



# NEWSLETTER

## Queen's College Faculty of Theology

December 2020

This Newsletter is distributed electronically, it has links to more information on our website

[www.queenscollegenl.ca](http://www.queenscollegenl.ca)

### ***A Christmas Greetings from the Provost***



Advent Blessings and Christmas Greetings: Thank you for all you do for the College in your prayers, donations, support and encouragement. This fall semester has been different, but successful ... thanks to the commitment of our leadership team, faculty members, students and trustees of the Corporation. Many activities chronicled in this and previous newsletters. This fall, two graduates were ordained bishops. Bishop Sandra Fyfe (2000) of Nova Scotia and PEI and Bishop Sam Rose (2001) of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador were ordained and installed to the episcopal ministries. We congratulate them and we pray for them. We continue to adjust to the needs of the Church and COVID-19. We look forward to continuing to be a resource to the Church.

In this very different year, the hope of Advent and the peace of Christmas are refreshing and inspiring. For many, COVID-19 and the global pandemic has given us our first exposure to severe restrictions. In our affluent western world ... to be told we cannot do things, have things, go places ... is new. These restrictions give us a glimpse into the lives and limitations of those who live on the edge as poor and vulnerable. The experiences of 2020 and the predicting of a *new normal* give us opportunity to approach Christmas with our minds and hearts open to a deeper and radical appreciation of the incarnation ... one that calls for a thorough and complete social, economic and spiritual renewal. God taking on human flesh and living a human life with human nature is so radical. The prophets' messages about the Messiah and Jesus' own message are filled with hope for the downtrodden and warnings to the powerful. "He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly," Mary proclaims when told she will bear the Son of God. "He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty." The infant the Magi come to venerate with gold, frankincense and myrrh is not born in a gilded palace. God enters the world in a lowly, dirty place, and reveals himself to a people seeking liberation.

As we wrestle with our temporary and reasonable restrictions, we can consider how we can engage to support the freedom and liberation the Gospel offers for those born into oppression and poverty. The Incarnation calls us to action. Our belief that there is an Almighty God allows us to open our minds and hearts to a loving God coming to us as one of us in human form and nature in Jesus. And, we can further open our minds and heart to hear his word and follow his example to establish the justice, peace and joy of his Kingdom. We can opt to make the *new normal* a truly radical response that does not tolerate the global indifference to the oppressed, but a world where all people, all creation, and the entire universe are in harmony ... and may that harmony and peace be with you and your loved ones for Christmas, the New Year and forever!

Blessings

*Rick Singleton*

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### ***Access to Queen's College***

Our building, like many others on MUN campus and beyond, is under lockdown. Admission is by appointment and permission for matters essential for academic and administrative continuity. To make an appointment, contact the College at 709-753-0116 or email [queens@mun.ca](mailto:queens@mun.ca)

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Chair of the Corporation***



Greetings to our Queen's College community of students, faculty members, alumni, benefactors and Corporation Members:

I am very pleased and proud that Queen's College has maintained stable operations in the past year. The College continues to offer good theological education and pastoral training. We are so pleased that the College was able to promptly adjust to the closure of campus due to COVID-19, and then adjust, not only delivery, but also content of some courses and continuing studies events to address pastoral and theological issues raised by this global pandemic. Please take note of some of the interesting programs offered by Queen's as a resource to the Church and the broader during the Winter 2021 Semester. Consider availing of the opportunities.

I want to say a special thank you to the Provost, Dr. Rick Singleton, who has generously delayed his own plans and stayed on as provost while we navigate Covid 19 and recruit a new provost. We look forward to completing the recruit during the Winter Semester. On behalf of the Corporation of Queen's College, I extend sincere thanks and blessings of Christmas to all.

*Rev Gerald Giles,  
Chair of Corporation*

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Alumni***

Alumni and Friends of Queen's College: On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to extend to you and yours our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas. We realize that gatherings are very limited in numbers during this time of pandemic. However, we look forward to a New Year filled with hope and happiness as the vaccine exercises its effects.

We have not had a financial appeal this year under the circumstances but will do so as the year ahead unfolds. You will be glad to know that our invested capital for the scholarship fund is now \$120,000. This provides scholarships for Queen's College students. Thank you for your continued support.

