

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

558 South Avenue
Weston, MA 02493

781-899-5500
www.blessedjohnxxiii.edu



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

RETURN POSTAGE REQUESTED

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.BLESSEDJOHNXXIII.EDU

WHAT'S AHEAD AT XXIII

August
23: Orientation of New Seminarians
29: First Semester Classes Begin - 50th Year
29: Opening Mass, First Semester

September
17: 33rd Annual Lawn Party

October
12-17: Retreat for Seminarians
21-22: Alumni Days
31: Ministry of Reader

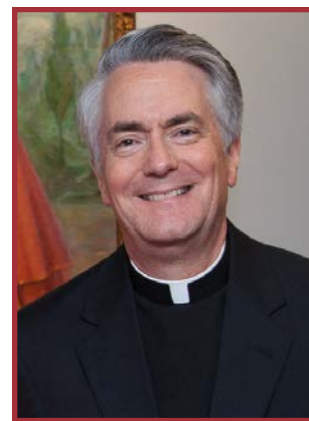
November
25: Thanksgiving Break

December
1: Classes Resume
8: Ministry of Acolyte
10: Last Day of Classes
12-16: Final Examinations
17: Christmas Break Begins

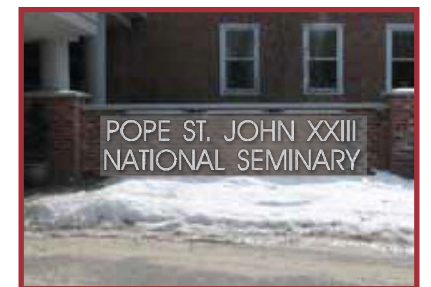
January
9: Second Semester Classes Begin
17: Boston Diaconate Ordination
Cathedral of the Holy Cross
22: Pilgrimage, National March for Life
Washington, D.C.



FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



A Historic 50th Ahead at Pope St. John XXIII!



As you can see from the newsletter masthead, and the accompanying photo, we have a new name---
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary!

I'm confident that many of you have followed the media coverage of the recent canonizations of John Paul II and our patron, John XXIII. Inside you'll find some additional perspective from those of us (50 strong!) that went on the pilgrimage.

However, that's not all that's new here at Pope St. John XXIII. We will in a few short months welcome a new class of seminarians, having said farewell to the 16 members of the Class of 2014. In that class there are five seminarians being ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Boston on Saturday, May 24th at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. The graduates' personal reflections and recollections of their formation for priesthood are outlined on pages 4-9.

We will also welcome two new members to our faculty this upcoming academic year: Msgr. Peter Conley, Senior Priest, and Rev. Mark O'Connell. Msgr. Conley is returning to the seminary after having taught and served here from 1975-1987. Rev. Mark O'Connell will join us from the Archdiocesan Tribunal as an adjunct faculty member and direct our Canon Law studies.

Another significant event will occur in the fall. We will publish a book, written by Rev. Charles Healey, S. J., chronicling the 50-year history of our seminary. Inside you'll find both excerpts and photos along with a column from our "historian" who will be one of the keynote speakers at our 50th Anniversary celebration at Alumni Days in October.

Finally, you may also see construction beginning on a new wing of the seminary. With the addition of a few more gifts to our capital campaign, *Pathway to the Future*, we hope to break ground on our new Learning Center at this time next year.

Our 50th Anniversary is upon us and, once again, we thank you for your prayerful and generous support.

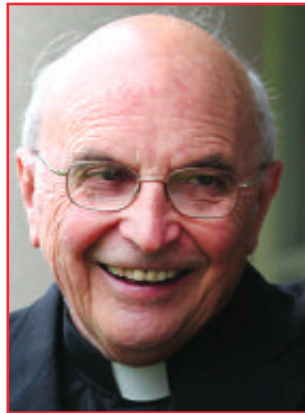
Rev. William B. Palardy, Rector

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Fr. Healey Reminisces
- Faculty Spotlight
- Class of 2014
- XXIII's 50 Years in Photos
- Farewell from the Graduates
- Seminary Syrup
- Seminarian Corner

-A Half-Century of Memories

Fr. Healey Book to Tell XXIII History



Over 50 years ago, as Richard Cardinal Cushing, the Archbishop of Boston, was planning, constructing and bringing to fulfillment his vision of a unique seminary for older vocations to the priesthood in the town of Weston, I was a young Jesuit scholastic studying theology in preparation for ordination to the priesthood at nearby Weston College (now Campion Center).

