



# SPARKS OF LIGHT

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary  
Answering the Call | Founded in 1964  
SPRING 2024



## FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we enter this most holy season of Easter, we are filled with a sense of joy and optimism celebrating Christ's triumph over death and the New Life that He has won for us. Christ Our Lord has purchased us by His own blood, and we belong to Him; just as death has no power over Him, it has no power over us either. The Lord has removed the last barrier and has set us free, free to worship Him without fear all the days of our lives. St. Paul, in his Letter to the Romans, says that *"if you confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead, then you will be saved (Romans 10:9)."* In every way, we give thanks to God for our newness of life in Christ and express our conviction and gratitude by the generous service that we render to His holy Catholic Church.

St. Paul, on the road to Damascus, encountered the Lord and asked, "what do You want me to do?" and then he spent the remainder of his life finding and living out the answer to that question. I believe that should be the question that all of us ask at the beginning of every day and it is the question that our seminarians have asked. I suspect that we will hear that same answer *"Go and proclaim the Good News and baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."*

For 60 years, this Seminary has offered a Program of Priestly Formation for older men that has resulted in over 750 men being sent into parishes throughout our country and beyond. Our sole purpose of existence is "to form men after the mind and heart of Christ" so that the world may come to know what we believe: Jesus Christ is Lord of All. In this edition of *Sparks of Light*, we will share the stories of the nine men who will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood as they reflect upon their time here and their excitement over what awaits them. The joy that they feel is palpable and permeates the entire house. We have recently hosted a second Discernment Retreat and the participants found our enthusiasm to be contagious. Hopefully, this will result in greater enrollment and more laborers for the Vineyard.

I am grateful to all of you for your prayers, your unfailing generosity, and constant support. I know that we could not fulfill our unique mission of forming older men to serve as priests of Jesus Christ without you and I pray each day that God will reward you because I know that we never could.

With my love and prayers for your continued good health and happiness, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely  
Rector

*On the cover: March for Life, Washington, D.C.*

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# L I F E

## MARCH FOR LIFE ... HOW IT UNFOLDS JANUARY 17-19, 2024

### WEDNESDAY

All aboard! Men board the bus and take-off for Washington D.C.



### THURSDAY

Let's explore! A visit to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington D.C.



### THURSDAY EVENING

Opening Mass of March for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception



### FRIDAY

We march! And then depart for the return home to Weston, Massachusetts





## Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Cristiano Barbosa

On February 3, 2024, our friend and adjunct professor, Bishop Cristiano Barbosa, celebrated his Episcopal Ordination at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the South End section of Boston. Cardinal Seán O'Malley OFM Cap., was the principal celebrant. The PSJS community attended this historic event, as Bishop Cristiano Barbosa is only the second Bishop in the United States from Brazil. Bishop Barbosa will serve as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Boston and oversee the Central Region including Brookline, Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, and Winthrop. He will also serve as Secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship. Ad Multos Annos!

## Private Screening of 'Cabrini'

Seminarians **Gerardo Tlatelpa '25** and **Deacon Joe Gonzalez '24**, are pictured with J. Eustace Wolfington, executive producer of the movie 'Cabrini'. Gerardo and Joe, along with many fellow seminarians, were invited by Cardinal Seán O'Malley to attend a private screening of the film before its official release. 'Cabrini' is a dramatic and stirring presentation of the life and work of Catholic missionary St. Frances Xavier Cabrini who, after witnessing disease and poverty in the slums of New York, embarked on a daring journey to persuade the hostile mayor to provide housing and healthcare for hundreds of orphaned children. The movie is released by Angel Studios.



# HAPPENINGS

## BROOKLYN COMES TO TOWN

**Bishop Robert J. Brennan** and Director of Seminarians Fr. Joseph Holcomb, of the Diocese of Brooklyn, visited their men in formation at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary on January 26, 2024. Bishop Brennan celebrated Mass for our community.