Again, Seasons Greetings and may we all find faith and confidence as we celebrate "The birth in time of the timeless Son of God."

*The Rev Canon Dr Frank Cluett  
President*



### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Rt Rev Sam Rose***

It is with joy, on this first day of my episcopacy, that I extend Christmas Greetings to the Queen's College Community. I am a graduate of Queen's College, and I acknowledge the contribution Queen's has made to my ministry and life through solid theological education, practical pastoral training, and spiritual formation. The faculty, staff and students of Queen's have been critical to my formation, and I look forward to working with the College as an essential resource to the our diocese and the broader Church.

As we enter this Holy Season of Christmas, let us never forget that God sent His Son as the greatest gift of love we could ever receive. And we are called to share this same Love to everyone, but especially to the poor, the weak, the vulnerable, those rejected by society, the broken and marginalized. Let God's Love in Christ be the best gift we can give someone this Christmas, for it is in giving that we receive. May you be blessed by God so that you may be a blessing to others. Amen

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Rt Rev John Watton***

Brothers and Sisters, In the midst of the Valley of Shadows, we have been able to follow a steady light as a guide. It has kept us together, kept us in faith. May our Celebration of Christmas keep us in His Love. Blessings from the Diocese of Central Newfoundland

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Rt Rev John Organ***

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace..." Luke 2:14

I recall when a student at Queen's College moments in class, at the library, in chapel, and while writing papers, that my spirit would simply soar and the glory of God seemed present everywhere. Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel would often encourage his students at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in New York City to not just learn about God but to know God in such a way that a sense of awe is found in everyday human life. Queen's College provided for me an encounter with the Ground of Being that is God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I was given a sense of the complexity of life and the mystery of God such that light broke into

the darkness, joy overcame despair, and peace gave strength and courage.

Our Christian Faith is rooted in a child born in Bethlehem. Angels sang his birth and the wise journeyed to his cradle. From a little town the world would be wrapped in love. May the Child of Bethlehem be the gift under your tree this Christmas and may you find in Him, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Merry Christmas Dear Family of Queen's College.

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Chaplain:***



In our subdivision it seemed like people started putting up their Christmas lights the first week of November. It started with one house in our neighbourhood,

and within days it had grown to several more and now most houses are decorated. With all that has been going on with COVID-19 people are saying they appreciate the lights to brighten things up! I watch people strolling at dusk and stopping to have a look. One house in particular is so well decorated people stop and take pictures, myself included. Among the decorations is a large-size manger scene. It stands out among the others and speaks of the real 'light' of the world for those of us who follow a Christian path. It also is a good reminder that we are also called to be 'light' not just at Christmas but through the year. I have witnessed, heard about and read stories of how people have been reaching out to others knowing how rough a year it has been. As you celebrate Christmas, may the LIGHT of CHRIST shine in you and through you to others.

*Merry Christmas.*

*Father John+ (Chaplain and Editor)*

### ***A Christmas Greeting from the Student Association***

The Executive would like to extend warm Christmas Wishes to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, members of Corporation, and friends. While we are all missing the physical closeness we usually enjoy at this time of year, please know that we feel a special bond with all of you and are grateful for your presence in our lives. May the innkeeper in all

of us prepare a place for the birth of the Christ child this Advent and Christmas.

*Blessings to you all from Debbie, Tracy, Mary-Anne and Karen.*

*Student Association Executive*

***Ordination Anniversaries:*** Congratulations to the Most Rev Percy Coffin who celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priesthood on November 26<sup>th</sup>, to the Rev Canon Edward Keeping who celebrated his 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Priesthood on November 27<sup>th</sup>, to the Rt Rev Sam Rose who celebrated his 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the Diaconate December 8<sup>th</sup>, to the Rt Rev Edward Marsh and the Rev Gordon White who celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

***Congratulations*** to the Rt Rev Sam Rose (QC 2000) on his recent election as the 6<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern NL. Bishop Sam was consecrated at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist December 15<sup>th</sup>, by current and retired



Diocesan Bishops, each a graduate of the College.



### ***Honorary Doctorate Degree Convocation 2021***



The Corporation of Queen's College is pleased to announce that the Doctor of Divinity (honoris causa) will be awarded to the Rev James Reid at Convocation 2021.

