



# SPARKS OF LIGHT

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Answering the Call | Founded in 1964

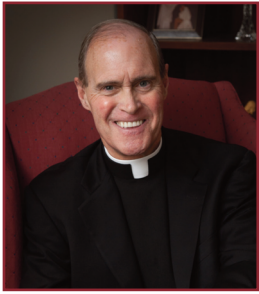
Summer 2021



(L to R) Rev. Baldemar Garza '18, Rev. Vincent Daily, Rev. Guy Dormévil,  
Bishop Frank Caggiano, Rev. Brian Kiely at the Ordination of Fr. Dormévil



## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



Two months before he died in June of 1963, Pope St. John XXIII wrote his "Easter gift" to the Church and to the whole world.

The Holy Father's encyclical, "Pacem in Terris" reminded the human community that any peace between peoples must be based upon truth, justice, love, and freedom. Pope St. John addressed his message to "all people of good will" and insisted that the respecting the human rights of all is an essential consequence of true discipleship.

Among many of the very inspiring quotes from this historic document, the Patron Saint of our Seminary wrote that "every believer in this world of ours must be a **spark of light**, a center of love, a vivifying leaven amidst his fellow men and women." The world of today, with its rising tensions and increasing conflicts, needs more than ever for all of us to become sparks of light to remove the darkness that seems to threaten us each day.

As we welcome a new season and hopefully the end to what has been a very dark year for many due to the pandemic, I am delighted to introduce our Seminary's new publication, "**SPARKS OF LIGHT**." The mission of this Seminary is to form men after the heart and mind of Christ, the True Light Who has come into our world to scatter the darkness. The men ordained to the Sacred Priesthood after being formed at this unique Seminary are called to be true sparks of light that will ignite a fire so bright to lead the way to the Author of all genuine peace, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are grateful our community was able to stay connected in multiple ways over these

last months of uncertainty. For example, equipped with a pandemic related federal grant, a much-needed upgrade in technology made it possible for faculty to conduct classes seamlessly and keep our seminarians on track to complete the academic year. There were many human moments, whether in-person or via Zoom, to strengthen our work and our resolve to stay current and step forward.

One of the Seminary's most distinguished persons, Sister Mary Jude Waters, O.P., has retired. Her service to our Seminary is immeasurable and we will certainly miss her presence and her equanimity that reached so many each day of her sixteen years. I, for one, will miss her guidance as my Executive Administrative Assistant as she kept me on point each day. I am richly blessed for having experienced her unwavering dedication to the mission of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

Once again, please accept my profound thanks for all that you do to support and encourage our Seminary community. I could never convey the depth of my gratitude for the many ways you have collaborated in the fulfillment of our mission. I pray each day at the Altar that God, Who's generosity is without end, will reward you for all that you do for us because I know that we never could.

With my love and prayers for your health and happiness and asking for a remembrance in your prayers, I remain,

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Brian R. Kiely". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more prominent.

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely  
Rector

### Administration

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## A SPECIAL CHARISM FOUND AT POPE ST. JOHN XXIII

By Rev. Daniel A. McHale '21



In our Second Theology year (prior to the pandemic), men at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary are sent out once a week to health care assignments, focusing on ministering to patients in hospitals and residents in long-term care facilities. A couple

years ago, fellow seminarian Stephen Ondrey and I arrived at our usual time, a few minutes before 9 a.m., to begin another Tuesday shift at St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham.

However, on this particular winter morning, Shirley, the receptionist, was not her cheery self. I immediately knew something was amiss when I caught a glance of the somber look on her face as she hung up the front desk phone. "A resident just died in her room a few minutes ago," she informed us, "Could you two go up and talk with her daughter?" A priest was called, but had yet to arrive. At least we were dressed like priests, in any event. As we climbed the stairs on our way to the room, I was nervous. What should I do? What should I say? I had assisted at wakes and funerals in summer pastoral assignments, but had never been first on the scene, so to speak, following a death.

Upon entering, Stephen and I greeted the grieving daughter. I asked her to tell us about her mother, whose body laid in bed. She replied that her mom loved to travel around the world, even into her early 80s. She told us stories about some of the different places her mother went, and the joy it gave her. We said some prayers together before we departed from the scene, as more family members were on their way.

To be honest, I don't recall the name of the mother or the daughter. But what I do remember is being present to a person in need. The Holy Spirit was at work bringing comfort to this woman in mourning, and to have served as an instrument of God's healing presence is something I will never forget. It reinforced for me that this is what I am called to do.

Looking back on this moment, something Fr. Brian Kiely, our rector at Pope St. John XXIII, preached resonates. He said, "People don't care how much you know. They need to know how much you care." Although academics are one of the pillars of formation for the men studying at Pope St. John, I believe the special

charism of this seminary is preparing men to be priests with the heart of Christ.

One of the distinct challenges for Pope St. John is forming men who have lived full and successful lives. I can attest, as a middle-aged man, that we can be stubborn and become stuck in our ways! But this doesn't mean we are resistant to formation. In fact, the men I attend class, share laughs, and break bread with are exceedingly committed to becoming, in Sherry Weddell's phraseology, intentional disciples. Christian discipleship is challenging in an American society that increasingly seeks not freedom of religion, but freedom from religion. Our life experience will help us, as soon-to-be pastors, lead others through these hazardous cultural waters by focusing our eyes, hearts, and minds on the Light that will guide us through the fiercest of storms.

