

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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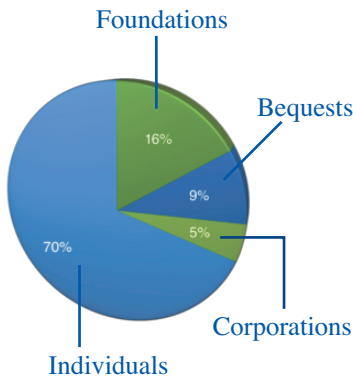
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PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY IN YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING.
TO DONATE ONLINE, VISIT THE “SUPPORT US” AREA OF OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.PSJS.EDU

Support PSJS...and Reduce your Taxes!

WHO DONATES...

Americans gave \$410 billion to charity in 2017. Religious institutions received 1/3 or \$123 billion.



WHO BENEFITS...

Thanks to recent tax changes, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can save taxpayers a lot of money!

A QCD is a withdrawal from an IRA account that is sent directly to a charity. After you reach age 70 ½ you are required to with-

draw funds annually from your IRA and report it as income on your tax return. Under the new tax law many more people will be better off using the new and much larger standard deduction. But in not itemizing-- they will get no tax benefit for any charitable donations.

This is where a QCD helps. Again, assuming you are 70½ or older an IRA withdrawal of up to \$100K going directly to a charity allows you to exclude that income from your tax return. In short a QCD reduces your adjusted gross income, your taxable income and tax liability. And, as importantly it allows you to support your favorite charities. As always review your individual situation with your tax advisor.

Source: WSJ

DID YOU KNOW?

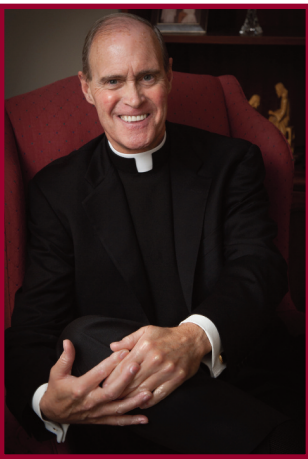
PSJS XXIII has Mass that is open to the public every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. during the academic year. After Mass, you may join us for conversation in the Refectory over brunch prepared by our very own executive chef!

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please send your current information to Kate Folan: kfolan@psjs.edu or visit the Alumni section on psjs.edu

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE RECTOR’S DESK



The News and PSJS

These past months have been very challenging as stories of clergy misconduct and abuse dominate the news. Catholics as well as others have been rightly scandalized by our failures to be the men that we claim to be and the requisite healing process will take years to accomplish. It is the responsibility and the mission of Pope St. John Seminary to make certain that the men who are ordained from this holy house are indeed balanced, happy, and holy men who will serve the people of God with integrity, fidelity, and charity.

I would like to introduce to you the new members of our Seminary who are here to be formed after “the heart and mind of Christ.” These men will follow a long list of alumni who serve the Church in our country and beyond with dedication and zeal. We continually hear from our

benefactors how they have been blessed to have our alumni priests serving in their parish community and how those men have enriched their lives. The Chairpersons of our annual Lawn Party, Bill and Ro Janovitz, echo that sentiment in the accompanying article about our very successful Fall event.

We recognize how critical it is to make certain that the men who are ordained to minister in the Person of Christ imitate in their lives that Mystery of Love that they are privileged to celebrate at the Altar. Cardinal O’Malley has asked for a review of all policies and procedures at the seminaries within the Archdiocese of Boston and we at Pope St. John welcome such a review. We are confident that whatever might emerge from such a review will only enhance our formation program and assist our mission of preparing mature men to serve in His Vineyard.

With my prayerful best wishes and my thanks for your continued support and prayers, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Meet the Class of 2022
- Alumni Days: “Whispers in the Loggia”
- Pastoral Assignments Home & Abroad
- Planned Giving



Record Setting Lawn Party

On September 26, over 350 friends and benefactors of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary attended its 37th annual Lawn Party and raised over \$300,000 - a new record!

