

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary



2020-2022 Catalog

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Welcome

As the Rector, I am aware of the great privilege that is mine to be called to serve in this special place known as Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. I am constantly amazed as I discover the wonderful work and ministry of those who have served here before me as either Rector, Faculty, or as a member of the Staff. These dedicated men and women have created a spiritual home that offers an opportunity for discernment to those men who feel called to respond to God's invitation to serve Him as a Roman Catholic priest. I am humbled by the knowledge that I am succeeding a wonderful lineage of outstanding individuals who have established this unique place that has provided the strong foundation for those men who have answered God's call later in their lives. I am also very excited about the many possibilities that are before us as we continue to offer to the Church dedicated shepherds who are deeply in love with Christ and who seek to share that love with others as ordained priests.

I am very grateful for your interest in Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to this extraordinary place.

The Pope St. John XXIII Seminary community is committed to our founding mission: the human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation of candidates aged 30 and older. Our unique institution is the only American seminary for these mature candidates administered by diocesan priests. For more than five decades, candidates have been accepted from various professional backgrounds, such as law, medicine, business, teaching, sales, banking, social work, and military service. The diversity of life experiences shared by these mature seminarians enriches both the Seminary community and their future ministries in the Church.

At Pope St. John XXIII, seminarians are offered a balanced program of priestly formation in a healthy, happy, and mature environment specifically suited for the adult learner. The curriculum of theological studies is designed to nurture what is central to our Catholic Faith and Tradition in an integrated human, spiritual and pastoral formation program. The expectation is that candidates applying for admission will have obtained an undergraduate degree and many enter the Seminary having already earned advanced degrees.

Candidates considering admission are sponsored by a diocese or religious order. Our current seminarians represent over thirty dioceses and five religious orders located throughout the United States and beyond. Since 1964, 150 dioceses and religious orders have entrusted the formation of their candidates for priesthood to this Seminary. Nearly 700 alumni serve throughout the world.

Thank you again for your interest in our Seminary. At Pope St. John XXIII, we are grateful for the opportunity to prepare holy and effective pastoral leaders to serve the faithful of our Church.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Brian R. Kiely
Rector and President

Mission and History

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.



History

Fifty-five years ago, Richard Cardinal Cushing saw the need for a Catholic seminary such as ours.

In 1964, with the encouragement and the explicit blessing of Pope Paul VI, Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary became the first seminary in North America established for the formation of men answering the call to priesthood later in their lives.

In 1972 the Seminary was chartered by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to grant the Master of Divinity degree.

In 1983 the Seminary became an accredited member of the Association of Theological Schools.

In the 2007 Fall Semester, our Seminary introduced a new optional Pre-Theology Program. This program is for candidates whose Bishops or religious superiors deem it appropriate.

To date, candidates have come to the Seminary from more than 140 dioceses and 23 religious communities. Our 700 alumni serve in dioceses and religious communities throughout the world.



Governance

Members of the Corporation

His Eminence, Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap., Chairman and Treasurer (ex officio)

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector and President

Most Rev. Peter J. Uglietto

Ms. Mary Ann McLaughlin

Mr. James J. Mahoney

Board of Admissions

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Admissions Officer and Chair

Dr. Anthony Keaty

Rev. Paul Miceli

Rev. Stephen J. Linehan

Rev. William F. Murphy

Administration

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector and President

Rev. Paul Miceli, Vice Rector

Dr. Anthony Keaty, Academic Dean/Registrar

Rev. William F. Murphy, Director of Spiritual Formation

Rev. Stephen J. Linehan, Dean of Seminarians/Director of Pastoral Ministry

Dr. John F. Millard, Director of Pre-Theology Program

Governance (continued)

Board of Trustees

His Eminence, Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap., Chairman

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely

Mr. R. Stephen Barrett, Jr.

Mr. William J. Boyce

Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell '07

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Mr. David J. Madigan

Mr. James J. Mahoney

Most Rev. James Massa

Ms. Mary Ann McLaughlin

Mrs. Gail Murphy

Most Rev. Peter J. Uglietto

Accreditation

Accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, the MDiv (Master of Divinity) degree program was approved for an additional ten years in 2019.

The Commission contact information is:

The Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada
10 Summit Park Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15275 USA
Telephone: 412-788-6505
Fax: 412-788-6510
Website: www.ats.edu

Chartered by:

The Board of Regents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Memberships:

American Library Association
American Theological Library Association
Association for Theological Field Education
Catholic Association of Theological Field Education
Catholic Biblical Association
Catholic Library Association
Catholic Theological Society
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
East Coast Conference of Major Seminary Rectors
East Coast Conference of Major Seminary Academic Deans
Federation of Seminary Spiritual Directors
National Catholic Educational Association
National Association of Catholic Theological Schools

New England Library Network
Society of Biblical Literature
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

Faculty

Rev. I. Michael Bellafiore, S.J.

Rev. Msgr. Peter Conley

Rev. Vincent Daily

Rev. Msgr. William Fay, Ph.D.

Dr. Anthony Keaty

Very Rev. Brian Kiely

Rev. Stephen Linehan

Rev. Paul Miceli

Dr. John Millard

Rev. Msgr. James Mongelluzzo

Rev. William Murphy

Msgr. Robert Oliver, BH

Rev. Scott Surrency, OFM Cap.

Rev. Joseph Zwosta

Adjunct Faculty

Mr. Paul Brown

Rev. Ryan Connors

Sr. Nélida Naveros Córdova, CDP

Dr. Stephen Fahrig

Dr. Angela Franks

Nilza Gonzales-Pedemonte

Rev. John Grimes

Ms. Bernadine Kensinger

Dr. Christopher Klofft

Rev. Thomas Nestor

Mrs. Frances O'Hare

Ms. Maryanne Ouellet

Rev. Msgr. F. Stephen Pedone

Mr. Jordan Wood

Our Campus



The Seminary is in Weston, Massachusetts, 13 miles west of downtown Boston, on over 35 acres of wooded land. Our proximity to Boston makes available to us numerous educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities.

Seminarians are assigned a single room and share a bathroom/shower with their neighbor. The chapel and dining room are located on the first floor. Two exceptional chefs prepare meals served buffet-style. Residence areas are on the first and second floors. Every seminarian's room is equipped with internet and cable tv access.

In addition to classrooms and offices, the building features a new Learning Center, gym, media room, bookstore, laundry, computer lab and two seminarian lounges. A smoke-free environment is preserved in the building.

Learning Center



Construction of our new Learning Center was completed in January 2016. The new facility is 10,000 sq. ft., spread over two floors. In addition to housing 70,000 volumes and over 260 journal titles, the Learning Center provides a state-of-the-art environment with advanced technologies to foster learning, research, and communication. Study and research are aided by a significant reference collection of over 4,000 volumes, as well as the assistance of a professional librarian. In addition to the physical collection, access to the most important database tools in the field of religion are available electronically.

High-speed wireless internet access is available throughout the learning center, along with access to the Seminary's internal computer network.

Collaborative Community Life

As you enter seminary, you embrace a life that has the power to transform your whole being into someone who can act in the person of Jesus Christ, Head and Shepherd of the Church. This life is partly expressed in accepting with your fellow seminarians a set of customs and courtesies. The directives found in *The Rule of Life* manual (found on SharePoint) invite you beyond simple impulse to an interior discipline that makes possible both a closer discipleship of Jesus Christ and a supportive life with the brothers in community. You are preparing to enter a public Christian life in common with others who share the same vocation in the Church and under the direction of those appointed by the Magisterium to guide you in response to this call.

Community living belongs to the core of priestly formation because it constitutes a proper context in which the meaning of Christ's priesthood can be experienced. As the Catholic Bishops of the United States have suggested, priestly formation takes place most appropriately in a seminary community.