Rev Jim Reid, who is now in his nineties, is a native of Codroy, NL. He received his early education in his home community. In 1948 he enrolled as a student at Queen's College and was made a deacon in 1952 and ordained a priest the following year. From this time until his retirement, he served the Church in the Diocese of Newfoundland, and after restructuring in 1976, the Diocese of Central Newfoundland. He served faithfully in the parishes of Battle Harbour, The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Fogo, Bay of Islands and Gander. In

addition to his parish duties, he took leading roles in diocesan and community life and his energy and advice were valued by his peers and parishioners. He was, by his own admission, a Christian socialist – always a strong voice in the debates around issues of social justice, and an advocate for the well-being of clergy and for equality of remuneration (stipend and pension).

The Rev Canon Dr Frank Cluett, who nominated the Rev James Reid for the degree, noted that he exercised a pivotal role in the diocesan discussions that led to the resumption of theological studies at Queen's College in 1982, after a hiatus of 10 years. He, with the support of his bishop, The Rt Rev Mark Genge, went against the national tide of merger among theological colleges to make this a reality. His (and their) vision for Queen's focused on the new resources available to it, especially through its affiliation with Memorial University, and also the need for parish clergy. To this end, his commitment, determination and faith were very influential in the decision by the Church in 1982.

Currently residing in Winsor Junction, Nova Scotia. Rev Jim was very humbled and overwhelmed when informed of the decision to grant him the Doctor of Divinity.

The trustees of the Corporation of Queen's College are delighted that Rev Jim Reid will be recognized with this degree.

***Our Sympathy*** is expressed to Commander Venerable Jennifer Gosse on the passing of her mother Bella Gosse on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Nova Scotia. Archdeacon Jennifer (QC 1997) is a priest of the Diocese of ENL and serving in the Canadian Armed Forces and to the Rt Rev Martin Mate (QC 1952) on the death of his sister Violet Randell on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Rev. David R. Mawer, Chaplain and Vice Principal of Queen's College 1962 – 1965 died on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at age 88 years. He came to Queen's from the UK and spent 30 years in Canada before returning to the UK. It was his request that Queen's students of his time and his good memories of the College be advised of his death. May they rest in peace and rise in glory!

***Winter 2021 Courses*** Have you looked at course offerings for the Winter 2021 Semester? [http://queenscollegenl.ca/?page\\_id=406](http://queenscollegenl.ca/?page_id=406) It is not too

late to register! Contact Dana at 709-753-0116 or email [queens@mun.ca](mailto:queens@mun.ca)

***Our final Day of Awareness*** for the Fall Semester took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> with the Rev Khaliah Kinkead-Dawkins, Mission Vicar of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, St. John's. Following Morning Prayer, Rev Khaliah shared a homily on Genesis 29:15-28 in which she reflected on how Jacob's love for Rachel overcame long struggles with the gift of patience. Jacob had agreed to work for his uncle Laban for seven years and then would marry Rachel. Sadly, there was deceit and he ended up marrying Leah. Jacob was willing to wait another seven years in order to marry Rachel. Rev Khaliah then used the story on how during this pandemic people have been waiting to return to 'the church they love'. It hasn't been easy as she reminded us that St Paul tells us 'Love is patient.' Jacob was frustrated but he persisted, he did not give up. Rev Khaliah conclude this reflection with the reminder from St Paul that nothing separates us from the love of God (Romans 8:38-39).

The second reflection was based on the 'Constant Complaining of the Israelites' (Exodus 16:2-15) as they wandered in the wilderness. They had forgotten what God had done. All they could see was what they did not have and they became oblivious to God who had kept his promise of freedom to them. By placing ourselves in this story, Rev Khaliah suggested we too complain a lot since we like the Israelites 'take our eyes off God.' Yet God put up with all the complaining. Life for the Israelites could have been easier if they trusted God, and in the end God did lead them to the Promised Land.

