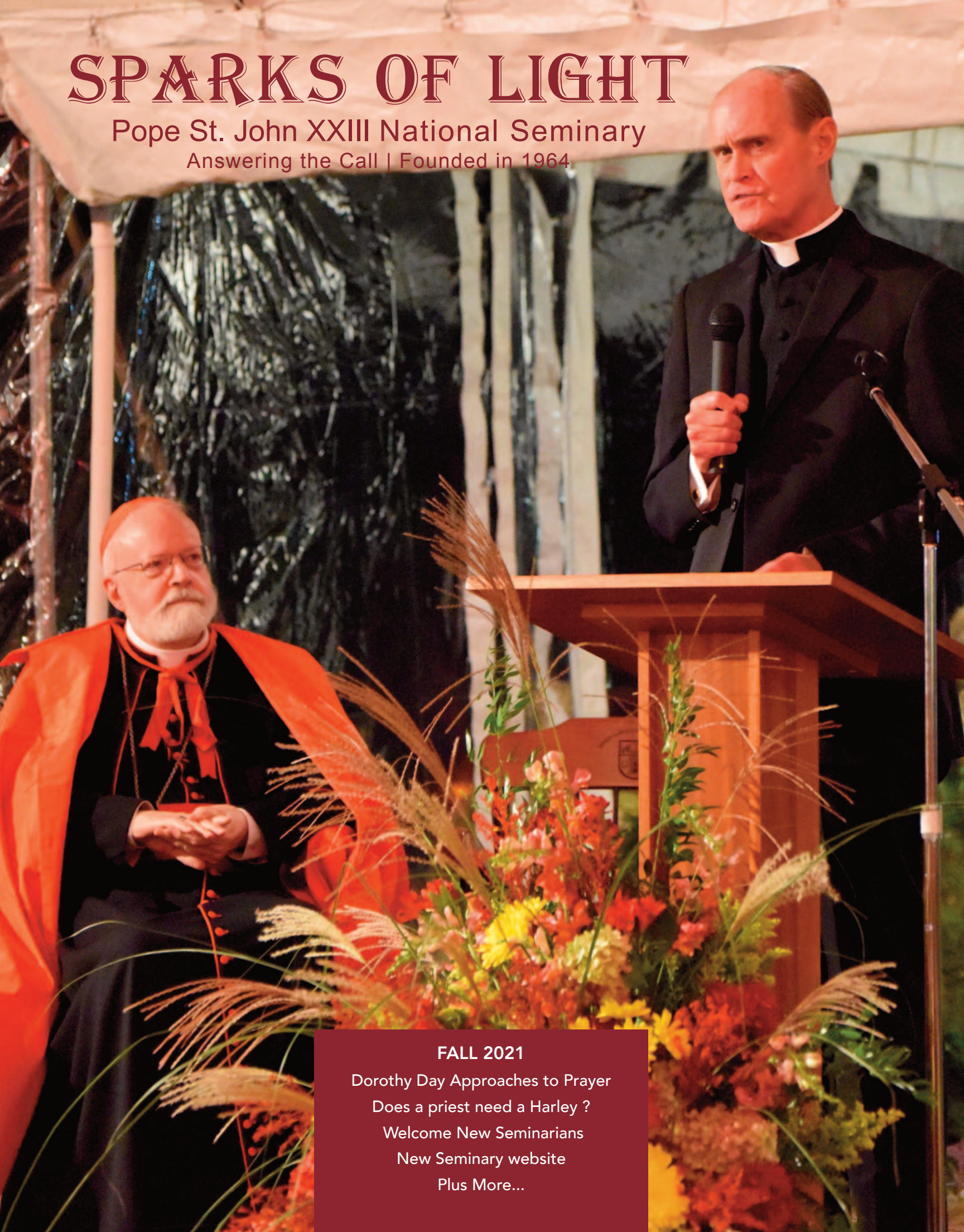


SPARKS OF LIGHT

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Answering the Call | Founded in 1964



FALL 2021

Dorothy Day Approaches to Prayer

Does a priest need a Harley ?

Welcome New Seminarians

New Seminary website

Plus More...

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



Each year around this time, with the notable exception of last year, airports, highways, and train stations are packed with people heading home for the

Thanksgiving holiday. This is a special moment when we gather to share a meal with our loved ones and to reflect upon our blessings. Although Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States and observed by people of all faiths, the act of giving thanks as a family is something that Catholics do whenever we gather for Mass.

The Eucharist, which means to give thanks, is the central act of our faith as we gather to thank God for all that He has done for us, for the blessings that He has bestowed upon us, and for the Unbreakable Bond of Charity that unites us as a family. The Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, Who we receive in Holy Communion, unites us to each other and to Him as we share in the Memorial of Christ's sacrificial Death and give Him thanks for the New Life that He won for us on Calvary.

At Pope St. John Seminary, we have received so many blessings from our gracious Lord, some of which you will read about in this edition of **Sparks of Light**. We are grateful for the blessing of the incoming class of seminarians and for the tremendous inspiration that they provide to us by the witness of their response to God's call. They enrich this community in ways far too numerous to mention here but we thank God for the gift that they are to this community.

We thank God as well for the new members of our Faculty, our Staff, and our Board of Trustees. We are especially grateful to our friends and benefactors who helped make our 40th Annual Lawn Party such an overwhelming success. We are grateful for the

blessing that our alumni are to us and to the entire Church and for the many blessings that their dedicated and generous service provides for His people.

While we acknowledge blessings, we are conscious of those who are no longer with us. We are grateful to God for Mrs. Kyle Ryan, who served this Seminary as its Chief Financial Officer for over 18 years. She retired from her position, and we pray that God will reward her for all that she did for this community. We give thanks as well for all our benefactors and friends who have gone before us in faith and who we pray are resting in the Peace of God's Kingdom. We are especially mindful of the Reverend Msgr. Dennis F. Sheehan, our former Rector, and Reverend Joseph K. Fagan, who served as a Spiritual Director for many years. May God reward them for their faithful and generous service.