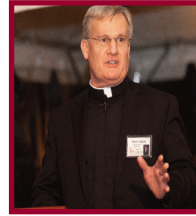
Father Brian Kiely, the Seminary Rector and President welcomed and acknowledged the previous Rectors present that night, Bishop Peter Uglietto, Msgr. Dennis Sheehan, Msgr. Connie McRae and Father William Palardy. "It's always nice to be able to stand on the shoulders of your predecessors. We are preparing parish priests here, in this seminary. They are the ones who will accompany you. They are the ones who will minister to you. They are the ones who will love you the way Christ loves you," Father Kiely said.

Bill Janovitz and his wife, Ro, co-chaired the event and stated that they have been fortunate to have PSJS alumni serve in both of the parishes he and Ro attend, in Massachusetts and in Florida.



Mason Wiggins, a third-year seminarian from the Diocese of St. Augustine in Florida, shared his vocation story. He said he could speak from experience about seminaries because he had entered formation twice and had attended five different seminaries.

He first studied for the priesthood in college, and followed his bishop's suggestions to study for a year at a time at four different institutions. He then asked for some time off to reconsider—which lasted 34 years!



During that period, Wiggins worked at a law firm and served in various capacities in the Senate and House of Representatives. "I never left the Church, but I did start taking it for granted. I felt like I was a Catholic in name only", Wiggins said. Then, five years ago, his spiritual director urged him to once again consider the seminary. His diocese directed him to PSJS, his fifth seminary, which he called "an exceptionally good house of formation."

He acknowledged "the current sad situation we find in our Church," and said that, "in these difficult times, we need good priests; good bishops and we need good seminaries."

Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley stated "that at each of the four dioceses where he has served as a bishop, each has had exemplary priests from Pope St. John XXIII."

"This Seminary has done so much to help the Church, not just here in Massachusetts but throughout our whole country," Cardinal O'Malley said.

Lourdes Pilgrimage



Basilica of Our lady of
The Rosary of Lourdes

Pat Lopresti, of the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Australia, is a Second Theology seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

Lourdes is a small market town lying in the foothills of the Pyrenees in south-western France. In the evening of February 11, 1858, a young Roman Catholic girl, Bernadette Soubirous, went with her sister and another companion to fetch some firewood when a Lady appeared to her at the Massabielle grotto. On subsequent visits, the Lady revealed herself to be the "Immaculate Conception". The Lady told Bernadette to dig in a certain spot and to drink from the small spring of water that began to bubble up. Almost immediately, reports of miraculous healings of nervous disorders, cancers, paralysis and even blindness were attributed to the water. Today thousands of gallons of water gush from the source of the spring, and around six million visitors every year from all over the world are able to bathe in it. This constant stream of pilgrims has transformed quiet Lourdes into one off the world's most important sites of religious pilgrimages, third only to Rome and

the Holy Land. The Hospitalite Notre Dame De Lourdes manages many of the religious functions, including the daily candle light procession, Eucharistic procession, Grotto and the baths. "I first encountered Hospitalite on my first pilgrimage to Lourdes on 7 December 1986, the eve of the vigil of the Immaculate Conception. My mother had stage-four breast cancer and had been given three months to live. I decided that if Mary would give me the grace, I would like to become a volunteer at Lourdes. She heard and answered my prayer. My mother got better and lived for another five years, and was buried on 11 February, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

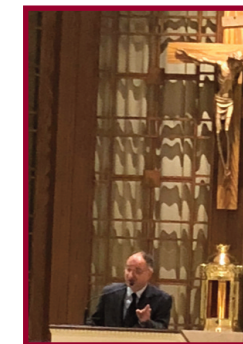
In my previous career as a lawyer in Australia, I used my annual leave to volunteer at Lourdes; I found the experience spiritually rewarding. Since I've been in the seminary, summer pastoral assignments have replaced my annual pilgrimage and work in Lourdes. We serve Our Mother wherever we are, not just in Lourdes. However, I look forward to the day when I can resume my annual pilgrimages to Lourdes. The difference will be that I will go as one of Her Son's priests as well as a member of Hospitalite."

cont. from pg. 2

country. As a result, we find the Church back here today still addressing deep issues in many dioceses. Take away points: the movement of the New Evangelization and how it builds unity will be key to strengthening the Church. Full unity behind this movement will keep the Church strong and give it one voice. Secondly, what we do now is going to be the Church we give the next generation.