Our English word vocation comes from the Latin term *vocare*, meaning "to call." Although vocations at Pope St. John XXIII are sometimes referred to as "delayed" or "late," these words have somewhat negative connotations. I prefer "mature." We are mature men seeking to discern God's will in our lives. For many of us, God willing, our call is to serve the Church as holy priests. For Jesus, there is no correct time frame when to answer his call. No vocation is delayed.

A priest back home in the Diocese of Albany, who in the past assisted with vocations, told me one of the unofficial tests for him when he met with a discernor was whether or not he would be comfortable with this man ministering to his own mother on her death bed. This brings me back to the encounter at St. Patrick's Manor two years ago. What if it were my mother who was dying or had just died, laying in that bed? Would I want a priest trained at Pope St. John XXIII to anoint her or to console me? I can honestly answer, without hesitation, "Yes, to a man!"

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Alumni Days**  
**October 19-20, 2021**

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021

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We celebrate the Class of 2021, who has contributed so much to the Pope St. John XXIII community. The members of the class were asked to reflect on their years of formation as we say a temporary goodbye and look forward to future gatherings when they can return and visit us in Weston. What are they grateful for? What will they miss? and best memory? Enjoy their reflections that follow. Please keep these men in our collective prayers...



### LAWRENCE BARILE

#### Diocese of Norwich

Before entering the Seminary, Larry worked for 28 years for the Department of Veterans Affairs with the State of Connecticut, where he was the department head of cardiopulmonary services. He also served in many ministries in his church.

"I am most grateful for the generous and caring support of faculty, adjunct professors, pastoral supervisors, administrative staff, food service personnel, maintenance workers and all those who have given of their time, talents, and treasures to foster my vocation to the priesthood.

The adage "it takes a village..." is quite apt at XXIII. I will miss the daily camaraderie and support of my brother seminarians. I best remember in Pre-Theology being on the receiving end of a line drive off a baseball bat! Imagine my chagrin...talk about first impressions!"

Larry's ordination date is still to be determined.



Photo credit: Archdiocese of New York

### CARMINE CARUSO

#### Archdiocese of New York

Prior to entering seminary life, Carmine worked in commercial construction for major clients such as Home Depot, Walmart, Kohls, and Bed Bath & Beyond in the Mid-Atlantic region.



"I am most grateful for honorable men of faith that have been my classmates, including men from past classes. I'm thankful for how they have inspired me in so many ways to go deeper and form into the best version of myself through the grace of Jesus Christ. I will miss the fraternity of having good men of faith in close quarters. It has been a great privilege to witness the caliber of men in the pipeline to advance Christ's mission forward. For me, the most memorable experience would be The Relics softball practices leading up to game day."

Carmine was ordained May 29, 2021 at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, NY.





### DANIEL MICKEY CAUGHEY

#### Diocese of Syracuse

Prior to arriving in Weston, Dan was a practicing Permanent Deacon in his hometown. He taught science for 31 years. He was married for 25 years when his wife, Mary, passed away in 2013. With encouragement from many and deep prayer, he discerned that God was calling him to priesthood.

"I was taught by so many truly brilliant professors at PSJS and I am very grateful to God for that privilege. I made some very close friends here and I will miss seeing and being with them. A most memorable moment was the final exam for our motivational speech class in First Theology when I told my classmates that I was leaving the seminary at the end of the semester. Every word of my speech was true as tears filled their eyes in disbelief. The hook at the end was when I told them that I was returning the next semester. There's a lot of love at PSJS."

Dan was ordained June 5, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, NY.



*Photo credit: Diocese of Syracuse*



*Photo credit: Archdiocese of Denver*

### JOHN CROGHAN

#### Archdiocese of Denver

John chose a career as a mechanical engineer in the aerospace industry and worked on many different civil and defense related projects, both aircraft and spacecraft. He worked on projects supporting the U.S. military, and worked on the team that built the cameras for the Hubble Space Telescope. In 2016, he decided to answer God's call and entered the doors at Weston for formation.

"I am most grateful for the assignments helping at parishes and with people. That has been the most fulfilling and confirming thing for me. I am grateful for the opportunity we have for prayer, and the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I will miss the pancakes. Not kidding. Also, I will miss all the friends I have made in my time here. I have met many, many great people. I have many memorable events from my time at PSJS, but the best were those times in devotional prayer with my brother seminarians."

John was ordained May 15, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Denver, CO.





## GUY DORMÉVIL

### Diocese of Bridgeport

Guy is a native of Haiti, where he worked as an Immigration Inspector. He moved to Connecticut and raised a family with his wife of 29 years until her passing in 2015. Guy left his job of 26 years to follow the will of God.

