

Update!

University of
St. Jerome's College

Waterloo, Ontario

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A Passion for L·I·F·E

"**P**OET, AUTHOR, MUSICIAN, ARCHIVIST, PREACHER." While those might sound like the career paths of five different people, in fact they describe only a few of the accomplishments of the 1993 recipient of the Father Norm Choate, C.R. Distinguished Graduate Award. Fr. Greg Humbert (BA'71) has provided, in numerous ways, the "outstanding service" which is the hallmark of this award.

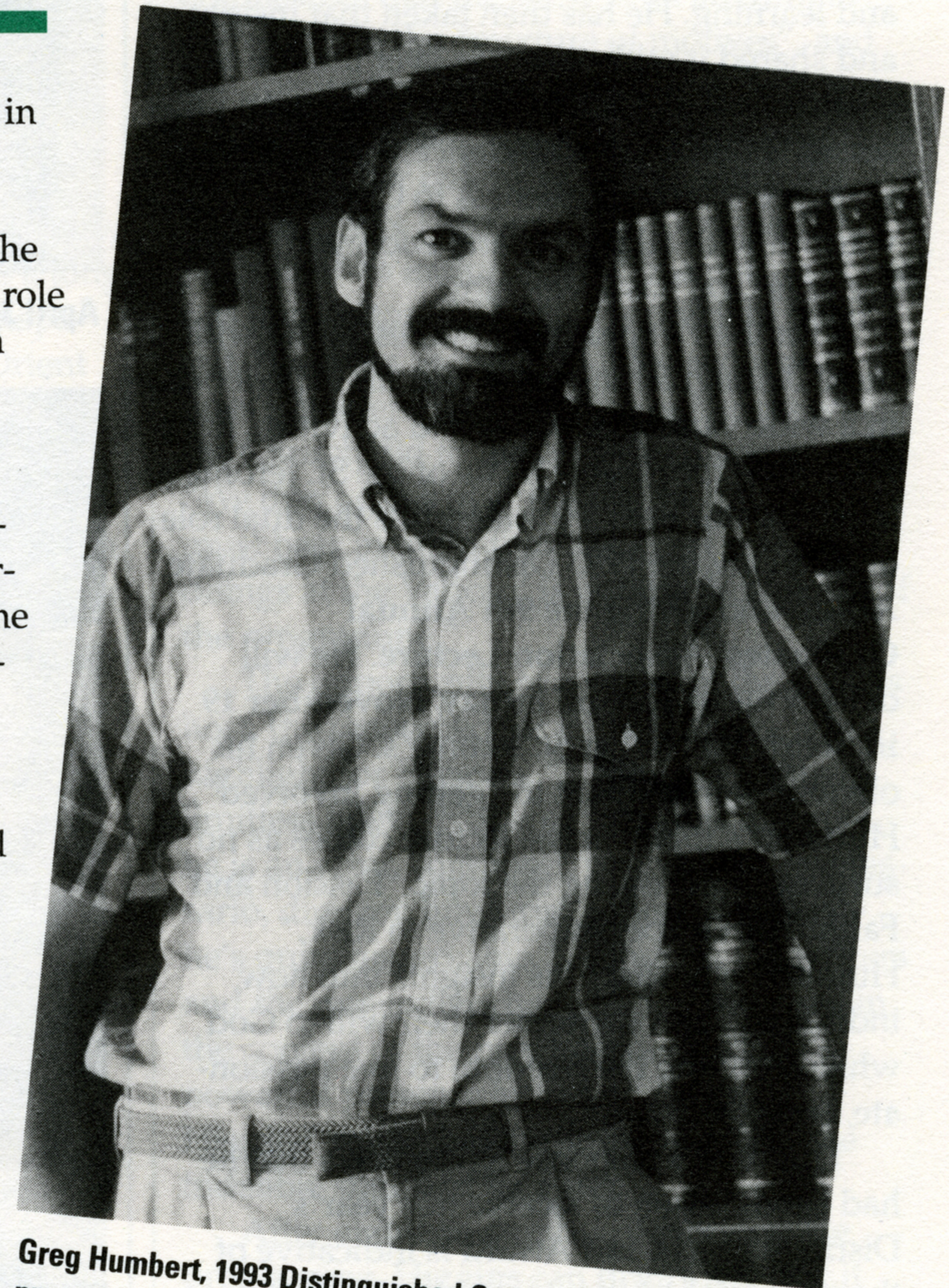
Born in North Bay, Ontario, Humbert received his early education in the city, completing high school at Scollard Hall in 1966. He went on to pursue university studies at St. Jerome's College, graduating in 1971 with a joint Honours degree in English and philosophy. He completed studies at St. Peter's Seminary in 1975, and was ordained to the priesthood on April 25 of that same year. In 1989, Humbert graduated from the University of Western Ontario with a Master of Divinity degree.

Since his graduation from St. Jerome's, Humbert has been actively involved in an impressive array of ministerial work. From 1974 to 1978, he helped co-found and direct Summer Challenge, a city-wide programme for the youth of North Bay which culminated in a large-scale musical production at the end of each summer. In 1979, he also co-founded the Diocesan Youth Rally, and spent several years directing and co-ordinating the event which grew to accommodate several hundred students yearly from throughout the Sault diocese. Along with his obvious commitment to young people, Humbert has also spent six years as Executive Director of the Mbita Medical Fund, a Third World outreach fundraising organization, and he remains the Director of the Northern Ontario Creative Arts Guild, a position he took in 1987. In addition to these activities, Humbert has spent the eighteen years of his priestly ministry as Archivist of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie, served as pastor in four different parishes, and associate pastor in two.

Currently, he is at St. Alphonsus Parish in Callander, Ontario.

Of all the initiatives Humbert has undertaken over the past two decades, he is probably most widely-known for his role in founding and managing The Hidden Talents, a troupe of performing priests from the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie whose musical efforts resulted in thousands of dollars for charitable organizations. From 1982 to 1988, the troupe performed about 50 concerts throughout the province. Gate proceeds from each concert went to the local charity which hosted the troupe. In addition to their live performances, The Hidden Talents also made two albums – both produced by Humbert – which raised a further \$100,000 for charity. Throughout their six-year existence, The Hidden Talents gained a following of dedicated fans, and delighted thousands more who came to concert halls to hear them for the first time.

Apart from these more public expressions of his creative energy, Humbert spends much of his quiet time indulging his passion for poetry and writing. He has written articles which have appeared in such publications as the Jesuit journal *Compass* and the *Toronto Star*. He has authored a number of books: *The Lighter Side of Heaven*, a collection of anecdotes about life in the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie; *Beedahbun: The First Light of Dawn*, a look at an amazing discovery of native art in Northern Ontario, co-authored with George Leach, s.j.; and *Empty Nests, Broken Eggshells*, a collection of Humbert's own poems. Writing poetry is one of his great loves, and he has several unpublished volumes of his own poems to attest to his continuing dedication to the art form. He is also an avid swimmer, often swimming a mile or more daily at a nearby pool.



Greg Humbert, 1993 Distinguished Grad Award recipient and presenter of the 9th Annual Grads' Association Lecture

Humbert has recently extended his list of creative endeavours to include sculpture. He is modest about his foray into this new artistic field, but his fascination with the visual and tactile nature of the art further indicates his passion for all things creative.

To this distinguished list of accomplishments and interests add the fact that Humbert has garnered a reputation for dynamic preaching. His flair for putting words together, his love of music and poetry, his strong identification with those assembled in the worshipping community, and the profound faith which is at the centre of all his artistic and ministerial endeavours join forces to create a preaching style that is