*Photo left to right: Gerry Foley '26, Deacon Luis Marquez '24, Fr. Joseph Zwosta PSJS Academic Dean and priest of Brooklyn, Bishop Robert Brennan, Gerardo Tlatelpa '25 and Fr. Joseph Holcomb of Brooklyn.*



## AN ALUMNUS STOPS BY

Fr. Kiely always invites PSJS alumni back to their second home, where they can visit any time and always find friends among many. On January 11th, we were blessed by a visit from Alumnus **Rev. Bert Proulx '22**. Fr. Bert is assigned to Saint Mary Parish in Foxboro, a suburb of Boston. He serves at Saint

Mary's with fellow alumnus and pastor, **Rev. Kevin Hickey '14**. Fr. Bert celebrated Mass for the community and visited with some friends. We love when our Alumni come back!

AT PSJS XXIII

# LISTENING

## Living in Communion with the Holy Trinity

by Msgr. William P. Fay, Professor of Philosophy and Theology



"Words, words, words. I'm so sick of words." Many of us are familiar with this cry of exasperation by Eliza Doolittle. They are the opening lyrics of the song "Show Me" from the 1964 screenplay, "My Fair Lady." Upset that life has become a matter of empty words and sounds, with little attention to the heart's deeper desires, Eliza goes on to express her frustration and loss: "Here we are together in what ought to be a dream; say one more word and I'll scream." That sentiment is wonderfully reflective of the wisdom of the inspired author of the Book of Ecclesiastes: "There is an appointed time for everything ... a time to be silent and a time to speak" (Eccl 3: 1, 7).

One day each of us will stand directly in the presence of the Holy Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I suspect our first vision of the Divine will not provoke a lot of chatter on our part. On the contrary, I can only imagine myself - ourselves - as speechless, as utterly silent before the One who created us and loves us. This is a silence that arises in us not out of an emptiness or lack, but out of our experience of the fullness of God.

It is the silence that is born of awe. Over the centuries so much has been written and said - beautifully and with depth of

insight - about the Trinity. Yet not a human word ever written or spoken has captured or encapsulated the truth of the Trinity. The Trinity is simply beyond us. Had God not revealed himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we never could have discovered or known this truth about him. The Trinity is completely outside our imagination and our understanding. This is why we speak of the Trinity as a mystery. How could being in the presence of this mystery - the One who is Three - not leave us awestruck and speechless?

It is the silence that allows us to witness the extraordinary. In the presence of God, we witness firsthand the truth of Love itself - Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a perfect communion of love. How often does it happen in life that we still or quiet those around us so that we can be more attentive and watchful of something we consider important? While the inspired words of Saint John, "God is love," are well known to us and easily roll off our lips, imagine the experience of being in the presence of Love itself. How could that encounter not leave us silent, totally absorbed, and drawn into that communion of love?

It is the silence that gives birth to listening. As we are drawn into the communion of God's love, our attentiveness allows us to hear and to recognize a word that the Father speaks. The Word is Jesus Christ, equal to the Father, but present distinctly as the Father's only begotten Son. The Holy Spirit assists our



ability to listen to the Word. Moreover, it is the Holy Spirit, the Advocate promised and given to us by the Lord, who draws us to embrace the Word as “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). How could our hearts not be silent and at peace?

The great thing about this kind of silence before God is that we do not have to wait for heaven to experience it. By the grace of the Holy Spirit within us, it can be achieved in this life. In fact, it is in prayer that we experience a silence with God best. In the silence of prayer, whether alone or with others - and always most perfectly at the Eucharist, we experience here on earth our unity with God. When, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we let our human words fall away in importance and truly accept the Lord Jesus - the very

Word of the Father - as the Word that guides us in life, we begin to share in the communion of God’s love to each of us. In that moment, the Holy Spirit opens our understanding to the truth and the beauty of the song of the angels and the saints:

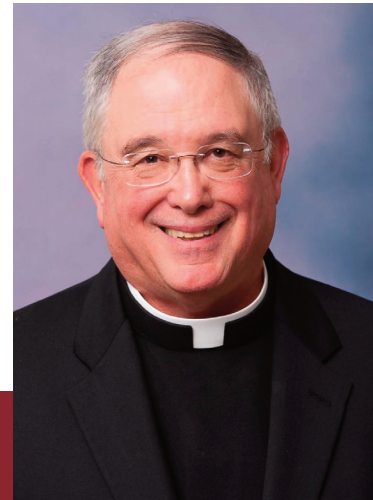
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*



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## Listen for God’s Voice in Everything You Do

Fr. Paul Miceli, Vice Rector and Director of Human Formation, gave a talk to the seminarians as part of a Human Formation series on the topic of leadership. Entitled “Listen for God’s Voice in Everything You Do”, Fr. Miceli focused on the formation of priests who listen.