"I am most grateful for the community life in the seminary. The willingness of everyone...to help every seminarian succeed. I will miss: the prayer life in community; the dedication of the kitchen crew; the Sunday morning brunch crowned with visitor's conversation is unforgettable. My most memorable moment would be the meeting that Rector Fr. Kiely called to hear every seminarian's input on ways to proceed when the Covid 19 Pandemic was ramping up in March 2020. I was so impressed by Fr. Kiely's demeanor, love, respect, and care...this moment will make an indelible mark throughout my priestly life. Fr. Kiely is true Priest and Pastor of souls."

Guy was ordained June 12, 2021 at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, CT.



Photo credit: Diocese of Bridgeport



Photo credit: Archdiocese of Detroit

## JOHN DUDEK

### Archdiocese of Detroit

Before entering Pope St. John XXIII, John enjoyed a 26-year career as a middle and high school Special Education teacher. He loves being father to two adult daughters. John has answered God's call and is ready to serve His church.

"From the moment we arrived, it was made abundantly clear that the mission of Pope St John XXIII's staff and faculty was to do everything in their power to help each of us in...fulfilling God's plan for us as Priests in His Holy Church. The road was long, but we have embraced the journey by surrendering ourselves to God's will, and John XXIII formators do their part in leading us to God's altar for ordination. I have been blessed to be a member of the class of 2021. My classmates, and the men before and after our class, are some of the finest men I have ever met, and I am honored to call each of them a Brother in Christ."

John was ordained May 15, 2021 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, MI.







### MAZEN MIKE ELIAS

#### Diocese of St. Augustine

Mike worked many years in the family grocery business and then in the corporate world for 20 years, in the chemical and financial services industries. He was full-time care provider for his aging mother just before he entered the seminary.

"During my time at PSJS, I am most grateful for Rector Fr. Kiely, for Vice Rector Fr. Miceli and all of their colleagues for their example of what a holy priest should be. Their actions, concerns, and giving of themselves for the seminarians is such that words cannot express. I definitely will miss the people who came for Sunday Mass, and shared a meal with us in the refectory. My most memorable moment was in my first year at the Seminary in 2016 at the first sight of snow! For the very first time in my life I threw snowballs, and made a snowman. Such a beautiful experience and a memory I will always cherish."

Mike was ordained May 15, 2021 at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine in St. Augustine, FL.



*Photo credit: Diocese of St. Augustine*

### MARK HARRIS

#### Diocese of Venice

Mark possesses a degree in Commercial Art, a Business Marketing and Management degree as well as a Master's degree in Education. He was working as an educator in the Charlotte County Public-School System in Florida before entering PSJS.

"I am most thankful for the founding concept of this Seminary as a place for older men to answer the call to Holy Orders in an atmosphere designed for that type of vocation. Also, the family-type atmosphere that has been fostered here under our Rector and Vice Rector. I will miss the fun times remodeling and managing the school bookstore and working with all the guys celebrating and decorating the Seminary for the many events and holidays spent together. One of my memorable moments would have to be the look on Father Kiely's face at the Annual Lawn Party when I was sat next to Cardinal Sean O'Malley!"

Mark will be ordained July 31, 2021 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, FL.





### BRANNON LEPAK

#### Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Brannon has taught English as a Second Language full-time and had been with the Order of Preachers as a dominican friar before ultimately discerning a call to diocesan priesthood.

"As I reflect back on my time at PSJS, I am most grateful for these three: fraternity, friends, and Priestly Formation. Many moments I will miss - Community prayer and praise in the chapel; table tennis and chess matches; playing music with friends; the Lawn Party in the big tent; and retreats on the coast. A most memorable experience was the very first impression I had on arrival, day one: I was greeted at the front by a welcoming crew who unpacked my car for me and carried everything to my room where it was blessed by a Deacon. I was very grateful. The PSJS community has continued to help support and bless all my four years. Many thanks in return!"

Brannon will be ordained June 26, 2021 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Oklahoma City, OK.

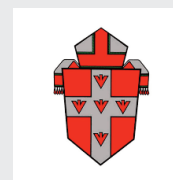


Photo credit: Diocese of Rockville Centre

### MICHAEL LOMBARDI

#### Diocese of Rockville Centre

Michael worked for over fifteen years in the field of architecture. Strengthened by his experiences with The Knights of Columbus and pro-life work, Michael answered the call for diocesan priesthood.



"I am grateful for the great friends that I have encountered and for our bond that will continue through the priesthood; for the formation I received from good and holy priests and for having had access to the sacraments. I am truly going to miss: the Lawn Party, Spring Follies, the Alumni Dinners...all helping to mark the various times of the year. And I definitely will miss the Learning Center and the Gilmartin Room, where I spent a lot of my time. In fact, the most memorable moments for me were the moments of human formation in the Gilmartin Room - Saturday afternoons watching football; evenings when we would gather... these were moments of great camaraderie."

Michael was ordained June 19, 2021 at the Cathedral of St. Agnes in Rockville Centre, NY.

**"Every believer...must be a Spark of Light"**  
-Pope St. John XXIII





### DANIEL MCHALE

#### Diocese of Albany

Dan was teaching History at Mount Saint Mary College and SUNY New Paltz for ten years before he decided to enter the seminary. After a fruitful pastoral year, Dan entered PSJS.

