

# POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

558 South Avenue  
Weston, MA 02493

781-899-5500  
www.psjs.edu



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

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.PSJS.EDU

## ANSWERING THE CALL

As Pope St. John XXIII prepares men ages 30-60 to serve the Church as your parish priests, did you know these easy giving options can help support their formation?

- **DONOR ADVISED FUNDS** - Give through your donor advised fund to help form your future priests – your fund sponsor handles disbursements and tax receipts.
- **STOCK** - Make a gift of stock to support Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's mission of preparing mature men to serve the Church as parish priests.
- **IRA** - If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer a gift to best advance the formation of our future priests directly to the Seminary without incurring tax consequences.

Please contact Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's Advancement Office at 781-810-1923 for more information, or to let us know you'll be making one of these gifts.



*Your gift helps every seminarian!*

# POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

NEWSLETTER FALL 2020

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome Seminarians
- Event Success
- Alumni Bulletin
- Around the Seminary

## SAVE THE DATE

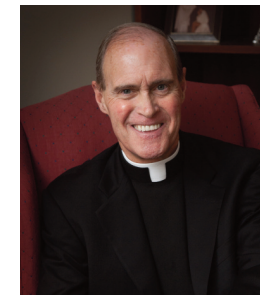
29TH ANNUAL  
"FRAN & STEPHEN  
ROWAN  
MEMORIAL" GOLF  
TOURNAMENT  
MAY 24, 2021

SCAN HERE TO VISIT  
PSJS WEBSITE



## FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

### RESILIENCY



As we entered the fall of 2020 – a unique year by many measures! – I was struck by the faith and resiliency of the PSJS family. When the doors opened for the new year, there was a natural bit of trepidation, as we came from many different parts of the country to gather under one roof during a strange time with the coronavirus. The Seminary opened at the end of August with the resumption of in-person formation and the rhythm of the house soon took form after all arrived. I am proud of the courage of the men and am thankful to all who made it possible for a safe return to the house. In this issue, you will meet the new class of seminarians who entered the formation program in this historic 2020 year. Like all our alumni, they are a group eager to serve the Church with generosity and love.

the independent programs of each Seminary is something that certainly merits exploration and consideration. However, this Seminary's unique mission of service to the Church in the United States recognizes the distinct separation between the formation of younger candidates and that of older men. Your advice and counsel are most welcome, and I look forward to receiving any input that you might offer in this regard.

You will read inside about our two fundraisers that took place in the first month of the academic year. The Annual Golf Tournament was postponed from the spring and was played on a beautiful late August day. The Annual Lawn Party was switched to virtual this year and resulted in the Seminary's most successful year! Thank you to our many supportive benefactors.

May God continue to bless you, your families, and loved ones with good health and may His peace always be with you.

In June, Cardinal O'Malley, the Archbishop of Boston and Chairman of our Board of Trustees, established a Task Force to begin a process of a possible consolidation between Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary and St. John's Seminary. Sharing resources, faculty, and administration without any alterations to

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely

## HISPANIC FAITH SHARING

Seminarians experience a rigorous academic and pastoral ministry as part of their formation program. In addition to the set schedule, some seminarians have developed in-house groups to deepen their spiritual life and to bolster their skills for parish life beyond Seminary formation. These groups may be supportive in nature (i.e., a par-

ents/grandparents group or a widowers group), or they may be faith sharing. One such



prayer gathering group formed on campus is the His-

panic Faith Sharing group. These men meet each week, usually Tuesdays or Wednesdays, to read the upcoming Gospel passage for Sunday and reflect, pray and share what the passage means to each man; how they may incorporate the Gospel message into their academic life, community life, prayer life and parish life. As one participant-

*continued on p. 7*

## GOLF TOURNAMENT AND VIRTUAL LAWN PARTY— HUGE SUCCESS!



Despite the challenges so many are facing with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the PSJS fall fundraising initiatives experienced tremendous success! Typically held in the spring, we re-scheduled the **28th Annual Fran and Stephen Rowan Memorial Golf Tournament** to late August. With golfers only, and no auction or celebration dinner, we had a much better than expected participation and raised almost \$80K for the Seminary. Kudos to our golfers and thank you for your support!