### *Take-Aways...*

“It is the importance of being a leader who not only hears but listens. He listens first to his master, to himself, to those he shepherds and to what is going on in the world.”

“The more I read and experience ministry, I realize that at the heart of priestly leadership is developing and sustaining a contemplative heart.”

“To preach well, we need to listen.”

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# MINISTRY



## Ministry of Lector

Pictured L-R front row: Thomas J. McKinley, Diocese of Paterson; Stephen L. Baruffi, Archdiocese of Boston; A. Thomas Rashid, Archdiocese of Boston; Rev. Paul Miceli, Vice Rector; **Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney**, of the Diocese of Paterson; Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector; Nicholas E. Wencis, Diocese of Manchester; Paul L. Landi, Diocese of Beaumont; Christopher A. Aubrey, Diocese of Worcester. Back row: Gerard T. Foley, Diocese of Brooklyn; Giris Y. Azize, Archdiocese of Boston; Marc J. Morano, Diocese of Paterson; Rev. Joseph Zwosta, Dean of Intellectual Formation; Rev. Stephen Linehan, Dean of Pastoral Formation.

## THE MINISTRIES OF FORMATION

As seminarians travel through their formative years toward priesthood, important ministry events take place that mark their steps in the process: **Admission to Candidacy, Ministry of Lector, Ministry of Acolyte, Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith and Priesthood.**

In the fall semester, the **Admission to Candidacy** occurs.

The Rite for Admission to Candidacy is an important step for each seminarian on his journey toward the priesthood. The rite is an opportunity for a seminarian to express publicly his intention to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders as a deacon and later as a priest. The Rite of Admission to Candidacy includes three components: the call to candidacy, the candidate's scrutiny, and the candidate's blessing.



L- R: Msgr. Francis D. Kelly, former Rector of PSJS; Leonardo Espinosa-Lopez, Diocese of Raleigh; Clifton Mastran, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston; **Bishop Earl K. Fernandes** of the Diocese of Columbus; visiting **Bishop Josif Printezis**, Archbishop of Naxos, Andros, Tinos and Mykonos in Greece; Maximilian Muenke, Archdiocese of Boston; Bao Nguyen, Diocese of Venice; Rev. Stephen Linehan, Dean of Men & Director of Pastoral Formation.

### Next up: **Ministry of Lector**

Those in formation to be ordained as Catholic priests must serve in the Ministry of Lector in order to prepare them for their future role as proclaimers of the Word of God. They perform this through their work in the community and through the celebration of Mass and other liturgical rites.



### Followed by: **Ministry of Acolyte**

As an Acolyte, the man's primary role will be assisting the Deacon and Priest during Mass, with a focus on ensuring that the altar is prepared. They may also serve as Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass and bring Holy Eucharist to the sick. They will also participate in various tasks as-needed, while aiding the priest and deacon during liturgical celebrations.



L – R: Joseph Bao Quoc Nguyen, Diocese of Venice; Brother Anthony Monahan, OFM, Cap., Capuchin Province of Mid-America; Maximilian Muenke, Archdiocese of Boston; **Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM, Cap., Archbishop of Boston**; Leonardo Espinosa-Lopez, Diocese of Raleigh; Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector; and Joseph Frank Kolcun, Diocese of Syracuse.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATION: *Pacem in Terris* Award

Presented by Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely at the Ministry of Acolyte Mass on March 15, 2024

### **Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap., Cardinal Archbishop of Boston**

Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM, Cap. has been Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary for the twenty years he has been in Boston as Archbishop of the Archdiocese. His steadfast support of the mission of the Seminary is an extension of the impactful work he has accomplished throughout the Boston area. His work is reflective of the core components of *Pacem in Terris* – generosity, humility, kindness, fidelity, and charity. We are honored to have presented Cardinal O'Malley with the *Pacem in Terris* award on the occasion of his twenty years leading Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary and the faithful of the Archdiocese of Boston.

