

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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WHAT'S AHEAD AT XXIII

OCTOBER

- 4: Open House Mass & Brunch
- 5: 50th Anniversary Mass - Rev. Charles J. Healey, S.J.
- 11: Class Retreats Begin
- 18: Rector's Cup Softball Game: Relics vs. St. John's Seminary
Regis College - 3pm
- 19: Classes Resume after Retreats
- 20: Alumni Days - 7pm Registration
7:30pm Keynote Address: Most Rev. Robert Morneau
Reception to follow for Alumni & entire community
- 21: Alumni Days
11:40am - Presentation: Rev. Mark S. Yavarone, O.M.V.
4:30pm - Annual Alumni Mass, Remembrance of Deceased
6:00pm - Alumni Banquet, Recognition of Jubilarians

NOVEMBER

- 2: The Commemoration of The Faithful Departed
Ministry of Reader, Second Theology
Most Rev. Frank Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, CT
- 16: Veterans Day Observed (No Classes)
- 24: Thanksgiving
- 30: Classes Resume after Thanksgiving break

DECEMBER

- 8: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Ministry of Acolyte, First Theology
Most Rev. Mitchell Rozanski, Bishop of Springfield, MA
- 14: Last day of Classes - Semester I
4:30pm - Advent/Christmas Mass and Dinner
- 16-19: Final Examinations

JANUARY 2016

- 13: Second Semester Begins
- 16: Boston Transitional Diaconate- 10:00am
Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston
- 18: Martin Luther King Day observed
- 20-22: National March for Life
Pilgrimage to Washington, D.C.

FEBRUARY

- 5-6: New England Vocation Awareness Days
- 7: Super Bowl Party, Seminarian Lounge
- 10: Ash Wednesday, Day of Recollection
- 15: Presidents Day (No Classes)
- 22: Mass of Candidacy, 4:30 pm
Most Rev. Martin William Currie, Archbishop of
St. John's, Newfoundland

MARCH

- 7: Mid-Semester Break Begins
- 14: Classes Resume after break
- 22: Easter Break Begins

APRIL

- 4: Classes Resume after Easter Break
- 16: Patriots Day (No Classes)

MAY

- 3: Pastoral Supervisors' Appreciation Dinner
- 9: Last Day of Classes
Class of 2016 Mass of Thanksgiving - 4:30pm
Farewell Dinner, Tribute
- 11-14: Final Exams



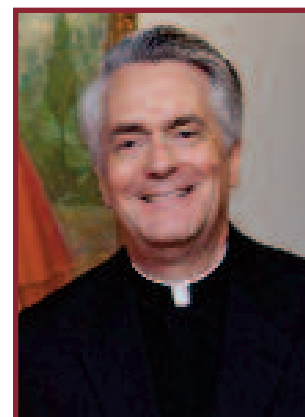
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NOVEMBER 2015



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



A Year of Journeys Unfolds!

This semester began with a series of non-stop journeys! The first was the arrival of the 19 new men who joined us in September. You will learn of their vocation journeys and their diverse backgrounds in the accompanying biographies.

Then, of course, there was the journey of Pope Francis to America which, in turn, prompted yet another series of journeys by our seminarians and alumni. Some 40 of our seminarians made a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC for



the Canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra and audience with Pope Francis. Chris Koehn '16 shares his personal thoughts on that pilgrimage. Next, several of our alumni travelled varying distances to meet with Pope Francis. Rev. David Skoblow '15 provides an "insider's view" as he accompanied Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM, Cap. and 100 pilgrims from Boston to meet with Pope Francis in Cuba. In Philadelphia, you'll get another first-person perspective from the Revs. Kevin Mulligan '15 and Jim Cardosi '15 who only had to journey across town to concelebrate the Papal Mass.



In our "What's New" feature you'll meet our newest Adjunct Professor, alumnus Rev. James Nolte '12 and our new Director of Library Services, Joel Pettit, and celebrate the respective ordination anniversaries of Bishop Peter J. Uglietto and Fr. Charles J. Healey, SJ. You will also read of the wonderful journey of four of our men who attended the Institute For Priestly Formation in Omaha this summer.

And, to conclude our recap of journeys, I encourage you to visit the seminary to see the progress on our new Learning Center—scheduled for completion by Christmas!

Enjoy our Newsletter and, as always, we thank you for your prayerful and generous support.