Lastly, and most importantly of all, we give thanks to God for the Precious Gift of His Son. Our Baptism unites us to Him and to one another and makes us brothers and sisters in His family. Just as you will undoubtedly be conscious of those absent from your Thanksgiving celebration, we miss those who, for whatever reason, are unable to participate in our weekly celebration. Both your celebration and the Sunday Mass would be even more joyful when everybody is gathered around the Table. The Eucharist is our Harvest of Love and there is always room at the Table for everybody.

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

Fraternally

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely
Rector

Administration

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely
Rector and President

Rev. Paul Miceli
Vice Rector
Director of Human Formation

Rev. William F. Murphy
Director of Spiritual Formation

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

Dr. Anthony Keaty
Academic Dean/Registrar

Dr. John Millard
Margarete and John McNeice, Jr.
Chair in Pre-Theology

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

Mr. John E. Corcoran

Sr. Judith Costello, CSJ

Mr. Scott A. Gieselmann

Mr. Daniel Lagan

Dr. John LaRossa

Ms. Susan M. Looney

Mr. John H. MacKinnon

Mr. David J. Madigan

Most Rev. James Massa

Ms. Mary Ann McLaughlin

Rev. Kevin T. Mulligan '15

Mr. R. Newcomb Stillwell

Most Rev. Peter J. Uglietto

The Servant of God, Dorothy Day Approaches to Prayer

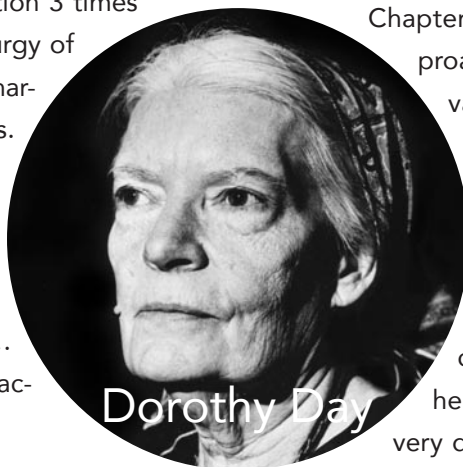
Fr. Vincent Daily, Spiritual Director



Obviously, one of the most important responsibilities of a seminary spiritual director is to assist the seminarian in cultivating a deep and authentic life of prayer. Certainly, the people of God expect and have the right to expect that their priests will be holy and prayerful men. In fact, no priestly vocation can be sustained or lived authentically without constant union with Christ, which is the essence of prayer. One can definitely observe that there is a wonderful culture of prayer here at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. The center of each day is the celebration of the Eucharist. We celebrate Eucharistic Adoration 3 times during the week and we celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours faithfully. At any given time, seminarians are participating in various devotions. There are prayerful small group discussions. The Rosary is recited in common (in at least 3 languages!). It is particularly edifying to see seminarians and faculty simply taking time in the Chapel for personal prayer ... quiet prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

prayer life.

The Servant of God, Dorothy Day, never claimed to be a theologian. She would describe herself as being “an observational journalist.” However, when her Cause for Sainthood was introduced in the Archdiocese of New York in 1997, John Cardinal O’Connor remarked that in her life and work she “truly lived in light of The Passion of Christ”, and that her extensive body of writing expressed sound Catholic teaching.



The Church nourishes the Faithful with many schools of prayer. Through the centuries, the Lord has provided us with every manner of Saint to assist us on our respective journeys. There is a Saint and a path for us all. Several years ago, I had the privilege of completing a doctoral thesis entitled “The Lived Theology of Dorothy Day.” It is basically a study of her conversion to the Catholic Faith, her apostolic work, and most importantly, a survey of her writings on her spiritual life. What I thought would be just an academic exercise actually turned out to be a very practical tool for guiding seminarians and strengthening my own

Chapter 5 of my thesis is titled “Dorothy Day’s Approaches to Prayer.” I found so many of her observations and recollections on prayer appealing and very down to earth. She recounts that her prayer life came together gradually with simplicity, ease and a joy. After many tumultuous years and personal tragedy, she took great consolation in simply making visits to Catholic churches around New York City. Even before her reception into the Catholic Church, she felt very drawn just to be in the physical space of a church ... looking at the artwork, the altar, the smell of incense, the candles ... all conducive to bringing her prayerful peace. Dorothy Day commented once that the most blessed impression left on her from these visits was seeing the faithful and their devotion, the humble example of the “salt of the earth” at prayer. She loved to walk by the seacoast on Staten Island and recite the Rosary. She once recounted, “At first I’m sure that I wasn’t praying it correctly, but I kept on saying it because it made me happy”. Simple, beautiful beginnings.

Continued on pg. 9

WELCOME NEW SEMINARIANS



PATRICK BRUEN
Archdiocese of Detroit
1st Theology

Pat has a technical background and was in the IT field for most of his working life as a salesman. More recently, he owned his own company processing payroll for small businesses.

"I was married for 40 years and raised three children. They are all married and have given me 14 grandchildren. When my wife passed away, I began to feel called to the priesthood. I didn't think it was possible at first, but Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary gave me the option. Also, my father has been a permanent deacon since 1978. He is 88 years old and still preaches every Sunday. I am blessed that he was able to officiate at my wedding, at all of my children's weddings, and at all of the baptisms of my children and grandchildren. I am blessed, indeed!"



WILLIAM BURNS
Diocese of Orlando
1st Theology

Bill comes to Pope St. John XXIII from the Diocese of Orlando, where he had a twenty-three year career working in parish religious education, diocesan ministry certification, high school theological instruction, pastoral ministry, and parish administration.