In June of 1965, as the first class of seminarians was finishing the inaugural year at what was then named Pope John XXIII National Seminary, Cardinal Cushing ordained me to the priesthood in the chapel at the Weston Jesuit Seminary. Little did I realize at the time that so many of my future years as a priest would be associated with the special seminary that I knew was being built and was dedicated in 1964. I have been a part of the life of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary since 1982. I remember my first time at the seminary during a visit with Father Paul Gilmartin, S. J. in the late 1970's. One of my earliest memories as a

member of the faculty in 1982 is of one of our seminarians, a Benedictine, planting six tiny, new evergreen trees along the lower end of the back entrance parking lot. I have watched four of them grow and grow through the years. Today, they are huge and beautiful with age and I look at them as representing the many changes the seminary has experienced in its 50 years.

As the 50th anniversary of the seminary drew near, Fr. William Palardy, the present rector/president invited me to write the history of the first 50 years. I was happy to respond positively, since, as the senior full-time faculty member at the time and long associated with the seminary, I did have a good grasp of much of its history. But more significantly, I considered it a distinct privilege to have the opportunity to author such a wonderful project, which will be published and released this fall.

My long association with the seminarians, faculty, staff and others who have contributed so much to the seminary's rich history has indeed been a blessing for me. In 2010, Father Palardy became the fifth Rector I have had the joy of working for during my years on the faculty (Msgr. Dennis Sheehan, Msgr. Connie McRae, Msgr. Francis Kelly, Bishop Peter Uglietto and Rev. William Palardy).

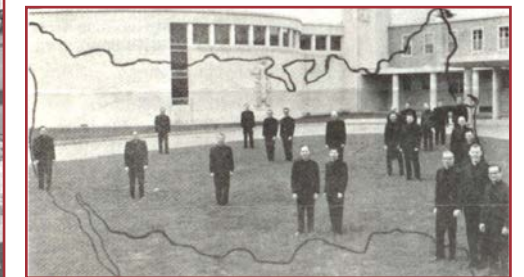
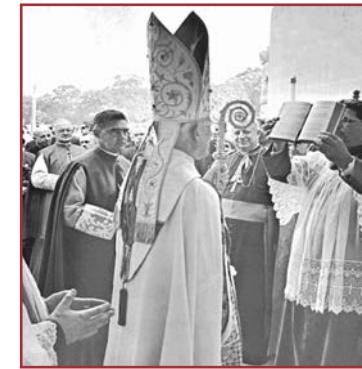
I have always valued and appreciated the importance of priestly formation, and Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary has been a special place to serve as a priest. One of the very special joys I have experienced as a Jesuit has been the sharing, working together with, and assisting the many wonderful priests of the Archdiocese of Boston, and other diocese and religious communities who have taught and helped form future priests at Pope St. John XXIII. It has been a blessing to be a part of their work for the Church and I am grateful for their friendships. The writing of the seminary history has provided me with a way of expressing my gratitude, affection and esteem.

I am well aware that the writing of an institution's history depends upon the assistance of so many others. I am grateful to all the former rectors, faculty members, alumni and others who graciously met with me and answered my many questions and those who have left records and accounts covering five decades. The seminary newsletters that began 50 years ago and which still continue in 2014 were particularly helpful sources of information. Thus, it is only fitting to acknowledge the contributions of all the alumni who served on the Newsletter staffs over the past years.

The final tribute should be given to Richard Cardinal Cushing. So much of the past half-century of growth of the seminary is due to his creative vision and generous spirit. Through the intercession of the newly canonized Pope St. John XXIII, may the Seminary named after him continue to grow and flourish for the greater glory of God and the service of the Church.

Charles J Healey, S.J.

Then: Pope John XXIII Seminary...