"I am most grateful to the faculty and staff here at Pope St. John XXIII for helping guide and nurture my vocation to the priesthood. I know it is somewhat cliché to say, but I really wouldn't be here without them. I'll particularly miss my brother seminarians from the Class of 2021. It will be an honor to call them my brother priests. I have never met a more faith-filled and devout group of men, each of whom will bring unique and wonderful gifts to his ministry. A quite memorable experience during my time here was my pastoral work at St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham, MA. Spending time with and bringing the Eucharist to the elderly residents every Tuesday was a great joy and will inspire my work with senior citizens as a priest."

Dan was ordained June 19, 2021 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, NY.

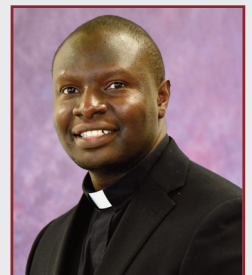


*Photo credit: Diocese of Albany*

### SAMUEL MWIWAWI

#### Diocese of Brooklyn

While studying philosophy and theology, Samuel worked with the Dominican Missionaries for the Apostolate to the Deaf and Disabled in Kenya, East Africa before coming to the U.S. He then learned American Sign Language and later worked with different deaf communities. He entered seminary life to answer God's call.



"I am particularly grateful with Pope St John XXIII because its education system is not only focused on academic but on opening up other areas of formation; spiritual, pastoral, and human. What I will miss the most are the formators. I feel that they gave me a sense of direction through an exemplary life - they were like "seminarians" among seminarians. I will most remember the hospitality I received on my first day - it was so relieving. Everything was organized well, and my orientation sponsor made sure everything was okay for me."

Samuel's ordination date is still to be determined.





### ROBINSON OLIVARES

#### Diocese of Brooklyn

Before entering the seminary, Robinson worked in the field of Information Technology for 20 years as a technical support engineer helping customers in healthcare, entertainment, business consulting, education, and finance.

"I am most grateful for the gift of having met and shared three years of studies, prayer, laughter, tears, difficulties, perseverance, and brotherly love with really good men of great faith and a spirit of service and generosity. What I will miss the most is our community life of prayer and the many moments of wonderful fellowship. I will most remember the outpouring of brotherly love that I received when my brother passed a year ago. I was greatly consoled by the heartfelt expressions of condolences, support and prayer extended to me by the entire community. I experienced just how real is our fellowship with one another in Christ."

Robinson was ordained June 5, 2021 at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY.



Photo credit: Diocese of Brooklyn



Photo credit: Diocese of Columbus

### STEPHEN ONDREY

#### Diocese of Columbus

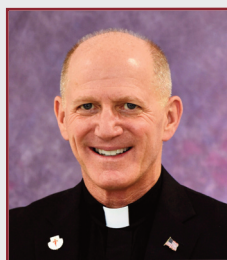
Stephen worked for a number of years as a genetic researcher at The Ohio State University before moving on to a 10-year career in general dentistry. Through prayer and a deeper spiritual return to his faith, Stephen entered PSJS to be formed as a diocesan priest.

"I am most grateful for the faculty and other seminarians who have guided my spiritual growth and development in Christ and for their example, leadership and friendship. I will miss the brothers in the ordination class of 2021 the most. It was a blessing and privilege to have been a part of a diverse class of men who were supportive and believed in each other. I will miss them all!"

Stephen was ordained May 29, 2021 at St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Westerville, OH.







## PETER SCHEFFER

### Diocese of Fall River

Most of Pete's life has been spent in service both in and out of uniform. A graduate of West Point & US Army Ranger School, Pete has served as a career Army officer, a combat veteran, a US Diplomatic Peace Treaty Inspector and as an Assistant Professor at one of the Army's colleges in Kansas. Always aware of a quiet call, Pete decidedly entered PSJS to be formed as a diocesan priest to serve God and His Church.

"I am most grateful for having had the opportunity to be in formation with older men here at PSJS XXIII. There is something special about being with men from all walks of life who have chosen to respond to Christ's invitation. I will certainly miss: the many good laughs, the brotherhood, the selfless staff, the dedicated faculty who walked side-by-side with all of us, and our class "big brothers" - Dick Murphy and Ken Watts. My most memorable experience would have to be my admissions visit. Little did I know that I would be interviewing alongside great men in my class – men who embody the essence of that which we pray for - good, decent, humble, and holy priests."

Pete was ordained June 5, 2021 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Fall River, MA.



Photo credit: Diocese of Fall River

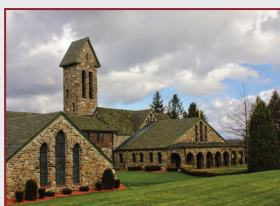
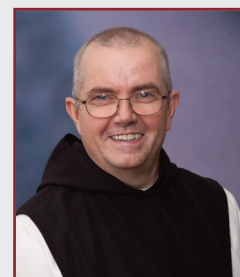
## BR. STEPHEN SHANAHAN, OCSO

### St. Joseph's Abbey, Spencer, MA

Br. Stephen is a Trappist Monk from St. Joseph Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. He entered Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary to receive formation for priesthood.