"As a young adult I felt a calling to the priesthood, but I was reluctant to make the commitment. Instead, as a lay person, I went into theological studies and entered parish ministry. My first vocation has been raising my wonderful daughter who is now twenty-one and attends Florida State University. She is extremely supportive of my discernment process...and had the wonderful idea of driving up from Florida with me to "drop me off at school" and then fly back home. It was a cherished road trip.

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary has a great reputation among the clergy of my diocese. My bishop, pastor, and diocesan vocations committee believe this seminary is the best place for my formation, and I certainly agree. It is a blessing to be here."



BRIAN T. DELANEY
Archdiocese of Boston
1st Theology

Brian arrived at Pope St. John XXIII after 40 years in the Defense Field, both in the corporate world and in the US Navy. He recently retired from Raytheon Missiles and Defense as a Senior Manager, Global Security Services. Brian is a widower, married 36 years and has a wonderful daughter and granddaughter.

"I humbly served two parish communities within the Archdiocese of Boston in various ministries over 34 years, growing stronger in my faith and relationship with the Lord. Over the past couple of years, I have been discerning a stronger vocation, initially to the permanent diaconate, which ultimately led to the priesthood. I am truly blessed and grateful to the Archdiocese of Boston and Pope St. John XXIII for the opportunity to broaden and grow in my faith to spread His Love and Mercy to others."



THOMAS FALLATI
Diocese of Albany
1st Theology

Tom grew up in upstate New York. He worked as an attorney for over twenty-five years in New York City and Albany, serving as a federal prosecutor and working in private practice in litigation. Tom has been

active in parish ministry and in the diocesan Catholic Lawyers Guild, and he earned an M.Div. from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. Tom was married previously, and his son, Luke, is a sophomore at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

"My vocation grew out of my work in ministry. As I was discerning my path after marriage, I realized more and more how much joy and peace I found working in ministry, especially in my parish. Through the great support of our diocesan discernment program, I began to hear the Lord's call to the priesthood. I am grateful to the Lord for this new path and to be able to follow the many priests from our diocese who received their formation at PSJS."



JOHN IPPOLITO
Archdiocese of New York
1st Theology

Born and raised in Staten Island, New York, John worked in the area of rehabilitation before entering PSJS. John worked as both a Rehabilitation Practitioner and a Director of Rehabilitation with experience

treating patients who sustained spinal cord injuries and cerebral vascular accidents.

"I have been thinking about the priesthood since I have been in College, 'politely ignoring' the calling throughout the years but the 'gravitational pull' to this vocation has become much stronger. One important reason that God is calling me to PSJS is that the seminarians are older, more mature, and have had a prior career. I spoke with alumni and current seminarians and they assisted me in understanding that interactions here will be professional, intellectual, spiritual, and mature. I truly believe that this seminary will nurture my vocation."



BR. JOHN KIM, OCSO
St. Joseph Abbey, Spencer MA
1st Theology

Br. John was born in South Korea to a devout Catholic family. After graduating from college, he taught high school English in Korea. Yet, a yearning for God and a desire for deeper meaning tugged at his heart. In response to God's call, he entered the Trappist monastery of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer and began a new life in answer to the Lord's invitation.

"Now, with eleven years as a monk behind me, a new chapter is opening, a time that will prepare me for service to my monastic brothers through the liturgy and sacraments of the holy priesthood.

I know there will be challenges. But my monastery has a long relationship with PSJS going back to Fr. Simon Sansone '89, Vincent Rogers '10 (now our abbot), Fr. Emmanuel Morinelli '14, and Br. Stephen Shanahan '21. These brothers have all impressed upon me the extraordinary support of the PSJS faculty. My first year is just beginning but I have already witnessed that same generous encouragement and I am most grateful!"



WILLIAM PATRICK LONG
Diocese of Venice
1st Theology

The second of six children, Patrick grew up a cradle Catholic in Sarasota, Florida and spent most of his business career in Healthcare Marketing. By being involved in various ministries at different times, including Eucharistic Minister, Religious Education, Youth Group Ministry and Pro Life Work as well as his daily reception of the Eucharist, recitation of the Rosary, and regular Spiritual Direction, Patrick says God's call became clear. When the Diocese recommended PSJS, Patrick was pleased to be going to a seminary staffed by Diocesan priests, many of whom have served in active parishes.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to study at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. I appreciate the balanced approach by the seminary with their genuine focus on of the Four Dimensions of Priestly Formation: Human, Spiritual, Intellectual and Pastoral."



CLIFTON MASTRAN
Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.
2nd Theology

Clifton grew up in Florida with his parents and younger brother and attended the University of Florida. Before entering Pope St. John XXIII, he attained an 18-year professional career in the Department of Defense, 7 years in Rhode Island and 11 in Washington, D.C., Clifton entered seminary at Saint John Paul II for 2 years and has now transferred to PSJS.

"The Lord called out to me from the very depths of my soul! God had been working on me for a number of years, and when the time was right, the doors were finally opened. I am so grateful to have been given this vocation from Jesus, and I have never been more happy or excited in my entire life. Through the actions of the Holy Spirit, I was brought to PSJS to continue my journey with the Lord on the road to serving in His Holy Priesthood. I am so grateful to be here!"

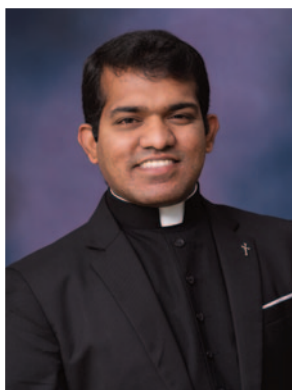


PAUL MCDONALD
Diocese of Albany
1st Theology

Prior to entering formal discernment, Paul taught and coached tennis for 12 years. He has also worked as a commercial actor and model. He is a convert to the Catholic faith. Paul has earned both a bachelor's degree in drama studies from Purchase College and a master's degree in pastoral studies from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.