Community is here understood as an organic network of interpersonal relationships. Gathered for the purpose of helping men prepare for the priesthood, a seminary community will reflect the unity of faith and love that comes from the Holy Spirit and links the seminary to the larger community of the total Church and the world. In this communal setting, students deepen their awareness of the ideals and challenges of the priesthood through their own exercise of pastoral ministry, through reflection upon revelation and its meaning for the modern world, through association with their bishops, priests, and faculty members, and in great part, through the constant and sometimes even abrasive relationships with other seminarians. (Program for Priestly Formation, #171)

Our life together in community requires each seminarian to involve himself earnestly with other members of the house and with its various communal activities. Each of us must row in unison with our brother for the greater good of the community. Just as individual responsibility, initiative, and mutual support are integral to the work of priestly life and ministry, so are they essential to good seminary living. Of course, the effort to incorporate these values in your own attitudes and actions implies a correlative responsibility on the part of seminary administrators and faculty to provide avenues for student involvement, including decision-making. Again, to quote the bishops:

Sharing with one's brothers is the primary source of the seminarian's personal growth. Participation makes the difference. By participating in the reflection and decision-

making, by accepting the responsibilities and common goals of the group, the seminarian takes on a new self-awareness and self-realization...

(Program for Priestly Formation, #379)

The individual who embarks on a program of studies and priestly formation should be aware he is thereby adopting a way of life that appears increasingly to be a “sign of contradiction” within the broader American culture. The Gospel values enjoined on the Church’s pastors of the new millennium must more than ever be reflected concretely in the attitudes and actions of the man seeking to be of service within the presbyterial order. Specifically, such a person should keep in mind the following:

1. The way of life of seminarians should reflect their commitment to asceticism, which takes on a special character in the celibate state. Candidates for the priesthood should maintain a certain measure of detachment from material goods, as shown in tasteful simplicity of dress and room furnishings.
2. The life of a Catholic seminarian ideally reflects a deep inner joy, which ought to become manifest in the enthusiasm he brings to liturgy and private devotions, theological studies, pastoral work, and community living. Everyone should monitor himself for indications of serious depression and discouragement and seek competent counsel whenever such symptoms arise.
3. The priestly life draws from the wellspring of prayer and strives for holiness, which “has a real effect on the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments and leadership of the community in charity.” (Pastores dabo vobis, #25) Development in prayer, especially Eucharistic worship within and outside the liturgy, requires time and effort. Everything should contribute to sustain an atmosphere conducive to prayer in the seminary.
4. Concern for others should be the hallmark of the Catholic candidate for Holy Orders. Openness to others, generosity, honesty, and graciousness should be cultivated in order to overcome narrowed self-interest and to help create what Pope John Paul II describes as “a community built on deep friendship and charity...a true family living in joy.” (Pastores dabo vobis, #60)

Rule of Life

The **Rule of Life** Handbook is given to every seminarian (and is also available on SharePoint). This **Rule of Life** is a means to help in the realization of the goals and objectives discussed above. Specific regulations are intended to concretize the Gospel values that are brought to bear on the building up of Christian community. The policies of Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary are presented not only as individual and community expectations, but also as guides and aids in the transformation of your mind, heart, and will to Jesus Christ the High Priest, who came “not to be served but to serve.” (Mk 10:45)

The **Rule of Life** includes standards for a well-balanced community life as well as academic parameters necessary for a positive experience at Pope St. John highlighting the four pillars of formation. The handbook includes topics such as:

- LIFE IN COMMUNITY
- FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS
- SEMINARY POLICY ON ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE
- MASSACHUSETTS HAZING REPORTING REGULATIONS
- FIRE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCIES
- PRESENCE OF MINORS ON CAMPUS
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
- GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL
- COUNSELING POLICY AND PROTOCOLS

GROUNDS FOR DISMISSAL

Certain behaviors constitute grounds for dismissal from the seminary outside the normal evaluation process. Such a decision can be made immediately by the Rector or upon the recommendation of a Disciplinary Board selected by him. The following serious issues may constitute evidence of a seminarian’s lack of suitability for priestly formation, and are therefore grounds for dismissal:

1. Slander, calumny, or detraction.
2. Stealing, cheating, or lying, plagiarism.
3. Sexual harassment or misconduct.
4. Use of any electronic resources for unhealthy, illegal, or immoral purposes.
5. Alcohol and drug misuse.
6. Significant psychological disorders.
7. Bullying.
8. Violation of the policy on the presence of minors.

Athletics & Recreation



The Seminary fitness area is composed of two well-equipped rooms (treadmills, ellipticals, free weights). Outside, there is a full basketball court, a bocce court, and a 5-hole putting green. Nearby Regis College provides a full and very affordable fitness center, including a six-lane pool.

The town of Weston and surrounding rural environs offer numerous areas for running, biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing. A fine variety of ocean beaches, lakes and rivers, ski areas and state parks are located within easy driving distance.

Alumni



The alumni of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary continue to have and enjoy a unique relationship with the institution, its faculty and current seminarian community. This relationship is characterized by a special spirit of warmth, outreach, and concern that the community has for each alumnus as a person and for the quality and success of his priestly ministry.

The alumni have their own national association and constitution and informally meet on a regional basis. The annual meeting is held in October at the Seminary in conjunction with Alumni Days. Alumni Days is an important part of the Seminary's activities, boasting a vigorous program over a period of two days where alumni can experience a period of spiritual renewal, theological updating, and social relaxation.

Admission Process

Formal Application Process

Candidates apply for admission to our Seminary under the sponsorship of a diocese or religious order. The Seminary must have formal evidence of sponsorship prior to reviewing an application.

Should you be interested in admission to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, your Vocation Director may request an Application Packet from the Seminary for you. The Application Packet contains forms which request some general background data, the names of (3) priests for references, requests a 500-word autobiography focusing on significant influences in your decision to apply and a recent photo. The applicant also provides the Seminary with educational transcripts, testimonials from business/career associates, work history, records of sacraments, health status, military discharge (if applicable), names of any previous religious institutions attended, psychological test results (arranged by sponsoring diocese/order), etc.

Credit may be granted for courses taken from other institutions if deemed comparable by the Academic Dean.

Upon completion, formal applications are reviewed by the Board of Admissions. If the Board's decision is favorable, the applicant is invited to the Seminary for interviews.

Interviews

At a mutually convenient time, the invited candidate visits the Seminary for a couple days. He is interviewed by members of the Board of Admissions and meets with the Seminary's consulting psychologist to review the psychological testing. Subsequently, a final review is made regarding the candidate who is then informed of the Board's decision.

Application Timing

Applications are accepted at any time during the year. However, as the process may take up to two months, once you are accepted for sponsorship by your diocese/order, the process should begin as soon as feasible. If possible, an approved applicant is also encouraged to visit when the Seminary is in session (September through April). This allows firsthand observation of the Seminary program and community life. While not officially part of the admissions process, such visits may be useful in terms of personal vocational discernment.

Tuition and Financial Assistance

Tuition

Tuition is billed to each seminarian or his sponsoring diocese or religious community on an annual basis. Current tuition rates are:

- Annual Tuition + Room and Board - \$38,000 (\$38,500 in 2021-2022)
 - Tuition - \$23,500 (\$24,500 in 2021-2022)
 - Room & Board - \$13,500 (\$14,000 in 2021-2022)
- Tuition per Credit Hour (non-seminarian) - \$400 per semester
- Audit Fee (non-seminarian) - \$250 per course

Tuition will be refunded in accordance with the following schedule:

- Within the third week of class - 80%
- Within the fourth week of class - 60%
- Within the fifth week of class - 40%
- Within the sixth week of class - 20%

Additional Fees:

- Transcript Fee - \$10
- Refundable Room Deposit - \$500

Tuition is billed to the sponsoring diocese or religious community (an estimated additional allowance of \$5,000 will be needed annually for personal living expenses, health insurance [if not otherwise provided], books and automobile expenses).

