

Blessed John XXIII National Seminary

Newsletter

May 2011



***The Blessed John XXIII
National Seminary
community is proud to
present the Class of 2011.***

In this issue, our graduating class reflects on their formation experiences at the Seminary. As they embark upon their pastoral journeys, we trust that their years of priestly formation at Blessed John XXIII will provide a solid foundation for their priestly ministry. We commend them to Christ the great High Priest as they join the almost 600 Seminary alumni, currently serving in over 140 dioceses and religious orders throughout the United States and beyond.

In this Newsletter we also spotlight the Integrative Colloquium - a practical, case-study based course providing seminarians the opportunity to address today's pastoral issues.

Blessed John XXIII Seminary is quickly approaching an important milestone - the 50th Anniversary in 2014. Several liturgical and historical initiatives, as well as a Chapel Renovation, are planned to commemorate this special occasion. We will provide more details in upcoming issues.

As we look to the future, we gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed to the

continued success of the Blessed John XXIII Seminary community.

On personal note, I am very appreciative of the various ways so many of you have supported me and the mission of our Seminary during my first year as rector.

May God bless you all!

Rev. William B. Palardy

Rector

Michael S. Bodzioch



Archdiocese of Denver, CO

Prior to acceptance into the Seminary, Michael Bodzioch worked as a Computer Programmer and Analyst.

“My four years at Blessed John XXIII have provided me not only with the opportunity to discern my vocation, but also to grow in my faith and become closer to Jesus and Our Lady. I have met many wonderful people and leave with lifelong memories I will always cherish.”

Michael will be ordained on May 21st at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, CO.

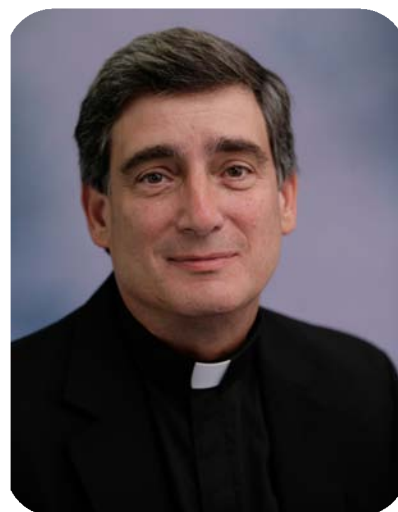
Diocese of Wilmington, DE

Prior to his formation, Anthony Cardone was a Special Agent with the U.S. Department of State. His team provided security for U.S. Presidential cabinet members; including General Vernon A. Walters, Madeleine Albright, Bill Richardson and Richard Holbrooke.

“I praise and thank Almighty God for this Seminary. Without it, I do not believe it would have been possible for me to become a priest. From the faculty and staff, to the students - it is truly a grace-filled environment.”

Anthony will be ordained on June 18th at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Wilmington, DE.

Anthony F. Cardone



John M.Y. Chung



Archdiocese of San Francisco, CA

John Chung earned a Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley and was Chair of the Korean program at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

“I vividly remember the day I arrived at the Seminary. I believe that both the Seminary program and my parish experience during my pastoral year will help make me an effective parish leader. I also thank Saint Pio and the Blessed Mother for sustaining my vocation. Deo Gratias!”

John will be ordained on June 25th at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption in San Francisco, CA.

Diocese of Springfield, MA

R. Tucker Cordani

R. Tucker Cordani taught English at the University of Central Florida, in Orlando, and worked as an independent journalist.

“The formation program at Blessed John XXIII has provided me with a solid foundation upon which to build my ministry as a priest. Regardless of what parish or ministry I will serve - the Seminary formation will keep me grounded in the reality of the 21st Century Church. In every moment of my life, God has been preparing me for priesthood.”

Tucker will be ordained on June 4th at the Cathedral of Saint Michael the Archangel in Springfield, MA.



René Alejandro Díaz-Cáceres

Archdiocese of Washington



René Alejandro Díaz-Cáceres worked in the financial industry in Canada and his native country of Columbia, South America.

“Jesus called His disciples to become fishers of men, and they followed Him, leaving their most valuable tools behind - their nets! During my discernment at the Seminary, I came to understand that I also needed to leave my past knowledge and experience behind so Jesus could grow in me and help me show His Glory to others. Each of my classmates is different, but we all have left our own nets to follow the will of the Lord.”

Alejandro will be ordained on June 18th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Diocese of Charleston, SC

William S. Hearne

William (Bill) Hearne was a Logistics Officer in the United States Air Force, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

“The years have flown by! I especially appreciate my pastoral experiences at a local hospital and Pro-Life ministry. I depart knowing that I will miss the fraternity of my classmates, but with the hope and expectation that my time here is only a prelude of things to come. Many thanks to all who were involved with my priestly formation.”