"Shortly after my conversion, I began to hear God's call to the priesthood. In 2016, I decided to study catechetics and evangelization at the graduate level through Franciscan University of Steubenville, and the call became clearer. As I told my vocation director when we first met, the idea of the priesthood seemed to me to appear in technicolor, while the idea of pursuing all other paths appeared in only shades of gray. In 2019 I entered the formation program in the diocese of Albany. PSJS has a great reputation among the priests and seminarians within the diocese of Albany, and I am grateful for the opportunity to become a part of that tradition."

WELCOME NEW SEMINARIANS



RAJESH RAVI
Archdiocese of New York
2nd Theology

Rajesh is from Tamil Nadu, India and is studying for the Archdiocese of New York. Rajesh was a missionary for several years, working with both school age and college students - not only in Christian schools and colleges

but also with various religion and nonreligion students.

"I was asked by the missionaries to work with the young immigrants here in America. Through these services, Christ's call to His priesthood was very clear to me. I received my call to consecrate my life to God through the exemplary life of my parents. Their faith and dedication strengthened the love for God in my life and the life of my sisters. My parents receive communion every day, engage in family prayer, and were often reading the Bible for us and telling the stories of the saints. These were the tools we received from our parents to taste the love of our God."



CHARLES TUPTA
Rock Hill Oratory, SC
1st Theology

Charles comes to PSJS from The Oratory in Rock Hill, SC. Before becoming an Oratorian he had a successful 35 year business career in finance, marketing and publishing, retiring early to own and operate

a small inn. Prior to his business career he had ten years of seminary training for the missionary priesthood. He is originally from Pennsylvania and has also lived in Chicago.

"My whole life has been responding to a call to priesthood. I have had many years of wonderful lay ministry and leadership in the church and now I am with a community of loving Oratorian brothers. Through every step of the journey, I have been surrounded, strengthened, and called deeper into the incarnate and redemptive love of Jesus Christ. I have learned that the only privilege of the ministerial priesthood is to love and serve the people of God. At the age of 59, there is no other formation program with an established history, number of candidates from so many dioceses, orders and communities, and a staff dedicated to older candidates. I am honored and privileged to be here to further the life of such an important institution."



ANH VU
Diocese of Bridgeport
4th Theology

Anh Vu was born in Vietnam to a Catholic family and has six siblings. Before discerning a call to the priesthood, Anh was a mechanical engineer and worked in Saigon in Vietnam. During that time, he had a great chance to help his pastor in many ways – as sacristan, altar server, and catechist for children on Sundays - at Holy Family Parish in Saigon for seven years.

"In Saigon, I also went with my pastor to visit the sick in their homes and hospitals. All of these works were my first experiences in the ministry and mission of the church. Spending time with our Lord Jesus in chapel and serving his people motivated me to enter the seminary. So, in 2011, I moved to Connecticut to study. After a long time of discernment, I finally decided to join a minor seminary of the Diocese of Bridgeport, where I finished my BA in philosophy. So many priests and seminarians told me about the excellent formation program for the priesthood at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. I am happy to be here this year."