The following day, Mr. Palmo participated in a Q & A session where alumni, seminarians, faculty and staff were afforded the opportunity to ask Rocco his thoughts on the current state of the Church in the U.S. and abroad. Alumni also attended meetings regarding the effectiveness of the PSJS program, and heard from the Rector at a Rector's Re-

Meeting. Later that evening, the PSJS community celebrated and remembered our deceased alumni at the Annual Alumni Mass. They then celebrated their brotherhood at the Alumni Banquet in the Refectory presented by the fantastic PSJS kitchen team! Overall, it was an eventful and successful Alumni Days and we look forward to having the Alumni all gathered again in the coming year!



Rocco addresses
PSJS Community

**Save
the
Date!**

**PSJS
Golf Tournament
May 20, 2019
Weston Golf Club**

Alumni Days at PSJS

Rocco Palmo Brings "Whispers" to PSJS!



Alumni Days was celebrated October 16-17th with great success! Many alumni came back to spend time together and celebrate milestone anniversaries for their Ordinations to the priesthood. Featured speaker was Rocco Palmo, author of the popular blog *Whispers in the Loggia*. A former US correspondent for the London-based international Catholic weekly *The Tablet*, he's been a church analyst for *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *Washington Post*, *Reuters*, *Los Angeles Times*, *BBC*, *NBC*, *CNN* and *NPR* among other mainstream print and broadcast outlets worldwide. Rocco Palmo is a native of Philadelphia.

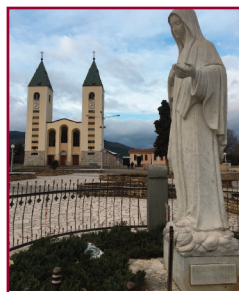
Mr. Palmo began his blog 14 years ago and many members of the clergy - from Cardinals to Bishops to seminarians - check his blog daily for the inside news coming out of the Vatican and the wider Church. His topic for the Alumni Days keynote Tuesday evening in Alumni Chapel was "A Church at the Crossroads". Mr. Palmo discussed how the Church has found herself back to where it was in 2002. The wrestling question is "why?". 2002 should have been a conversion for all of the Church, but many dioceses continue to deal with divisions and factions that prevent a full conversion from taking place. Mr. Palmo observed that Boston, ground zero in 2002, did convert and is not the same archdiocese it was 17 years ago – it has changed. But many of the policies and procedures implemented by the U.S. bishops in 2002 have not been fulfilled across the

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SEMINARIAN ASSIGNMENTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

As in prior Newsletters, we've included a section recapping seminarian assignments. It is in these experiences where seminarians have the opportunity to add balance to their academic responsibilities. We enjoy the telling of these stories and hope you also find them inspiring.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje – Easter 2018



St. James Church where liquid mysteriously drips from the "Risen Christ" statue.

In April, PSJS Seminarians Pat Lopresti (Diocese of Adelaide, Australia) and Aidan Toombs (Diocese of Las Vegas, Nevada) made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje to celebrate the Triduum and Easter. Our Lady of Medjugorje (also called Queen of Peace) is the title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary by those who believe that she appeared in 1981 to six Herzegovinian children in Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina (formerly Yugoslavia). Since the apparitions began in 1981, over 40 million people of all faiths, from all over the world, have visited Medjugorje and have left spiritually strengthened and, in numerous cases, converted and healed.



On Good Friday, Pat and Aidan climbed to the top of Rocky Cross mountain, high above Medjugorje, where a Cross with an altar, built in 1933 commemorates the 1900th year after Our Lord's death. The Cross contains a piece of the True Cross.