Rev. William B. Palardy, Rector

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Papal Visits
- Incoming Class 2015
- Alumni Days
- Seminarian Corner
- What's New?
- Lawn Party 2015 Recap

Pope Francis Visits Philly!

By Rev. Kevin Mulligan '15

The first four months of the sacred priesthood had already been everything I had prayed they would be, and more.

And then came Sept 22-27 and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, capped by Pope Francis's long-prayed for visit to the City of Brotherly Love. Four months a priest, and there we were, 2015 grads of XXIII, Fr. Jim Cardosi and I.

It was the week that Philadelphia needed. The entire region is float-



L to R: Fr. Mulligan & Fr. Cardosi

ing and abuzz about the Papal visit, his special pastoral, loving nature and his words. Almost one million endured intense security checkpoints and miles of walking to reach out and touch him and hear his powerful words during Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27th from a specially-built altar constructed in front of the Museum of Art on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

The day before, Saturday, was one of many highlights, as the Holy Father celebrated Mass for the Philadelphia priests, deacons and religious (with representatives from each parish) in the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul. Situated one seat off the aisle, I will never forget the feeling that came over me (along with chills and watery eyes) as Pope Francis paused right before me to shake priests' hands as he showed that infectious, loving shepherd's smile.

Highlights of a week filled with awe & wonder include:

- Having my sister Chris there, representing my family at the Cathedral.
- Assisting with Communion at the Sunday Papal Mass on the Parkway, as we walked approximately a quarter-mile down the Parkway, hearing pilgrims from all over the world (in several languages) saying, "Thank you for being a priest, Father!" And "We love you, Father".
- Vesting with 1,500 priests, hundreds of Bishops and Cardinals at the Art Museum before processing a half-mile to the altar staging area not far from where "Rocky Balboa" ran up the steps of the Art Museum in the movie "Rocky."
- Joining many priests stopped by security as the Pope's motorcade and his little Fiat exited the security tents after the Papal Mass for the trip to the airport. He slowed in front of us, car windows down and blessed the priests and said, "Let us pray for each other. Grazie" ... Yes, my camera was ready! The memories are endless. Now the question is, "How can I top this in Year 2 as a priest?"

Father Cardosi's thoughts that Saturday as he concelebrated with Pope Francis and the Philadelphia presbyterate were of his family and his deceased



wife Cindy, and how delighted she must've been with Fr. Jim celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with Pope Francis. "Francis is her kind of Pope," he said. "Compassionate, caring, embracing all but having a special love for the poor and disadvantaged."

A special highlight for Fr. Jim was seeing the Pope stop to bless a wheelchair-bound 4-year-old parishioner named Connall Harvey, suffering from leukemia, complications from which caused the little boy to lose both of his feet. "Connall was five rows in front of me and I was graced to watch Francis lay hands on him while he was sleeping in his wheelchair—probably the most powerful moment of the entire day for me."

Both XXIII grads agree with their Archbishop Charles Chaput who called the Papal weekend "an irreplaceable moment in history." They will never forget it.

Father Mulligan is parochial vicar of Our Lady of Calvary parish in Northeast Philadelphia. Father Cardosi is parochial vicar at St. Denis parish in Havertown, Pa.

Pope Francis Visits Washington, D.C.!

By Chris Koehn '18



Forty seminarians made a pilgrimage to see Pope Francis in Washington, DC. On the way to Washington, I read the Pope's biography and learned this was his first trip to America. Think of it, instead of us going to see the Pope in Washington, the Pope was actually coming to see us here in the U.S.! His biography related many similarities to some of our influences; he was a cardinal like Cardinal O'Malley, a bishop like Bishop Uglietto, a seminary rector like Father Palardy, a spiritual director like Father Murphy, and a teacher before becoming a priest. The Pope was 33 years old when he was ordained, not unusual for Jesuits, and like many of us he

was 50 years old when he went back to school full time for his doctorate. That gives us a greater appreciation for what happens right here at Pope St. John XXIII. One of the continuous themes of his ministry throughout his life was, "that Jesus is not locked up in the sacristy". Priests and everyone in the church are to take Jesus out to the people: to the poor, to those in material need and spiritual need.

The Mass was outside on the steps of the Basilica, and inside were 6,000 seminarians and religious from all over the country. When the Pope entered to give us a blessing before the Mass the entire assembly became silent. The respect and awe shared by everyone were astonishing. It was a special moment and we traveled home energized about taking Jesus Christ from the church to the people.

