

Blessed John XXIII National Seminary

Newsletter

May 2013



**His Eminence, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM, Cap., (front center),
Rev. William B. Palardy, Rector, (back center),
with the members of the Class of 2013**

***The Blessed John XXIII
National Seminary
community is proud to
present the Class of 2013.***

These accomplished men answered the calling to priesthood, completely changing the course of their lives. In this issue of the Seminary Newsletter, they share their perspectives on their formation experiences at our unique Seminary.

As they embark upon their pastoral journeys, their years

in formation at our Seminary will serve as a solid foundation for their priestly ministries. We commend them to Jesus Christ as they join over 600 of their alumni brothers serving in more than 150 dioceses and religious orders throughout our nation and beyond.

As this academic year comes to a close, we are reminded of how quickly we are nearing an important milestone - our 50th Anniversary in 2014. As we look to the future, we gratefully acknowledge all those who

have contributed to the success of our Blessed John XXIII Seminary community during the last fifty years. It is only through your support that we are able to continue our mission of preparing men for priestly ministry.

Rev. William B. Palardy
Rector

Vincent B. Brewer

Diocese of Madison, WI



Prior to his acceptance into the Seminary, Vincent Brewer was an IT manager for a Fortune 500 telecommunications corporation.

“When I entered the Seminary, my bishop gave me one piece of advice - ‘Don’t worry so much about discerning your call; work on your relationship with God and the call will make itself known.’ Blessed John XXIII provided an environment that allowed me to not only learn more about God, but more importantly, provided an environment where I came to know God better. The faculty and staff are respectful of the unique needs of later vocations. While I am eager to begin priestly ministry, I will always look back fondly upon my time at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary.”

Vince will be ordained on May 24th at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Madison.

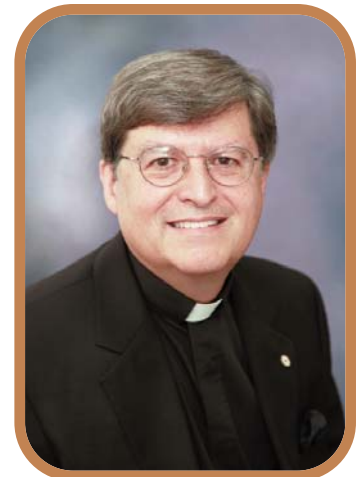
Archdiocese of Denver, CO

Ronald W. Cattany

Ronald Cattany had a 35-year career with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and was a natural resources advisor to four Colorado Governors.

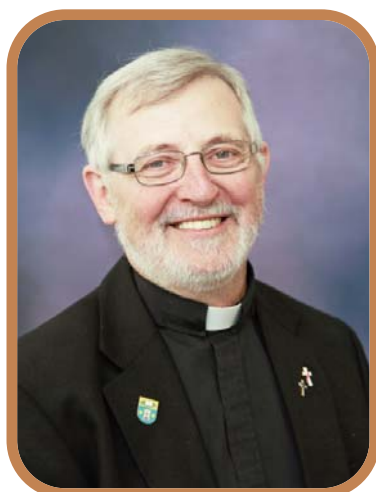
“My four years at Blessed John XXIII have been a grace-filled spiritual pilgrimage. I have learned about my spirituality, trust in God’s plan for my life, abandonment to the will of God, the guiding presence of God throughout my life, and spiritual brotherhood. I have changed during this time of unsurpassed peace and joy. I have learned the true meaning of Jesus’ invitation to ‘*come follow me.*’ Blessed John XXIII is dedicated to the formation of holy priests centered in Jesus Christ - all answering the call to lead souls to God, and to touch lives...one at a time.”

Ron will be ordained May 18th at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver.



Patrick M. Cunningham

Diocese of Bismarck, ND



During his secular career, Patrick Cunningham worked in the finance and retail business sectors. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1995.