Tuition Refund Policy

Tuition will be refunded in accordance with the following schedule:

Within the third week of class	80%
Within the fourth week of class	60%
Within the fifth week of class	40%
Within the sixth week of class	20%

Financial Assistance

Title IV Funding

The Seminary participates in the Federal Family Educational Loan Program and qualified students can obtain Federal Stafford Loans. If a credit balance is caused from Title IV funding, it will be refunded by within 14 days.

If you receive financial aid and subsequently do not enroll and then withdraw, you may be required to return financial aid funds received. An example of a Return of Title IV Funds calculation follows:

Within 45 days from when you discontinue enrollment, the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office must calculate the amount of financial aid you have *earned* prior to the date the action was filed. Any aid received more than the *earned* amount is considered *unearned*. The *unearned* financial aid must be returned to the respective federal programs no later than 45 days from when the student separated from PSJS. The calculation is based upon only the amount of Title IV Aid for which you were eligible.

GI Bill®

In addition to student loans, veterans may apply for assistance through the GI Bill® (GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>). Pope St. John XXIII acts as a liaison with the Veterans Administration for students who may qualify to receive veterans' education benefits. Eligible students should apply through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to obtain a Certificate of Eligibility. Applications can be completed online at www.gibill.va.gov or by calling the Department of Veterans Affairs at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551).

In accordance with Sec. 103 of The Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018:

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary permits any covered individual* to attend or participate in the course of education during the period beginning on the date on which the individual provides to the education institution a certificate of eligibility for entitlement to education assistance under Chapters 31 or 33 (a "Certificate of Eligibility" can also include a "Statement of Benefits" obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) website - eBenefits , or a VAF 28-1905 form for Chapter 31 authorization purposes) and ending on the earlier of the following dates:

- 1.) The date on which payment from the VA is made to the institution
- 2.) 90 days after the institution certified tuition and fees following the receipt of the Certificate of Eligibility.

* A covered individual is any individual who is entitled to education assistance under chapter 31, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, or Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill ® benefits.

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary does not penalize Chapter 31 or 33 students if/when the VA is late making payments. Pope St. Jon XXIII National Seminary does not have any policies in place that would do any of the following while waiting for VA payments:

- Prevent enrolling
- Assessing a late penalty fee
- Requiring alternative or additional sources of funding

GI Bill® (continued)

- Denies access to school resources

To prevent outstanding student accounts, Chapter 31 or 33 students must:

- Submit a COE or Statement of benefits by the first day of classes
- Submit a written request to be certified
- Provide any additional information needed or certification.

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Potential candidates have many common questions and concerns. Many men have experienced a calling to priesthood, but for various reasons, were unable to pursue it. Then, years later, they hear the call stronger than ever. Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary is a theological institution uniquely dedicated to the preparation of seminarians over the age of 30 responding to a call to priestly ministry. Since 1964 our Seminary has been acclaimed for offering quality formation specifically suited for the adult learner. Currently, our 600+ alumni serve throughout the world. Many men have questions about the discernment process. These often include:

“Am I too old to be accepted into a Seminary program?”

The answer is no! We believe that mature men make some of the best priests as they possess a wealth of life experiences. As a “second career” Seminary, the general range for acceptance is 30 to 60 years of age. Please note that many dioceses and religious communities have age limit requirements.

“I was married. Now I am a widower. Am I still eligible for consideration?”

Yes. Many of our mature candidates have been married - and some have grown children and grandchildren.

“I was married and am now divorced. Can I be a priest?”

Yes. An annulment will be required if your spouse is living.

“What type of educational background is required?”

The expectation is that an applicant will have obtained an undergraduate degree. Any exceptions to this degree requirement will be in accordance with Association of Theological Schools standards. Typical candidates will be enrolled in our 4-year Master of Divinity program. Candidates who do not have the prerequisite courses in philosophy may take an additional 1-2 years of pre-theology.

“I haven’t been in school for years. Will I struggle with the academics?”

Pope St. John’s academic curriculum is based on over 50 years of teaching the adult learner. Our professors excel in understanding the individual needs and varied backgrounds of our seminarians. They work with each seminarian to ensure that they feel comfortable with their course load.

“Who will pay for my seminary education?”

In most cases the sponsoring diocese or religious community pays the tuition and room & board. Every diocese is different as to what they will pay for. Pope St. John has many students that use the GI Bill to cover a portion of the costs. Financial aid is available to those who may be responsible for the costs.

“How do I start the admissions process?”

Collaboration between the sponsoring diocese or religious community and Pope St. John XXIII Seminary is an integral part of the admissions process. Candidates apply for admission to Pope St. John XXIII Seminary under the sponsorship of a diocese or religious order. Your local pastor is a great source of information. He can point you in the right direction as to who to speak to in your diocese. Your diocese website is a great source of information on how to contact the Vocation Director and to learn how their vocations process works.

Some dioceses do not accept older candidates. As you can see by the map of Dioceses Served, many do! (<https://www.psjs.edu/dioceses-served>) We can assist you with finding a possible diocese that accepts older candidates such as yourself.

Does the Seminary have a policy for transfer of credits from another institution?

All requests for transfer of credit to the Master of Divinity program must be approved by the Academic Dean. Normally, these credits must have been earned within the previous seven years at an accredited institution and been judged to be equivalent to courses in the Seminary's curriculum. No credits for courses in which the student received below the grade of C will be accepted. The Seminary's Admissions Board decides for each admitted seminarian in conjunction with the sponsoring (arch) diocese the length of the seminarian's priestly formation program. For those who have completed graduate theology courses prior to coming to Seminary that are eligible for transfer of credit and who have been placed in 1st theology (thus expected to complete all four years of the PSJS M.Div. degree/priestly formation program), the Seminary, in practice, accepts a transfer of credit in lieu of a Seminary course only if the seminarian wishes to use the time devoted to the course for some other formation related activity.

"I am not a U.S. citizen. Can I study at Pope St. John XXIII?"

Yes. We will work with you to obtain a F-1 visa. F visas are a type of non-immigrant student visa that allows foreigners to pursue education (academic studies and/or language training programs) in the United States. F-1 students must maintain a full course of study.

Please refer to <https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students> for additional information.

Welcome from Academic Dean

Greetings in the Lord,

Thank you for your interest in Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. As Academic Dean, I am happy to review the academic program with you.

At Pope St. John XXIII we believe that our seminarians are offered a balanced program in a healthy, happy, and mature environment specifically suited for the adult learner. We seek to assist candidates in attaining the various skills and competencies necessary for today's priestly ministry, thus enabling them to communicate to others what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It is our belief that a solid education in biblical, historical, pastoral, moral, spiritual, liturgical, sacramental, and systematic theological studies will nourish the spiritual life, deepen self-knowledge, promote confidence in articulating the Catholic faith, foster a sense of community and enhance the development of well-integrated and committed candidates. Seminarians enter a process in which the fullest development of their talents is sought for the good of the Church.

Our Seminary has two academic programs:

Master of Divinity (four-year program in theology on a graduate level)

Pre-Theology (an optional one-year preparatory program in philosophy and undergraduate-level theology for candidates for whom it is deemed appropriate)

The curriculum of theological studies is designed to instill what is central to our Faith and Tradition in an integrated human, spiritual, and pastoral formation program. In an age when good pastoral leaders are needed more than ever, instructors familiar with pastoral work and parish life are preparing future ordained ministers of God's people here at Pope St. John XXIII.