Now: Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Coming in October...
Fr. Healey's History of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary



Pope St. John XXIII Snapshot

- 8 Rectors
- 600+ ordained priests
- 121 dioceses & 21 religious orders
 - U.S, Australia, Puerto Rico, Guam, Bermuda, Canada, Nigeria, Vietnam
- 2 Bishops:
 - Most Rev. Paul Swain, S. Dakota
 - Most Rev. Robert Lynch, Florida



Row 1: (L): Dedication of Seminary, August '64 (M): Seminary Community, May '65 (R): 25th Anniversary: Revs. Moriarty, McBride & Healey
 Row 2: (L): Skating Rink, January '66 (M): Cardinal Cushing for Tonsure, November '65 (R): Class of '69, May '69 "Seminary News"
 Row 3: (L): Canonization, April '14 (R): Blessed John Pilgrims at Basilica of St Francis of Assisi
 Row 4: (L): Blessed John Alumni, Santa Maria della Vitoria (R): Blessed John Rectors: Kelly, Uglietto, Palardy, McRae
 Row 5: Seminary Community, September '13

The Class of 2014 Bids Farewell

The Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary graduation class of 2014 hails 7 diocese, 4 countries, and includes 2 monks, a doctor, and much more.

As we say a temporary goodbye, and celebrate their graduations, the members of the class were asked to look back on their years of formation and answer the following questions:

- Reflecting on your formation at Pope St. John XXIII, for what are you most thankful?
- As you graduate and approach ordination, what will you look back on and miss the most?



JEFFREY S. ARCHER

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Prior to entering the seminary, Jeffrey was a corporate consulting and strategy specialist for several large firms.

• *“One of my favorite lines in Proverbs is ‘The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom and whatever else you get, get insight.’” When I entered Blessed John XXIII I held tight to these words. As I prepare to leave, these words have greater meaning for me. I am most grateful to the priests, the professors, the staff and my seminarian brothers for walking this journey with me. Each helped me to grow in*

ways I thought were not possible. Each gave me the wisdom, the insight, and the education I need in order to continue this journey and do God’s will.”

• *“I will miss the community and all the community had to offer. I’ll miss praying in common, sharing meals, the conversations and laughter, the Wednesday excursions and the education I received. Each part contributed to who I am and who I have become.”*

Jeff will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.



EDWARD R. CLIFFORD

DIOCESE OF PORTLAND, ME

Before entering the seminary, Ed served in municipal government management and was executive director of the public transit service in Biddeford, Me.

• *“I am most grateful for the wisdom that Cardinal Cushing and others had 50 years ago in establishing a seminary for the formation of men called to the priesthood later in life. The faculty, staff and fellow seminarians at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary recognize and appreciate the experience and maturity of the men who come here. The Seminary community offered a supportive environment in which I was able to grow.”*

• *“I will miss my brother seminarians, the friends, I have met here and the camaraderie that comes from living, praying, and learning in this unique community. Although we have different personalities and occasionally different viewpoints, we respect each other. I have learned from and will cherish this experience as I embark on the diocesan priesthood.”*

Ed will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Portland on June 14 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, ME.



JAMES G. DAVIS

DIOCESE OF ALBANY, N.Y.

Prior to entering the seminary, Jim taught physically challenged youths in a public junior high school in Harlem, N.Y.

• *“Blessed John XXIII has been an interesting place to be. I am grateful for the formation staff and to all the support staff that has made things easier for all the seminarians along the way. The best way for me to go through formation was “One Day at a Time,” relying on God’s graces. I am grateful that Bishop Howard Hubbard sent me here four years ago and I now hope that his successor, Bishop Edward Scharfenberger, will continue Albany’s great relationship with this special seminary.”*

• *“My favorite thing about the seminary was the food and fellowship which sustained us on the journey. I am grateful for all of the kitchen staff and their efforts to provide great meals for us over these last four years.”*

Jim will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Albany on June 14 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Albany.



PETER F. DEFAZIO

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Before entering the seminary, Peter worked as an auditor for the U.S. Department of Labor.

• *“This seminary is a very special place. God dwells here, and the people who work here are committed to doing the Lord’s work. I am truly blessed to have been given this opportunity to learn, to grow, and to be formed into an ordained minister of Christ Jesus by faculty and staff that respect the real world experience that second career vocation men bring with them. I am also grateful for the many friendships that I have made, and that I plan on maintaining after I am ordained.”*

• *“I will miss so many of my seminarian brothers, who have become my brothers in Jesus Christ. The bonds that we have formed will not be broken upon graduation and return to our respective dioceses or religious communities. There are many truly remarkable men in the class of 2014. And I feel very fortunate to be in the Archdiocese of Boston, where I will have the opportunity to remain in close contact with the faculty and staff of Blessed John XXIII Seminary.”*

Peter will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.



KEN GILL

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

Prior to entering the seminary, Ken was the Director of Business Development in the Rail/Transit Division of Parsons Corporation.