WELCOME NEW SEMINARIANS



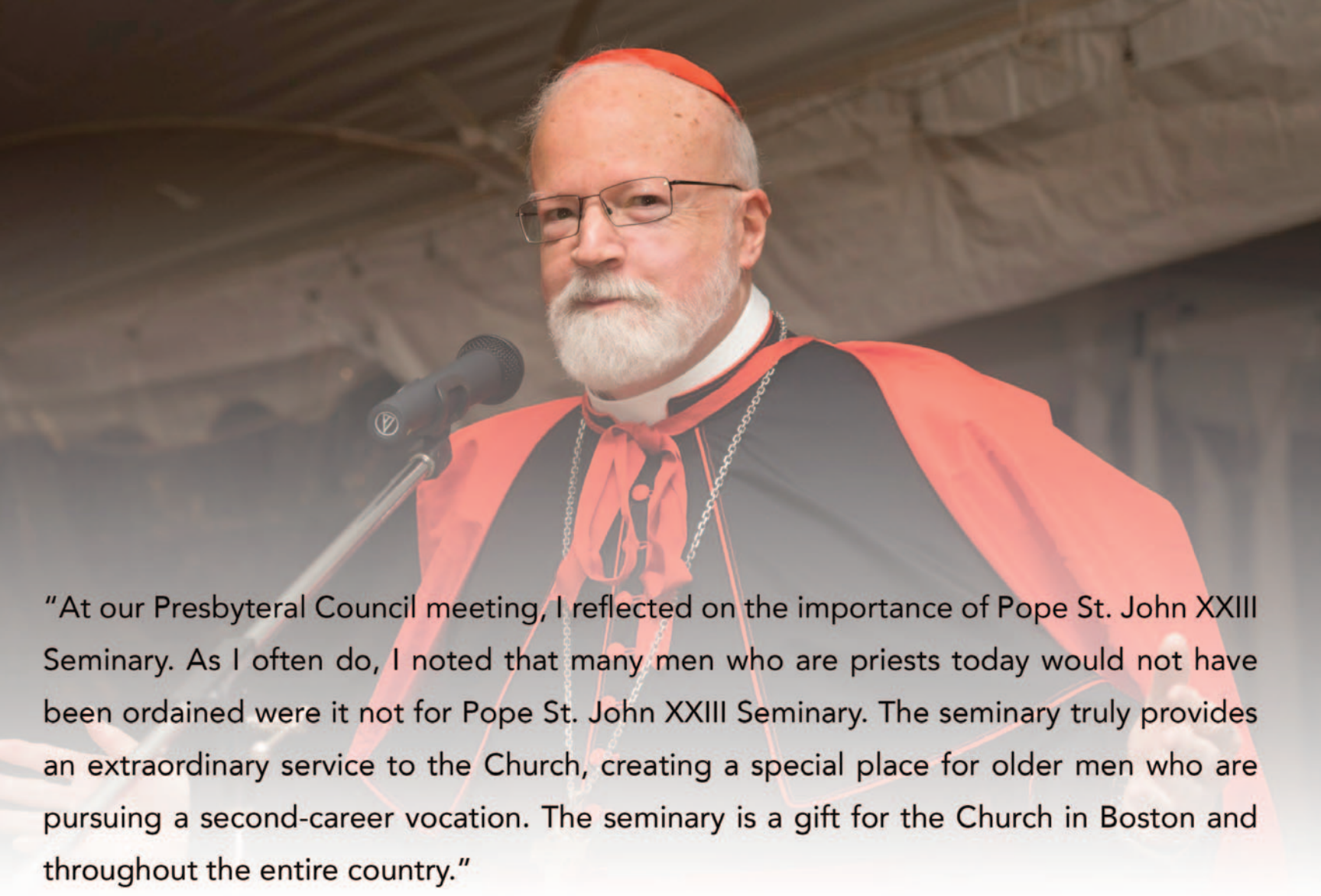
JOHN WILLIAMS

Diocese of Springfield, MA

1st Theology

Prior to Pope Saint John XXIII, John worked for a decade in Jesuit high school education. He is also a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and Operation Iraqi Freedom. John holds an M.A. in Philosophical Studies from Mount St. Mary's University and a B.A. in Social Sciences from Chapman University. He is originally from Fairfax County, Virginia.

"I credit my decision to enter seminary to my experiences in a large Catholic family, Catholic schools, and the friendship and example of Catholic priests. I was inspired to apply after reading a November 2020 op-ed by Pope Francis in the New York Times, regarding the "stoppage of time" due to the COVID-19 epidemic: 'this can be a moment ripe for change: a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities...and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of.'"

A photograph of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a red zucchetto, a white clerical collar, a red sash, and a red cape over a black garment. He has a white beard and glasses. A microphone is in front of him. The background is a textured, light-colored wall.

"At our Presbyteral Council meeting, I reflected on the importance of Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. As I often do, I noted that many men who are priests today would not have been ordained were it not for Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. The seminary truly provides an extraordinary service to the Church, creating a special place for older men who are pursuing a second-career vocation. The seminary is a gift for the Church in Boston and throughout the entire country."

- Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston

Continued from pg. 2

In a retreat conference dated January 28, 1951, entitled, "How to Pray", the Servant of God summarizes her basic theology of prayer: "Prayer is an effect of love. If you love, you pray. Prayer is raising our hearts and minds. As humans we have two great faculties, mind and will. Prayer is not a short mumbling of words. It is not directed toward self as an outlet for our feelings. It must be an effort to contact God. We may find it hard, dry or cold, but the effort must be there. St. Thomas Aquinas says unless distractions are deliberate they in no way lessen the merit or efficacy of the prayer. There is only one thing that distractions will take from you: the consolations, refreshment, and rest of prayer. But these are not the most important. Prayer has to be doctrinal. Not sentimental. Not subjective. Good will is not enough. It has to be good sense."

There were many facets to Dorothy Day's interior life. She was a Benediction Oblate. She had a deep devotion to St. Francis of Assisi. Her most beloved saint was St. Therese of Lisieux and she sought to follow The Little Way ... every day and with everyone. When Dorothy Day converted to the Catholic Church she embraced it all. She also had a tremendous love for priests. She once remarked that priests are there for us at every sacred moment of life; to Baptize, to absolve, to marry, and to anoint. However, she appreciated priests most especially for offering us the Holy Mass ... "I would not dare to write or speak or try to follow the vocation God has given me without the constant reassurance of the Mass and the confidence the Mass gives". We pray that this rings true for every seminarian here at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary and for every Christian!

ADDITIONS TO THE TEAM



Rev. Scott Surrency, OFM Cap., was born in Lakeland, Florida, and grew up in Southwest Florida and Southeast Georgia. After graduating from the University of Georgia in Athens, he attended Yale University for doctoral studies in Italian literature. He taught Italian at Penn State University for a number of years and then decided to take a break from academia to live and work in New York City, where he eventually met the Capuchin Franciscan friars. A convert to Catholicism, Fr. Scott was invested in the Capuchin habit in 2011 at the Capuchin novitiate in Santa Inés, California, and was ordained a priest in 2017 after completing his theological studies and pastoral formation at Boston College. After his ordination, he served as parochial vicar at St. Pius X Church in Middletown, Connecticut. He returned to the Boston area in the Fall of 2020 to complete his thesis on St. John Chrysostom for the License of Sacred Theology while assisting at the Our Lady of Good Voyage Seaport Shrine and at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Brookline. He joined the faculty of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in August 2021.



Msgr. Robert Oliver, BH, was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston in 2000 and this past August joined the full-time faculty at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. Msgr. Oliver has over twenty years of experience in conducting canonical penal processes and in safeguarding minors and vulnerable persons from abuse, including service as the Secretary for the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Promoter of Justice for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Special Assistant to Vicar General/Moderator of the Curia in the Archdiocese of Boston. His teaching experience includes systematic theology and canon law at St. John's Seminary in Brighton and canon law at the Catholic University of America. Education: Dartmouth College, A.B., History (1982); Pontifical Gregorian University, S.T.D., Ecclesiology (1997); and Catholic University of America, J.C.D. (2002).

We welcome **Ms. Lynda Russo** to the Seminary as the new Controller and look forward to her contributions and friendship as she takes up her new role and joins us in moving the Seminary forward on a sure-footed path.

A warm welcome from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary to **Mr. Dan Lagan** and **Mr. R. Newcomb Stillwell** as they join the Board of Trustees this fall. We look forward to working with them and having their insight during strategic planning.