Rev Khaliah shared her third reflection on the life of Moses: the baby in the bulrushes, his experience with the burning bush and his confrontation with Pharaoh which lead him to take the Israelites into the wilderness and his journeying with them along the way to Sinai and the giving of the 10 commandments. Rev Khaliah then read Exodus 33: 12-23 and this passage showing a brave Moses who confronts God by being honest with God in his prayer. He needed assurance that God was indeed with him as he carried the heavy load. Moses was running on near empty, he was overworked, over extended, anxious and stressed. Rev Khaliah reminded us that we have at times felt like Moses in



our call to lead in this time of Pandemic, that we may be running on empty, overworked and stressed. She suggested in our prayer time we may not have the words to say, yet God knows our prayer. Like Moses, we too in trying times need God's presence. God does not leave us even as we cry out. God is with us, God loves us.

Our Day of Awareness ended with some sharing on the three reflections and Mid-Day Prayer. We are thankful for the timeliness of Khaliah's reflections and how she brought new insight to well know Old Testament stories for our time.

The next Day of Awareness is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. More details to be found on our Face Book page and through upcoming emails.

**Chapel Worship** will resume January 5<sup>th</sup> with Mid-day Prayer followed by on line fellowship. We look forward to having you join us at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/161659821>

Enter email address: [provostqueenscollege@mun.ca](mailto:provostqueenscollege@mun.ca)

Enter password: **210PPDrive**

Beginning January 6<sup>th</sup> a limited number of faculty and students will be able to attend liturgies in the chapel following the protocols established by MUN.

### **Mark the following 2021 dates:**

January 4<sup>th</sup> - Winter Semester begins.

February 14<sup>th</sup> – Queen's College Appeal Day

**Nurturing Compassionate Presence:** This six-session on-line series is an opportunity to engage with others who are seeking to look at/experience life through the lens of compassion. It can be timely to consider our response and recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic in light of compassion. The sessions will begin on Thursday, January 7 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and will continue each Thursday evening until February 11th. If you are interested in this reflection and discussion series and wish to register for it, you can e-mail [nurturingcompassion@queenscollegenl.ca](mailto:nurturingcompassion@queenscollegenl.ca). We will have a maximum of 100 participants. Facilitator for the series will be Dr. Anne Walsh. There is no charge for the series. This is a collaborative venture by the Sisters of Mercy, St. Clare's Mercy Hospital Advisory Committee, the Redemptorist Adult Faith Development Team, and Queen's College. Please

register by December 20. Pass along this invitation to others who might be interested.

### **Grief and Bereavement Volunteer Online Training Certificate Program**

Queen's College Faculty of Theology is pleased to announce the launch of an online Certificate in Grief and Bereavement Care. This training program is designed to equip interested individuals with the knowledge and skills for effective pastoral visitation and spiritual support ministries to who are dealing with loss. This program is a great opportunity for churches, parishes, hospitals, long-term care facilities, pastoral care committees, and community groups to ensure their visitation and outreach volunteers are adequately trained for grief and bereavement support.

#### **Here are a few details about the program:**

- **Twelve sessions** throughout January, February and March on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. starting January 04 and finishing on March 29, 2021.
- The program will be **available on-line**, with easy access from a computer, smartphone or tablet in your own home or office. Some may wish to gather in social-distanced groups in their own area.
- Individuals with **expertise in the subject areas** will present topics.
- There is **no charge** for participants doing the program as a **non-credit**.
- A **Certificate** in Pastoral and Palliative Care Visitation will be offered to those who complete the program. Evaluation will be based on attendance and participation.
- This initiative is possible, thanks to support and collaboration from the **Order of St. Lazarus and Eastern Health**.

For more information, email [queens@mun.ca](mailto:queens@mun.ca) or call 709 753-0116.



### ***Experiencing Prayer and Spiritual Conversations***

This six- session on-line series Lenten series will be guide participants in prayer practices and provide opportunities for sharing. The sessions will be led by Fr. Earl Smith SJ and Fr. Charlie Pottie, SJ. on Thursdays in Lent Feb, 18, 25, March 04, 11, 18, & 25 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested, send a note to [r.singleton@mun.ca](mailto:r.singleton@mun.ca)

**January Newsletter** deadline for submissions is January 20<sup>th</sup> for email distribution January 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Our Facebook and Twitter links** provide up-to-date 'goings on' at the College. Go to [www.queenscollegenl.ca](http://www.queenscollegenl.ca) and click the links on the homepage top right corner.

***The Annual Queen's College Appeal*** takes place Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup> throughout the three dioceses. Please continue your support of the college by promoting our 'Appeal' and by making a contribution.

## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