The **39th Annual Lawn Party** was held virtually this year – a first! We very much missed gathering under the tent and seeing all our friends and supporters in person while sharing the blessings that make our Seminary unique. Our virtual presentation created a wonderful opportunity to stay connected and was a great chance for us to bring people from near and far who shared with us what the Seminary means to them, and how special it is to be associated with the PSJS community. If you have not seen the show, it is available on our YouTube channel and is worth the watch. It is a great way to be reminded of just how special Pope St. John is to so many and to the Church at large. Incredibly, we had the best fundraising results ever – raising \$325,000! We cannot thank our supporters enough for their steadfast loyalty and belief in our unique mission. We will continue to work hard in our formation of men to the priesthood and honor the unwavering support you have for our work.



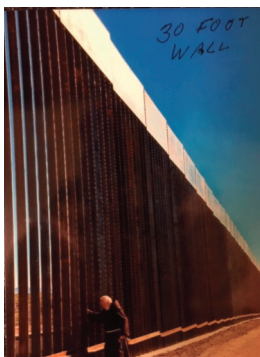
## ALUMNI BULLETIN



In the summer of 2020, **Rev. Vincent Rogers**, Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary class of 2010, was elected and installed as the Abbot of St. Joseph Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. In October, the monastery celebrated the Abbatial Blessing of Abbot Rogers, with Bishop Robert McManus of the Worcester Diocese presiding. Abbot Rogers entered the Trappist monastery in 1977, made his solemn profession in 1986 and was ordained a priest in 2010 after four years of formation at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. Our prayers and congratulations to The Right Reverend Abbot Vincent Rogers, OCSO.



**Rev. Fred Bayler '09** - Fr. Fred is now a retired priest of the Diocese of Fairbanks in Alaska and has recently accepted the position of Executive Director of the Big Bend Natural History Association in Texas. It has been 20 years since he last worked at this location as a National Park Ranger, and he will now support the park's mission as its premier co-operating association. In Fr. Fred's own words: "Y'all have an open invitation to come visit the beauty of West Texas! Blessings!"



**Rev. Emmet Murphy, OFM '86**, wrote to us recently, sharing how he has been living out his call to serve others as he ministers to migrant families on the Arizona/Mexico border. Fr. Murphy lives with three other friars who join in community not only in the important work that they do but also to support each other, through Mass, prayer, and shared meals in their modest friary in Elfrida, AZ. The community bond is important, as their work gives life and hope to many who attempt to cross the border in search of a better life. Fr. Murphy works alongside people of other faiths as they strive to provide dignity and comfort to families. Some of these services are as basic as a shower, food, clothing, and immigration help, but also as meaningful as remembering those who died in their attempt to cross the border. As noted in a local publication, Fr. Murphy's ministry is influenced and best summed up as being "nourished by the thought that the Holy Family were once migrants."

### MAKE NOTE

**"VIRTUAL First Friday Visits" Is God calling you?**

For men interested in learning more about the Seminary experience.

Join us for prayer and a zoom information session. Brief and informal evenings will begin at 5:00 PM and conclude by 7:00 PM

Next Friday visit: **December 4th**

[www.psj.edu/chapel-live-stream](http://www.psj.edu/chapel-live-stream)

Visits will resume in February 2021 after the winter break. If you or someone you know wants to learn more, contact Msgr. William P. Fay at [msgr.fay@psjs.edu](mailto:msgr.fay@psjs.edu) or 781-899-5500 x127

## INCOMING SEMINARIANS



**GREGORY ZINGLER**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Prior to attending PSJS, Greg spent ten years with St. Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity caring for the poor in his Archdiocese of Washington (DC). Greg was formerly married and has been blessed with three grown children - a daughter and two sons; all are married and are raising their families in California, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