“I will always be thankful that my diocese chose to send me here. I have been challenged to grow academically, have had opportunities for pastoral work in parishes, grown spiritually with daily personal and community prayer, and found human formation with the men I have lived with for the last four years. In addition, the lay people I have encountered have been warm and welcoming to a stranger from the Midwest. It is with mixed feelings I leave to return to North Dakota knowing a piece of my heart will always be here.”

Patrick will be ordained on June 13th at the Holy Spirit Cathedral in Bismarck.

Diocese of Metuchen, NJ

Michael A. Fragoso

Michael Fragoso had a successful practice as a pediatrician prior to his acceptance into Seminary.

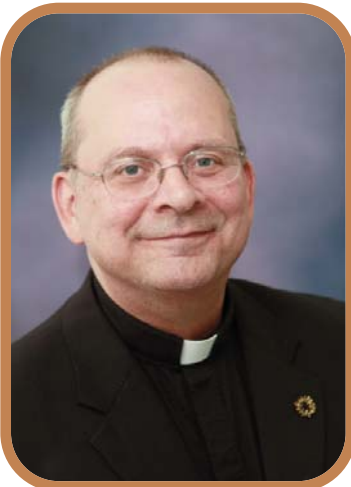
“I was blessed to have been sent to Blessed John XXIII by Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski. My foundation for priestly ministry has been well-prepared, not only in academic and spiritual formation, but also through contact with the people in the Seminary community and in my many pastoral assignments. My time at Blessed John XXIII has been a spiritual well of experience which I will be able to draw from for years to come.”

Michael will be ordained on May 25th at the Saint Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.



Michael C. Gentry

Diocese of Columbus, OH



Michael Gentry is originally from Houston, Texas, and was an Information Systems Developer and Project Manager.

“As I prepare to leave Seminary and enter priestly ministry, I recall Paul’s parting words to Timothy - “. . . The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Timothy 4:17-18 NAB)

On May 25th, Michael will be ordained at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus.

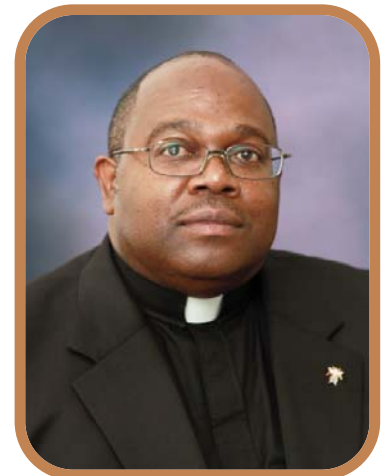
Diocese of Savannah, GA

Avery M. Hanna

Originally from Freeport in the Bahamas, Avery Hannah worked in education for 18 years prior to his acceptance into Seminary.

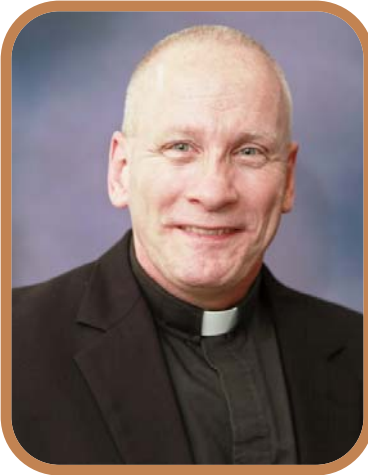
“Seminary has been an interesting experience for me. It required an openness to change that was not always easy but the openness was necessary for the formative process to be effective. The faculty and staff have truly fulfilled the Mission of the Seminary - having equipped me to effectively carry out the responsibilities of priestly ministry. A special thanks to the faculty for the knowledge imparted. The Seminary community will be in my prayers. *Pax et Bonum!*”

Avery will be ordained on June 1st at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Savannah.



John F. Hurley

Diocese of Springfield, MA



Before his acceptance into the Seminary, John Hurley was on the board of Jericho House, a ministry serving the developmentally-disabled community in the Diocese of Springfield. After ordination, John will return to Jericho House to serve this community as their priest.