Thank you again for your interest. We hope you will find this information valuable as you follow the path along which the Lord is calling you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Dr. Anthony Keaty, Academic Dean

Goals & Objectives of the MDiv. Program

Goals of the MDiv. Program

The academic program seeks to assist candidates in attaining the various competencies and skills necessary for pastoral ministry today which will enable them to articulate and communicate to others what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. To achieve this goal, students must come to know:

- Jesus Christ, their Lord
- the ways that Christians throughout the centuries have understood this person
- themselves, as the earthen vessels who are called by God to proclaim the good news in our society
- their brothers and sisters, with whom they form the community of Christians

Objectives of the MDiv. Program

Specifically, that Master of Divinity program aims to develop in the students a personally interiorized integration of spiritual development, theological knowledge, and pastoral skills, and the formation of a lifelong habit of theological reflection by means of the following objectives:

- knowledge of the documents of the Christian tradition and the official teachings of the Catholic Church.
- understanding of traditional theological disciplines as well as their meaning and relevance in the Church and world.
- cultivation of pastoral identity, skills, and practice in the context of a theology of ministry.
- ability to communicate the Christian message through preaching, teaching, and the exercise of leadership in the community, in fulfilling the mission of the Church.
- development of a sound spiritual foundation based on a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, vocational discernment, and understanding of the human in its various dimensions.
- attainment of a theological education which recognizes and takes account of the global dimensions of priestly ministry in today's world.

- The courses listed on pages 26 and 27 are Pre-Theology courses. These courses meet 3 times per week for 50 minutes each meeting for approximately 15 weeks. The amount of student work per week is 3 -5 hours per course per week. Students do receive a letter grade at the conclusion of the semester. These pre-theology courses are essentially 3.0 credit courses, but not credited to the M. Div. Degree program.
- The Introduction to Philosophy (as well as the Medieval Philosophy) course, a required seminary course, meets three times for 50 minutes each meeting for a full semester. The student is expected to do 3-5 hours of academic work per week. The student receives a grade. The course is essentially a 3.0 credit course, but since it is not a graduate theology degree course, is not counted in the total M.Div. credits needed for the M. Div. degree. The Speech I class (see course description p. 35 meets for 2 hours each week. Students are expected to do 3-5 hours per week of academic work outside of class meeting time. The course is required by the Seminary. However, since the course is not a graduate theology course, it is not counted in the number of credits required for the M. Div. degree.
- Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation I and II are required seminary 'courses' that meet one 50-minute period each week for a semester. Human Spiritual Formation I in the Fall, and Human Spiritual Formation II in the Spring. There is a Pass/Fail grade, but no M.Div. credits awarded. No academic work outside of class is expected of the student.
- The courses listed on pp. 32-38 are 3 credit, M.Div. degree courses.
- The M.Div. degree requires 114 credits. The non-M.Div. degree courses are required by the Seminary of all seminarians admitted into the Seminary.

Course Listings

Pre-Theology

While the Seminary continues to have a dispensation allowing a four-year seminary Master of Divinity Program, this optional Pre-Theology Program is offered for candidates whose bishops or religious superiors deem it appropriate. In addition to the academic component listed below, the Pre-Theology Program also addresses formation in the human, spiritual and pastoral realms of ministry. In support of this objective, the program includes a course, Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation, which meets weekly for one hour and is required for all new seminarians.

First Semester

Introduction to Philosophy
Natural Theology
Philosophical Ethics
Basic Catholic Doctrine I: The Church's Profession of Faith
Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation I

Second Semester

Medieval Philosophy
Political and Social Philosophy
Modern Philosophy
Basic Catholic Doctrine II: Introduction to the Bible
Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation II

For those requiring an additional year of pre-theology, a supplemental curriculum will be provided.

Basic Catholic Doctrine I: The Church's Profession of Faith

This course offers an overview of Roman Catholic faith. Students engage material which will be studied in later semesters. Resources include the Sacred Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the teachings of the

Second Vatican Council, other magisterial documents, writings, and electronic media that explain dimensions of Catholicism.

Basic Catholic Doctrine II: Introduction to the Bible

This survey familiarizes the beginning student with the scope, beauty, richness, power, and depth of the Sacred Scriptures. Starting with a study of the Catholic Church's teaching on Divine Revelation, we discuss inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy, Biblical interpretation, and exegesis. We then explore the development of major themes within salvation history as found in both the Old and New Testaments. There will also be a brief overview of principal texts and teachings of the Bible as the foundation for Roman Catholic Christianity.

Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation I

This course seeks to help the seminarian develop a sound spiritual foundation rooted in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, both individually and within the context of the Catholic ecclesial communion.

Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation II

This course seeks to support the seminarian's progress in self-development in three areas of the "four pillars" of formation (cf. Pastores Dabo Vobis): the human, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of ordained Catholic Ministry.

Introduction to Philosophy

This course examines the major questions in Philosophy. Emphasis is given to the work of Plato and of Aristotle.

Political and Social Philosophy

This course will examine writings by classic authors in social and political philosophy, including - but not necessarily limited to - Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Mill. Some of the questions to be studied may include: the nature of ideal society; problems presented by our social existence; and the relationship between the individual and the state.

Medieval Philosophy

This course will introduce the student to the great medieval revival of philosophical inquiry that culminated in the work of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Emphasis will be given to Saint Augustine, Saint Anselm, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, with some attention to other thinkers, as needed.

Modern Philosophy

The course introduces the student to some of the most fundamental texts and arguments culled from the modern era. The course examines such topics as the nature of human society, the notion of human rights, the development of the theory of knowledge, the rejection of the ancient/Christian notion of man and its attempted retrieval.

Philosophical Ethics

This course introduces students to the major philosophical theories about morality. Special emphasis is given to virtue ethics and to natural law theory.

Natural Theology

A philosophical exploration, following the lead of Saint Thomas Aquinas, of what human reason can know about God. Topics include: the relation between faith and reason; religion and science; the existence of God; the Divine attributes.

Master of Divinity

Goal and Objectives

The goal of the program in all its dimensions is to provide students with opportunities to develop the identity and competency for ordained priestly ministry in the Church. Specifically, the Master of Divinity Program aims to develop in the students a personally interiorized integration of spiritual development, theological knowledge, pastoral skills, and the necessary human qualities by means of the following objectives:

1. Knowledge of the sources of the Christian faith and the official teachings of the Catholic Church
2. Understanding of the various subdivisions of theological study, their interconnectedness, and their meaning and relevance in the contemporary Church and world
3. Ability to communicate the Christian message through preaching and teaching
4. Cultivation of pastoral identity, practical pastoral skills, and the exercise of leadership in ecclesial community
5. Acquisition of an understanding of the human person, including the dynamics of human development, interpersonal relationships, and recognition of the diversity among persons
6. Development of a sound spiritual foundation rooted in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ within the context of the Catholic ecclesial communion
7. Recognition of the global dimensions of priestly ministry in contemporary society.

The Master of Divinity program consists of eight semesters, except in the case of those who qualify for a special program. The core curriculum is divided into four major concentrations:

biblical studies, theology, church history and pastoral studies.

In addition to the core curriculum, each student is required to complete four elective courses.

Course Listing:

Introduction to Philosophy

This course examines the major questions in Philosophy. Emphasis is given to the work of Plato and of Aristotle.

Medieval Philosophy

This course will introduce the student to the great medieval revival of philosophical inquiry that culminated in the work of Saint Thomas Aquinas. Emphasis will be given to Saint Augustine, Saint Anselm, and Saint Thomas Aquinas, with some attention to other thinkers, as needed.

Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation I

This course seeks to help the seminarian develop a sound spiritual foundation rooted in a life-giving relationship with Jesus Christ, both individually and within the context of the Catholic ecclesial communion.

Introduction to Human and Spiritual Formation II

This course seeks to support the seminarian's progress in self-development in three areas of the "four pillars" of formation (cf. Pastores Dabo Vobis): the human, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of ordained Catholic Ministry.

Biblical Studies

Pentateuch and Historical Books

The course is designed to help the student continue to study the Old Testament in the years after ordination. After a presentation on foundational topics, the syllabus covers the Torah, the Deuteronomistic History, and the Persian Period Histories. While a broad coverage of the narrative is provided, central focus is given to texts contained in the Lectionary.