*"My devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and quiet reflection and prayer convinced me to pursue a late vocation and enter the seminary. I enjoy helping others smile and to see more clearly that the path they are on is being led by Jesus who loves them tremendously. I look forward to experiencing the full formation program at PSJS and am glad to be here to further discern my path to priesthood."*

### Historic Faith Sharing - continued from front page

ing seminarian stated, "It's great to be able to share with those of similar native upbringing, in one's own native language and create a comfortable space in which to experience God's words and guidance." It is also a great training experience for bringing faith sharing groups to parishes in their dioceses, either now as seminarians and certainly when they are ordained and in a parish. It will help connect them with parishioners who are more comfortable sharing and praying in their own native language and culture, guided by the Gospel, and thereby deepening their own prayer life. The group is open to anyone wishing to experience a deepening of their faith and prayer life.

### Consider your IRA...

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



**HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?**

Please send your current information to Kate Folan: [kfolan@psjs.edu](mailto:kfolan@psjs.edu) or visit the Alumni section on [psjs.edu](http://psjs.edu)

## AROUND THE SEMINARY

### Welcome to the Seminary



We welcome to the Seminary **Rev. Joseph Zwosta** from the Diocese of Brooklyn. Fr. Zwosta is a member of the Formation Faculty. Recently awarded a Doctor of Sacred Theology from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (Angelicum) in Rome, this fall he is teaching Ecclesiology and Sacraments of Christian Initiation. We are thankful to Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio for releasing Fr. Zwosta for service to the Faculty, and are especially grateful to Bishop James Massa, Auxiliary Bishop of Brooklyn and current Board of Trustee member, for his assistance in securing Fr. Zwosta's appointment. Fr. Zwosta has been warmly welcomed and is feeling right at home in Weston. We look forward to the inevitable impact he will have on the formation program and his contributions to the culture of the Seminary.

Parish in Milford, MA. We are grateful for all his contributions to the formation program and we wish Fr. Hoppough all the best in his next stage of service to the Church.

**Dr. John Clabeaux** decided to retire after many years of service to Pope St. John Seminary. Dr. Clabeaux has served the Catholic Church in a variety of different ways, with his vast knowledge and love of Sacred Scripture to a wide audience for almost 40 years. We were fortunate to have him as a Faculty Formator and Professor of Sacred Scripture where his biblical knowledge enriched the faith of so many of our future priests. We are indebted to him for all his contributions, will miss his kind and generous spirit, and wish him all God's good things for many years to come.

### We say Farewell...

In the Summer of 2020, PSJS said good-bye to three long-standing contributors to the PSJS community. **Rev. Gregory Hoppough**, CSS served many years on the faculty, teaching Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Sacraments of Healing. Fr. Hoppough now lives and helps out at Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Janet Gieselman** left the Seminary after close to 20 years with the PSJS community. Janet was the first welcoming encounter for any of our guests each day and she helped set the tone for any visitor. It has often been said that people feel PSJS is like "being home" and Janet had much to do with making many feel that way. Janet supported the Pastoral Ministry program and was instrumental in the Administration seeing a successful outcome for seminarians receiving training "in the field." Thank you, Janet, for all that you gave to the Seminary and whose lives you enriched with your hard work, grace and presence.

## INCOMING SEMINARIANS



**SAMUEL MWIWAWI**  
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Samuel was born and raised in Kenya, East Africa, where he studied philosophy and theology. He worked with the Dominican Missionaries for the Apostolate to the Deaf and Disabled and then came to the U.S. He went through a summer immersion program at Gallaudet University which enabled him to learn American Sign Language and later work with different deaf communities in Hartford, CT; Poughkeepsie, NY and Brooklyn, NY.