“At Blessed John XXIII, I was welcomed with open arms to learn to serve the people of Christ. This was accomplished in two ways - first, in service to our brother seminarians in the first year of formation; then later with liturgical and pastoral service to the community at large. I am honored to have been taught by some of the brightest minds in theology and philosophy. I feel well-prepared to serve Christ’s people because of the excellent formation program here at the Seminary.”

John will be ordained on June 1st at the Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel in Springfield.

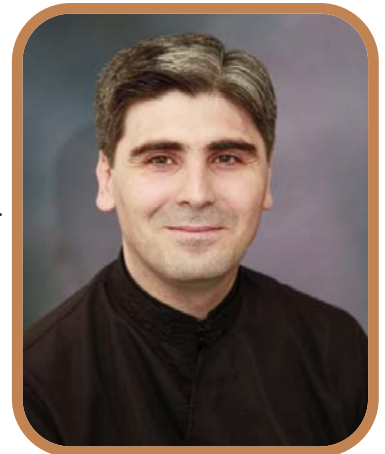
Basilian Salvatorian Order

Father Ephrem Marwan Kardouh, B.S.O.

Father Ephrem is a member of the Basilian Salvatorian Order from the Melkite Greek Catholic Church.

“When I entered Blessed John XXIII, I was touched by the welcoming spirit of the faculty, staff and my brother seminarians. While the rituals of the Latin rite of the Roman Catholic Church differed from the rite in which I was raised, I soon realized that Jesus Christ is present in the Holy Eucharist of all worship - both East and West. Blessed Pope John Paul II said - ‘East and West are the two lungs by which the Church breathes; their unity is essential to the healthy life of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.’ I am grateful to have had the opportunity to experience this reality during my time at the Seminary.”

Father Ephrem Marwan Kardouh was ordained on April 18th at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Boston.



Brian C. Maxwell

Diocese of Norwich, CT



Before answering the call to priestly ministry, Brian owned and operated a specialty housewares business in Maine.

“I am very grateful to the faculty of Blessed John XXIII for their munificent ‘self-gift’ in the form of good, holy priests here at the Seminary. I am also grateful to Bishop Michael R. Cote, and all the people from both the Diocese of Norwich and the greater Blessed John XXIII community, who have generously blessed us with their prayers and support. May God bless you all abundantly!”

Brian will be ordained on May 25th at the Cathedral of Saint Patrick in Norwich.

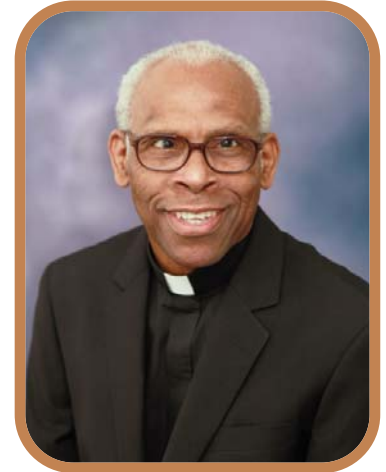
Archdiocese of Boston, MA

Jacques A. McGuffie

Jacques McGuffie is originally from Haiti. He earned an MBA from Boston University and was an accountant, tax advisor and financial planner.

"I've had a burning desire to be a priest ever since I was a young boy. In 1998, my love for the Church prompted me to seek admission to the permanent diaconate, and in 2002, I was ordained a Deacon. In 2009, after I became a widower, I asked the Lord for guidance. It was during this time that I realized that the 'seeds of priesthood' which had long been dormant had sprouted again. As a new seminarian, the Blessed John community welcomed me, and over a four-year period, provided me the human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation to serve God's people as a priest."

Jacques will be ordained on May 25th at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston.



Ivan Olmo

Diocese of Orlando, FL



Ivan Olmo spent 23 years as a manager in the telecommunications industry prior to being accepted into Seminary.

"Like my brothers who desired to answer the call to holiness, I entered this journey with the simple desire to know our Lord, to love Him, and to serve Him. This has been the prayer of my heart. I am grateful to all those who have supported me on this beautiful journey of faith and formation. You have helped me to serve Him better by serving His People. By sharing yourselves with me, you made me grow from a beloved son into a spiritual father. Blessing be to God!"