Ignatian Retreat in Manresa, Spain

This past July, Mason Wiggins, Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida, and Francisco Sordo, Diocese of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, both Third-Theology seminarians at PSJS, made a 30-day Ignatian silent retreat at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Manresa, Spain, located over the cave where St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote his Spiritual Exercises in the 1520s. An Ignatian



retreat is a focused encounter with God that focus on the quality of one's personal response to God's self-revelation in prayer and reflection.

Mason and Francisco each had a spiritual director who led the retreat, as well as a personal spiritual director, who brought new insights into the Scriptures and exercises each day. Mason recounts: "The first two weeks of the retreat were the hardest because the Exercises concentrated on our sins. I realized that, at times, because of my past sins, I felt unworthy of being a priest. My personal spiritual director helped me see that, through our sins, we open ourselves to the mercy, forgiveness and love of God. Recognizing my own sins will help me understand those who come to me as a priest for the same reason". Both Mason and Francisco learned much about themselves during the retreat. They came away with confidence and certainty in their personal relationship with Christ and their call to the priesthood. The retreat opened their hearts and minds to God in a special way and this is what they hope to share with others.

Closer to Home...

"No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us." (Rom 8:37)

This semester PSJS seminarians Brain Beal (4th Theology, Diocese of Columbus), John Dudek (2nd Theology, Archdiocese of Detroit) and Bruce Barnett (4th Theology, Diocese of Charleston) conquered Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire.



"I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me." (Phil 4:13)

Welcome Class of 2022!



BERTRAND PROULX

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON, MA

Bert is a Fall River native and received a B.S. in Computer Science from Fitchburg State University. Prior to entering PSJS, he spent 34 years working as a software engineer in the Boston area. During that time he also volunteered for 20 years at the Fernald School for the Blind as a chapel assistant.

"For many years, I had contemplated a priestly career but always felt I was too old until I searched "older vocations" on the internet. It was technology—my prior career that led me to PSJS!"



RUSSELL BERGMAN

DIOCESE OF ALBANY, NY

Russ is a graduate of SUNY with a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in German. While in college he was a member of the Newman Center and worked as a nursing assistant in a local Emergency Department. Upon graduation he began a 24 year career in the insurance industry.

"My calling to the priesthood actually began during my confirmation classes. I was so impressed and inspired by my local parish priest, the calling to a priestly vocation was instilled and was always present. That calling some 30 years later led me to PSJS!"



ROBINSON OLIVARES

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, NY

Originally from the Dominican Republic I moved to New York in 1980 and worked in the field of Information Technology for 20 years as a technical support engineer helping customers in health-care, entertainment, business consulting, education and finance.

"What attracted me to PSJS was that it was not only highly regarded by alumni, priests and my bishop but also by the fact that the seminary was founded with older vocations in mind. I thought that praying, studying, and living in community with mature men would be of great help in preparation for serving God's people as a priest. What I had hoped before coming to the seminary is now a reality that I happily live".



ERNESTO ALONSO

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, NY

Ernesto was born in Havana, Cuba and after high school entered the Vincentian Fathers Seminary College where he studied philosophy. He then worked in the banking industry for three years before moving to Miami and earning an Associate in Culinary Arts degree. He worked as a restaurant chef for 8 years and then moved to Astoria, NY where he worked as a personal chef. Ernesto was very active in his local parish, St. Joseph's, serving as an acolyte, catechist and Director of Religious Education (DRE).

"While serving as the DRE, my pastor, Fr Miceli (no relation!) introduced me to Bishop Massa and the Brooklyn Vocations Office which, in turn, then led me to PSJS".



JERRY KLEPONIS

DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA

Jerry grew up in Pennsylvania and after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Dental School practiced dentistry for some 34 years. Upon retirement in 2015 he felt the need to explore and pursue other opportunities. Anticipating a possible vocation to the priesthood, he enrolled in DeSales University and earned a certificate in Philosophy—two days before his acceptance to PSJS!

“During my discernment, which included a visit to PSJS a year earlier, I always wondered if the Seminary was the right choice. My decision was confirmed when in the space of several weeks I encountered on three different occasions an out of state construction company truck: “Kiely Construction Inc.”! I now have exchanged my dental career for a new family here at PSJS”.