"I am most grateful for meeting so many people with such different experiences and outlooks with the great commonality being faith in God. Here in Weston, I have had a much bigger room than at the abbey, with heat and hot water, a private bathroom, windows that look out onto trees – I will miss that. My most memorable experience that I will carry with me was my time at Franciscan Children's Hospital - the kids, their families, and the staff were amazing. The compassion, hope and love that I experienced was a blessing, so many of the kids were filled with such joy."

Br. Stephen's ordination date is still to be determined.





## ELVIN TORRES

### Diocese of Brooklyn

A native of the Dominican Republic, Elvin received a degree in Philosophy from the Pontifical University Catholic Mother and Teacher. He taught Human and Religious Formation and, in 2016, obtained a degree in teaching. After a period of discernment,

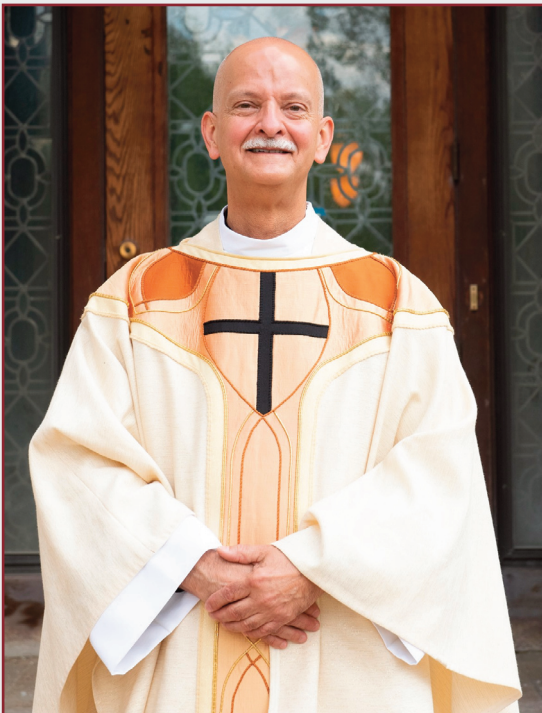
Elvin entered the Seminary to be formed as a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn.

"The spiritual, human, pastoral and academic dimensions have all made me grow in so many ways. When I think about PSJS, the only image that comes to mind is of a happy and wonderful family. I will miss the faculty, the staff (the best ever), my classmates and this very peaceful place. One of my favorite experiences was the first community celebration of Our Lady of Altagracia, Protectress of The Dominican Republic. It was so meaningful for our native Spanish brethren; we all shared one faith, and it gave us the opportunity to show the community our culture and devotion."

Elvin was ordained June 5, 2021 at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY.



*Photo credit: Diocese of Brooklyn*

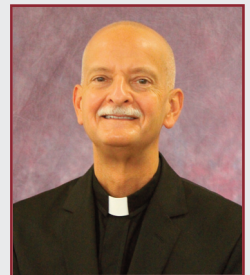


## ROBERT VOILAND

### Archdiocese of Detroit

Before entering the Seminary, Bob retired after thirty years with General Motors where he worked in multiple capacities. During a time of caring for his aging parents and other family members, Bob started a journey that ultimately led him to the doors of PSJS.

"I am most grateful for the attention to pastoral ministry that permeated all of our formation here at PSJS. We have been blessed to have many professors who are true servants of Christ themselves, and...we learned what we will need to feed the flocks under our care. I am going to miss the sense of unity in the mission of Christ and in the successful mission of the Catholic Church. It is a very diverse group of people, yet all are committed to bring Jesus Christ to the world...I will always remember being struck in my first year at PSJS by morning and evening prayer. The experience of sitting in the chapel with roughly eighty other men, all actively praying in unison, all singing robustly, was rather stunning. The unity of prayer was palpable."



*Photo credit: Archdiocese of Detroit*

Bob was ordained May 15, 2021 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, MI.



# Sister Mary Jude Waters, O.P. Steps Into Retirement

*Brannon Lepak '21 sat down with Sr. Mary Jude Waters, O.P. to have a conversation on the occasion of her retirement from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. Sr. Mary Jude has been a wonderful asset to our community for a number of years. We are thrilled for her on the occasion of her well-deserved R & R, and we are delighted to share her story with you. In her own words...*

I came to Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary with a long history in Catholic Education: teaching grade one in Louisville Kentucky; teaching math and science at North Cambridge Catholic High School and as a member of the educational development team at the Catholic School Office for the Archdiocese of Boston. I also served for two terms on the leadership team for my congregation, the Dominican Sisters of Saint Catherine of Siena.

I grew up in Springfield, Kentucky, a small town in the central part of the state. The parish in the town was named for Saint Dominic, as was the local elementary school. It was a three-mile bus ride to and from school. Saint Catherine Academy was located at the mother house of the Dominican Sisters who taught in the schools. In fact, it was there on Cartwright Creek in Washington County where the first congregation of Dominican sisters in the United States was established in 1822. All of this was a strong influence in my choice of a religious congregation.

I studied at Spalding College in Louisville, Kentucky, before entering the Dominicans. After being sent to teach at North Cambridge Catholic, I received masters and doctoral degrees at Syracuse University and Boston College.