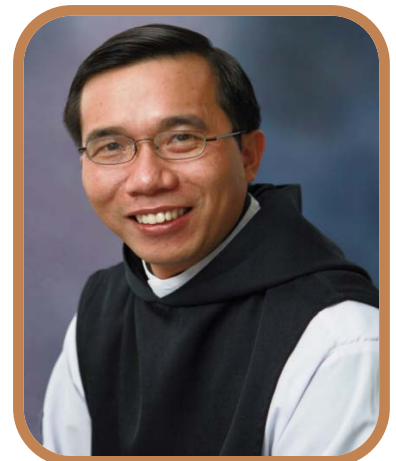
Ivan will be ordained on May 25th at the Saint James Cathedral in Orlando.

Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Vietnam

Br. John Tan Toan Van Phan, O Cist.

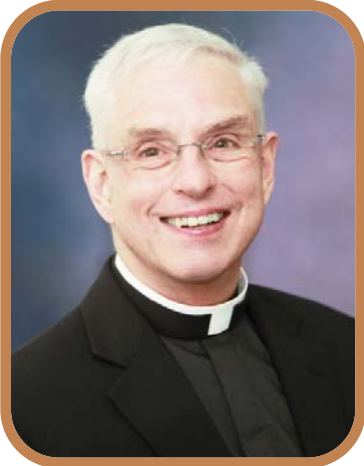
Brother John T. T. V. Phan, O Cist., is a Cistercian Monk of the Roman Catholic Monastery of Our Lady of Grace in Vung Tau City, Vietnam. In order to improve his English language skills, he entered Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, MA. Br. John plans to return to the Monastery in Vietnam.

"I am a different person from the one who entered Blessed John XXIII five years ago. I am grateful to the faculty and staff for their encouragement and support. I am especially thankful for The DeFreitas Scholarship Fund for Missionaries, which made it possible for me to prepare for priestly ministry. Lastly, I would like to thank the members of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, Abbot Damian Carr and the community at Saint Joseph's Abbey, and my brother classmates here at the Seminary for their support and prayers."



Thomas B. Shuler

Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA



During his secular career, Thomas Shuler worked in marketing. He was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1995, and was assigned full-time to serve at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Atlanta.

“I entered Blessed John XXIII after 17 years as a permanent deacon. My two years at the Seminary have deepened my faith beyond words. I thank the Seminary faculty and staff and the people of Holy Spirit Parish for their support and guidance. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, my pastor Monsignor Edward Dillon, and Vocation Director Father Luke Ballman, have all helped me discern my vocation. Finally, I reserve a special place in my heart for my classmates - I will cherish their friendships forever.”

Tom will be ordained on June 8th at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta.

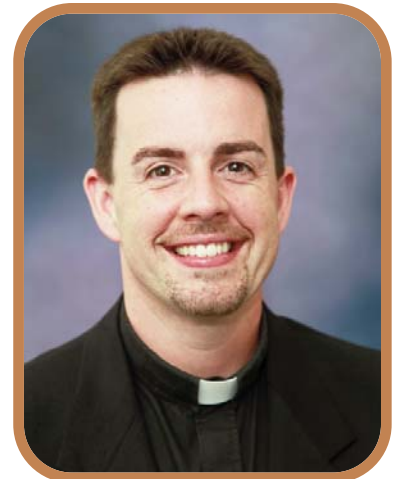
Diocese of Albany, NY

Scott L. VanDerveer

Scott VanDerveer was a Catholic school religion teacher for seven years prior to his acceptance into the Seminary.

“Bishop Howard J. Hubbard sent me to Blessed John XXIII to be formed - personally, pastorally, academically and spiritually - into the kind of priest that can faithfully serve God’s people. While I will never stop learning and growing, I can tell that this formation process has been working. I am grateful to the faculty and staff at the Seminary, along with my brother seminarians, for making this such a fruitful time in all our lives.”

Scott will be ordained on June 8th at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.