*"Since my childhood as an altar server, my family has always been my backbone through prayers, encouragement and inspiration in my vocation. When I came to the U.S. as an immigrant, I was waiting for my papers to be approved. It was a long process, and during this time I felt that God's will has always been leading me where his grace is abundant, toward the fraternity of PSJS. I pray that God will bless me and my fellow seminarians with the grace needed to be the Lord's voice to the needs of today's Church."*



**JOHN TANYI**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

John comes from the English-speaking region of Cameroon in West/Central Africa. He has a B.A. in Philosophy from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi. He attended a Missionary Experience Program for two years in Kenya and went on to earn a Masters in Peace Studies and International Relations from Hekima University, Nairobi, Kenya. He has taught Political Science and Peace Studies at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa as well as at Mount Kenya University, Nairobi. In 2020 he graduated from Boston College with a Masters in Theology and Ministry.

*"I grew up in a traditional Catholic family where daily Mass attendance was a given. My mother woke us up at 5am every day for morning devotion before going to Mass. In many ways, my family was my first seminary and the values and virtues I uphold today were instilled in me by my family. The calling began at the age of seven and never seemed to subside throughout all religious writings and catechesis at University. While at Boston College, I attended a vocation retreat at PSJS and I was convinced it was time for me to continue with my discernment to the priesthood. I am very happy to be in this special seminary and I pray that God will continue to be with me in this formation journey."*



**NELSON (GERARDO) TLATELPA**  
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Gerardo is a native of Puebla, Mexico. Prior to attending PSJS, he worked in the restaurant industry. Seeking a deeper fulfillment and happiness, he was invited to a spiritual retreat where, he says, the Lord transformed his life. Since that time, he began serving at his home parish, Our Lady of Refuge in Brooklyn, NY. He then lived at St. John Paul II House of Discernment in Brooklyn, NY.

*"It was a tremendous experience living in the St. John Paul II house in Brooklyn. I am very grateful to my Bishop for sending me to PSJS and could not ask for a better place to continue discerning my vocation and grow closer to God. I am very grateful to be among great brothers and faculty. There is a strong brotherhood in this seminary. In my spare time, I like to listen to music, play sports, socialize with friends and family (both in New York and Detroit, Michigan), and be among people who love God. My main goal is to evangelize and serve God's people."*



**MICHAEL YOUNG**  
DIOCESE OF VENICE

Prior to arriving at PSJS, Michael was a reentry program case manager for men and women transitioning from the Federal Bureau of Prisons back into society. Michael has also served his country as a member of the armed forces, been a law enforcement officer and special/enforcement agent. Michael is a former member of a religious community and has now transitioned to candidacy for the diocesan priesthood.

*"My recent work helping men and women transition back into society from prison was truly a solid ministry that was challenging, enriching, and rewarding. The Seminary is unique in that it specializes in building on the experiences and gifts that its students already possess. Further, the formation program brings out additional gifts and provides for new experiences that will be beneficial in the seminarian's vocational journey. I am looking forward to resuming my formation here and continuing my journey to the priesthood."*

## WELCOME INCOMING SEMINARIANS



**ZACHARY ALSPAUGH**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Zach has a Bachelor of Fine Art in film-making from the School of Visual Arts (1996) and a Master of Fine Art from the San Francisco Art Institute (2013). He has photographed six feature length documentary films for his friend, Manny Kirchheimer. In New York City, before entering the seminary, he worked as an independent cameraman and videographer.

*"I can trace the beginnings of my journey to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary back to when I volunteered years ago as an outreach worker with the homeless at Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. The church used its steps as a sanctuary for the homeless. As I reflect upon those long-ago experiences, I believe God was drawing me to the Eucharist, to prepare me for my eventual conversion and mission. I entered the Catholic Church in 2012 and, in 2014, began formal discernment of the Priesthood with the Archdiocese of San Francisco at Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. But New York City had been my home for over 17 years, where, long ago, I had begun my journey by serving hot coffee to the homeless and going to Catholic churches to pray. PSJS is just great. The men have lived the Gospel by virtue of their life experiences and love Christ even more profoundly for his grace and hope."*



**VICTOR ANDREOZZI**  
DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

Victor grew up in Seekonk, Massachusetts and earned an engineering degree from Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Most of his career was spent in the healthcare engineering field serving as a Director of Engineering, Vice President of Facilities and recently as the National Director of Regulatory Compliance for Crothall Healthcare.