AROUND THE SEMINARY

Kyle Ryan Retires

In late September, Fr. Brian Kiely shared news with the faculty, seminarians, and staff that Kyle Ryan would retire from her position as CFO. We would like to share with you his message about Kyle's tenure and footprint at the Seminary:

"I want to share with you some bittersweet news. As some of you might know, MRS. KYLE RYAN, will be retiring later this month from her position as the Chief Financial Officer of Pope St. John Seminary XXIII. That title of CFO does not begin to describe the tremendous contributions that Kyle has made to this institution and to all of us over the years. Kyle has been an indefatigable collaborator and a valued confidant to the Rector and to the community since her arrival here some 18 years ago. It is an understatement to say that we will miss her since I know that her professionalism, kindness, and dedicated service could never be duplicated. I know that my predecessors and I have relied upon Kyle for so many different things and she has been so generous in her response to whatever has been asked of her. For me personally, she has been a trusted advisor, competent administrator, and above all, a great friend. I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Kyle the happiness in retirement that she so justly deserves. Let us pray that the joy and happiness that she has brought into our lives will be returned to her and that God will bless her with His abundant graces. I want to assure Kyle of our tremendous respect and gratitude for all that she has done to enrich our lives and to promise her a permanent place in our hearts and prayers as she begins this new phase of her life. May God reward her for all that she has done for us because I know that we never could."



Cardinal Seán O'Malley presents Kyle Ryan with a gift from the Seminary at the Annual Lawn Party celebration to honor her many contributions to Pope St. John XXIII.

RITE OF CANDIDACY FOR NINE SEMINARIANS



On Wednesday, October 27, 2021, Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary was blessed to have The Most Reverend Timothy Broglio, Archbishop of the Military Services, USA, preside over the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for nine of our current seminarians. These seminarians have been approved by their respective Bishops and will continue in their studies to become Catholic priests. During the rite, each man publicly expressed his intention to embrace the formation process for Holy Orders and stated his resolve to fully invest himself to that end.

The nine men are Patrick Bruen, Archdiocese of Detroit; William Burns, Diocese of Orlando; Brian Delaney, Archdiocese of Boston; T. Gregory Dougherty, Diocese of Venice; John Ippolito, Archdiocese of New York; W. Patrick Long, Diocese of Venice; Clifton Mastran, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.; Charles Tupta, Rock Hill Oratory; and John Paul Williams, Diocese of Springfield.

Please pray for these men, and all who are answering God's call.



The Great Soccer Showdown!

By John Tanyi '24

It all started as a joke at the Franciscan Guest House in Kennebunkport, Maine. On June 22, 2021, during a retreat/get together for seminarians of the Archdiocese of Boston, I threw a bait at the St. John's seminarians about a possible soccer match between the two seminaries. My bait was received with shock and bewilderment, "Whaaaaaaat! Are you sure you want to do this?" was Peter Schirripa's response. With my customary idiosyncratic confidence, even in the face of the impossible, I assured them that the Relics of Pope St. John's Seminary would give the Eagles of St. John's Seminary a run for their money. Coming back to the seminary, I sold the idea to the seminarians and persuaded some that we could do it. We put together a team of brave Relics, some in their sixties and fifties. Some had never played soccer before, while others last played about 30 years ago. The team is appropriately called "the Relics" considering the age of the players vis-à-vis the Eagles of St. John's Seminary.

After a few training sessions, the big day for the showdown was Halloween Day, Sunday October 31st. It was a historic day since it was the first soccer match between the two seminaries, at least in recent times. The Relics' team doctor, Greg Zingler, was advised to have the ambulance ready. The match started around 3:00 PM and was well attended by the seminarians and

members of the faculty. A Boston College field off Lake Street was the match venue. Since it rained a couple of days before the match, the field was very wet and slippery. Unfortunately, since the Relics seldom play soccer, only a handful of them had soccer cleats. As such, some of the Relics hilariously spent more time on the ground than on their feet because of the slippery



nature of the field. The team's photographer, Joe Gonzalez, claims to have a photo of three Relics warriors on the ground at the same time. Greg Dougherty, the master tactician coach, has now been officially nicknamed "Coach Blue Light" because, throughout the match, he was shouting "blue light" which was an invitation to his players to kick the ball forward. In a spirit of charity, the Relics were not keen on exploiting the youthfulness of the Eagles, ipso facto, the match ended 3-0 in favor of the Eagles. Surely, the Relics did not go down without a fight.



When all was said and done, the match was a big success. The spirit exhibited by the Relics, some of whom have their youthful days well behind them, cannot be overemphasized. Indisputably, the man of the match was Pat Bruen, the 64-year-old goalkeeper for the Relics. The fact that he conceded three goals but still became the man of the match speaks volumes of his athleticism in the goal. The camaraderie among the members of the team and the Saint John's team was memorable. What a proud moment it was for the players to have fellow seminarians and almost all

continued on pg. 17



October Alumni Days – Fraternal Enrichment

Alumni Days, held on October 19-20th, proved to be another fruitful success for the many alumni who returned to the Seminary. The events included a keynote speaker address by new faculty member, Rev. Msgr. Robert Oliver, BH. His talk was entitled "The Priest as Public Person: Challenges and Opportunities in Turbulent Times." The next day alumni were invited to a panel discussion hosted by the Rector, Fr. Brian Kiely, and formation heads Fr. Paul Miceli, Fr. Stephen Linehan, Fr. William Murphy, and Dr. Anthony Keaty. Each gave an update to the alumni on the area of formation he oversees. Also on the panel was Ms. Carol Marturano-Becker, Strategic Planning Consultant, with whom the Seminary is working on completing a plan for the next few years to face the challenges and opportunities of Seminary formation. It was a great opportunity for Carol to ask alumni questions and solicit feedback from the alumni to help her and the Seminary form a well-rounded and cohesive plan. With new technology in the media room, alumni across the country Zoomed in to participate in the robust discussion. The final events were the Annual Alumni Mass in Remembrance of the



Deceased and an Alumni Banquet, that gave special honor and recognition to alumni in reunion years. We were additionally blessed to have Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, as principal celebrant at the Mass, as well as Most Rev. Peter J. Uglietto of Boston and Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell '07 of Washington D.C. A good time was had by all and reenforced the special fraternal bond shared by the alumni of PSJS.

