

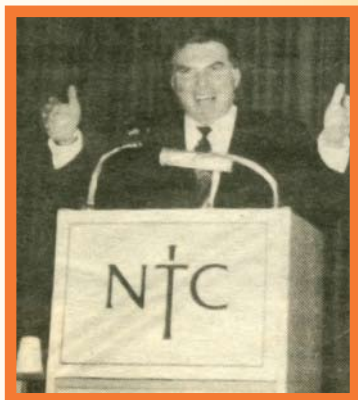
Rabbi Delivers Lecture Series at Roman Catholic Newman Theological College

By Sr. Rosaleen Zdunich

Archbishop Anthony Jordan OMI, Archbishop of the Edmonton Archdiocese, 1964-1973, was responsible for founding Newman Theological College (NTC). It opened its doors in 1969 for theological education in response to Vatican II. This lecture series is dedicated in his memory.

The Lecture Series offers everyone, as well as academics, an opportunity to hear world-renowned scholars address topical subjects in theology. With ample time for discussion, and debate, this series is a popular and thought-provoking Newman Theological College event.

Christians from many denominations attend these lectures to hear profound Christian speakers. However, in 1997, the series took on an interfaith dimension when Rabbi Asher Finkel was the guest speaker. Rabbi Finkel is co-founder of the Department of Jewish-Christian Studies in New Jersey with Roman Catholic Priest, Edmontonian Father Larry Frizzel.



Rabbi Finkel speaking at Newman Theological College

Rabbi Finkel's three lectures addressed the topic "Christianity and Judaism in Dialogue". The series was opened with a prayer in Hebrew and English by Neil Loomer from Beth Shalom Synagogue. Rabbi Asher Finkel was introduced by Sr. Rosaleen Zdunich, Founding Coordinator of The Edmonton Interfaith Centre.

The lecture series ends with a banquet to which presidents of all the Christian colleges are invited. But how was this banquet different from previous banquets? Because it was held at Beth Shalom Synagogue! At each table, Jews and Christians sat together sharing a kosher meal and their respective faith and practices. Animated conversation could be heard throughout the banquet room. This lecture series came to a conclusion when, after the banquet, everyone was invited for a tour of the synagogue. I was privileged to coordinate this event with Newman Theological College.