### Almost there: **Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith**

The solemn Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith is an important and necessary step prior to the ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. By signing oaths before God, the Seminary rector, and the Seminary community, men make a public declaration of their faith and belief of all that the Catholic Church teaches. They promise to be faithful to that teaching in their ministry as deacons.

L-R: William Burns, Diocese of Orlando; Nelson Gerardo Tlatelpa, Diocese of Brooklyn; Jozef Ukaj, Diocese of Bridgeport; Brian Delaney, Archdiocese of Boston; William Patrick Long, Diocese of Venice; John Williams, Diocese of Springfield; Patrick Bruen, Archdiocese of Detroit; Br. Charles Tupta, Rock Hill Oratory; Deacon Luis Marquez, Diocese of Brooklyn; **Bishop Frank J. Caggiano**, of the Diocese of Bridgeport.





# CLASS OF 2024

## *Prepared for Service*



The Deacons of the Class of 2024 are ready to embark on a life of service. Before these men depart Weston, Massachusetts, to be ordained in their respective dioceses, we asked each of them to share a reflection that answers two questions:

- As you contemplate priesthood, is there an aspect of parochial ministry that you are excited for, and you hope to be involved in once ordained? Why?
- Is there a particular takeaway experience from seminary formation that you would like to share? What did it mean to you?

Enjoy their final words...and with all of us at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, please keep them in your prayers.



## Deacon Gregory Dougherty

Diocese of Venice | Ordination: June 8, 2024

In the midst of an ever-increasingly secularized world, my mission as a priest will be to lift up Our Lord Jesus Christ and the beauty of our Catholic faith to help bring salvation to souls.



Our Catholic faith is truly beautiful! From accompanying Sr. Mary during the last stages of her life to baptizing little Stella, a five-year-old girl who wanted to be Catholic so she could receive Jesus in the Eucharist, I have been so very blessed to experience the full spectrum of the ministerial life of the Church during my formation at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

It was a joy to work with a group of grandmothers during one of my summer assignments to revise a children’s book of virtues for Catholic elementary students. Placing the story in Fatima, Portugal, we featured the three shepherd children as models of virtue. Stella’s grandmother took her to one of the early meetings and Stella was familiar with the original story. She was sitting in a corner quietly coloring when I presented the idea of replacing the “Old Turtle” with the three Fatima seers. Immediately, Stella looked directly into my eyes with an intense gaze. She didn’t say a word. After a few seconds, she went back to coloring. Shortly after the meeting, I received a call from her grandmother saying that Stella was asking, “Is he really going to take out the Old Turtle?” The Old Turtle stayed.

A few weeks later, I received another phone call from Stella’s grandmother. They had been reading the new version of the story and inspired by the children of Fatima, Stella wanted to receive Jesus. Before the end of that summer, I had the privilege of baptizing Stella into the faith, which was one of the highlights of my time in the seminary. She is now preparing for her First Communion.



## Deacon Jason Fox

Diocese of Columbus | Ordination: May 18, 2024

When contemplating my future as a priest, I am most excited about celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This may seem acutely obvious, but I cannot imagine being successful in any aspect of ministry if the Eucharist is not at the center and focus of my entire life. Thinking that Jesus Christ’s body, blood, soul, and divinity will be made present by the



actions God is allowing me to take at the altar is also too much to imagine. Only through a strong faith in His will for me have I been able to come as far as I have. The future is His, and for Him, may I always be a vessel willing to do what he needs me to do for the good of His Kingdom.

Seminary has been integral for me to reach this understanding of priesthood, that it is not I that does anything; it is God working through me that gets things done. The education seminary offers, from philosophy and theology courses to Human Formation Conferences, is the knowledge of forgetting oneself and becoming Christ’s hands and feet on this earth. I pray that all of us chosen for this office in the Church may always remember this basic principle of letting go and letting God.



## Deacon Joseph Gonzalez

Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. | Ordination: June 15, 2024



I'm very grateful to God and the Church for allowing me to be an instrument for people to encounter the Lord and to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord through the Church. I am excited about all aspects of parochial ministry. I enjoy mentoring the youth through youth ministry, accompanying the elderly, and accompanying families through our journey. A huge part of this ministry is administering the sacraments. The Church and the sacraments have been such a gift for me, and I want to share this beautiful gift of love with everyone.

