



THE CURRENT

LIVING WATER COLLEGE OF THE ARTS NEWSLETTER - PROMOTION OF ART, FAITH AND REASON

Why Film?

By Dcn. Kenneth Noster, President

Why is it that particular art forms emerge and are found to dominate particular times in history? It is beyond the scope of a short article to go into much depth, but it is possible to draw some relatively evident conclusions.

In the era of Michelangelo, the majority of the population couldn't read, so they were hungry for the drama the artist provided in his sculptures. Meanwhile Fra Angelico painted powerful scenes of death and life, visually drawing his audience to experiences of the awesome mystery of creation, redemption, and eternal life.

By the time William Shakespeare was born, England had been thrown into a realm of iconoclasm, with almost all sacred statuary and paintings having been destroyed. As in the past, the people were hungry for truth and beauty expressed in artistic form, and theatre endured as the one art form capable of expressing truths of the faith, albeit cloaked in symbolic and poetic

language.

In the centuries that followed, and well through the twentieth century, theatre remained a dominant means of expression, especially in oppressive cultures. It was the principal means by which young Karol Wojtyla expressed

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truth and beauty during the Nazi occupation of Poland.

During the twentieth century a new art form emerged: film. At first, films were little more than recorded stage plays, novel in their day but quite stilted by today's standards. Gradually, from decade to decade, technical improvements made films appear more realistic, and the care taken in writing meaningful screenplays produced

excellent storylines.

During the latter half of the twentieth century, noticing that action films were demonstrating increasingly high box-office revenues, film makers began to sacrifice story in favour of action. In the past three decades, huge technical advances in digital production have allowed film makers to take action scenes to a whole new level, usually tied together with a relatively weak storyline. What has transpired is a new sort of iconoclasm where truth and beauty have again been obscured, and though audiences are greatly entertained, they leave the theatre still lacking something to satisfy their greatest hunger.

The hunger of every human person, to experience truth and beauty through artistic media, will not be satisfied by directors and writers whose principal

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motivations are fame and fortune. Nor will it be satisfied by producers who replace universal truths with relativism and ignore the most fundamental aspects of mankind. Many of the most spectacular productions lack the vital ingredient of a strong story, yet film remains attractive, and people consistently turn to it as their art form of choice.

This preference is understandable for a number of reasons. Film is easy to access, it stimulates emotions through many senses, applying form, colour, staging, and abundant visual variety at the same time as dialogue and music. One might say film incorporates into one art form aspects of all other kinds of art.

As with the arts of the past, film too has the potential to be great. If film makers, like the great artists of antiquity, would become immersed in skills of right-thinking, fortified in their faith, they would emerge as brilliant story-tellers in the medium of film.

In its mandate to restore truth and beauty to the arts, Living Water College must pay attention to the prominence of film. Between 2009 and 2014, the short programs in theatre, sacred music, iconography, drawing and painting, and film making each



contributed to our skill of purposefully integrating faith and reason with art. The changes in the lives of the artists themselves were more than worth the undertaking, but the impact upon their art was truly inspiring, each within a few weeks.

Encouraged by the success of its short programs and vitally aware of the need to impact the world of film, Living Water College has decided to offer a one-year program in Film Making.

A full year of daily sacramental life and study, immersion into the ideas of the greatest minds in history, and practice in the writing and production of films will step in two directions. It will step backward, utilizing socratic dialogue to grasp essential truths embedded in classical literature and philosophy while plumbing the depths of our faith. It will step forward, applying this wealth of personal formation to the production of compelling stories using the latest in film technology and techniques.

As sculpture and painting dominated their era and, in its time, theatre filled a vital need, film is the medium of the present and will be great in the hands of well-formed artists. As Michelangelo, Fra Angelico, William Shakespeare, and many other prominent artists demonstrate, the greatest art comes from individuals schooled in classical literature and grounded in their faith. The graduates of Living Water College, schooled in classical literature and grounded in their faith, will achieve no less.

Meanwhile, our society is hungry for excellent films. ☐

By Glenn Spiess, Assistant Director of Development

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

As we prepare to open our full one-year Film Studies & Production Program, the Development Office is having to greatly increase its fund-raising capacity. We are appealing to charitable Foundations that may assist in the goal and mission of Living Water College of the Arts. The criteria for these grant applications varies from one Foundation to the next, but in each case the granting Foundation seeks assurance that Living Water College of the Arts demonstrates support from the community.

We want to recognize the ways in which

you, our family, have contributed to the College in the past. Some of you have donated time to the College at various stages of its development, others have donated spiritually through your gift of prayer, still others have contributed out of your resources either financially or in the form of gifts such as material, tools, library resource and technology. We want to express once again our sincere thanks for your efforts and enthusiasm; we have been blessed by your involvement. As we move forward towards our vision of establishing a Film Studies & Production

Program, we are in need of your continued participation. A broad spectrum of support at a grassroots level demonstrates to future benefactors (individuals or foundations) the value and necessity of Living Water College of the Arts. How can you help? Here are just some ways you can be more engaged:

1. Pray
2. Share your story with us. Can we interview you? Can we film your story? How did you hear about the College? Why

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Welcome new Board Members



PAUL MORONEY (CALGARY, AB)

Paul Moroney, Director, has over 35 years of progressive International and North American business, science, technology and managerial experience, having also served on parish, community, civic, non-profit foundations and private company boards. With a passion for 'life long learning' combined with more than 2 decades of home education, Paul hopes to assist the Board in the establishment of Living Water College of the Arts as a unique Arts college that integrates the whole person and the Fine Arts.

