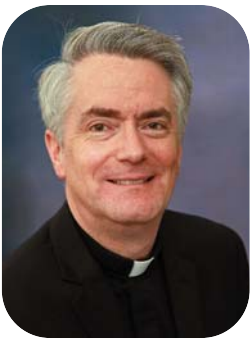


Blessed John XXIII National Seminary



Newsletter

Autumn 2012



As we begin our 49th academic year, we are also enjoying our recent renovations.

We are especially proud to welcome our returning seminarians and 17 incoming men to our beautiful new Chapel.

In this issue of the Newsletter,

we introduce the newest members of our Seminary community and hope you enjoy learning about these accomplished men.

We also include an update on *The Pathway to the Future* - our capital campaign; along with a recap of the 31st Annual Lawn Party - which was our most successful to date.

As we approach our fiftieth anniversary, we are grateful to all those who have supported

us throughout the years.

We could not continue to fulfill our mission of preparing men for priestly ministry without our loyal supporters.

May God Bless you all!

Rev. William B. Palardy
Rector

Incoming Seminarists - September 2012



These 17 newly-admitted seminarists are sponsored by 12 dioceses and two religious orders. The dioceses are: Albany, NY (2); Antigonish, NS; Atlanta, GA; Boston, MA; Denver, CO (2); Metuchen, NJ; Miami, FL; Norwich, CT; Portland, ME (3); Providence, RI; and Ogdensburg, NY. The religious orders are the Basilian Salvatorian Order and the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri.

We hope you enjoy learning about this diverse group and how their individual life paths have converged - ultimately leading them all to Blessed John XXIII.

(Our incoming seminarists are pictured above in our newly-refurbished Chapel balcony. The balcony now features a glass wall for better visibility during the celebration of Mass.)

Anthony F. Bittar Class of 2016



Archdiocese of Denver, CO

Anthony F. Bittar spent the last ten years serving in the United States Army - both on active duty and with the Colorado Army National Guard. His most recent assignment was at the American Embassy in Amman, Jordan, where he served as the Joint-Action Officer for multinational military exercises.

He earned an graduate degree in Human Relations from Colorado State University and an undergraduate degree in Sociology from Cal State University San Marcos.

Anthony's home parish is The Risen Christ Church in Denver, Colorado.

Diocese of Portland, ME

Christopher M. Braley was born into a Baptist family and raised in Maine. He earned a Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology at Biola University and a M.A. in Counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, MA. After moving to Grand Rapids, MI, Chris practiced psychotherapy and taught Psychology at Aquinas College.

Chris was welcomed into full communion with the Catholic Church on the Feast of Pentecost in 2008. He credits his conversion to Father James Chelich of the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

After his conversion, Chris felt a strong calling to ministry, which he decided to follow *“for the glory of Jesus Christ and His Beloved Church.”*

Christopher M. Braley Class of 2016



Joseph M. Catalano Class of 2016



Diocese of Albany, NY

Joseph M. Catalano was the Chief Operating Officer at the law firm of Solomon & Solomon, PC. He was also the Vice President of Higher Education Services Corporation, administering the student loan program for the state of New York.

Joe earned a BBA in Accounting from Siena College in Loudonville, NY.

He was active in his local parish as a youth minister for 25 years and the Director of Religious Education for four years. Joe had felt the call to priesthood for several years and says, *“I am blessed to have this opportunity to further my discernment at this Seminary.”*

Diocese of Portland, ME

Anthony T. Cipolle was born and raised in Arlington, MA. During his secular career, he worked in the automotive industry and owned a plumbing company.

He says his decision to consider priesthood was based on his years of witnessing the example of the late Father John Kilmartin of Saints Joseph and Lazarus parishes in East Boston. He recently earned a B.A. in Philosophy from Boston College and a Catechetical Certificate from Saint John’s Seminary in Boston.

Anthony was active in his parishes, teaching seventh and eighth grade CCD classes and serving as Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Catechist.

Anthony T. Cipolle Class of 2016



Thomas P. Griffin
Class of 2016



Diocese of Norwich, CT

Thomas P. Griffin was born into a large Irish Catholic family in Hartford, CT. He earned a B.A. from Central Connecticut State College and spent his secular career in banking.

Tom was an active member of his parish, the Church of the Holy Family, in Hebron, CT. He served as greeter, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and as a member of the Parish Council, Financial Council and the Stewardship T.E.A.M. As a lay student, he attended classes in Theology at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell, CT.

"I don't think the decision to pursue the priesthood was mine - it was really made by a higher power," says Tom.

Basilian Salvatorian Order

Brother Neven Ivan Peša, BSO, is a simply-professed religious of the Basilian Salvatorian Order, which is located in Methuen, MA.

He took his first vows in February of this year and is now on the path to discern a calling to the ministerial priesthood. Brother Neven earned two degrees in Theology and Philosophy from the Franciscan University of Steubenville. When not praying, studying or enjoying social time with his fellow seminarians, he enjoys singing and playing the guitar.