Prophets and Writings

The Prophetic Writings and Wisdom Literature are studied in the context of their historical background and theology. In historical progression, the major and minor prophets of the 8th, 7th, 5th, and 2nd centuries are studied including a broad discussion of the apocalyptic genre as it appears in the Prophetic Corpus. The Wisdom Literature genre is reviewed through a study of five books in the Wisdom Corpus. Throughout, central place is given to texts used in preaching.

Synoptic Gospels

This course begins with a survey of the origin, historical context, and

development of the Synoptic Gospels, then engages the literary structure, purpose, and theology of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew, and Luke, spelling out the unique features of each Gospel for effective preaching. The examination of Luke involves examination of the plan and early chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul and the Pauline Letters

This course begins with an examination of the life and mission of Paul in Acts and the letters, and then an examination of nearly all the letters, with special focus on 1 Corinthians as the most revelatory of Paul's pastoral genius. The course traces the developments of his thought in the works written under his name and ends with a short examination of the Epistle to the Hebrews, linked by tradition to Paul. Special attention is paid to Paul's momentous contributions to Christian theology and spirituality.

Johannine Writings

This course examines John's massive contributions to the Church's understanding of Jesus, and how that has affected our sacraments, theology, and worship. Beginning with the challenges John presents to a coherent historical picture of Jesus, the course moves directly to the Johannine letters to situate the context of this Gospel in the First Century church. Then it moves chapter by chapter through the Gospel, examining literary structure, theological insights, and the preponderance of Baptism and Eucharist in John's presentation of Jesus.

Theology

Fundamental Theology

This course focuses on the foundations of theology: questions relating to revelation and faith; questions relating to theology's sources; and questions relating to the overall issue of theological method. The goal is to assist the student to elaborate a theology of revelation; a theology of faith; a theology of Sacred Scripture; and a theology of Tradition as lived authoritatively in the Church.

Theological Anthropology

This course will study the meaning of human existence considering the Christian faith. It will examine the biblical, doctrinal, and theological reflecting on the human person.

Christology/Trinity

This course studies the essential doctrines and theologies concerning Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son, and the Holy Trinity. This is done by systematic

examination of the biblical sources, patristic thought, Church doctrines, and theological developments through the Christian centuries.

Liturgical Studies

Beginning with the basic terminology, the theological character and major elements of Roman Catholic worship, the student will study the various ways our Church responds to the Second Vatican Council's declaration that the liturgy is to be the action of the whole people of God (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 7 & 14). The course will examine three basic foundations of the Sacred Liturgy: history, theology, and an analysis of the present documentation on liturgy.

Ecclesiology

This course's purpose is to undertake a thorough examination of the Church's teaching about herself. It includes study of the essential doctrines, the biblical foundation, and developments of ecclesiology in history, as well as contemporary theological themes, especially those of the Second Vatican Council and post-conciliar emphasis on communion ecclesiology. Particular attention is given to the themes of the Petrine office, the Magisterium's role, the College of Bishops, and the particular Church. The goal is to provide the future priest with a solid understanding of the Church's nature, structures, and mission.

Moral Theology - Fundamental Moral Theology

This course is an introduction to moral theology--the branch of theology which concerns the ordering of our lives toward true and lasting happiness with God by means of our actions. The course will describe the overall vision of the moral life according to key teachings of the Magisterium, as well as the history of Catholic moral theology, with emphasis on developments since Vatican II and the Church's response to these developments.

Moral Theology- Catholic Social Doctrine

This course is an introduction to the social doctrine of the Catholic Church. While the Fundamental Moral Theology course surveys how the human person orders his life toward true and lasting happiness with God by means of his actions, Catholic Social Doctrine and Ethics focuses on the creation of conditions in society which are conducive to this happiness. As such, it has to do with the common good – the sum of social conditions that allow people to flourish more fully and more easily.

Moral Theology - Catholic Medical Ethics

This course focuses on life and death issues in medical ethics. After a brief

review of *Veritatis Splendor*, the letter of Pope John Paul II on moral theology, specific issues in medical ethics will be explored, including abortion, prenatal testing, and treatment, assisted reproduction, the role of the priest in the encounter with the patient, contraception, sterilization, natural family planning, euthanasia, assisted suicide, end-of-life care, and stem cell research.

Moral Theology - Catholic Sexual Ethics

An examination of the tradition's teaching on sexuality and marriage. We address topics such as pre-marital sex, homosexuality, and birth control, from the perspective of a theology of marriage and chastity.

Sacraments of Christian Initiation

This course covers Catholic sacramental theology and the first two sacraments of initiation, Baptism and Confirmation. The general doctrine is traced from its biblical and traditional roots, through medieval development, to the Vatican Council II and contemporary sources. Attention is given to the Catholic doctrine of objective efficacy. The study of Baptism and Confirmation, including the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, informs the future priest about their origin and theological progression. Proper liturgical celebration is emphasized. A baptism practicum is included.

Theology of Priesthood

This course treats the theological and doctrinal foundations of ministerial priesthood originating in Jesus Christ and developing in the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the life of the Church. Biblical, Patristic, and later historical sources are examined closely. Particular attention is given to the Second Vatican Council and subsequent treatment by theology and magisterium, including study of the Rite of Ordination. The course treats Church teaching on celibacy and the reservation of orders to men, as well as providing a clear focus on diocesan priestly identity and spiritual life.

Theology of Eucharist

The aim of this course is to examine the theology of Eucharist as it has developed in the history of the Church, and to seek a contemporary statement of its principal theological issues. Since the course is developed within contemporary sacramental theology, it will also include an understanding of sacrament as it has emerged in the liturgical documents of and since Vatican Council II. Finally, though the major focus of the course is on doctrinal issues, it will also serve as an aid for preaching, liturgical celebration, and prayer. A practicum component is included.

Sacraments of Healing

The purpose of this course is to undertake a serious study of the way in which the Church deals with the realities of sin and sickness through its rituals of healing and comfort. A consideration of the historical and scriptural foundations of the sacraments of Penance and Anointing will be made in addition to a presentation of the contemporary developments since Vatican II.

A practicum component is included with careful emphasis on the role of priest as confessor.

Catholic Spiritual Tradition

This course will investigate the main trends, issues, and developments in Christian spirituality from the post-apostolic age to the present. As it seeks a deeper understanding and appreciation of the heritage of Christian spirituality, it also seeks to shed light upon and give assistance to our present-day spiritual journey.

Introduction to Patristic Theology

This course presents a survey of the development of doctrine in the early Church from the first century through the middle of the fifth century. The readings, lectures, student presentations and class discussions introduce the student to the conciliar teaching, theologies and personalities of the early Christian period.

Church History

Church History I: 100-1400

An introduction to the concerns, activities, and leaders of the Church as it faced persecution, integrated new cultures, and became the dominant force in European culture. Developments in doctrine, organization, and religious practice are studied through primary source readings.

Church History II: 1400 to Vatican II

A survey of the Western Church from the end of the Middle Ages through the crises of reform and modernity to the Second Vatican Council. This will include an emphasis on issues still affecting Christians today.

Pastoral Studies

Pastoral Theology

This course is intended to aid priestly formation for the ministry of pastoral care in parish settings. The course will help equip seminarians with theological

understandings of ministry and pastoral approaches to the New Evangelization.

As pastoral care involves a variety of ministerial roles, duties and relationships, consideration will be given to the kinds of collaboration needed in one or multiple parishes. Particular attention will be given to the spiritual fatherhood of the ordained priest. This course seeks to foster the integration of the course content with the personal development, pastoral formation, and spiritual identity of seminarians.