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Lawn Party 2015

By Msgr. Peter Conley and Kate Folan



On September 16, next to the rising new two-story "Learning Center", over 350 guests gathered in our Blessed Mother's Courtyard for the 34th Annual Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Lawn Party – our premier fundraising event.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that the Lawn Party has been held at an active construction site," said John Corcoran, who chaired the Lawn Party with his wife Julie and their four daughters, Rose, Lilian, Clara and Eleanor. This year's "under the tent" event included a series of AV presentations highlighting our seminarians, benefactors and our capital campaign *The Pathway to the Future* which will help prepare our Seminary for the next 50 years. The goals are threefold: increase our endowment, update our aging infrastructure, and construct a new library with conference and study areas. Most importantly, the latter will allow us to convert current space into additional seminarian rooms for our ever-increasing enrollment. Construction started in June and is expected to be completed by Christmas.

Pope St. John XXIII is the nation's only second-career seminary (age 30 and up) for the diocesan priesthood run by diocesan priests. This unique seminary currently assists men called to their second-career vocation from 38 dioceses and two religious orders.

Our guests heard two seminarians speak about their vo-

cation journey. John Maksym '18 from the Archdiocese of Detroit, who previously served in the Navy as a lawyer and as a Judge Advocate General, and Steve Maddaloni '16 from the Diocese of Rockville Centre who was a high school teacher prior to entering the seminary.

"Like each of my brother seminarians, the Lord has been working with me for a very long time indeed. He has honed my skills and loaded me with life experiences, so I in turn may give them to his people," seminarian John Maksym told the guests.

Steve Maddaloni was asked by a parish priest "'Steve, do you think God is calling you to a special role in the Church?' It was the most jolting question I had ever been asked," Maddaloni said. "I am thankful to God for bringing me here. I am thankful to God for the men that I have met here. I am thankful to God also for you, who support this seminary. And, I am thankful to God for his patience with me, for waiting me out."

It is the ongoing generosity of our benefactors and support from our sponsoring bishops that has allowed us to continue the seminary's mission begun with the foresight of Richard Cardinal Cushing in September 1964. Please join us under the tent in 2016 for our 35th Annual Lawn Party. For more information on events at the seminary, please call Kate Folan at 781.899.5500.



Pope Francis Visits Cuba!

By Rev. David V. Skoblow '15



l to r: Cardinal McCarrick, Fr. Skoblow, Cardinal Seán O'Malley

Before the Holy Father arrived for his visit to Washington, New York, and Philadelphia, he visited the island nation of Cuba. I was invited to join a group of 100 pilgrims from the Boston area to travel to Havana on Friday, September 18. This was only the second visit by a reigning pontiff to Cuba; the first was Pope St. John Paul II in January of 1998.

The pilgrimage was led by Seán Cardinal O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, and Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington and the first Bishop of Metuchen. Acting as Cardinal McCarrick's secretary for the trip, I had a rare opportunity to participate in all the papal events.

The formal program began Saturday morning with a briefing by the cardinals on the Church's relationship with the government of Cuba, a government that officially espouses atheism. Prior to the 1959 revolution that brought Castro into power, Cuba was a very Catholic country. Today about 60% of the population of 12 million is Catholic. There are only about 350 priests serving some 300 parishes - about 20,000 Catholics for each priest.

On Saturday we visited Muraleando, a community art project in

a Havana neighborhood, or barrio. The gifted artists rummage to find materials for their art, often using discarded metal of all sorts to create unique sculptures. Other artists carved beautiful pieces in ebony, cow bone, and coconut shell.

On Saturday evening I had a rare opportunity to concelebrate a private Mass with Cardinals O'Malley and McCarrick and Fr. Jonathan Gaspar.

Sunday was the highlight of the pilgrimage. The group had good tickets for the papal Mass that was celebrated in the Plaza de las Revolucion, dominated by the 360 foot José Martí Memorial, with a portrait of Che Guevara looking on from the side of the Ministry of the Interior.



Fr. David Skoblow '15 is reaching out to greet the Pontiff

I was one of 10 priests who joined about 40 bishops concelebrating the papal Mass. Another 100 priests concelebrated from the front rows in the congregation. Raul Castro sat in the front row of the congregation next to Cristina Kirchner, President of Argentina, the Pope's native country. The Pope delivered a poignant homily stressing the need for us all to live a life of service, and ending with the observation that a life without service is not a useful life.