Paul resides in Calgary, is married to Barb and they recently celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. They have 8 children, and 4 grandchildren - presently.

PAUL & RACHELLE GODIN (WESTLOCK, AB)

Paul & Rachelle Godin, Directors, are honoured to have the opportunity to help with the College's growth. After their oldest son attended the College's summer Film Program in 2014, they saw how this unique school could fill a niche by producing filmmakers who are well-formed in faith and reason.

Paul and Rachelle met at the University of Alberta in 1990. They married 2 years later, and graduated in 1994; Paul received his B.Sc. in Forestry and Rachelle received her B.Ed. Paul began work in the forest industry in Valemount, BC and continued for 15 years, culminating in his position as Area Superintendent for a large forest products company in Whitecourt, AB. On the side, Paul and Rachelle purchased residential properties, which they renovated and rented out over a period of 12 years. This led Paul to a change in career, and he became a mortgage specialist in 2009. Rachelle began home schooling in 1999 and she became a home school facilitator in 2012. In 2013, they sold their home in Whitecourt and bought land near Westlock, where they now farm full time. They have 9 children and have been home schooling for 16 years.

Over the years, Paul and Rachelle have served as volunteers in many organizations. Paul has served on the Economic Development Committee for Woodlands County, and on the Investment Review Committee for Alberta's Community Futures. He has also served on Parish Council for several years at their church. Rachelle has served in their church in several ministries including directing the Vacation Bible School, leading women's bible studies, and acting as spiritual mentor for a Catholic girl's club.

Paul and Rachelle are looking forward to seeing Living Water College reach its full potential and begin to effect positive change in the film industry through its graduates' adherence to faith and reason.





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Living Water College of the Arts
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do you support the College? What has been your involvement in the College? What are your hopes and dreams for the College?

3. Write a letter of support for the College.
4. Volunteer: Assist us in contacting others who wish to remain in touch with us through "The Current" newsletter mail outs, phone calls, emails, and/or social media (Facebook contributions, Twitter conversations)
5. Add your name to our volunteer list so we can call you when we are in need of your help.
6. Join a committee and put your skills to work for the College.
7. Become a parish contact.
8. Host a speaker from the College



pray fundraise develop volunteer donate share

at your parish or recommend a speaker from the College to various conferences and/or events.

9. Become a monthly donor; this demonstrates to prospective benefactors the ongoing financial stability of the College.
10. Contribute to the College other resources needed to launch our Film Studies & Production Program, i.e. technical equipment, DVD collections, etc., which also demonstrate ongoing

support & stability of the College.

11. Share your ideas with us.
12. Promote the College to others, let them know about it and direct them to us.
13. Consider whether or not you are able to suggest the name of an individual who is a member of the Board of Directors of a Canadian Foundation or who works for a Canadian Foundation?

If you believe in the mission, vision and necessity of the College and want to see it become a reality, then we encourage you to either become involved for the first time or increase your level of involvement. Any contribution of your time, skills or resources is greatly appreciated and always welcome. Please feel free to contact us through any of the avenues on the bar heading of this page. ☐



Living Water recently joined the online donation website: CanadaHelps.org. Their mission is to make giving simple, help charities promote their work, and enhance the organization's overall charitable impact. Feel free to explore their website and, while you can always donate through Living Water's website, CanadaHelps provides another method of gift giving.

At the recent World Meeting of Families, artist Neilson Carlin was asked to create an image to prepare for and commemorate the event. We would like to share his final creation, *The Holy Family*, and his thoughts. Artwork by NeilsonCarlin.com



"What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race." – John 1:4

As planets find perfect balance and harmony revolving around the sun, so do we find perfect order when we establish Christ at the center of our families. His light illuminates our hearts and minds, and our interactions with others. Consequently, the piece was designed to focus the viewer on the centrality of Christ in the image, and remind us of the necessity of his role as the focal point of our lives.

From front to back, the figures have been intentionally layered to indicate the proximity of their relationship to Christ. In the extreme foreground, practically walking out of the canvas, stands the infant, his eyes fixed firmly on the viewer, extending a sign of blessing situated in the exact center of the painting. Next to him, the Blessed Mother, with a gaze slightly beyond her son as she looks toward his passion, fully aware of the trial yet to begin for her family for the sake of all families. Just behind stands St. Joseph, gently resting a loving and protective hand on his wife; his hand completes the chain of connection that begins with Christ's hand, which rests gently on his mother's. Behind all stand Mary's mother and father, SS. Ann and Joachim. They, along with Mary and Joseph, all turn in the direction of Christ. With pensive faces, their joy comes not from the removal of suffering with the

coming of Our Lord, but from a firm and steadying reliance on Christ as their morning star, guiding them through the storms of life. Surrounding the figures is an architectural framework loosely mimicking the ciborium over the altar at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. This framework contains elements very specific to the time and place of the event for which the piece was commissioned. On the upper left is a depiction of the coat-of-arms of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia where the 2015 World Meeting of Families will convene. On the upper right is the coat-of-arms of His Holiness, Pope Francis, under whose pontifical aegis the meeting will be guided. On the bottom, a reminder of the year in which the World Meeting of Families will be celebrated. Situated all around are white lilies, a reminder of the purity of the Holy Mother.

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