March 24, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Virginia Webb, Director of Development, 413-549-0300, Ext. 105

RE: Newman Catholic Center announces its Capital Campaign Chairperson, Atty. George “Trigger” Burke

The *Newman Catholic Center* received a significant contribution this week in support of its anticipated capital campaign, *Miracles Happen…when Heart speaks to heart* from longtime supporter, Atty. George “Trigger” Burke of Quincy, MA. This donation of $500,000 will assist the center in the construction of its new facility on the corner of Thatcher Rd. and No. Pleasant St. on the campus and across the street from its existing Center.

Atty. Burke’s early years were spent at UMass Amherst as he studied for his undergraduate degree and was the star basketball player. By the time he graduated in 1956 he had been a second team All American, and first team All East, All New England, All Yankee Conference and All Boston Garden. Trigger, as he is affectionately called, went on to play for the Boston Celtics. His basketball career was interrupted when he entered law school and public service. Upon graduation from Boston College School of Law Triggers’ public service journey included a position on the Quincy City Council, Massachusetts State Representative, acting mayor of Quincy and Norfolk County district attorney.

The Newman Catholic Center is located in the heart of the UMass campus in a 58,000 square foot facility that includes opportunities for the students of the University and the Five College Consortium to worship, study, gather, socialize and enjoy breakfast all day in the Newman Café. Catholics and non-Catholics alike frequent the Center for a variety of offerings. Trigger found his way to *Newman* as a freshman and continued this connection throughout his life time. The Center will honor Trigger’s generosity with the naming of the new worship space. He will serve as the campaign’s honorary Chair.

After years of negotiations the Center was sold to the University for the Purchase Price of $12.5 M. Plans are now being completed on the new Center to be constructed over the next year. The 19,000 square foot building will include the Chapel, a research center with private study rooms, lounges, the Newman Café, administrative offices, a conference room, outdoor gathering and dining spaces and gardens.

*Newman’s* capital campaign will begin in mid spring. For more information please call the Center at 413-549-0300 or email the *Newman’s* Director, Fr. Gary Dailey at g.dailey@diospringfield.org.

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