Later that afternoon I joined Cardinals O'Malley and McCarrick for solemn vespers with the Pope at the Cathedral of the Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Seated on the center aisle, I was able to shake

the Pope's hand as he processed in. In his homily the Pope prayed that we might be shepherds close to our people, and open to their ideas and problems. Conflicts and disagreements, said the pontiff, are to be expected and are a sign of life in the Church.

On Monday morning we joined the Miami contingent for Mass at the Convent of St. Teresa of Avila de Las Camelitas Descalzas, a convent of cloistered Carmelite sisters.

After Mass we visited a Senior Center in the parish of La Milagrosa and then a school for autistic children. During the entire time in Havana I wore my clerics as a witness to the presence of the Church. When we entered the classroom of about twenty children, about half of the class, recognizing the collar, rushed up to me and hugged me saying "sacerdote" and "padre" (priest and father). For a country where atheism is the official religion, these children certainly knew their Padre Nuestro. It was one of the highlights of the pilgrimage for me.

Tuesday morning we headed for José Martí International Airport for our departure. We watched on the screen as the papal jet left for Washington.

So ended my pilgrimage to Cuba, a memorable voyage of gift and grace.

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Incoming Class 2015



MICHAEL GOODREAU

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA

Michael has a B.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Michael worked as a trainer, then manager for F.L. Roberts, a convenience store, gas station, car wash chain, based in Springfield, for seventeen years. He served at his home parish, Christ the King, Ludlow, MA. as an usher, lector, and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) for many years.

"My vocation journey has had much support from many people, but three Priests, in particular, have set a great example; my pastor at Christ the King, Father Raymond Soltys, the late Father Tom Schmitt, the long-time Dean of Students at Pope St. John XXIII, and Father Jeffrey Ballou, pastor of Saint Mary's in

Ware, MA. They have all been encouraging, very kind and guided me to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary."



TRAVIS MECUM

ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY, KS

Travis was raised in a farming community and then relocated to Overland Park, KS, where he worked in the field of clinical and research Sleep Medicine for the past 13 years. He studied Vocal Performance and Music Theory/Composition, and most recently obtained a degree in Applied Organization Leadership from Mid America Nazarene University.

"We were the only non-Catholic family in town; but I knew at an early age that I wanted to become a Roman Catholic Priest. When I was 15, I spoke to my Lutheran Bishop about the seminary, and was advised to first obtain life experience. I have worked in various fields serving others, but have always known that I was to be a Priest. Finally, three years ago I was confirmed into the Catholic Church and began the discernment process. I have served my Parish as; a cantor, choir member, EMHC, Sacristan, RCIA Team Member, and Knight of Columbus. Since my conversion, I have brought my mother, father, sister and her husband into the Church".



FRANCIS JOANNES

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, NC

Francis Joanness was born in San Salvador and has lived in Costa Rica, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland and Italy as his father transferred to various military assignments. The majority of his education occurred at the Angelicum in Rome where he received a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology. During those years he worked at an addiction clinic in Turin. His studies ultimately led to a pastoral assignment in the U.S. and Francis is now studying for the Diocese of Raleigh, NC.

"All my life experiences have been very positive and every day I try to apply what is in my heart. I want very much to work in the service of the Lord".



KEVIN MILLER

DIOCESE OF SCRANTON, PA

Kevin attended the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania, earning a BS degree in chemistry and a commission in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps. Kevin retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel following 32 years of service in the Army; the last twenty years as a full-time Active Guard and Reserve officer in the PA Army National Guard. He is now enrolled in the Pre-Theology Program at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

"I credit Father James Nash, a priest in the Diocese of Scranton, an alumnus of Pope St. John XXIII Seminary and my former high school English teacher, as having influenced and inspired my discernment to the priesthood."



BRIAN BEAL

DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS, OH

At age twenty-six, Brian Beal found himself unexpectedly appointed the Executive Director of Pro-Life of Mercer County, Ohio.

“When I took this position, my heart and mind were drawn to discerning a call to the priesthood. After discussions with my spiritual director, it was clear that God was giving me a specific Pro-Life mission to fulfill.”

During his years as the Pro-Life Executive Director, he developed The Life Truck which broadcasts the Pro-Life message on roads and highways listing a 24-hr crisis help hotline, and displaying beautiful images of a newborn child. In addition, the Life Truck showed 4D ultrasound images of life in the womb, from 8 weeks to full term, to thousands at county fairs and conventions. The ultrasound imagery preemptively empowers women with the fact that the baby in the womb is a human person. The Life Truck is now parked five days a week at a late term abortion center in Wichita, Kansas. The lives of several babies have been saved by God's grace via the Life Truck's message.