• *“I’m most grateful for the pastoral ministry opportunities I had which helped me to grow in love of service to the people of God. These included teaching seventh grade religious education students at St. Stephen’s in Framingham, prison ministry at the Massachusetts State Correctional Facility in Shirley, and my deacon assignment at St. Margaret’s in Burlington. The people I encountered and ministered to and with will remain forever close to my heart.”*

• *“I will miss the eggplant parmesan! Seriously, I will miss the time and the space that the seminary provided to me in order to discern whether God was truly calling me to the ordained priesthood. The countless hours in prayer supported by spiritual direction helped me to listen to the many varied ways in which God speaks to us. The formation at Blessed John XXIII then helped me to respond to God’s call with confidence and joy. For this I am very thankful.”*

Ken will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. on June 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C.



LAWRENCE L. LOVE

DIOCESE OF TYLER, TEXAS

Prior to entering the seminary, Larry was a USAF flight surgeon and a practicing ophthalmologist.

•“I am most grateful for just that - the formation that has brought me to the point of ordination to the priesthood of Jesus Christ - formation provided by a faculty and staff whose only interest was in my and my seminary brothers' achieving that awesome goal of acting in persona Christi capitis with the goal of winning souls for the Lord for eternity.”

•“I could say that I will miss the food (which I will!), but by far I will miss the people here - my fantastic neighbor for four years, Ed Clifford; my other classmates; my brothers in the other classes; the faculty who taught me; and the staff who provided such awesome support. The friendships I have made here will never end, but it will be hard to not be here anymore in the physical presence of all these people I have grown to love and respect.”

Larry will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Tyler on June 28 at the Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul, Tyler, TX.



JOSEPH MACKENZIE

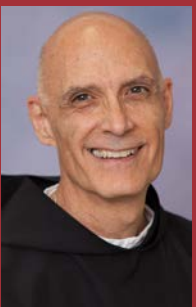
DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH, N.S.

Prior to entering the seminary, Joe taught special needs children for over 30 years.

•“When I look back on my formation at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, what comes to mind is the wonderful atmosphere that was prevalent throughout the house. The men, true ambassadors of Christ, are not only men of prayer, but also true solid men—men of integrity and character.”

•“The friendships and the times of laughter will be missed, but will be stored in the heart for future references.”

Joe will be ordained a deacon later this year in the Diocese of Antigonish.



BROTHER EMMANUEL MORINELLI, OCSO

TRAPPIST MONK, ST. JOSEPH ABBEY, SPENCER, MA.

Brother Emmanuel has served his community of Cistercian Monks of the Strict Observance as music director and director of the Holy Rood Guild, the abbey’s liturgical vestment industry.

•“Looking back on my four years at Blessed John XXIII Seminary I am most grateful for the spiritual and pastoral formation as well as the theological education that I have received here. I feel that I have been given a good foundation and preparation for my future ministry as a priest.

I am also grateful to the faculty and staff for their help, support and encouragement. I have been edified by their dedication to the seminary and their sincere desire to help the seminarians reach their goal of ordination. Finally, I am grateful for the many friendships that I have made here among the seminarians. Their support and fraternal affection have been a great grace to me.”

•“What I will miss most about Blessed John XXIII are the people. The fellowship and times of personal sharing, both struggles and joys, with my brother seminarians has been the best part of the education here. I feel that I have learned the most from them. All the varied life experiences that the men bring here have enriched me and broadened my vision.”

Father Emmanuel was ordained a priest on May 3 at St. Joseph Abbey, Spencer.



JAVIER HEREDIA

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON, S.C.

Prior to entering the seminary, Javier worked in the agricultural sector in South Carolina.

•“I am most grateful for the compassionate way in which the seminary family, especially the formation team, helped me to grow in my limitations and to cultivate some of the virtues needed to become a better Christian and a future presbyter. I also treasure their support while I was going through difficult times when my mother and sister were ill, for I did not carry my cross alone.”

•“I will definitely miss the food! Not only for the unquestionable quality of meals, but also because getting together around the table helps us to “polish” our people skills. We are called to be men for others, and certainly our camaraderie leads us to become men of communion.”

Javier will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Charleston on May 30 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston, S.C.



KEVIN T. HICKEY

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Prior to entering the seminary, Kevin was a Systems Analyst for Caritas Christi Healthcare.