Bill will be ordained on July 1st at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Charleston, SC.



Charles N. Okeke

Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA



Charles Okeke was a biomedical research scientist, and subsequently a novice Trappist monk prior to acceptance into the Seminary.

"The past four years have been a blur - they went by so fast. My time at the Seminary was enlightening and fruitful. I am especially grateful to the faculty for their commendable efforts. As I leave, I feel equipped to face future challenges as a priest of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Charles will be ordained on June 18th at the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta, GA.

Diocese of Saint Thomas, US Virgin Islands

Eduardo Ortiz-Santiago earned a Ph.D. in Sociology and taught at the college level.

"Although I entered as a third-year theologian, my classmates treated me as if I had been part of their group all along. I have felt welcomed and respected by my classmates, the faculty, and all the other members of the Seminary community. After a visit, my grown daughter told me - 'Dad, it was so refreshing to meet so many good people in one place.' I feel well-prepared for service as a priest."

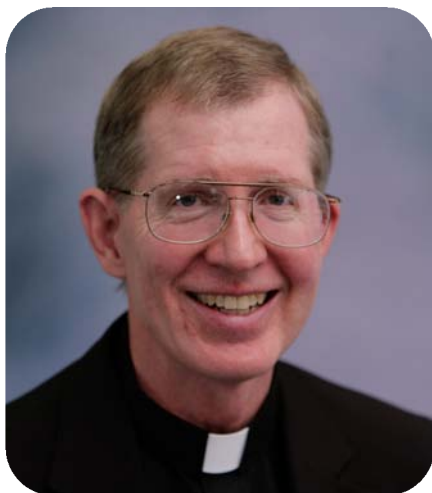
Eduardo will be ordained on July 30th at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral in Charlotte Amalie, Saint Thomas, VI.

Eduardo Ortiz-Santiago



Michael J. Peterson

Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS



Michael Peterson is a licensed engineer and previously co-owned an environmental sales company.

"These four years have really flown by! The faculty has been of tremendous help in providing for our formation, since they have a wealth of information to share. This is a wonderful place to discern a priestly vocation. I take with me many happy memories of my classmates during our shared experiences while answering our calling to the priesthood. May God bless the faculty and staff!"

Michael will be ordained on May 28th at Holy Trinity Church in Lenexa, KS.

Diocese of Lansing, MI

Prior to acceptance into the Seminary, David Rosenberg was an executive with FAITH Catholic - a publishing company.

"During my discernment at Blessed John XXIII, my favorite experiences were my pastoral internships. I have worked at a large local nursing home in Framingham, Saint Patrick Manor, and with vibrant youth ministry programs at Saint Mary Parish in Dedham and most recently at Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Parish in Waltham."

David will be ordained on June 11th at Saint Mary Cathedral in Lansing, MI.

David B. Rosenberg



Rodolfo A. Salinas-Cábrera



Archdiocese of Washington

Rodolfo A. Salinas-Cábrera worked as a Research Coordinator for the School of Public Health at the University of Maryland.

"Blessed John XXIII was the right place for me - providing me with a fresh and broader view of The Church. My ordination to the priesthood would not have been possible were it not for the faculty and staff at the Seminary. They have been part of my life for the past four short years. And now, as my presence in their lives decreases, I pray that the life and love that is Jesus Christ increases for all of them."

Rodolfo will be ordained on June 18th at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

Welcoming Potential Candidates to Blessed John XXIII

In February, "Days of Awareness," a special two-day vocation event, was held at Blessed John XXIII. During this event, attendees from New England dioceses were paired with current seminarians who introduced them to the unique formation program at our Seminary.

Mass was celebrated at the Seminary by Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM Cap.



Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM Cap addressing event attendees

The Cardinal was also the keynote speaker during the afternoon presentations. Other activities included a panel discussion with current seminarians, a small group session, and a social hour.

"In my opinion, Blessed John XXIII is the premier second-career seminary in the United States," states Cardinal Seán.

Integrative Colloquium - Preparing Future Parish Leaders

The academic program at Blessed John XXIII includes the Integrative Colloquium - a practical, case-study course providing seminarians the opportunity to address the real pastoral issues facing today's priests. The Colloquium is offered during the final semester of pastoral formation - just prior to ordination into the priesthood.

The course is based on lectures, along with student presentations and interactions. Seminarians are encouraged to draw upon their personal experiences and theological studies to address issues under consideration. The seminarians write detailed responses to the case studies, then one student is selected to present a case and initiate the discussion. A primary goal of the course is to help students gain the skills needed in spiritual leadership.