The Counseling Pastor: An Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

This course introduces candidates for the priesthood to the basic elements of pastoral counseling. The lectures and reading help students acquire listening skills, develop a pastoral relationship, provide insight and feedback, and action planning. With these basic counseling skills in place, the course addresses situations and issues that commonly arise in parochial ministry - such as substance abuse, physical and mental illness, and bereavement. Professional ethics in pastoral ministry envelops the entire course.

Introduction to Canon Law

An historical-theological consideration of the development of Church laws: the role of Church order, current pastoral approaches to Church law and ministry; structures in the Church community; law and sacraments; rights and due process.

Canon Law of Marriage

A historical-theological study of the Christian community's response to the biblical vision of marriage, together with a presentation and analysis of the Church's teaching and a canonical ordering of marriage as a juridical, sacramental, social, and ethical reality.

Integrative Colloquium

The central focus of the course is the research and presentation of a variety of case studies that are contextualized in parochial ministry. The course provides a context in which the students can express the integration and appropriation of their course of studies.

Liturgical Music Practicum (Non-credit course)

This weekly session of "learning by doing" prepares the seminarian to sing those parts of liturgy usually sung by the priest or deacon.

Speech I

Includes: preparation for preaching, reading liturgical texts, development of style and presence in public speaking.

Homiletics I

This course builds on the students' public speaking skills, provides the introductory tools by which effective homilies are prepared and delivered, and offers the students the opportunity to write and present several homilies.

Liturgical Preaching

In this advanced preaching course, ordination candidates utilize public speaking skills and preaching basics from previous courses to further develop the ability to communicate the Christian message through the art of liturgical preaching. Developing this practical pastoral skill contributes to the candidates' overall formation in cultivating a pastoral presence and the exercise of leadership in the Christian community. Course components include: the creation of a personal Preaching Formation Plan, weekly preaching labs, informative readings, instructor's presentations, and class discussions.

Upon completion of this course, the ordination candidate will be able to: prepare, compose, deliver, and evaluate homilies for Sunday Eucharist and other sacramental occasions, including baptism, penance services, weddings, funerals, and Marian feasts; establish one's own method for preparing and composing the homily; compose homilies in narrative form; deliver homilies in extemporaneous style and both receive and process feedback from listeners to improve one's preaching skills.



Jesus made Himself like the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies to give life. Our hope springs from that love-filled life.

-Pope Francis

Academic Credits by year

FIRST THEOLOGY

First Semester (9 credits)

Introduction to Philosophy*	
Church History I	3
Introduction to Patristic Theology	3
The Pentateuch and Historical Books	3
Speech	
Introduction to Human and Spiritual	
Formation I	

Second Semester (12 credits)

Medieval Philosophy*	
Fundamental Theology	3
Pastoral Theology	3
Church History II	3
Homiletics I	3
Introduction to Human and Spiritual	Non-credit
Formation II	

SECOND THEOLOGY

First Semester (15 credits)

Theological Anthropology	3
Synoptic Gospels	3
Moral Theology: Fundamental	3
Pastoral Counseling	3
Pastoral Assignment	3

Second Semester (15 credits)

Christology & Trinity	3
Prophets & Writings	3
Liturgical Studies	3
Catholic Spiritual Tradition	3
Pastoral Assignment	3

THIRD THEOLOGY

First Semester (16.5 credits)

Ecclesiology	3
Sacraments of Christian Initiation	3
Liturgical Preaching	3
Moral Theology: Catholic Social Doctrine	3
Elective	3
Pastoral Assignment	1.5

Second Semester (16.5 credits)

Theology of Priesthood	3
Introduction to Canon Law	3
Paul and the Pauline Letters	3
Moral Theology: Medical Ethics	3
Elective	3
Pastoral Assignment	1.5

FOURTH THEOLOGY

First Semester (15 credits)

Theology of Eucharist	3
Canon Law of Marriage	3
Johannine Writings	3
Elective	3
Pastoral Assignment	3

Second Semester (15 credits)

Sacraments of Healing	3
Moral Theology: Catholic Sexual Ethics	3
Integrative Colloquium	3
Elective	3
Pastoral Assignment	3
Liturgical music practicum	Non-credit

TOTAL: 114 Credits

Academic Requirements & Grading

Grading System

All courses are recorded in terms of credits or semester hours. Grades are recorded by letter; grade points are used to compute averages.

A	94-100	4.0
A-	90-93	3.7
B+	87-89	3.5
B	84-86	3.0
B-	80-83	2.7
C+	77-79	2.5
C	74-76	2.0
C-	70-73	1.7
D+	67-69	1.5
D	64-66	1.0
F	<64	0.0

A course marked Incomplete (I) must be finished by the end of the next semester. If not, it will be graded as an F. No credit is given for a course in which the student receives an F. If the course is required, it must be successfully completed before graduation. A student may withdraw from any course or seminar not in the core curriculum up to the fifth week of the semester with the permission of his faculty advisor, his professor, and the Academic Dean. The grade Withdrew (W) will then be recorded in the transcript.

Academic Standing - Minimum grades for passing a class --- Any grade less than 64 is an F and the student receives no credit. A '64' is not satisfactory, but it is the minimum for full credit.

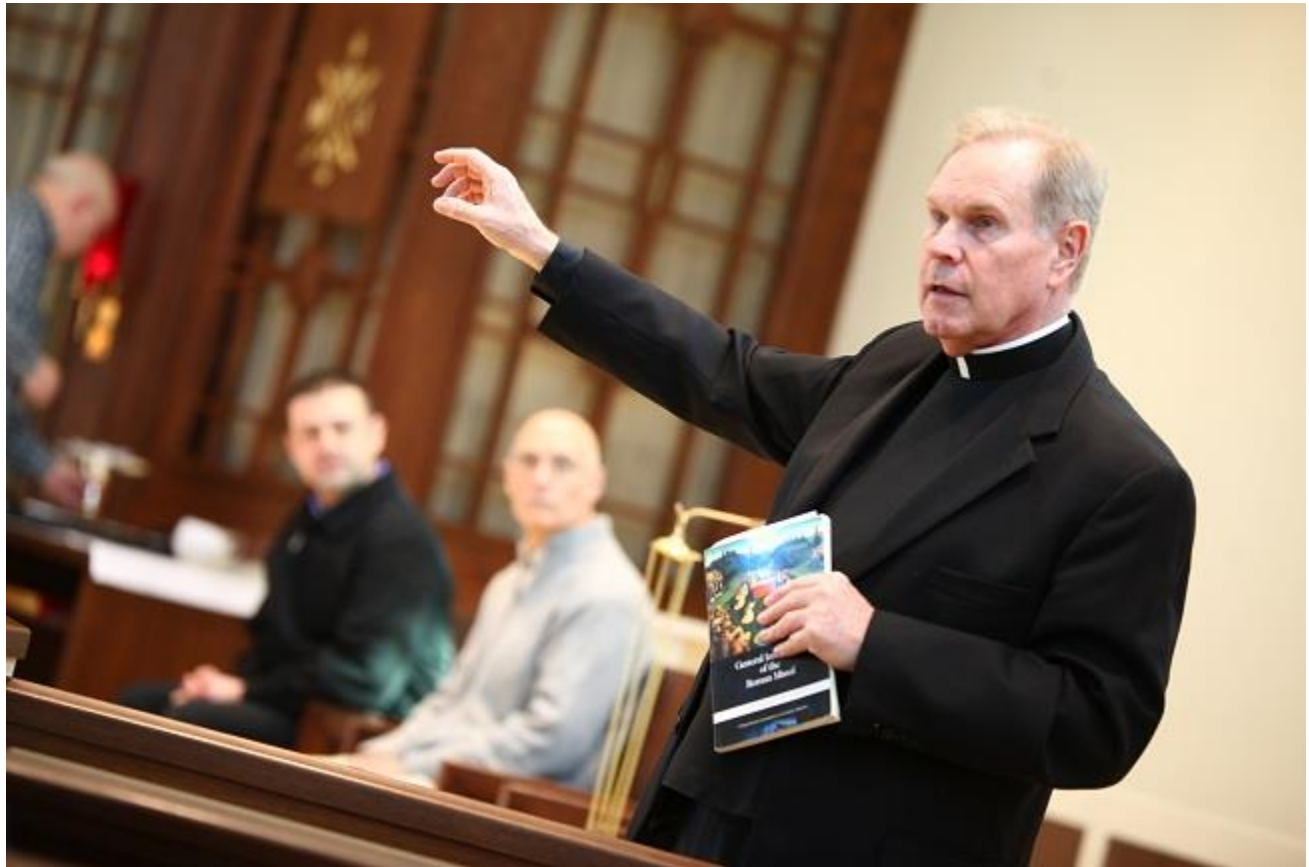
Conditions for interruption - The full-time faculty vote in April and May on whether a seminarian should continue his seminary program. This decision takes into account the Human/Personal qualities of the seminarian, the Pastoral ability shown in his pastoral assignments, the seminarian's engagement in the seminary's Spiritual program, as well as the seminarians Academic record. In deciding whether a seminarian should continue his seminary formation/education, the faculty consider all 4 of these aspects. To earn the M. Div. degree the seminarian needs a cumulate GPA for the CORE courses of 2.7 (See Academic Requirements)