“After ten years, my Pro-Life work accomplished, I received the calling to enter seminary and study for the Diocese of Columbus.”



MICHAEL LOMBARDI

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY

Michael earned a B.A. from Syracuse University and then went on to pursue a degree in architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Upon graduation he moved to Seattle, Washington where he worked professionally in architecture for over 15 years. In 2012, he returned to Long Island, New York where he decided to enter the seminary and now represents the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Michael is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus and has been deeply involved in Pro-Life work both through the Legion of Mary and 40 Days for Life.

“Discovering the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was a defining moment in my reversion back to the church. The knowledge that Jesus is truly present body, blood, soul and divinity completely changed my understanding and experience towards how I live out my faith. Attending Mass was no longer about going “somewhere” or being someplace. Rather, it is about going to see.... SOMEONE!”



JON NEELY

ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Jon spent his prior career in healthcare as a paramedic, flight nurse, ER nurse and heart transplant coordinator. He returned to the faith on Easter Sunday of 2013 after being a lapsed catholic for 25 years. His call to the priesthood followed shortly thereafter. He realized the Lord planted a seed in his heart that took years to grow. He was influenced by the witness of many of his pastors and Pope Francis, who shows true joy in following the Lord. After two years of prayerful discernment it was clear that God was calling him to an even deeper discernment in the seminary. Having served his parish in a variety of roles including the RCIA team, Michael is now a member of the Class of 2020 and enrolled in the Seminary's Pre-Theology program.

“Becoming a priest will give me an immense amount of joy to serve God's people at different phases of their life”.



KEN GROOMS

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY

Ken Grooms converted to Catholicism while a student at the University of South Carolina in 1987, the same year that Pope John Paul II visited the school. In 1989 he moved to New York to study at Fordham University and worked as a volunteer for the Missionaries of Charity. Ken has been a full-time caregiver for a family on Long Island, a cook for retired priests and a dietary aide at a hospital.

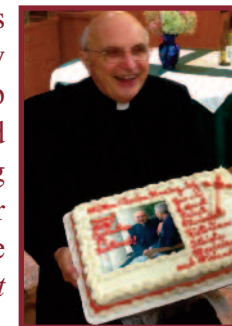
“After my conversion, I contemplated a vocation, but it wasn't until years later, after spending a year as a Trappist monk, that I felt the clarity of a call to the diocesan priesthood.”

Ken is now enrolled at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary studying for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, NY.

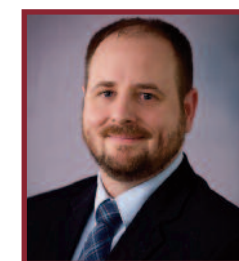
What's New?



MILESTONES ... Two anniversaries were celebrated at special Masses this Fall in the seminary's Alumni Chapel. On September 14, the 5th anniversary of Bishop Peter J. Uglietto's Episcopal Ordination was celebrated. Bishop Uglietto served as the seminary's rector for five years prior to being ordained an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Boston in 2010...The following month, on October 5, the 50th anniversary of seminary professor Father Charles Healey's, S.J. ordination to the priesthood was celebrated. Father Healey has taught classes at the seminary since 1982 and last year authored the book, *Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary: The First Fifty Years*. Congratulations to both of these seminary icons on their notable milestones.



Father James Nolte '12, our newest Adjunct Professor, was born in Boston, but he left before he got the accent. He attended the University of Connecticut, where he majored in philosophy. He got his JD at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane Washington. He then entered the Jesuits, where he earned his licentiate in philosophy from Milltown Institute of Theology and Philosophy in Dublin. Father Nolte graduated from Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, Class of 2012, and was ordained for the diocese of Springfield, MA. He is currently parochial administrator at St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley, MA.



In September, Joel Pettit assumed the role of Director of Library Services. After teaching for many years in Catholic Schools in Memphis, TN, Joel Pettit moved to Rhode Island to pursue studies in library science. Following his studies, he was hired as executive director of Central Falls Public Library in Central Falls, RI. He lives with his wife Anna and their three children, Bernadette, Cecilia, and Benedict in Gardner, MA and is currently pursuing further studies in theology. Joel earned a BA in English at the University of Memphis, an MLIS at the University of Rhode Island, and is currently pursuing an MA in Theology at Providence College.