Visit our YouTube channel to view the keynote address by Msgr. Bob Oliver as well as the Annual Alumni Mass in Remembrance of the Deceased.

Does a priest need a Harley?

by Fr. Darrick Leier '18

One might ask, "why would a priest need a Harley?" That's a great question. Is he having a midlife crisis? Is the 'Aspen image' getting the best of him? Or is God somehow in control here too? Hmmm...

At 4:30pm today, I'm in my office and get a call from Aspen Valley Hospital. An elderly man is actively dying, his name is Henry. His son, daughter, and caregiver are at his side in the Emergency room. They had just flown into town; Henry's granddaughter is getting married in Aspen on Saturday.

Medical staff are about to cease CPR, the family is pleading for a priest to come. Henry is a devout Catholic. Attending Mass every day was the most important thing to him. He had already



scoped out the St. Mary Catholic Church website for the Mass schedule and insisted his caregiver get him to Mass around his granddaughter's wedding activities. Will the priest get to the hospital in time? The family is worried.

continued on pg. 16

IN MEMORIAM



The Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Community is saddened by the passing of Rev. Joseph Fagan, who died in August of 2021. Fr. Fagan was Spiritual Director at the Seminary from 1998-2008, his final assignment before his retirement from ministry. He had a profound impact on those who knew him and on those guided by his presence and example of a good and holy priest serving God and His people. Many seminarians benefitted from his direction. He continued to be supportive of the Seminary community after retirement, and we all enjoyed his company at events to support the mission at Pope St. John XXIII. We are grateful for the time he gave in ministry to the Seminary, and in service to God.

May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Rev. Martin Bedoya '03

Archdiocese of Chicago

Rev. Maurice Flood '89

OCSO Trappists

Rev. Tim O'Mara '04

Diocese of Worcester

Deacon Ronald Blank '18

Diocese of Norwich

Rev. Gerald Hanley '73

Diocese of Reno

Rev. Bernard Rapp '77

Diocese of San Diego

Rev. Ralph Boisvert '99

Diocese of Portland

Rev. Gerald W. Hussey '78

Diocese of Providence

Rev. Msgr. John C. Sanders '73

Diocese of Bridgeport

Rev. Thomas E. Burr '73

Diocese of Rockford

Rev. Frank F. Kelly '77

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

Rev. Donald Trexler '98

Diocese of Greensburg

Rev. Richard D. Clark '93

Diocese of Monterey

Rev. Joseph Lutz '87

Diocese of Rockford

Rev. Victor Wesolowski '08

Diocese of Columbus

Rev. Ronald E. Dodd '05

Diocese of Peoria

Rev. Charles T. Nelson '87

Diocese of Springfield, IL





New Men Welcome and Orientation

by Tom Fallati '25

"Greet all as Christ," St. Benedict instructs his monks. The orientation team of seminarians made the saint's call their own in welcoming the incoming men to the Seminary this past August. I had heard about this tradition, but actually experiencing it when I arrived with the other incoming seminarians was something else.

As I pulled up to the seminary entrance with its 'welcome' banner, a group of seminarians came forward and warmly greeted me. From there, it was made clear that they would do the work. They unloaded my car and parked it. I was able to go to my room led by a greeter without having to lug along my belongings. Once I arrived at my room, two other seminarians emerged with my belongings and set them down in the room.

All of this meant that we could easily set up our room and feel more readily at home. Most special of all, a deacon seminarian blessed the room.

The welcome team continued to accompany us as we began several days of orientation. They provided us with a schedule of the orientation events and the Seminary calendar for the semester. More than simply providing information, the seminarians took time to orient us to the life of the Seminary. They also accompanied us throughout our orientation, answering questions, offering advice and most of all, making us feel comfortable.

The welcome conveyed an important message on behalf of the entire Seminary community: you are now a member of our community, all in our common mission to grow in service of Christ and his Church.



Consider your IRA...

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

SOLEMN VESPERS – ALL SAINTS DAY

During solemn vespers on All Saints Day, November 1, 2021, the seminarians venerated a special relic that is part of a collection of gifts in Alumni Chapel. Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City gifted to the Seminary a relic of Blessed Stanley Francis Rother. Blessed Rother, from Oklahoma City, was ordained to the priesthood May 25, 1963, martyred July 28, 1981, and beatified September 23, 2017. He was serving as a missionary priest in Guatemala when he was murdered. Rother was beatified during a Mass at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. He is the first US-born priest and martyr to be beatified by the Catholic Church and the second person to be beatified on US soil following the 2014 beatification of New Jersey-born nun Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. We are blessed to have this relic at the Seminary, and, on the occasion of All Saints Day, we were blessed to pray in a special way with Blessed Rother.



WEEKEND ASSIGNMENTS

During fourth year of formation, seminarians are assigned to a local parish for the weekend. Deacon Russ Bergman '22 (Diocese of Albany) is assigned to Ave Maria Parish in Lynnfield, Massachusetts. The parish held its annual Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of St. Francis on October 2nd. Deacon Russ and Fr. Paul Ritt, Pastor and Deacon Russ' supervisor, led the service for dogs, cats, a turtle, and their human companions. On October 31st, Bishop Mark O'Connell of the Archdiocese of Boston celebrated Mass at St. Maria Goretti Church and blessed their new statue of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Deacon Russ served the Mass.



ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED

continued from pg. 12



It's 4:30pm, the typical Aspen traffic is backed all the way up to downtown on Main Street. The hospital is two miles out of town. I grab my Last Rites kit, toss it in the saddlebag, and take off on the bike. I'm able to blast by all the stopped traffic, weaving and using the bus lane. I'm wearing my clerics; if I get pulled over, I'll tell the officer what's up and probably get a police escort. There's no parking spots open near the Hospital Emergency entrance. I screech the bike to a halt on the sidewalk by the door. I sprint in, they see me at the front desk and usher me straight back to the ICU room.