The seminary has no "probationary" period. Any seminarian who is discontinued must go through the Admissions process again.

Progress Records --- The Seminary uses a cloud-based platform, Thinkwave, to record and store grades. Each seminarian has unlimited electronic access to a record of his grades. A paper copy of the seminarian's accumulated grades is sent at the end of the Spring semester to the seminarian's sponsoring diocese. Upon request, the seminary sends to the seminarian or alumnus a stamped and signed transcript.

Academic Requirements

To successfully complete the requirements for the Master of Divinity degree, the seminarian must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.7 for the required (CORE) courses.



Classes are held in the morning, with elective classes meeting in the afternoon. Many of the classes include a seminar component. The professors respect that they are engaged in teaching adult learners and teach in such a manner. Many of the courses help the students to explore ways in which theology meets practical problems encountered in ministry.

On occasion, an elective may be taken at St. John's Seminary (127 Lake St, Brighton, MA) should it better fit a seminarian's needs.

Guest lecturers are often invited to make presentations on timely topics. This is especially true for the Integrated Colloquium course.

Welcome from the Director of Spiritual Formation

I'm happy to offer a brief description of the programming at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary that supports spiritual growth.

A healthy, strong prayer life helps seminarians develop and mature. At the heart of this development is our daily celebration of the Eucharist. We also gather in the chapel to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, and for a weekly holy hour.

Each seminarian is assigned a spiritual director, a priest, with whom he meets on a regular basis. This important relationship allows a man the chance to explore his spiritual life more deeply.

Regular reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is encouraged. Men may go to confession to their own director, make use of a weekly offering in house, or go to confession in a local parish.

Each fall, seminarians go on retreat for five days. They are grouped together according to which class they are in. It's a silent, preached retreat, held at retreat houses in the region.

The spiritual directors also offer a conference three times each semester, and three times during the year time is set aside for the house to spend time in spiritual recollection, with the assistance of an outside presenter.

Finally, it's important to acknowledge the way the men help to form one another. Unplanned conversations, faith sharing groups, student-initiated prayer opportunities, exposure to helpful books and other media, and acts of service contribute to how men grow in their understanding of living as a priest of Jesus Christ.

Rev. William F. Murphy

Director of Spiritual Formation

Prayer Life



Prayer is at the heart of seminary life. Our day begins in prayer with the communal celebration of the Divine Office. The Eucharist is the source and the summit of our communal life. We gather for the Eucharist every day in our beautiful chapel. We celebrate special liturgies throughout the year including liturgies dedicated to the institutions of Acolyte, Reader and Admission to Candidacy. On Fridays, our celebration of the Mass is bilingual/ Spanish.

Ministries, Candidacy, Holy Orders

The Seminary employs a rhythm for the conferral of orders and ministries so that each one may be exercised for a suitable time.

The Seminary calendar reflects such a formative progression:

Acolyte - first theology

Reader - second theology

Candidacy - third theology

Diaconate/Priesthood - fourth theology

This sequence of ministries/orders is usually recommended to sponsoring Ordinaries by the Seminary, as it allows each seminarian to take on more thoughtfully and prayerfully the likeness of Christ in accepting priestly ordination.



Message from Director of Pastoral Ministry

Welcome to our Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary webpage! Thank you for your interest in the priestly formation program at Pope St. John... We have a very special program here that helps the more experienced man prepare for the Holy Priesthood.

We have designed the Pastoral Formation Program to help seminarians appreciate, understand, and experience the three key dimensions of priestly ministry that reflect the service and work of Jesus himself as *teacher*, *priest*, and *leader*.

A full priestly formation program provides a seminarian with “on the job training” in several different settings of pastoral ministry. Seminarians are given the opportunity to visit and work within a variety of parishes. They prepare and participate in liturgical celebrations, build evangelizing and faith formation skills, and develop effective communication skills in various settings. Our program brings seminarians to work among various age groups to experience the how and why of pastoral care with the younger and the older, the sick and the dying, the grieving and those who mourn. They are trained to give witness to all who need the hope that comes from the compassionate and merciful Good Shepherd.

Attention is given to social justice ministries through Catholic Charities, prison ministries, immigration services and respect for life programs. We help seminarians to prepare for parish leadership with the different age groups, families, and individuals. Seminarians are guided to offer pastoral outreach to those struggling with cultural, personal, and social challenges.

"The whole formation imparted to candidates for the priesthood aims at preparing them to enter into communion with the charity of Christ the Good Shepherd. Hence, their formation in its different aspects must have a fundamentally pastoral character."

(Pastores Dabo Vobis, #57)



New seminarians first visit different types of parishes for Sunday Eucharist, fellowship with parishioners and to meet experienced and seasoned pastors and staffs. Each subsequent year, seminarians work on different projects as pastoral interns. They are assisted along the way by several talented pastoral supervisors; these supervisors are great supporters to our pastoral formation program and seminarians. This “field” experience provides opportunities and builds relationships to help seminarians develop leadership and team-building skills. Additionally, summer programs and trainings provide other occasions for seminarians to learn languages, cultures, enrich spiritual growth and understand diocesan parish life and ministry in their home diocese.

Together, all these experiences of priestly life and ministry are intended to enhance a seminarian’s competence for the ministry and to build their confidence in preparation for Holy Orders.

Please stop by often to see where and how these men prepare for the great mission to teach, bless, and lead like the Lord!

God bless you and stay strong,

Rev. Stephen J. Linehan
Director of Pastoral Formation

Message from Dean of Seminarians

As Dean of Seminarians, I welcome the opportunity to provide a short overview of the seminarian's experience at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. As a theological institution dedicated to the preparation of second-career seminarians, it is important for us to respect and to integrate the life experiences and accomplishments of our seminarians. The various aspects of seminary life at Pope St. John XXIII reflect our commitment to this goal.

Once a week we gather for communal Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

The seminary has three fulltime spiritual directors, and each student meets on a regular basis with his spiritual director. The spiritual directors also offer monthly conferences. The Sacrament of Penance is available at any time, although it is scheduled on a weekly basis with the assistance of outside confessors. The seminary has a week's retreat during the month of October.

It is our mission to provide priests who are men of God and of the church. It is our goal to help form priests who can lead, teach, and shepherd God's people with integrity, commitment, imagination, and mercy. Men who are configured to Christ the Good Shepherd.

We are grateful for our many alumni who are serving the church throughout the country and the world.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Stephen J. Linehan
Dean of Seminarians

Community



We also gather as a community for meals and for various social celebrations. These gatherings help nurture a good sense of community. We realize that if a priest is to be a man of communion an important dimension to achieving this goal is a strong community life. The seminary has various house committees that offer valuable input and advice to assist the faculty in establishing seminary policies and new initiatives. They also nurture a sense of collaboration within the community.