Around the Seminary...

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK... Keep up on all the “happenings” at the seminary and with our alumni by visiting our Facebook page, Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

BLOG... “Thoughts on the Journey: Seminary,” by Seminarian Deacon Kevin Yarnell '16 from the Diocese of St. Petersburg can be found at yarnellseminary.blogspot.com. Deacon Yarnell, whose mountaineering exploits along with fellow fourth-year seminarian Deacon Brian O'Shaughnessy have seen the pair summit the highest five peaks in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont, has an insightful post on his blog about the spiritual insights of their adventures, entitled, “Why Climb?”

MASS at XXIII Every Sunday at 9:30am during the academic year, Alumni Chapel opens its doors for a public Mass. This weekly liturgical celebration is not intended to replace anyone's parish attendance, but is available as an alternative for those who occasionally want to participate at Mass here at the Seminary.

ROSARY FOR LIFE ... Seminarians gather each Thursday morning at Boston's Planned Parenthood Clinic to pray the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Joyful, Luminous and Sorrowful – in support of the Right for Life. If you would like to join, please contact us at 781.899.5500.



PSJS Seminarians pray the Rosary

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New Website Coming Soon!

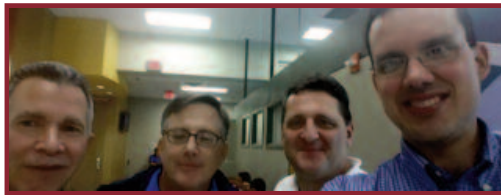
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Seminarian Corner...

Institute For Priestly Formation (IPF) - Summer Program Provides Many Graces for Seminarians

By Richard Asher '19

Four Pope St. John XXIII (PSJS) Seminarians, Anthony Cipolle '17, John Maksym '18, Alberto Gonzalez '18 and Richard Asher '19, spent nine weeks on the campus of Creighton



L to R: Asher, Maksym, Cipolle, Gonzalez

University in Omaha, Nebraska from May through July attending the Institute For Priestly Formation's Summer Program for Diocesan Seminarians. The summer program, also attended by 172 other seminarians from across the country, complements seminary life through a host of spiritual, pastoral, academic and social activities intended to strengthen and deepen each participant's formation.

For the men of Pope St. John XXIII, it was an extremely meaningful and blessed experience, assisting their growth in the four dimensions of formation – spiritual, pastoral, academic and human. Interestingly, each seminarian experienced growth in one of these areas during his time at IPF. For Cipolle, it was the beauty of seeing a young girl he had mentored receive the sacrament of baptism during his pastoral assignment. For Maksym, it was a deepening of his personal relationship with God through the quiet time for prayer the spiritual dimension of the program offered. For Gonzalez, it was the human interaction and fellowship he experienced with other seminarians during the numerous socials.

For Asher, it was the theological focus of the academics.

Cipolle found his greatest grace through his pastoral assignment at Boy's Town where he mentored a 14-year old girl named Jewell who received the sacraments of Baptism and



Photo caption: 3rd Year seminarian Anthony Cipolle (far right) assisting at the baptism and confirmation of Jewell (middle).

Holy Communion at the end of his five-week assignment. "It was there that I won the heart of a teenage girl for the Lord," recalls Cipolle. "She asked to be baptized and become Catholic so I spent my time at BoysTown this summer catechizing her. When the time came for her Baptism and First Communion, and since both her parents were in prison, she asked me to be her Godfather." Cipolle's efforts earned the third year seminarian the honor of IPF's "Best Moment in Omaha."

Maksym developed a much closer relationship with the person of God the Father at IPF through the divine beauty of Creighton's St. John Church and the eight-day silent retreat in which all seminarians participated. "I grew more spiritually than I ever could have imagined, especially during the silent retreat

and many hours of contemplative prayer at Saint John Church," said Maksym. The 2nd theology seminarian was so moved by the silent retreat that he looks forward to returning to Creighton in the future to participate in IPF's 30-day silent retreat.

Gonzalez was most moved by his ability to form bonds with many of the program's participants through one-on-one interactions and participation in all of the many social activities offered at the summer program. "I can't think of any other place I could get to know nearly 200 fellow seminarians, many of whom have become friends for life" said Gonzalez.