"My goal in life is to follow the Lord wherever He takes me - and right now Blessed John XXIII is that place," says Brother Neven.

Br. Neven Ivan Peša, BSO
Class of 2016



Patrick J. Rice
Class of 2016



Diocese of Albany, NY

Patrick J. Rice was born in New Jersey and grew up with seven brothers and sisters. He earned a B.S. in Business, with a major in Marketing, from Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY.

During his secular career, Pat worked in the commercial tire industry.

"I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and belonging whenever I was in Church. I began to attend Mass and pray the Holy Rosary daily. I finally realized that there was a pull at my heart to answer God's call, so I began to pursue the process to become a priest - which has led me to Blessed John XXIII Seminary," says Pat.

Diocese of Providence, RI

Jorge V. Rocha Class of 2016

Jorge V. Rocha was born in the Cape Verde Islands and moved to the United States in his early teens. He earned a M.A. in History from Providence College.

Prior to his admission into the Seminary, Jorge worked in the Athletic Media Relations Department at Providence College.

"Through the Eucharist and prayer, my relationship with the Risen Lord continues to grow, and He has called me to discern the priesthood" says Jorge. "Along the way, He has blessed me with people who have been positive influences - including my family, the Dominican Friars at Providence College, the staff at the Diocese of Providence and the community at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish."



Br. Michael B. Young, CO Class of 2016

Oratory of Saint Philip Neri



Brother Michael Bishop Young, CO, earned a B.A. in Management and Ethics from John Wesley College in High Point, NC.

He has always served in one way or another - he served his country as a member of the armed forces, then was a sworn law enforcement officer and a special/enforcement agent.

He is currently an Oratorian from the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Rock Hill, SC. As an Oratorian he has assisted in parish, hospital and nursing home ministries.

Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia

Francis Joseph Mac Kenzie Class of 2014

Francis Joseph Mac Kenzie was in education for over 30 years and earned a M.A. in Assessment and Special Needs from Tufts University, a M.Ed. in Administration from Saint Francis Xavier University, and a M.A. in Theology from Holy Apostles College and Seminary.

He likens his journey toward priesthood to the parable of Jonah and the whale--with Jonah's reluctance to go to Nineveh and the whale ultimately depositing him on that distant shore.

"I have been blessed with a good life which has ultimately led me to Blessed John XXIII Seminary," says Joe.



Class of 2015

Steven G. Cartwright

Diocese of Portland, ME



Steven G. Cartwright is a native of Boothbay Harbor in Maine. He earned a B.A. from the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America.

During his secular career, Steven worked as a pharmacy technician, website designer and was the Head Swimming and Diving Coach at Georgetown University. He spent the last two years at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary before transferring back to the Diocese of Portland.

Steven felt the call to priesthood very early in life - as a child he even constructed an altar in his family home.

Diocese of Metuchen, NJ

David V. Skoblow was born and raised in New York City. He earned a LL.M. from the London School of Economics and law degrees from Georgetown University. He worked as a corporate lawyer in New York City for over 30 years, both in private practice and as in-house counsel.

David is a member of the Order of Malta, the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, the Constantinian Order of Saint George and the Patriarchal Order of the Holy Cross (Melkite).

"I look forward to serving God's people in the faithful celebration of the sacraments; especially the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Anointing," says David.

David V. Skoblow



Alumni Return to Blessed John XXIII to view the new "Alumni Chapel"



Our alumni are frequent and welcome guests, returning throughout the year for special events, retreats and visits.

Pictured here are Rev. Tim Corcoran III, '12 (Diocese of St. Petersburg); Rev. Dick Wegman, '90 (Diocese of Manchester, NH); and Rev. Richard Fitzgerald, '87 (Archdiocese of Boston) who returned in September to view the new Alumni Chapel. They are just some of the generous alumni whose contributions have made the improvements possible.

"We must keep the Seminary strong and vital for the future generations of men yet to answer God's call," said Rev. Richard Fitzgerald, Class of 1987.

Pre-Theology Class

Michael A. Clendenning



Michael A. Clendenning earned a B.S. in Electrical-Mechanical Engineering Technology from the Rochester Institute of Technology. He worked as a Production Development Engineer in the plastics industry.

Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA

"I became drawn to the Catholic faith and, ultimately, felt that I was being called to the priesthood," says Michael.

Baldemar M. Garza

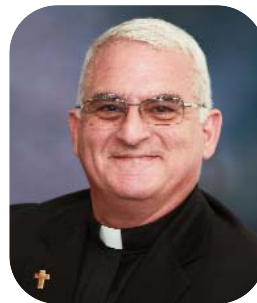


Baldemar M. Garza is originally from Corpus Christi, TX. He graduated from California State University, Long Beach. He moved to Boston to join the Little Brothers of Saint Francis, where he ultimately felt the calling to priesthood.