*"My call was very much woven into the fabric of my ordinary life. The family in which I grew up was a family of active faith - we were regular attendees at Sunday Mass, as well as holy days and during Lent and Holy Week. The grace I have received through my devotion to the Blessed Sacrament has led me to discern the priesthood. I am truly blessed and grateful to be able to attend Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary."*



**DEACON ALLEN BOEDEKER**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Deacon Allen Boedeker is from the Archdiocese of St. Louis and has been a deacon for 23+ years. He just recently retired from teaching sophomore level Theology at St. Louis University High School for 30 years. Allen has also been a Director of Religious Education in both St. Louis, MO and in Madison, IN. Allen was married for 38+ years, his wife having died in January of 2019. He has five adult children and ten grandchildren.

*"I have just left my assignment at St. Andrew Parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese after nineteen years, the last nine as the parish administrator. I have been involved in all aspects of parish ministry. I have also participated in the education and evaluation of men for the permanent diaconate for St. Louis over the last 23 years. After discerning to further explore a call to the priesthood, my bishop decided to send me to Pope St. John because of its reputable program geared toward older vocations. I am happy to be here!"*



**GUSTAVO CORREA**  
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

Before he entered seminary life, Gustavo was working in the Ministry of Education in Colombia, where he had many good experiences in the educational field. Additionally, he worked in the Catholic missions in his brother's parish.

*"It was very rewarding working in the educational field, as I was able to help the educational, human, social and religious formation of many people. I have come to Pope St. John XXIII Seminary at the invitation of Monsignor Mongeluzzo, a faculty formator at the Seminary. His guidance and encouragement have been wonderful, and I look forward to deepening my path to priesthood with his continued encouragement and that of the men and faculty of the house. Here, I found a community of very respectful people. I am happy in the seminary and I constantly pray to God to help me persevere in my priestly vocation."*

# INCOMING SEMINARIANS



**SINCLAIR CUSHMORE**  
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

Sinclair is studying for the Diocese of Orlando (yes, the Florida retreat for Mickey Mouse). Before he entered the seminary, he worked in the hospitality industry, first for Walt Disney World as an intern, and then for Rosen Hotels and Resorts, where he worked mostly at the front desk as an agent, then VIP Concierge and finally as a Front Desk Supervisor.

*"All of my experience in many roles in the hospitality industry helped me to develop my patience, and for that I am very grateful. When I was accepted as a seminarian, my Bishop and vocation director determined that Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary would be the best fit for me, so here I am! I look forward to all that Pope St. John can offer as I continue to discern my vocation."*



**GREGORY DOUGHERTY**  
DIOCESE OF ST. THOMAS

Greg was raised with his family in East Dundee, IL, a quaint NW Chicago suburb. Providence led Greg to the US Virgin Islands where he has enjoyed serving in the Diocese of St. Thomas as a teacher.

*"My experiences in teaching, working in industrial sales, establishing small businesses in the health and wellness industry and my work in prison ministry will be a good fit for my life as a parish priest. I am endeared to the people of the Diocese of St. Thomas and very much look forward to the day I return as a priest. Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary has been an incredible blessing and I am very thankful that God has opened this door for me. As an older vocation, I am especially grateful to be with like-minded men who love the Lord and have a strong desire to serve His Church. Ave Maria!"*



**MAXIMILIAN MARCOTT**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

A native of Norman, Oklahoma, Max spent much of his career in residential carpentry, focusing on creating custom furniture. Max also spent a year as a live-in "Lifeguard" volunteer with the Gospel of Life Disciples in Oklahoma City. He

has also taught part-time at two local Catholic grade schools.