The students are encouraged to take advantage of the many cultural and sporting events that are in our vicinity.

We have recreation privileges in a nearby college in which the pool and sports complex are available to us. We also have a small gym on campus. The seminary has recently endorsed a nutrition program to assist all of us in embracing a healthier diet and lifestyle. Many of our guests remark of that in our community they experienced great joy and hospitality.

Campus



The Seminary is in Weston, Massachusetts, 13 miles west of downtown Boston, on over 35 acres of wooded land. Our proximity to Boston makes available to us numerous educational, cultural, and recreational opportunities. The Seminary features the main chapel and dining room on the first floor, where two exceptional chefs prepare meals which are served family style. Residence areas are on the first and second floors. Seminarians are assigned a single room and share a bathroom/shower with their neighbor. Rooms are equipped with high-speed internet/local area network connection and cable TV hookup. In addition to classrooms and offices, the building has a learning center, media room, bookstore, laundry, computer lab and seminarian lounges

All classrooms are equipped with wireless internet access. A smoke free environment is preserved in the building.

2020-2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2020 SEMESTER

Arrival of new students	Aug. 24 (Mon.)
Arrival of upper classes for evening meal	Aug. 30 (Sun.)
Orientation for entire student body	Aug. 31 (Mon.)
Classes begin	Sept. 1 (Tues.)
Mass of the Holy Spirit	Sept. 4 (Fri.)
Labor Day (No Classes)	Sept. 7 (Mon.)
Full Faculty Meeting	Sept. 15 (Tues.)
Retreat (beginning in the evening)	Oct. 11 (Sun.)
Retreat (ending at noon)	Oct. 16 (Fri.)
Regular Pastoral Assignments Resume	Oct. 17-18 (Sat.-Sun.)
Classes Resume	Oct.19 (Mon.)
All Saints Day	Nov. 1 (Sun.)
Thanksgiving Break (after classes & pastoral assignments)	Nov.24 (Tues.)
Classes resume	Nov.30 (Mon.)
Immaculate Conception (No classes)	Dec. 8 (Tues.)
Last Class Day	Dec.14 (Mon.)
Study Day	Dec.15 (Tues.)
Examinations	Dec. 16-19 (Wed. – Sat.)

SPRING 2021 SEMESTER

DAY OF PRAYER (Mandatory Attendance)	Jan. 10 (Sun.)
Second Semester Classes begin	Jan. 11 (Mon.)
Full Faculty Meeting	Jan. 12 (Tues.)
Martin Luther King Day observed (no classes)	Jan. 18 (Mon.)
National March for Life	Jan. 29 (Fri.)
Presidents' Day (no classes)	Feb. 15 (Mon.)
Ash Wednesday (no classes)	Feb. 17 (Wed.)
Spring Break	March 1-6
Classes Resume	March 8 (Mon.)
Easter Break begins	March 29 (Mon.)
Classes resume	April 12 (Mon.)
Last Class Day	May 12 (Wed.)
Study Day	May 13 (Thurs.)
Examinations	May 14-18 (Fri.-Tues.)

2021-2022 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

FALL 2021 SEMESTER

Arrival of new students	Aug. 23 (Mon.)
Arrival of upper classes for evening meal	Aug. 29 (Sun.)
Orientation for entire student body	Aug. 30 (Mon.)
Classes begin	Aug. 31 (Tues.)
Mass of the Holy Spirit	Sept. 3 (Fri.)
Labor Day (No Classes)	Sept. 6 (Mon.)
Full Faculty Meeting	Sept. 14 (Tues.)
Retreat (beginning in the evening)	Oct. 10 (Sun.)
Retreat (ending at noon)	Oct. 15 (Fri.)
Regular Pastoral Assignments Resume	Oct. 16-17 (Sat.-Sun.)
Classes Resume	Oct.18 (Mon.)
All Saints Day (No classes)	Nov. 1 (Mon.)
Thanks. Vacation after classes & pastoral assignments	Nov.23 (Tues.)
Classes resume	Nov.29 (Mon.)
Immaculate Conception (No classes)	Dec. 8 (Wed.)
Last Class Day	Dec.13 (Mon.)
Study Day	Dec.14 (Tues.)
Examinations	Dec. 15-18 (Wed. – Sat.)

SPRING 2022 SEMESTER

DAY OF PRAYER (Mandatory Attendance)	Jan. 9 (Sun.)
Second Semester Classes begin	Jan. 10 (Mon.)
Full Faculty Meeting	Jan. 11 (Tues.)
Martin Luther King Day observed (no classes)	Jan. 17 (Mon.)
National March for Life	Jan. 21 (Fri.)
Presidents' Day (no classes)	Feb. 21 (Mon.)
Ash Wednesday (no classes)	March 2 (Wed.)
Spring Break	March 7-12
Classes Resume	March 14 (Mon.)
Easter Break begins	April 11 (Mon.)
Classes resume	April 25 (Mon.)
Last Class Day	May 9 (Mon.)
Study Day	May 10 (Tues.)
Examinations	May 11-14 (Wed.-Sat.)



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

558 South Avenue • Weston, Massachusetts 02493 781.899.5500 www.psjs.edu

Additional POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY Statements for Catalog
2020-2021

Subject: Additional Information for Seminary Catalog
Date: Academic Year 2020/2021
CC: Massachusetts Dept. of Higher Education (DHE), Academic and
Veterans Affairs

The Theology Program, leading to the degree of Master of Divinity (MDiv), is a coherent, comprehensive, four-year program offering intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral formation for candidates to the Catholic priesthood. In the past five years (2017-2021) 84 students have entered the Theology Program, and 64 students have completed it, which results in a completion rate of 76%. With successful completion of the Theology Program, seminarians are then ordained to the Catholic priesthood with a 100% job placement rate throughout New England and beyond.

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY Graduation Rates:

6-Year Graduation Rates

2016 Cohort- 56%
2017 Cohort- 83%
2018 Cohort- 80%
2019 Cohort- 82%
2020 Cohort- 83%
2021 Cohort- 60%

3-Year Job Placement Rates

Class of 2019 – employed 100% full time and part time
Class of 2020 – employed 100% full time and part time
Class of 2021 – employed 100% full time and part time

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary (PSJS) does not engage in misleading or erroneous recruitment when recruiting students. Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary abides by the Accreditation of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada.

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary owners, administrators, directors, and instructors are of good character and reputation. As a MA National Seminary, PSJS is regulated by the MA state guidelines for all those who are employed at the seminary.

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's educational and experience qualifications of directors, administrators, and instructors are adequate. As a MA National Seminary, we are regulated by the MA state guidelines for all those who are employed at the seminary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle M. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "R".

Administrator/SCO Signature

Contact Us

Mailing Address

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Weston, MA 02493

Main Telephone: 781-899-5500

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seminary@psjs.edu

Directions to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Located 13 miles west of downtown Boston, about a twenty-minute drive, depending on traffic.

From Logan Airport & Boston - go west on the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90), to Exit 123 - Route 30 West.

Continue west on Route 30 for approximately 2 1/4 miles and the Seminary will be on the left.

If traveling north or south on Interstate 95/128 - take Exit 24 to Route 30 West. Continue west on Route 30 for approximately 3 miles and the Seminary will be on the left.

If traveling East on the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) - take Exit 13 to Route 30 East. Continue east on Route 30 approximately 4 1/2 miles and the Seminary will be on your right.

From Route 9 in Wellesley - turn north onto Weston Road and continue for approximately 2 miles. (Note - this street is renamed Wellesley Road at the Weston town line). Turn left onto Route 30 (South Avenue). The Seminary will be 1/4 mile on the left.