In the spring of 2005, there was an administrative assistant position opening and the Seminary was preparing to initiate its

self-study for reaccreditation with the Association of Theological Schools. Then Father Peter Uglietto (now Bishop) who was assuming the position of Rector asked me to consider the position as his Administrative Assistant and to coordinate the self-study for the 2008 reaccreditation visit. I had just finished approximately 20 years at the Catholic Schools Office and was ready to look at something new. So, I came!

I have ministered here at the Seminary for 16 years and worked with three Rectors. In those 16 years I have seen over 250 seminarians enter Pope Saint John XXIII and begin the preparation for priesthood. I watched a faithful faculty teach and enable the formation of the seminarians and seen changes in a dedicated staff. It is the people who make an institution what it is, and the seminarians, along with faculty and staff, certainly contribute to the atmosphere of welcome and hospitality that is the hallmark of the Pope St. John XXIII.



The Congregation of Dominican Sisters in the United States will celebrate its bicentennial in 2022. We celebrate all that Sr. Mary Jude, O.P. has given to our Seminary and pray for her Congregation as they approach this significant milestone of 200 years of service to the Church and education in the USA.



**HAS YOUR CONTACT  
INFORMATION CHANGED?**



Please send your current information to Kate Folan:  
[kfolan@psjs.edu](mailto:kfolan@psjs.edu) or visit the Alumni section on [psjs.edu](http://psjs.edu)

## ALUMNI ON THE MOVE!

**Rev. Daniel Pacholec**, Class of 1996, named Diocese of Springfield Director of Pro-life activities.

**Rev. Corey Bassett-Tirrell '19** of the Archdiocese of Boston begins a new assignment as parochial vicar at St. Bridget Parish in Framingham, MA as well as Campus Minister at Framingham State College.

**Rev. Richard A. Jakubauskas '99** has retired! It came to our attention recently that Fr. Richard Jakubauskas retired in July of 2020 after 21 years in service to the Diocese of Worcester. We congratulate him on his wonderful service to God's church. May his blessings continue in his retirement and may he enjoy well-earned rest!

**Rev. Charles Ruoff '16** has been named parochial vicar at St. Maximilian Kolbe in the Diocese of Venice. You can reach him at: St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 1441 Spear St., Port Charlotte, FL 33948. In honor of the 5th year anniversary of his PSJS graduation and priestly ordination, Fr. Ruoff donated proceeds from '63, '65, '75, '76 savings bonds. The bonds were purchased for Fr. Chuck while growing up by his grandmother Agnes Rose Stratton, and the almost \$900 contribution was submitted to PSJS in her name.

**Rev. Rick Lesser '15** has been named pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Delmar and St. Matthew's Church in Voorheesville in upstate New York.

**Rev. Patrick Grode '18** has been named

pastor of Pius XII Newman Center in Brookings, South Dakota.

**Rev. John Cronin '17** was named pastor in November 2020 of The Church of the Holy Trinity in Cohoes, New York.

*The Harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few!*

*Can't stop thinking maybe you are being called to be a priest? Do you feel the Lord tugging at your heart to serve the people of God through ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ?*

## CONNECTING THROUGH PRAYER

During the winter months and early spring, Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary was able to stay connected with our wider community of faithful with the utilization of video technologies. We are grateful for the availability of this technology which allows us to stay in touch with you and pray together.

February 11th was World Day of the Sick and the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. In partnership with the Boston Chapter of the Order of Malta who organized this special event for their Chapter, Our Rector, Very Rev. Brian Kiely, lead a Prayer Service which consisted of Exposition of Most Blessed Sacrament, a Liturgy of the Word, a brief homily, quiet reflection, and Benediction. Livestreaming this event allowed us to open the event to a broader community where many were able to join us for this moment of prayer and invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Mother for all those who are sick, especially for those who have been afflicted with COVID-19.

On April 24th, the Pope St. John XXIII community held a COVID-19 Memorial Mass to honor those we lost to the virus. We especially remembered loved ones and friends whose names were submitted to the Seminary and read during the Mass. This special Mass was also livestreamed and made available to those wishing to be together during a difficult time. May all these souls rest in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; may the Holy Spirit provide comfort and peace to all experiencing the personal sadness of grief and loss; and may God's strength bring us forward each day with renewed hope.

Msgr. William P. Fay, faculty member at PSJS, offered a three-part series (January, March and May) online gathering for members of the Equestrian Order of Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem New England. During this year of the Eucharist, each virtual assembly was livestreamed from Alumni Chapel and offered members prayer, adoration and spiritual growth for deepening their Eucharistic faith.

Check our social media outlets and the website for more livestreaming opportunities where we can strengthen important bonds with prayer.



## A COURSE REQUIREMENT INSPIRES AN AUTHOR



If you polled the men at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary about what they did over Christmas break, you would hear answers such as, "I spent time with my family," or "I helped out in my home parish." However, for Deacon Brannon Lepak, a fourth-year theology student from the

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the 2020 Christmas season proved a fruitful time to write a book.

Inspired by his research into the eschatological literature of the Bible during a fall semester Johannine writings course, Lepak penned a short novel entitled *The Apocalypse of Darrel*. The titular character is a maker of kaleidoscopes, who along with his business partner, the lens maker Cassie, lovingly create intricate devices which allow people to see the natural world and its phenomena in new and wondrous ways. Lepak says his book is about "trying to seek God or trying to seek the thing that's beyond us," despite the difficulties and limitations we have as human beings. The story reflects the fact that man is "meant for eternity, but here we are bumbling along and trying to get along with each other and not always doing a very good job of it."