*"During the lowest point of my life, God's unfathomable mercy broke through all of my resistance. After considerable time and much prayer, I was given a completely overwhelming experience of His love for all of us as He pointed me towards the priesthood. I pursued the call and was accepted by Archbishop Coakley as a seminarian. I was sent here to PSJS and I had no reason to object. It is with a grateful heart that I now say I truly feel that I am right where I am supposed to be. Never EVER let yourself doubt God's mercy and love, or your dignity and worth in His eyes!"*



**ROBERT MILLER**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Robert's road to Pope St. John XXIII tracked along an academic environment, where his heart was never far from hearing God's calling. Robert worked in administration at a local university in Oklahoma for a time and then began pursuing an academic career, studying classical languages (Ancient Greek and Latin) at the University of Oklahoma. He then entered graduate school at Boston College where he studied Medieval Theology - mostly the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas.

*"I converted to Catholicism at the age of 16 and spent five years in seminary formation after high school before discerning to leave for a period of six years. Once I completed my graduate studies at Boston College I returned to formation, living in a parish for a year plus two years studying at St. John Vianney in Denver. My archbishop recently determined that the strong formation program at PSJS was a better fit for continuing my formation for priesthood. I agree, and it's great to be back in New England!"*



**JOSEPH GONZALEZ**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Before being accepted into seminary, Joseph was employed as a software test engineer for 18 years. For 10 of those years, he served the youth at his home parish (Our Lady of Sorrows in Takoma Park, MD) and was involved in a youth

ministry that serves the Archdiocese of Washington called "Tira La Red" (Cast the Net).

*"The first time I seriously considered the call to the priesthood was when a Catholic Navy chaplain at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC asked if any one of us had ever considered the priesthood. Later that evening I told the Lord, 'I would consider it, but not right now.' I had forgotten that conversation, but the Lord reminded me of it years later. At the age of 45, I went to a discernment retreat at PSJS and after a few follow up meetings with the vocations director, I was invited to apply to formation for the priesthood. It was decided that PSJS was the best fit for my formation, and I definitely agree."*



**DANIEL GREJDUS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Daniel enters Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary as a First Year Theologian. He is a graduate of Boston College where he studied philosophy and theology. Before entering PSJS, Daniel was a religion teacher and basketball coach

at the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, MA. He also previously taught theology at Lowell Catholic High School.

*"Learning about St. Ignatius of Loyola at BC has had a lasting impact on my life and on my vocational discernment. I am grateful to the Archdiocese of Boston for sending me to PSJS as I answer God's call to serve the Church and live for the greater glory of God. The PSJS formation program is the right plan for me."*



**BARRY MONGEON**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Before arriving at PSJS, Barry was a professional musician for the Diocese of Springfield and educator/author for the craft industry. Prior to that he was a marketing manager for a regional ribbon and trim company. Barry has also had a 20-year career as a professional designer/wedding specialist.

*"God called me from a very young age to live a life of service but little did I know that one day I would come full circle to doing God's work and discern to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Boston. What a gift and a blessing it is to be here at Pope St John XXIII National Seminary! The community including the faculty, staff and my brothers at Pope St. John XXIII is inspiring, warm, gracious, friendly and loving. All in all, it's a pretty busy life here at seminary as each day brings its own set of challenges, but the result is the joy of knowing it is all in the name of God. Deus Benedicite."*



**STEPHEN MULLANEY**  
DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

Before entering the Seminary, Stephen had a successful career for over 30 years as a civil engineer. For the last 16 years, he operated his own business. He held leadership positions at the regional chamber of commerce for the last 9 years and was a long-time caregiver to his grandparents and parents.

*"My circuitous route to seminary began with initial strong encouragement from my grandfather, and continued throughout my life; I served readily as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and student at the local central Catholic high school, where a priest asked me to consider ministry, but I was intent on civil engineering. I deepened my involvement in parish ministries and committees. Eventually, I studied for the permanent diaconate before stepping aside to care for my disabled father. After his death, and after increasing unsolicited encouragement from priests and several laypeople, I discerned that God may be calling me to priesthood, leading me, at age 52, to PSJS."*