JOSEPH AINI

DIOCESE OF ALBANY, NY

Joe grew up in Hornell, NY and graduated with a BA in English from St. Bonaventure University in 1986. After a brief time as a seminarian in Florida, he received a graduate degree in Counseling in 1993 from Alfred University and pursued a career as a counselor in the field of career development. He worked at Wheeling Jesuit University for several years before being hired at the State University of New York at Albany where he helped coordinate internships and provided career counseling to students with disabilities as well as international students.

“Volunteering at my parish, teaching religious education as well as spiritual direction has kept me close to the Church. I have always sought to foster a personal relationship with Christ. Loving the Lord has been melded into my life and entering seminary once again-some 30 years later is a firm invitation and commitment to explore God’s call”



DANIEL SENESCA

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN, NY

Daniel made his way to New York City by way of Haiti and Florida. He worked for a few years as an electrician in his native Haiti before arriving in the United States in September of 2010. He moved from Florida to NYC where he worked in a supermarket and also did home care work as a home health aide while studying and learning the English language at St. John’s. Knowing the priesthood was something he wanted to pursue, a friend of a friend, a secretary in the Diocese of Brooklyn, connected Daniel with the Vocations Office. Daniel was soon discerning at the Diocesan House of Discernment of Brooklyn in Cypress Hills for about a year and then to The Immaculate Conception Seminary at Douglaston, Queens for two years and then attended Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut for a year. A PSJS alumnus, Rev. Michael Panicali ’17 of the Diocese of Brooklyn, suggested he study at Pope St. John XXIII! Daniel and the Vocations Office made that happen.

“I am grateful for the people that made suggestions or who have helped along the way – my uncle who moved with me to Brooklyn, the secretary at the Diocese, and Fr. Michael Panicali – making it possible for me to enter the formation program at PSJS and to follow the path that God has given me.”



HOA BINH HA

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND, CA

Binh has been in the United States for ten years, having arrived in 2008 from Viet Nam. He worked in a nursing home as a recreation assistant and intern while studying for his BS in Recreational Therapy certificate at Cal State University. While volunteering at his local parish in the choir and as a lector, he helped to organize parish special events. Binh continued to feel the pull to become a priest and contacted the local Vocations Office and began the serious and mature path to priesthood.

“At a young age back in Viet Nam, a seminarian who visited our school had a strong influence on my thinking. Additionally, a very good friend who is a priest in CT helped me organize my thinking and helped me gain the confidence I needed to pursue becoming a priest. I was nervous to come here, not knowing anyone at all on the East Coast. Yet, when I arrived at PSJS XXIII I felt at peace.”



JAMES BOULETTE

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER, MA

For 18 years, Jim worked for the Deluxe Corporation in Groton, MA in the Information Technology department. While recovering from a car accident in 2007, he began to think again about the Church and slowly returned to regular church attendance. Encouraged by a priest friend a new journey began in 2011. He went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land; he continued his membership in the of Knights of Columbus, completed a Cursillo Weekend, where candidates seek a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, he worked with Rev. John Sassani embracing the Ignatian Exercises. Jim then entered Assumption College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 2015.

“I believe my car accident in 2007 was truly a turning point for me. I knew I needed to do more and the call to serve others was strong. I am grateful to all who have supported me and I look forward to developing a strong foundation here at PSJS to be a good and capable priest, God willing.”



JAMES THOMSON

ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA

James was born and lived in the UK for 27 years. After university he worked for five years for Barkley’s Bank in the financial field. There was always a focus on family and when his father retired the entire family immigrated to Australia and James continued his banking career for another 10 years. However, the “calling”, which was instilled over the years serving as an altar boy and Eucharistic minister as well as from three priests who were family friends, always remained.

“While working in Adelaide, I would attend the daily noon time Mass at the Cathedral until it was closed for renovations. When the Cathedral was finally reopened, I realized how much I had missed it. That was the beginning of my journey to PSJS”.