Asher believes the four theological classes he took at IPF provided an excellent foundation for the rigors of the 1st Theology courses he is taking this Fall after completing the seminary's pre-theology program last year. "The Pre-Theology program is mostly focused on philosophy courses," said Asher, "so the theology courses I took at IPF, combined with the two Basic Catholic Doctrine courses I took last year here at the seminary, greatly assisted my ability to transition into theology studies this Fall. As a result, academics were by far the best part of the IPF program for me."

The IPF Program will be offered once again next summer. Hopefully the many graces received by this year's participants will serve as motivation for others to attend.



MARK RUIZ

Mark was born and raised in a traditional Catholic, Latino home in Oakland, California. According to Mark, Catholic school was an especially good experience since the Sisters of Mercy were very supportive and stressed the importance of practicing our Faith. His parish community was both active and vibrant and the priests who served the parish inspired him with their example. All of this contributed to his interest in the priesthood, which he had recognized early in his life. As he grew and matured, this calling deepened.

"I have served the Church in many capacities and ministries, but my heart desired more. After a period of discernment and with the support and encouragement of family and friends, I began the seminary admissions process. I am grateful to God that I am now at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary preparing for priesthood in the Diocese of Oakland, CA."



JOSEPH AKUNAEZIRI

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Originally from Nigeria in the western part of Africa, Joseph was previously a member of the religious community known as the Shoenstatt Fathers. He obtained his Bachelor of Philosophy from Urban University in Rome and then left to further determine his vocation in New York. Joseph worked as a substance abuse counselor while he studied and obtained a Master of Arts in Systematic Theology from St. John's University. Through prayers and reflections, Joseph was able to ascertain that the Lord called him to serve the people of New York in the diocesan way of life. Joseph is now a member of the Class of 2019 and studying for the Archdiocese of New York.

"I have always known that the call to serve the Lord is there in me since childhood. I am so humbled that the Lord will make me an instrument to spread the gospel among his people. I live every day, thanking God for his great love and asking for his grace for the many days ahead".



JIMMY MACALINAO

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND, CA

Jimmy immigrated from the Philippines to California in 2004. He began his career as a religion teacher and then became the Director of Campus Ministry at St. Joseph Notre Dame High School, in Alameda, California for ten years. Jimmy finished his Master of Theological Studies at Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley and his Doctor of Ministry at Washington Theological Union in D.C. He is also an ordained permanent deacon in the Diocese of Oakland and he served as deacon at St. Joseph Basilica Parish, Alameda. He is currently enrolled in the Class of 2017 studying for the Diocese of Oakland, CA.

"My call to priesthood was inspired by a powerful question that awakened my mind and pierced my heart: "Why don't you do more?" This urgent call was nourished and fortified by prayers and encounters with the poor and the sick in hospitals and convalescent homes."



BOB HOFFMAN

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

After graduating from Virginia Tech, Bob went on to work for 26 years in the railroad industry in the communications and signals systems area. He now resides in Jacksonville, FL as a part of the Diocese of Saint Augustine. He has been a lector and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, has been involved with RCIA, and is a 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Bob is now a member of the Class of 2019 at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

"A couple of years ago, I promised God that going forward I would do whatever He wanted. At first, I thought that the diocesan priesthood was the least likely scenario. However, God made clear to me that He wanted me to choose that alternative. He also planted a strong desire for that path in my heart. My pastor, my spiritual director, and close friends have all been very positive influences toward, and strong supporters of, my vocation. I am grateful for the many blessings that I have received on this journey."



BROTHER SERAPHIM WIRTH, FBP

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

Brother Seraphim Wirth, FBP is a native of St. Paul, Minnesota and has been a Franciscan Brother of Peace for 8 years. Prior to his entering Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, he was enrolled in St. Paul Seminary. He has served in many areas of ministry with his community from Catechesis, Pro-life, and ministering to the poor and marginalized populations. His last assignment was as a member of the formation-novitiate team at St. Crispin's Friary in St. Paul MN.

"My desire to serve as Priest has been a calling growing within me for many years. The call to be a Priest within my Franciscan Community is to serve the forgotten and minorities of our society."



MICHAEL HANNA

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA

Michael attended Holy Name of Jesus Catholic grammar school and East Longmeadow High School. He then earned a business degree at Bryant College in Smithfield, RI. A sports injury in college resulted in a dramatic conversion and healing which changed his life. It was during his convalescence that Michael felt God began calling him.