Archdiocese of Boston, MA

"It is through the grace of God and the help of Our Lady that I am here at Blessed John XXIII," says Baldemar.

Joseph F. Maalouf



Joseph F. Maalouf was born in Lebanon and moved to Miami as a teenager. He worked in the automotive and insurance industries for over 30 years.

Archdiocese of Miami, FL

Joseph was ordained a Deacon in 2010 and was assigned to the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish before his acceptance into the Seminary.

"It is through the grace of God and the help of Our Lady that I am here at Blessed John XXIII," says Baldemar.

Paul J. Poulin



Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY

Paul J. Poulin was born into a large family and raised in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains. He has held a variety of jobs, including truck driver and heavy-equipment operator.

"I began to get more serious about my Catholic faith and felt drawn to Our Lord and wanted to do His will in my life. I ultimately contacted my vocation director and - one year later - I was admitted into Blessed John XXIII," says Paul.

Shannon C. Thurman



Archdiocese of Denver, CO

Shannon C. Thurman is a native of Colorado. During his career, he held a variety of positions, most recently as a Medical Assistant in the Pediatrics Department of an outpatient clinic.

He became interested in the medical field while helping his mother care for his father and grandfather. Shannon's home parish is Saint John the Evangelist in Loveland, CO, where he served as a Eucharistic Minister for the homebound. Shannon is also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Record Attendance for 31st Annual Lawn Party

We are pleased to announce that attendance for the 31st Annual Lawn Party set a new record - with more than 400 of our supporters enjoying this special evening. As this is our premier fundraising event, with over \$250,000 raised, we are grateful to our supporters who made this year's event the most successful yet.

The Chairpersons of this year's event were Mia and Scott Gieselman. They welcomed the attendees, who were among the first to view the newly-renovated Seminary Chapel and front entryway.

The evening also offered an opportunity for our supporters to learn more about the seminarians. Father William B. Palardy, Rector of Blessed John XXIII, introduced two seminarians who shared their unique formation stories.

Lawrence L. Love, (Class of 2014 / Diocese of Tyler, TX), spoke of serving in the Air Force as a flight surgeon and later working in private practice. After losing his wife to Alzheimer's disease, Larry decided to act on his calling to the priesthood. Like many of



"We are very proud of this extraordinary institution," said His Eminence, Seán Patrick Cardinal O'Malley. The Cardinal was the host of the Lawn Party and greeted arriving guests in the beautiful new Seminary Chapel.

the mature seminarians at Blessed John XXIII, he is a father and grandfather.

Thomas J. Woodhouse, (Class of 2013 / Diocese of Providence, RI), also served in the military as an officer in the Marine Corps. Tom then became a test pilot for a defense contractor. Although he had his dream job, Tom continued to feel a strong calling to priesthood and, after much soul-searching, decided to pursue this calling.

Proceeds from the Lawn Party support the formation program for the 66 seminarians enrolled at Blessed John XXIII.

As we approach our fiftieth

year, we are grateful to our many supporters who have made this event so successful over the years.

Thank you!



The 31st Annual Lawn Party Chairpersons, Mia and Scott Gieselman, with Cardinal O'Malley

Welcome to the 'new' Blessed John XXIII . . .



The newly-renovated "Alumni Chapel" - the heart of our community

rously contributed to the rebuilding of the new Chapel.

Our alumni have donated to honor their memories of their formation at Blessed John XXIII, or to remember friends or family members. The Alumni Chapel will be dedicated during this year's Alumni Days event by the former Seminary Rector, Bishop Peter J. Uglietto. Alumni Days take place October 16-17, 2012.

We are pleased to have started the first phase of our capital campaign: *The Pathway to the Future*, over the summer academic break.

The attendees at this year's Lawn Party were among the first to view these renovations. They were met with an enlarged entranceway offering improved access, which is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There is also more visible signage and a newly-decorated Seminary foyer.

Perhaps the most significant change is our newly-

renovated "Alumni Chapel" - with improved lighting, upholstered pews for comfort, and more accessibility and capacity, including unobstructed balcony seating.

The Chapel will be named in honor of our many alumni supporters who have gene-

Perhaps the most comprehensive modification goes unseen: the installation throughout the building of a fire-protection system with new alarms and a sprinkler system. These projects represent the completion of the first phase of our capital campaign.



The newly-renovated Seminary entrance, with improved signage and access

The next steps of this campaign will entail expanding our library, enlarging our endowment, and more much needed infrastructure repair.

Stay tuned for updates!



BLESSED JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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Please consider remembering Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in your estate planning - contact Dick Murphy, Director of Development, at 781-894-4910 or dmurphy@blessedjohnxxiii.edu.

Autumn 2012

**Please contact Kate Folan
with Alumni updates at
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