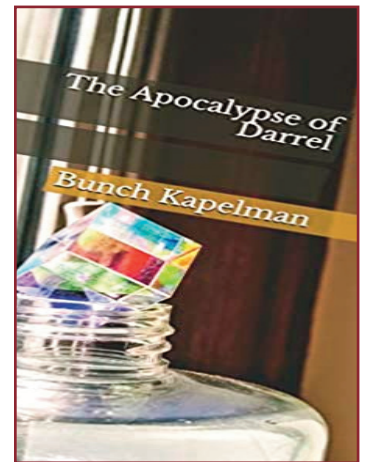
As any youngster can attest, a kaleidoscope is a scientific gadget with mystery baked into its essence. "I've always liked science and the idea of telescopes and microscopes where you can see the wonders of creation," Lepak said. "It leads me more and more towards God."

One of the recipients of Darrel's kaleidoscopes is the boy Arkar, whose name in Burmese means "sky." It is also a name which evokes the covenantal relationship between God and man. His mother Shampu, a refugee who escaped the bloody conflict in

the country known today as Myanmar, suffers a number of hardships as she struggles to make ends meet in the United States. "They kind of become a Mary and Christ image," Lepak noted. In addition to Christian sources of inspiration, the story was also informed by the author's personal experiences. Prior to entering the formation program at Pope St. John XXIII, the Oklahoma native taught English as a Second Language (ESL) in his home state, and later in New York City and Japan. He also discerned his vocation for three years with the Dominicans before embarking on his journey to become a diocesan priest. "Each of the characters shares some moment or insight that actually comes from my own life," Lepak said, "They each speak to something that I've seen or experienced somewhere on the path to get here."

The soon-to-be priest, a lifelong enthusiast of literature and languages, counts J.R.R. Tolkien, Flannery O'Connor, C.S. Lewis, and Kawabata among his literary favorites. Lepak explained that Kawabata, the twentieth-century Japanese novelist, was a particular stylistic influence on the writing of *The Apocalypse of Darrel*: "He writes in a very concise way where he doesn't say everything but he implies a lot. I try to do that also in this work."

Although locating the works of authors like Tolkien on Amazon is a cinch, finding Brannon Lepak's book will require some more effort. That's because the deacon decided to use a pen name, Bunch Kapelman. Created by combining his childhood moniker, Bunch, with his last name spelled backwards—which coincidentally is also the Dutch word for chapel, kapel—Lepak said he does not plan on this book being his last. Here's hoping Mr. Kapelman will write a bunch more!



- By Rev. Dan McHale '21

### Consider your IRA...

Did you know today's estates are comprised largely of IRAs—typically about 30 to 80 percent of the estate? For philanthropically minded individuals, transferring IRA assets to a charity provides a significant tax benefit. For Planned Giving information to support the future of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary please contact Kate Folan, Director of Institutional Advancement, 781-899-5500 or [kfolan@psjs.edu](mailto:kfolan@psjs.edu).

## CARDINAL DOLAN VISITS



Cardinal Dolan with Fr. Carmine Caruso '21 and Zachary Alspaugh '23 of the Arcdiocese of New York.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, was on campus February 10, 2021 to preside over the Mass for the institution of eleven seminarians to the Ministry of Acolyte. As an Acolyte, these men's primary role will be assisting the Deacon and Priest during Mass, with a focus on ensuring the altar is prepared. They may also serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass and bring Holy Eucharist to the sick. They will also participate in various as-needed tasks, while aiding the priest and deacon during liturgical celebrations. We were delighted and blessed to have Cardinal Dolan with us!

Visit our Youtube channel to view the Mass.



## IN MEMORIAM



John McNeice speaks with Fr. Paul Sullivan '08.

**John McNeice, Jr. of Canton, Massachusetts was called home to the Lord on April 11th.**

John served for many years on the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Board of Trustees and he and his late wife, Margarete, were beloved members of the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary community.

In 2007, the Margarete and John McNeice Endowed Faculty Chair in Pre-Theology was established. The McNeice family generously provided an endowment of one million dollars. The establishment of this program was the first expansion of the academic program in the Seminary's history.

**God needs priests. Is He calling you?  
If you are 30-60, you may be surprised.**

### First Friday Visits

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary  
558 South Ave., Weston, MA

**Friday, September 3**  
5:00 PM

Join the Seminary community either **virtually** or **in person**  
for prayer & fellowship

Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

In Person: Dinner with the seminarians and a tour of the Seminary

RSVP or receive more information  
Msgr. William Fay at 781-899-5500 ext. 127  
[msgr.fay@psjs.edu](mailto:msgr.fay@psjs.edu)

[www.psjs.edu](http://www.psjs.edu)



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NATIONAL SEMINARY**  
Answering the Call | Founded in 1964