"At this point in their formation program they should have enough background to come together as professionals to discuss case studies," says Rev. Paul E. Miceli, who teaches the Colloquium. Fr. Miceli is also the Director of Spiritual Formation at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary.

Fr. Miceli has been encouraged by the experiences shared by the seminarians in



Seminarians David Rosenberg (left) and Tucker Cordani discussing a case study during class.

the Colloquium. "From their discussions and case-study reports, they seem to be well-prepared to be future parish leaders," he says. Fr. Miceli gained an understanding of the challenges the seminarians will face while serving as a hospital chaplain, pastor in local parishes, and as the Secretary for Ministerial Personnel for the Archdiocese of Boston.

"Leading the faithful is a demanding role, and one of the most important skills they can learn is to listen," says Fr. Miceli.

In addition to case-study presentations, Fr. Miceli invites professional guest speakers to discuss topics of importance to today's pastors. These have included: time-management, parish staff relationships, conflict resolution, the priest's role

as pastor and administrator, and pro-life issues. During a class, Bishop Richard Joseph Malone, Th.D., of the Diocese of Portland, ME, spoke on "the Priest as Evangelizer." Bishop Malone is the Chair of the Evangelization and Catechesis Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

In another session, a panel of alumni return to the Seminary to discuss the passage from seminarian to priest, offering valuable insights from those who have successfully made this transition.

The Integrative Colloquium was initiated at the Seminary in response to a recommendation from The Association of Theological Schools (ATS). A grant from The Lynch Foundation has been used to provide workshops, guest speakers and other class initiatives.

"The Integrative Colloquium helps participants develop a better sense of their priestly identity, strengthens their pastoral skills, and gives expression to how they have integrated their academic, spiritual, pastoral and human formation," says Fr. Miceli. "We have found it to be a valuable addition to the program here at Blessed John XXIII."

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration - *Looking Forward to the Future at Blessed John XXIII*

The Blessed John XXIII Seminary community is quickly approaching an historic milestone—our 50th anniversary in 2014.

To coincide with this event, several building renovations and improvements are currently in the planning process. The Chapel, which is the center of the liturgical life of our Seminary, will be our initial project. We received input and recommendations from our faculty, current seminarians and alumni and learned that the primary needs were more comfortable seating and increased capacity.

The accompanying rendering from Bergmeyer Associates, our architectural consultant, illustrates some of the proposed changes. First, the new pews will be ergonomically-contoured upholstered seats. Supplemental seating will be achieved by opening up the chapel entrance. Two of the four side altars will also be removed, allowing space for additional seating.

Next, the sanctuary area will be modified to improve accessibility with the addition of a ramp on the right side.

Additionally, the altar level will be lowered with the removal of

two of the existing three steps. The latter change will provide an expanded altar level and the lowered elevation will permit a larger crucifix.



Proposed Chapel Configuration

On the balcony level, the current wooden wall will be replaced with glass, providing improved visibility and additional seating, and one of the side altars will be replaced with a new reconciliation room.

Work is also in progress to address the heating and cooling systems, as well as any acoustical issues associated with these changes. Our current plan is to complete the Chapel renovations during the summer of 2012.

Our survey also suggested a need for additional space in a number of areas: office and conference rooms and the library.

As our admissions increase, we will also need to add seminarian rooms. This will require constructing a new wing or separate addition to house the library and/or offices.

Additionally, we are investigating whether we can modify the existing seminarian rooms to include individual bathrooms.

Project costs are still being estimated and will be finalized in the months ahead. The

overall scope of the renovations will be determined by the support of our benefactors.

For information on supporting the Chapel Renovation and other proposed programs, please contact Dick Murphy, Director of Institutional Advancement at dmurphy@blessedjohnxxiii.edu or 781-899-5500.



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Alumni News

**Please contact Kate Folan
with Alumni updates at
kfolan@blessedjohnxxiii.edu**

Rev. Alain Colliou, '09
Pastor
Our Lady Help of Christians
100 Village Street
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Saint Bernard Parish
1306 E. Main Street
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Rev. Thomas Morrette, '05
Pastor
Holy Trinity Church
205 Grebe Street
Johnstown, NY 12095

Rev. Robert Spencer, '98
NSF, RMD Chapel
PSC 466, Box 18
FPO, AP 96695

Rev. Gary T. Villanueva, '04
Parish Administrator
Holy Name Parish
920 11th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Deceased Alumnus:

Rev. William Stenger, '94

**The Blessed John XXIII
Seminary community
promotes environmental
responsibility.**

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**For more details, contact
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