•“I am most grateful for Cardinal Cushing’s vision for a seminary that fosters delayed vocations, which made it possible for me to pursue a priestly vocation. I am also extremely indebted to the faculty and staff for their guidance and assistance during my four years of formation at Blessed John.”

•“I will miss my fellow seminarians who were always there to pick me up when I most needed support and encouragement. This was never more evident than when my father died last year. They will forever be my “Band of Brothers.”

Kevin will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.



FRANK J. LAWLOR

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

Prior to entering the seminary, Frank served as Development Director of the Newman Catholic Center at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, Ma.

•“I am most grateful for the opportunity that I have had to live and learn with a remarkable group of men and women. We have very different backgrounds and talents but we all share a common goal of answering God’s call or shaping future priests. While I cannot claim to be close to all of these people and will admit to some trying times, each person, in his or her own way, has helped to shape the future priest that I will be. While the academics at XXIII are important, the real learning and growth takes place outside of the classrooms, in the living quarters, the refectory and in the pastoral placements.”

•“I am eagerly anticipating looking at XXIII through my rear view mirror for the last time in early May. It has been a long four years, but after a suitable period of decompression I will probably admit to missing the time and freedom that I have had to pray and to delve deeply into theology and spirituality. I expect that life in a parish will be busy and a bit stressful; I will no longer have the luxury of focusing on one or two subjects for an extended period of time.”

Frank will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Springfield on June 7 at St. Michael’s Cathedral, Springfield.



BROTHER FRANCIS PHAM, O.CIST.

**CISTERCIAN MONK,
VIETNAM**

Prior to entering the seminary, Br. Francis entered monastic life after graduation from high school in Vietnam in 1998. He came to the United States in 2006.

•*"I entered Blessed John XXIII National Seminary first to study for the priestly ministry in English as a second language. It was not easy for me in the beginning, but I am very grateful to the faculty, staff and my brother seminarians who have supported and helped me through these six years. I am especially thankful to the monks of Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer for their support and prayers during my studies at the seminary."*

•*"I will miss many things. I especially will miss the sharing in prayer with my brothers and faculty at Tenebrae services that were so moving for me. I also will miss the many fun things we did together, such as the Relics softball games, the St. Patrick's Day talent shows, Fall Follies and our cookouts. And, of course, I will miss the great food—and my soy sauce!"*



LAURENCE M. TOCCI

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Prior to entering the seminary, Ren was a college professor and a playwright.

•*"I am most grateful for the opportunity to get to know and bond with men of deep faith. It can feel lonely living a life rooted in Christ in the world, and can sometimes feel like fighting a losing battle. My four years here have introduced me to other men who have chosen to live for Christ, and that buoys my spirits."*

•*"I guess it's pretty much the flip side of the same coin: I'll most miss the convenient access to the friends I've made here. Although we can get on each other's nerves living in such close quarters with each other, it also made it easy to engage in camaraderie. That sort of fellowship will have to be maintained from here on with a deliberate effort."*

Ren will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.



GREGORY A. PIATT

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Prior to entering the seminary, Greg was a news journalist whose assignments included covering NATO and the wars in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

•*"I'm thankful that there is a seminary that focuses on the second-career seminarian because we older men are experiencing a whole different set of life experiences than the younger seminarians in formation. At this stage in life, I don't know if I would want to go through a formation program with younger men. I feel I have been blessed to be formed for the priesthood at Blessed John XXIII."*

•*"I am going to miss the day-to-day relationships I have with my classmates, -- many of whom will be half a continent away. Whenever you spend four years living together in community you build up close friendships and now you won't see your brothers on a daily basis. I will miss the faculty and staff with whom I established friendships and our day-to-day banter about things. I will also miss the people—priests and parishioners—in my weekend assignment in the Archdiocese of Boston."*

Greg will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 7 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit



JOSEPH W. TUSKIEWICZ

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

Prior to entering the seminary, Joe was an advertising account director for major automotive brands.

•*"I am most grateful to God for calling me to the priesthood. I am grateful to the Archdiocese of Detroit for making it possible for me to respond to that call by sending me to Blessed John XXIII National Seminary. I am grateful for the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit and the dedicated faculty that helped prepare me for priestly ministry."*

•*"There is much I came to appreciate and like about living in the Boston area. Most notably, I will miss people I have met at various parishes and pastoral activities throughout the years. They have been both a blessing and an inspiration."*

Joe will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 7 at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit.



MARK STOREY

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Prior to entering the seminary, Mark worked in technology research and development for an engineering firm.