## PRO-LIFE WITNESS CONTINUES STRONG

The seminarians at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary have an active participation in Pro-Life support within the Church. As many of you know, a group recites the Rosary every Thursday at a local Planned Parenthood clinic. This year, due to restrictions associated with COVID 19, seminarians participated virtually with prayer for the March for Life on January 28-31. We were honored to have Cathy "Ki" Morrissey come to the Seminary and share her witness talk, "Where are you, Men of Courage?". It was extraordinary to hear her experience. You can visit our YouTube channel to hear her talk in its entirety. We were also honored to have Bishop William Byrne of the Diocese of Springfield and Bishop Robert McManus of the Diocese of Worcester each celebrate a Mass during the virtual March for Life in special prayer for the unborn. And this year marked the 2nd Annual PSJS Baby Shower to aid mothers and babies in need. Many items were once again donated along with over \$500 collected and shared with the Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) of the Merrimack Valley in Massachusetts. Thanks to all the seminarians, the PSJS community, and the friends of the Seminary for their active participation and engagement in this ever-important support for life.



*Bishop William Byrne,  
Diocese of Springfield*



*Bishop Robert McManus,  
Diocese of Worcester*



*Pro-Life speaker Cathy "Ki" Morrissey*



*Praying the rosary for life,  
Gerardo Tlatelapa, '24 Diocese of Brooklyn*



*Dcn. Mark Harris '21 and Michael Young '22*



*Praying at Planned Parenthood Clinic,  
Brookline, MA*

*"Every believer in this world of ours must be a spark of light."*

*- Pope St. John XXIII*

## COMMISSIONING MASS FOR THE CLASS OF 2021



On May 12, 2021 Pope St. John XXIII held its final Mass of the academic year. This particular Mass not only closes out the year but is also the Commissioning Mass for the fourth theologians who have completed their formation and are ready for ordination to the sacred priesthood. The class receives a blessing from the Rector and the beautiful chalices and pattens of the class are also blessed. It is a wonderful annual ceremony and marks such an important occasion for these men. Please continue to pray for this class as they begin their ministry in God's Church, utilizing their unique experiences and strong formation to serve the people in their home communities.

Not present were: Dcn. Larry Barile, Fr. John Croghan, Fr. John Dudek, Fr. Mike Elias, Br. Stephen Shanahan, and Fr. Bob Voiland.



## NEW HIRES

Pope St. John XXIII welcomes three new employees to its team: **Maureen Walsh** is working in the Office of the Rector as Fr. Kiely's Executive Assistant. Maureen comes to us after working as an Executive Assistant at Babson College in the Office of the Provost. **Louise Sennott** is working for the Office of the Dean of Men as Administrative Assistant to Fr. Stephen Linehan. Prior to her start, Louise worked at Regis College as an administrative assistant in the Institutional Advancement office. The Facilities Department welcomes **Julio Carreiro** to its team to help with maintenance and upkeep of the Seminary building and grounds. Julio worked at the grocery chain Shaw's Market prior to joining the PSJS team.

Welcome, Maureen, Louise, and Julio! We look forward to many years of contribution and partnership.



Save the date...40th Annual Lawn Party



Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary is pleased to announce that the Annual Lawn Party will be in-person in 2021, at full capacity under the tent! On Wednesday, September 29th at 6:00 PM we will be excited to welcome all of you back to the Seminary - to gather together and celebrate the formation program, to meet and mingle with our seminarians, faculty, and staff, and to help bolster the future of the Catholic Church with your support and prayers.

This wonderful event, hosted by His Eminence, Seán Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston, will encourage us to step forward together and confidently renew our commitment to support the formation of men answering their unique call to serve God's Church. As leaders of the Church, the men formed at Pope St. John XXIII will fulfill God's desire to serve and bring as many people as can be closer to Him and His kingdom.



Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap.  
and Christine Roessel

Ms. Christine Roessel has graciously accepted the invitation to Chair the Lawn Party this year. We are ever grateful for her enthusiastic support of both the Seminary's mission and of the men who enter the doors in Weston to begin a new chapter.

Lawn Party Chair Christine Roessel and all who work at the Seminary look forward to seeing you...UNDER THE TENT!

29th Annual Fran and Stephen Rowen Memorial Golf Tournament




Thank You

Thank you to our sponsors and golfers who raised \$85,000 for the Pope St. John XXIII formation program on Monday, May 24th at The Weston Golf Club!

See you next year on Monday, May 23, 2022!



Follow our social media and website to stay informed of events happening at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary!



# POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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## MISSION

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary is a Roman Catholic professional and graduate theological institution dedicated uniquely to the preparation of seminarians 30 years of age and older responding to a call to priestly ministry.

Our program fosters the human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation of its seminarians. We especially respect and utilize the life experiences and accomplishments of our mature seminarians, as we prepare them for priestly ministry.

The Seminary program is based on the Ratio Fundamentalis of the Holy See, the Program of Priestly Formation Fifth Edition, of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Post-Synodal Exhortation of Pope John Paul II, Pastores Dabo Vobis.

## DIOCESES SERVED

To date, candidates have come to the Seminary from more than 140 dioceses and 23 religious communities. Over 700 alumni serve in dioceses and religious communities throughout the world. Our alumni priests are serving the faithful both nationally and internationally, including dioceses in Australia, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Guam, Ireland, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and South Sudan.



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