

## RELIGION DEPARTMENT

### PHILOSOPHY

The Neumann High School Religion Department believes that the Church continues the mission of Jesus, prophet, priest and servant king. We believe that its mission, like His, has three aspects: proclaiming and teaching God's word, celebrating the Sacred Mysteries and serving the people of the world.

In union with the universal church, the Neumann Religion Department recognizes its ministry to the students of Saunders County in three dimensions: the Ministry of Word, which consists of announcing the message, the Good News of Salvation wrought by Jesus Christ; the Ministry of Celebration, which strives to form a community of believers to be gathered together in friendship and worship; and the Ministry of Service which seeks to motivate students to perform loving acts of concern for others and to support strategies that promote peace and justice.

### OBJECTIVES:

Freshmen:

1. to acquire familiarity with the Sacred Scriptures, their origin and values.
2. to gain an understanding of the origin of our faith through the study of the Old and New Testament.

Sophomores:

1. through understanding of Catholic worship, students will be enabled to come closer to God through genuine participation in the mass and reception of the sacraments and by developing a relationship with Jesus Christ through their own prayer lives.
2. to understand and appreciate the establishment, purpose and accomplishments of the Catholic Church and of its many great members.

Juniors:

1. to study and review the major points of the Catholic doctrine.
2. to acquire an appreciation of a Christian morality which flows from the natural law which St. Paul says is the law of God written in the heart of everyone.

Seniors:

1. to provide a thorough study of the Catholic Church's teaching on Christian marriage, and a sense of respect for sexuality.
2. to help the student understand some key contemporary social justice issues in light of the Roman Catholic faith.
3. to become knowledgeable about lifestyle options including the religious state and the single state.

### COURSE OFFERINGS AND DESCRIPTIONS

#### Christian Service

Grade 9 - 10 - 11 - 12

One other requirement of the religion program is service. Each student is expected to spend a minimum of hours in a Christian service program. Freshmen - 15 hours, Sophomores - 15 hours, Juniors - 15 hours and Seniors - 15 hours. Freshmen, sophomores and juniors are to do theirs either in school or outside school hours. Seniors will be permitted to leave campus for service with prior permission of the administration.

#### Religion I - Old and New Testament

(full year - 10 credits)

Grade 9

Students will study the Old Testament during the first semester. They will be introduced to an understanding of the nature and organization of Sacred Scripture as a component of Divine Revelation. Through the study of the Old Testament, the students will become acquainted with the story of creation, the fall, and the unfolding of salvation history as the people of the Old Testament prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The study of the New Testament during the second semester will present an overview of the physical and cultural geography of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus, as well as a look at the historical context

in which he lived. The students will be led to a deeper understanding of the person and mystery of Jesus. This course will involve reading the Gospel account of His life and ministry and studying the Church's interpretation of these in light of Sacred Tradition.

**Religion II** - Catholic Worship and Church History (full year - 10 credits)

Grade 10

This course is made up of three segments: prayer, Mass and the sacraments. The over-all aim of the course is to assist the students in answering God's call to holiness. They will be taught that their relationship to God is expressed and sustained through personal and liturgical prayer. Through an in-depth study of its parts, the students will come to understand Christ's action and their response in the Mass. In their study of the sacraments, they will study the institution, matter and form for each sacrament, the graces received through the sacrament and the characteristics unique to each sacrament.

One semester is devoted to Church History. In this class a study of salvation history is continued through the study of the history of the Catholic Church from its foundation by Christ to the present. The lives of many of the saints and their contributions are studied as well as the lives of contemporary Catholics who have made or are making valuable contributions. An examination of the development of doctrine is included as well as the major councils of the Church.

**Religion III** - A Synthesis of Catholic Faith & Christian Morality (full year - 10 credits)

Grade 11

One semester is devoted to study and review of the major points of Catholic Doctrine. Topics to be discussed will include: God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Trinity, the church, sacraments, Christian moral life, church teaching in the area of social justice, prayer with special emphasis on the Eucharist, the "last things" and a discussion of what it means to be a Catholic in the world today.

The other semester of the junior year is spent on Christian Morality. This class seeks to provide a background from which students can come to know the principles of Christian morality on which a Christian life and community are formed. It answers such questions as: What is morality? How does one decide what is right and wrong? What is conscience and how is it formed? What is the role and purpose of the law? What is the role of the Church? And how can one change behavior? The Ten Commandments are studied in depth as well as the laws of the Church. Some specific moral issues are considered with special attention given those of most interest to the students involved. The semester concludes with a unit on prayer and the development of a personal relationship with God.

**Religion IV** Social Justice and Vocations (full year - 10 credits)

Grade 12

The curriculum tries to show the student that the whole human person is God's creation to be treated with reverence and respect. It also helps the seniors look at different Christian life styles centering in marriage and takes them through the church's view of marriage as well as the Diocesan Marriage Policy. The priesthood, single life and religious lives are also studied. In the third trimester students will study social justice issues.