His early work experiences include; Mass Mutual Company and the US Postal Service. After attaining a Master's degree in Education he spent seventeen years teaching in Massachusetts, Florida and Alaska. His fluency in Portuguese also led to teaching assignments in Brazil. Michael is a lector and member of St. Mary's of Longmeadow and St. Michael's churches in East Longmeadow, MA.

"There were many wonderful priests along the way who have helped me determine my vocation. Father Rick Turner, my former pastor at St. Michael's and Father Stan Jaszek of Poland, my spiritual director in Alaska have been of great help to me."



PAUL NORMAN

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD, MA

Paul is a graduate of The Catholic University of America earning a Bachelor of Arts in Independent Studies with a major in Philosophy. He is a former Franciscan Friar T.O.R in which he served the community for approximately four years. For the last two years Paul has worked as a clinical support specialist/Behavior Specialist for Berkshire Family and Individual Resources, advocating for and supporting individuals with developmental disabilities.

"My decision to pursue priestly ordination stems from a culmination of various life experiences that led me closer to God and ultimately to Pope St. John XXIII. I can wholeheartedly say that if not through God's grace and the example set forth by my parents, spiritual directors, and religious brothers, I would not be pursuing this call today. I praise God for the great influences they have had throughout my life as well as the many difficulties they have helped me through. They will be forever in my prayers".



LAMBERT NIEME

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Lambert was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the Catholic University of Congo in collaboration with the Catholic University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. He received a second Ph.D. in Theology from the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium where he worked as a postdoctoral researcher. He also worked as a junior lecturer at the Catholic University of Congo and taught Philosophy at the Major Seminary Saint Robert Bellarmin of Mayidi in DRC. Lambert has been long active in a variety of ministries in different parishes in the DRC, Belgium and Canada. He is now a member of the Class of 2018 studying for the Archdiocese of Boston.



PETER ADAMSKI

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT, CT

A priestly vocation isn't new to Peter Adamski, the retired CEO of an incredibly successful foam manufacturing company. He remembers growing up in New Jersey and visiting his great uncle and namesake, Msgr. Peter Joseph Adamski, at St. Stanislaus in Buffalo. "I can recall vividly going to the rectory," Adamski said, "and having him impart his wisdom on me. We'd talk about how I felt like I might have a vocation staring at me, and he encouraged me to discern that." God had other plans, though. Adamski met Kathy Junker in college in 1973, and they married a year and a half later.

Decades later on June 8—his 41st wedding anniversary—Adamski was attending Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, after having visited the sites of Christ's death, burial and resurrection. It almost seemed like an ending for Adamski. Having lost his wife Kathy to battles with seven forms of cancer, kidney disease, and Alzheimer's, he had an opportunity to reflect on a long career as an executive, a joyful marriage, and his successful adult son, John. But this was no ending. It was a new beginning, guiding Peter to where he is today - a seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary class of 2019.

"Besides the Sacraments," he said. "I think about being able to minister to couples about marriage, whether they're contemplating marriage or having troubles within their marriage, and being able to minister to the sick. I have a rich experience across all of those fronts that I can draw on, to help in my ministry."

Coming Home: Priests Return to Place of Preparation for Annual Alumni Days

Over 40 former seminarians, including 15 jubilarians, attended Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's 2015 Alumni Days event, which continued the decades - long tradition of fellowship, anniversary acknowledgements and posthumous remembrances.

This year's event was highlighted by the keynote presentation, "The Priest as Philosopher, Poet, and Preacher," which was delivered by The Most Rev. Robert Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Green Bay.

In addition to the keynote presentation, the 2nd day of the event featured faculty member Fr. Mark Yavarone, O.M.V. delivering a presentation on medical ethics, entitled, "Making Good Decisions in Health Care: What Every Priest and Parishioner Should Know."

Father Yavarone's presentation was followed by former

NASA engineer, Fr. Roy Runkle ('10) from the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama who preached during the annual Mass which was dedicated to the memory of deceased alumni. Father Runkle's homily highlighted how important seminary preparation is toward having a meaningful

priestly ministry focused on serving and encouraging others joyfully on the journey from this world into the next. "Being prepared is so important and that is what this seminary is all about," said Father Runkle.

The fifteen jubilarians were honored at the event's closing banquet, including seven from the Class of 2010, six from the class of

2005, one from the Class of 2000 and Father Patrick Toner from the class of 1975 who was celebrating his 40th anniversary as a priest.