•*"Looking back at the past four years of formation at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, I am most thankful for the great experiences and learning that was provided not only at the Seminary but also through each of my Pastoral Ministry assignments."*

•*"I think that what I will miss the most is the sense of community, the friendships and most of all my brother seminarians. We have been like an extended family living together in a really big house, eating together, going to school together and, most of all, praying together. As Fr. Murphy said in a recent homily, 'We live in a Church. How cool is that!'"*

Mark will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 24 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.

Seminarian Corner..

XXIII Schola CD Set for Fall Release

The talents of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's Schola are coming soon to CD as part of the seminary's 50th Anniversary celebration.

After a 2012 single received over 8,000 views on YouTube, followed by a performance on Catholic TV, the idea of recording a sacred music CD was born.

"It has been a wonderful experience, coming together as brother seminarians to help contribute to a special anniversary celebration," said Rev. Emmanuel Morinelli, a Trappist monk and long-time music director at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, who was ordained a priest on May 3. "It's a project that has been a pleasure to be a part of for all of us."

The 12-song CD is scheduled for release in the fall in time for the 50th Anniversary kickoff and annual Lawn Party. The six "Singing Seminarians" include Fr. Emmanuel; Deacons Larry Love ('14) and Russ Mower ('15); Greg Bierbaum ('15);

Paul Schultz ('16) and Daniel Olvera ('17). They are accompanied on keyboards and string instruments by Kevin Yarnell ('16), Dr. John Clabeaux and Kevin Galie, musical director at Pope St. John XXIII.

At press time, the vocalists and musicians were in final recording sessions at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Dover. Fr. Emmanuel expressed gratitude on behalf of the Schola ensemble to Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet, St. Dunstan rector, for welcoming the seminarians. "The generosity of St. Dunstan's has been great," Fr. Emmanuel said. "It has been a lot of work, but it has been so worth it for all of us."

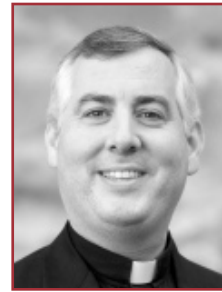


- Kevin Mulligan

Faculty Spotlight...Welcome, Msgr. Conley, Fr. O'Connell



Who: Rev. Msgr. Peter V. Conley
Will Teach: Basic Catholic Doctrine (Pre-Theology)
Previous Assignment: Pastor, St. Jude Parish, Norfolk
Ordained: December 1963, Rome
Education: St. John Seminary, A.B., 1960 Gregorian University, Rome, S.T.B., 1962, S.T.L., 1964 Catholic University, Washington, DC, S.T.D. 1972
Ministry Highlights:
 Archdiocesan Ecumenical Commission 1972-86
 Pope John XXIII Seminary 1975-87
 Professor of Theology 1975-87
 Academic Dean 1976-81
 Archdiocesan Communications Director 1980-88
 Rector, Cathedral of the Holy Cross 1987-91
 Editor-in-Chief, The Pilot, 1991-2002



Who: Rev. Mark O'Connell, JCD
Will Teach: Theology III Introduction to Canon Law; Theology IV Canon Law of Marriage
Ordained: June 16, 1990, Archdiocese of Boston
Current Assignment: Judicial Vicar, Archdiocese of Boston
Personal: Native of Scarborough, Ontario, youngest of four children; parents Thomas and Margaret reside in Milton.
Education:
 Boston College 1986, B.A. Philosophy and B.A. English
 JCL, Santa Croce, Rome, 1999
 JCD, Santa Croce, Rome, 2002
 Ministry/Canon Law Highlights
 Asst. Moderator of the Curia, Canonical Affairs, Boston
 Adjunct Professor, Saint John Seminary

Ordinations Cap Memorable Year at XXIII

By Paul Schultz '16

As surely as the seasons change from winter doldrums to spring renewal to the cusp of summer, another academic year comes to a close and formation concludes for a group of seminarians. Beyond earning a Master of Divinity degree, most of the graduating Class of 2014 looked forward to their ordination to the holy priesthood of Jesus Christ at press time.

One graduate, formerly Brother Emmanuel Morinelli, OCSO, already was getting used to being called "Father" as finals week began for the underclassmen. Father Emmanuel, a Trappist at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass., was ordained to the priesthood on May 3 at St. Joseph Abbey. Father Emmanuel celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving on May 4.