During the final flutterings of Henry's heart, I anoint him and bestow upon him the Apostolic Pardon. To hell with you Satan, you are NOT getting this man's soul!

Henry has known and has been loved by so many priests in his long life. I had the incredible and humbling honor to be his last, and commend his soul to his Almighty Father and Creator. I spent time with the family afterwards; listening, consoling, and learning about them and Henry.

So, does a priest need a Harley? No, of course not. But I know for a fact I would have never gotten to Henry in time without it. Wow God, you are truly present and working in all things. Thank you for giving us the grace to recognize that!

OF SPECIAL NOTE...

Deacon Larry Barile '21 will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Norwich on December 8, 2021. We wish Deacon Larry all God's blessings as he embarks on his new journey, with God and for God, as a priest of His Church.

Three alumni of Pope St. John XXIII were installed Deputy Chaplains for the Order of Malta at the Investiture held at St. Patrick Cathedral in New York on November 4, 2021. They will assist in the spiritual care of the Knights and Dames of Malta. The Alumni and Chapters are:


Rev. Msgr. Kevin O'Leary '94 - Boston, Massachusetts

Rev. Eduardo Ortiz Santiago '11 - US Virgin Islands

Rev. Nick Zrallack '20 - Vero Beach, Florida



*Dcn. Larry Barile to be ordained
December 8, 2021*



**WATCH FOR US
ON CATHOLIC TV!
TELEvised MASS
ONE FRIDAY
EVERY MONTH.**

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

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

Friday, December 3
5:00 PM

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

Holy Hour and Evening Prayer

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

RSVP or receive more information
Msgr. William Fay at 781-899-5500 ext. 127
msgr.fay@psjs.edu
www.psjs.edu

**POPE ST. JOHN XXIII
NATIONAL SEMINARY**
Answering the Call | Founded in 1964

AROUND THE SEMINARY CONTINUED

continued from pg. 11

the faculty members, led by the rector, cheering them on as they courageously battled it out against the young Eagles. These are the names of courageous Relics: Fr. Jose Perez, Steve Mullaney, Geraldo Tlatelpa, Pat Long, Pat Bruen, Br. John Kim, Paul McDonald, Brian Delaney, Rajesh Ravi, Maximilian Marcott, PeterClaver Kivirii, and John Tanyi. It was the great Liverpool's manager, Bill Shankly, who once said, "Football is the most important of the less important things in the world."

EXTRACURRICULAR

On a flawlessly beautiful October day, seven men from Pope St. John XXIII rode to Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire for the second annual conquest of the summit. We had Mass on the mountain, treats from a local orchard store, and plenty of laughs. What better way to share a day off than enjoying God's creation and each other!



CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

On November 10th we celebrated the United States Marine Corps 246th birthday and recognized seminarians, John Williams '25 and Joe Gonzalez '24, both retired Marines.

The following day, November 11th, we celebrated and honored America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. Veterans Day, and every day at the Seminary, is a time for us to pray and pay our respects to those who have served. We pray that God will watch over these very special people and bless them abundantly with peace and happiness.



SAVE THE DATE!

30th Annual Fran and Stephen Rowen
Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, May 23, 2022 • Weston Golf Club

40TH ANNUAL LAWN PARTY



What a night it was!

The 40th Annual Lawn Party, held on September 29th, raised a record \$385,000 in support! The day was an exciting one, leading up to a night we have all been anticipating since the pandemic restrictions. Gathering for great conversation and great food, to welcome the new class of seminarians and welcoming back many alumni made for a joyful night. We are grateful to the Lawn Party Chair, Christine Roessel, and to seminarian Michael Young of the Class of 2022 for sharing their experiences as part of the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary community. We are most grateful to Cardinal Seán O'Malley for hosting this notable event – the annual signature event for the Seminary. It is always a great way to “kick-off” the formation year for seminarians, faculty, and staff, setting the right spirit for working together in the formation of mature men to become priests for God and His Church.



CLASSROOM MAKEOVER

In the summer months of 2021, the PSJS facilities department was hard at work giving the Seminary classrooms and hallway a fresh new makeover. Thanks to generous donors and alumni, new tables and chairs were installed, and fresh paint, new floors and new lighting were all part of the upgrade. The result is a bright and vibrant environment conducive to teaching and learning. Many have commented on how great it all looks and how much the improvements have made the lower level of the Seminary “pop”. We are grateful to the support of all our benefactors who help us make these much-needed changes as we step forward in formation and support the learning environment of seminarians and faculty.



REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

In an effort to stay connected with our broader community, we invite you to share your prayer intentions with our seminarians. Visit our website at www.psj.edu and see the link for Prayer Requests right on the home page. Seminarians will pray for each of your requests when they gather in Alumni Chapel.

SCAN HERE TO VISIT
PSJS WEBSITE



Send Us Your Prayer Requests



LAUNCH OF NEW WEBSITE

A New Look to PSJS.EDU

In case you have yet to see it, Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary has a new website design! We are proud of the enhanced features and the easy navigation for visitors as they explore the site and seek answers to their questions... or just take a look around! The menu options will help guide you along the areas of interest for any particular corner of the Seminary experience. Starting right on our home page, new features include: a Chapel Livestream “click box” for quick access to all events livestreamed from Alumni Chapel, a Prayer Request click box leading to an area where you can fill out a quick form asking for prayers from the Seminary, a schedule of upcoming events at the Seminary and an area featuring a seminarian profile where you can get to know the men in formation. Additionally, the top navigation of drop menus will include options to click and explore FAQs for prospective candidates and/or their Vocation Directors. Visit www.psj.edu, take a look around, and get to know more about Pope St. John XXIII Seminary!



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

558 South Avenue | Weston, MA 02493

781-899-5500 | www.psjs.edu

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID PERMIT #

MISSION

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

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

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

DIOCESES SERVED

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



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

SCAN HERE