Thomas J. Woodhouse

Diocese of Providence, RI



Thomas Woodhouse was a Chief Pilot for Raytheon Missile Systems Flight Operations Division during his secular career.

“The anxiety and uncertainty of my first days in Seminary were transformed into peace, affirmation and gratitude through the power of the Holy Spirit and the formation program at Blessed John XXIII. The faculty and staff have opened up the beauty of the faith to me in ways that I couldn’t have imagined. I am looking forward to applying all that I have learned here in my ministry as a priest. I wish to extend heartfelt blessings and thanks to Bishop Thomas J. Tobin and the vocations staff of the Diocese of Providence for making my vocation journey possible.”

Tom will be ordained on June 1st at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence.

New Blessed John XXIII Learning Center

The Seminary library was built 50 years ago, in the 1960s. As you might imagine, it is no longer suited for the needs of today's students. As our program grew over the years, we found ways to adapt and make do. However, we have run out of space—and options.

Today's library must be more than a book depository; it must serve as a multi-purpose academic center and offer research opportunities using the latest technology. Such a facility is more than a library; it is currently described as a Learning Center.

In addition to offering a comfortable environment for study and research, the Learning Center will:

- provide new meeting and conference space for the Seminary community and for outreach to external groups
- allow for an expanded curriculum through distance learning applications
- strengthen our position with the Association of Theological Schools, our accrediting agency
- enable the redesigning of the existing library into private faculty offices
- create additional residency space for a growing seminarian enrollment by repurposing dormitory rooms currently in use as faculty offices

The Learning Center will be sited to the right of the front entrance and its architecture will complement the heart of the Seminary community—our Chapel. The Center will be a two-story, 10,000 square-foot structure with a glass curtain wall overlooking our wooded campus. It will house both hard-copy and digital resources, as well as computer stations and space for group-study.



For 50 years Blessed John XXIII National Seminary has provided mature men the opportunity to serve God and make a difference in the world.

We could not have accomplished this without the support of our many loyal donors. Please consider making a gift to the ***Pathway to the Future Campaign*** and help make our Learning Center a reality.

For additional information, contact Dick Murphy or Kate Folan at 781-899-5500.



Blessed John XXIII National Seminary

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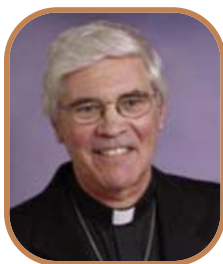
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Two Blessed John XXIII Faculty Retire

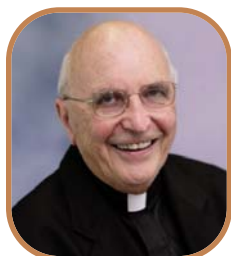
It is with both profound gratitude, and a tinge of sadness, that we announce the retirement of two priests on our Seminary Faculty.



Rev. Albert Sylvia has been a devoted spiritual director at our Seminary for the past five years. His deep

prayer life, his joyful spirit, and his experience as a pastor and member of the Saint James Society in South America have been great assets in both his role as spiritual director and member of the Seminary Faculty Council. Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, has granted

Fr. Sylvia retirement status effective June 30th.



Rev. Charles Healey, S.J., has been associated with our Seminary since 1982,

and served as academic dean during fifteen of those years. Fr. Healey has infused his Jesuit charism, his keen intellect, his practical wisdom, and his love for the Lord, His people, and the ministerial priesthood into his duties here as professor, formation advisor, Mass celebrant and homilist, and member of the Faculty Council. While Fr. Healey

is retiring from full-time status as of June 30th, he will remain an adjunct professor and continue to write the 50-year history of our Seminary.

We give thanks to Almighty God and to these two devoted priests for their years as faculty members. On Monday, April 29th, a Mass was celebrated in their honor here at the Seminary. It was followed by a festive dinner, during which we acknowledged the blessings we have received through their dedicated ministry.

May the Lord grant them good health, much joy, and many more years of priestly service - albeit at a more leisurely pace! Ad multos annos!