



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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## News Release

### **Blessing of Archbishop Joseph MacNeil School Site**

Today's blessing of the Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Elementary/Junior High School site marks the first time in over two decades that the school's namesake is still alive and part of the school site blessing. Archbishop Joseph MacNeil officially blessed the school site which is located in the Riverbend/Terwillegar area at 1065 Leger Blvd.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were MLA David Hancock; City Councilor Bryan Anderson as well as future students, parents and clergy.

"This community has been in desperate need of another Catholic elementary school as well as its first Catholic Junior High," said Charlie Koester, Board of Trustees Chairperson. "The elementary schools in this area have been operating at well over 100 per cent capacity," added Koester.

Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Elementary/Junior High will accommodate 400 students in its core structure and a total of 600 students once an additional eight portables are added to the structure. It is 3,940 square meters on one level with a Student Gathering Area at the centre of the school and four adjoining wings. The total cost of the school will be approximately 7 million dollars.

Archbishop Joseph MacNeil Elementary/ Junior High is one of five new schools for the Edmonton Catholic School District. Mother Teresa Elementary, Father Michael Troy Junior High and St. John Bosco Elementary will all open in September for the 2003-2004 school year. Archbishop Oscar Romero High School will open its doors in September of 2004.

Joseph MacNeil was appointed as Archbishop for Edmonton in 1973 and was often referred to as a person of 'wisdom and generous spirit.' He worked tirelessly in and outside of the archdiocese for 26 years in his role as Archbishop of Edmonton.

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#### **For more information call:**

**Charlie Koester**  
**Chairperson**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**(780) 445-4722**

**Lori Nagy**  
**Media Relations**  
**Edmonton Catholic Schools**  
**(780) 441-6189**