The Class of 2014 began formation at what is now Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in 2009 and 2010 from all walks of life, with proficiency in business, government, medicine, finance, and teaching, building upon varied careers to answer a call to service in the Church as priests. Some are widowed fathers and that experience will evolve to spiritual fatherhood for their future parish families. Five men remain in the Archdiocese of Boston, one will head west to the Diocese of Springfield, Mass. and the rest will serve in Maine, New York, Washington, D.C., South Carolina, Michigan, Texas, and Nova Scotia in Canada. Br. Francis Pham, a Cistercian monk, will eventually return to his native Vietnam.

"The Class of 2014 started First Theology as I began serving as rector," recalls Rev. William Palardy. "Now as they leave the seminary to serve in the Lord's vineyard, they go with my

prayers and with fond memories."

In addition to the Class of 2014 ordinations, many in the Theology III Class of 2015 await ordinations to the transitional diaconate in the coming weeks and months. Russ Mower, of the Diocese of Dallas, became the first of next year's priesthood class to be ordained a deacon in a solemn Mass on April 3. Joy mixes with a little anxiety for these men eager to take this important step in their formation. They will serve as deacons in parishes (or in the case of one, his Benedictine monastery) over the summer in their home dioceses.

Through the intercession of our patron, Pope St. John XXIII, may these men bring exuberant faith to their forthcoming ministries.



Cardinal Séan O'Malley, Fr. Palardy and the Class of 2014.

Seminarian Corner...

A Lenten Parable: Tapping Maple Syrup at the Seminary

BY RICK LESSER '15

There are four old sugar maple trees gracing the driveway at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary. Our family used to tap a few trees on our Albany farm, and I thought it would be fun to tap a few trees here and boil a little syrup for the seminary community to enjoy.



Many of the Blessed John XXIII seminarians are from the south, and the whole process seemed novel and mysterious to them. Few had ever even tasted real maple syrup. About a dozen of us "old guys" agreed to get together to tap trees, hang buckets and sit around at night watching a total of 240 gallons of sap boil down to six gallons of syrup throughout the "seminary tapping season."

Making maple syrup requires frigid nights followed by warm, sunny days. When the weather is right, huge volumes of sap flow up to the treetop to bring energy to new leaf buds. From looking at the old dry bark, you have no clue that a hidden stream of life-giving sap is racing skyward. Come fall, cold nights stress the trees. The leaves turn brilliant colors as they spill their sugars down under the bark to be stored in the tree roots all winter. The following spring, the process starts all over again.

So much happens independently of any effort. God has all that under control. The actual harvesting and production, however, requires time and patience. There is a lot of peaceful time to think and pray and discover the beauty which God has placed within and around us. There is a certain parable-like quality in all of this. Like these particular trees, we men here at Blessed John XXIII Seminary are also a little older. We are more rugged and gray than graceful and green.

Many of us have raised families. Some survived the stress of losing wives, leaving our homes and giving up careers. I suppose that, in a real way, we, too, are living in the winter of our lives. Still, God has deemed that this is an acceptable time for us to answer His call.

You don't make much maple syrup in fair weather. You don't make any without some stress being put on the trees. It is precisely because of the rough conditions that the trees produce such sweetness from hidden sources.

Living teaches us something about life, death, joy, sorrow, pain and suffering. The happy events reflect the glory and splendor of God. In the sadder ones, we come to understand that God is always at our side. We come to see that He is gracious and merciful, slower to anger than we might have thought, and richer in kindness than we could ever have imagined.

My life experiences and those of my fellow seminarians will suit us well as we minister to God's people, who also experience smooth and rough patches in life. I suspect that I will be a different, better kind of a priest because of my life experiences than I would have been had I entered the seminary as a younger man. I am, frankly, a little in awe of the younger guys who seem to be so much better equipped than I would have been at their age.

Walking through the woods, we probably miss what is going on in the trees. It is sort of a mystery, this sap and maple syrup stuff. But, like God's grace working in us, wonderful things go on all the time without our knowing it.

This winter in Weston was the appropriate time to tap, boil and enjoy the maple syrup. Now is always the acceptable time to cooperate with God's grace. He plans to change sap to syrup in all of His children, young and old. We just have to let Him.

Rick Lesser is a widowed father of three and a former equine veterinarian.



SAVE THESE DATES

September 17 • Lawn Party
 October 21-22 • Alumni Days