

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

VANCOUVER COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL, MANRELL HALL

VANCOUVER, BC (February 16, 2017) – Vancouver College (VC) broke ground today on its new Middle School, to be named Manrell Hall, ceremoniously marking the beginning of the next phase of its Campus Redevelopment. Formerly the Christian Brothers' residence for 37 years, the new middle school, named after VC supporters Tod and Irene Manrell, expects completion for September 2018.

Vancouver College's co-chaplain Father Regi Mathew, OFM opened the ceremony with a blessing of the project site and reflected on the message of building and rebuilding. He asked God to bless the ground, and those who are working on the project both on site and those who support it.

President John Nixon, "With this ground breaking we are starting the implementation of our vision for the future of Vancouver College by providing a safe learning environment that meets seismic codes and gives our boys the very best teaching and learning opportunities."

Sitting on the footprint of the former Christian Brothers' residence at VC, the 44,000 square foot facility, Manrell Hall, will include a learning commons featuring new counselling services and learning assistance rooms, enhanced dining hall with outdoor features, a makers space for programs such as digital media, robotics, and the Arts, informal study spaces, and 18 larger, more flexible classrooms to enhance collaboration, increase efficiencies, and advance learning performance.

The Brothers who live at Vancouver College, including those who continue to be a part of the school staff and faculty, are temporarily living at the Archdiocese in the retired priests residence on West 33rd Avenue while they await their new residence within the updated Elementary School. Those in attendance at ground breaking, Brothers Conti, Flood, Gale, and Thorne shared fond memories of their former home but look forward to the new and unique space Manrell Hall will offer the community of Vancouver College. Brother Flood, a VCL Board Member, remarks, "We had wonderful times in the Brothers' Residence. We will miss sitting around the dinner table, prayers and Mass in the chapel, and the many celebration gatherings with the VC community. That being said, we are blessed that Manrell Hall will provide the learning experience and much needed space for the students to continue their education and grow their faith."

Witnesses to this momentous occasion, alongside the Manrells and President John Nixon included Principal Johnny Bevacqua, members of the Vancouver College Limited Board of Directors, Administration, Parents Association, and project teams from Acton Ostry Architects and Haebler Construction, the Christian Brothers, and student representatives.

At the launch of the \$36 million Our Next Century Capital Campaign in October, President John Nixon announced that the VCL Board of Directors had approved the construction of the new Middle School. Construction is expected to take 19 months.

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ABOUT OUR NEXT CENTURY

Our Next Century is a \$36 million campaign focused on improving academic outcomes and campus life enrichment at VC through three emphases, Campus Redevelopment, Financial Assistance and Emerging Priorities. The Our Next Century Campaign has emerged from the vision and strategic plans developed by the College over the last five years, and is the primary means through which the academic vision of the school will be implemented. The Campaign is planned to run until the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

ABOUT VANCOUVER COLLEGE

Vancouver College is the only all boys independent Catholic school in British Columbia. Established in 1922 under the guidance of the Christian Brothers, Vancouver College is a leading institution with the mandate to educate young men in the tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice. As a top ranking faith-based learning environment Vancouver College prepares students for a life of dedication to achievement, leadership, and service to the church and community.

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