as the more just approach to people who suffer; and demand that the conscience rights of healthcare workers and institutions be honoured and protected.

─Richard W. Smith  
Archbishop of Edmonton  
8 April 2016

The Beatitudes: Key to Peace and Healing In the Worst of Times

One of the most difficult Christian doctrines is the Beatitudes --that we are to be happy when poor, mourning, insulted, persecuted, and suffering injustice. Join Father Matthew Lin SJ for a weekend retreat June 17-19 at the Star of the North in St. Albert. We will explore what Jesus may have meant in the original, lost Aramaic text and the Greek that survives, and look at how we have lived the reality of each beatitude. For more information to register, call 780-459-5511 or visit www.starofthenorth.ca.

Yard Sale

You are invited to support Star of the North Retreat Centre’s Yard Sale fundraiser on Sunday, June 5, from 10-2. We are collecting items now! We are accepting items in good working order (except clothing, encyclopedia, text books, old microwaves or electronics). Items can be brought to The Star between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday to Friday. We are closed from 12 noon to 1 p.m. for lunch. We need a crew of 15 VOLUNTEERS to help us with this event. We will be collecting, sorting and pricing items prior to the sale as well as working on the day of the event. If you can help, please contact us at the office 780-459-5511.

Be a Star Trekker!

Walk for Star of the North Retreat Centre in our spring fundraising Star Trekker Walk on Sunday, June 5. Or sponsor one of our walkers! Call 780-459-5511 for more information. Pledge forms are now available. Donations can also be made online at www.starofthenorth.ca. Pledges of $20 or more will receive a tax receipt.
Hi, My name is....

Fr Terry Kersch
President

Brian Maraj
Dean

Theresa Robinson
Campus Minister

Music Ministry
Can you sing or play an instrument? Music ministry is always looking for new recruits.
9:30 and 11 am Masses
Tegan Hryciw
StJosec.music@gmail.com

7 pm Mass
Theresa Robinson
Theresa.Robinson@ualberta.ca

4:30 pm (Sat.) Mass
Cerina Lee
jlee7@ualberta.ca

St. Joseph
O God, you love your people and bless the ordinary lives we quietly live. As you blessed Saint Joseph, bless what I do, however hidden and simple it may be, and let all I do be done with love. Amen.

Books

Book Club
Time / Date: Monday April 18 at 7 pm.
Location: Classroom 1-01
Book: “Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100” by Michio Kaku

Kevin Carr Award
Newman Theological College is now accepting nominations for the Kevin Carr Christian Leadership Award. Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for their generous service to the Christian community? We invite you to forward the nomination brochure to those who may be interested in submitting a nomination. Submission due date is June 1, 2016. The Award Recipient will be notified by Newman Theological College and invited to attend a celebratory luncheon in their honour in the fall of 2016. Download the nomination brochure or visit www.newman.edu for details.

Development and Peace 50th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
St. Joseph’s Basilica, 10044 - 113 Street, Edmonton
7 p.m. Mass, 8 p.m. Reception
Contact dpwest@devp.org or call 1-844-480-3387.

Online Faith Formation
Registration is now open for the next cycle of classes in the the Certificate in Catholic Studies (CCS) through Newman Theological College. The following courses will begin on Monday, May 9: Jesus, The Sacraments, Catechesis, On Good Soil, Church History II, The Practice of Youth Ministry, The Practice of Pastoral Care, and Vatican II. All are offered online, so you can study from the comfort of home and work around your personal schedule. Each course runs five weeks and costs just $70. Take an individual course for interest, or work toward one or all of the six specialized Certificates in Catholic Studies. Register online at www.newman.edu/CCS. For more information, Michelle at 780-392-2455 or michelle.maxwell@newman.edu.

Bikes and Blackout Curtains for Our Syrian Newcomers
We are looking for bikes and helmets for SJ1, the Dala Family: a men’s bike, a women’s bike, a child’s bike with training wheels and a toddler’s tricycle. The family also needs blackout curtains for their family room. If you think you have a bike or curtains that might help, please email Fr Glenn: glenn.mcdonald@ualberta.ca.

House of Ephesus
The next House of Ephesus gathering will be this coming Saturday, April 23, at Corpus Christi Parish, Edmonton, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our topic will be Methods of Mental Prayer, in which we will discover how to practise meditation according to the authentic tradition of the Church, especially in the Benedictine, Dominican, Ignatian, and Sulpician schools of spirituality. Coffee and tea will be provided; please bring your own lunch. For details please email Father Matthew at Matthew.Hysell@caedm.ca. All are welcome.

Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
The Catholic Women’s League of Canada calls all people of faith to join nationwide in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on Wednesday, May 4. This is designed to take place during the National Hospice Palliative Care Week (organized by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association) as a profound witness to the sanctity of human life. All parishioners, family and friends are invited to join together in prayer and solidarity on May 4. For more information, including fact sheets on palliative care, resources, prayers and reflections, please visit http://cwl.ca.

A Catholic Perspective on Funerals, Burials, and Estate Planning
Wednesday, April 27
Time: 7-9 p.m.
Location: St. Charles Parish, 17511 - 112 Street, Edmonton
To register, contact the parish office at 780-456-5399

St. Joseph
You are loved, and you are given the gift of life.

Music Ministry
Can you sing or play an instrument? Music ministry is always looking for new recruits.
9:30 and 11 am Masses
Tegan Hryciw
StJosec.music@gmail.com

7 pm Mass
Theresa Robinson
Theresa.Robinson@ualberta.ca

4:30 pm (Sat.) Mass
Cerina Lee
jlee7@ualberta.ca

Sunday Coffee or Brunch
There is often free coffee in the Boardroom following the 9:30 am mass. Brunch is served in the cafeteria follow the 11 am mass for a cost of $9 person. Why not join us?

Hi, My name is....

Fr Terry Kersch
President

Brian Maraj
Dean

Theresa Robinson
Campus Minister

Tegan
9:30 & 11 am Music

Cerina
4:30 Sat. Music

Fr. Glenn
Chaplain

Fr. Don
Lecturer

St. Joseph's College housed up to one hundred men in a handsome brick building that included a chapel, dining room, classrooms and library. Through its affiliation agreement, the College offered university credit courses in Christian apologetics, ethics and philosophy. Beginning with the College’s first rector, Brother Rogatian, in those early years Christian Brothers on staff taught in several faculties of the University. In 1963, Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald invited the Basilian Fathers to assume administrative responsibility for St. Joseph’s College. During the next decades, its academic offerings were considerably expanded. Further, chaplaincy services assumed greater prominence on campus. Only recently, its residence gained an annex, St. Joseph's College Women's Residence. Today, with a core faculty of Basilians, lay women and men and excellent library, St. Joseph's College offers undergraduate courses for credit in all U of A degree programs. Of particular importance are offerings in religious education for future teachers in the province’s Catholic school system. Other areas of instruction include philosophy, science and religion, history, ethics and theology.