An experience that I will never forget happened at St. Patrick Manor: Nursing & Rosarie Center for Short-Term Rehabilitation in Framingham, MA. I often asked the residents what they would like me to include in my prayers for them. The number one answer was "keep me from falling." One day as I walked into a resident's room, the resident was sliding off the bed. I could not get to her fast enough. Thank God, she was fine. As we waited for the nurse and assistants to come, I sat on the floor with her and comforted her. I felt as if I was accompanying Jesus on the floor. I spent many hours since contemplating that moment and it gives me peace in realizing the priesthood is where the Lord wants me to be.



## Deacon Luis Marquez

Diocese of Brooklyn | Ordination: June 1, 2024



During my childhood in Columbia, I had the privilege of being an altar server. This role not only allowed me to actively participate in the Mass, but also gave me a glimpse into the profound beauty and solemnity of the priesthood. As I grew older, I was blessed to attend the minor seminary in Medellín. These years were transformative. The guidance and wisdom of my seminary trainers played a crucial role in shaping my understanding of the priesthood and preparing me for the challenges to come.

One particular experience during my time in college (before attending PSJS) solidified my calling in an unexpected way. I found myself faced with the need to help a young woman who was struggling with the decision of whether or not to continue with her pregnancy. In this delicate and sensitive situation, I felt a responsibility to offer her guidance and support, helping her see the value and sanctity of the life she carried in her womb. It is in moments like this that I find my calling strengthened and renewed. The vocation to the priesthood is not only a call to serve at the altar, but also to be a defender of life and an instrument of God to bring his love and mercy to others. Today, I feel happy and excited because I am just months away from achieving my goal of serving others through the priesthood. My heart is filled with gratitude to God for entrusting me with this sacred ministry and I look forward to sharing his love and grace with those I will serve as a priest.



### Deacon Barry Mongeon

Archdiocese of Boston | Ordination: May 25, 2024



I am looking forward to my ordination with great joy and excitement. My experience at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary has prepared me with a solid foundation to serve as a parish priest. I have few expectations of the priesthood but I am ready to serve in whatever area of parish life that my pastor assigns me. I will embrace the challenges that parish life can bring and surrender all the gifts that the Lord has given me to meet those challenges. Lastly, I look forward to announcing the word of God...to those who have not heard His word, to those who have turned from His word, and to those who are desperately searching to reunite with His word...so that all may know and feel God's wisdom and compassion.

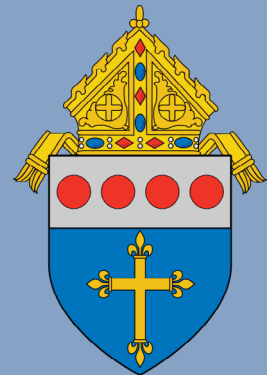
I think the most important takeaway I can offer any man who is considering the priesthood is to stay focused on Jesus. See Christ in everything you do and don't let constant distraction pull you away from important moments and goals. My experiences have been educational, uplifting, funny, deeply spiritual and sometimes extremely emotional, and it is those experiences that have enriched my formation at seminary and in parish assignments. These are the memories and experiences I will keep close, while I move forward in a life of service as an instrument of God.

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength... Philippians 4:13



### Deacon Stephen Mullaney

Diocese of Worcester | Ordination: June 1, 2024



Having served as a caregiver to my late parents and maternal grandparents, I entered seminary with the expectation that Jesus was directing my ministry to elders. I had a wonderful experience doing just that during a weekly pastoral assignment at St. Joseph Manor Health Care in Brockton, Massachusetts. However, beyond seniors, my service there broadened my horizons to include visits with those undergoing short-term rehabilitation and younger people facing terminal illness or needing long-term care. My present weekend pastoral placement at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Northborough, Massachusetts has enabled me to continue that ministry at three facilities within the parish's territory.

These encounters have fostered my formation for the Archangel St. Raphael Holy Healing Ministry which I was invited to join two years ago during a summer assignment at St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Upton, Massachusetts. As part of that ongoing service, in addition to serving as an instrument of Christ in bringing physical, emotional, and spiritual healing through hands-on healing prayers, I have had occasion to participate in deliverance ministry. I hope to be able to broaden my involvement in this facet of pastoral care to help free people from distress and assist them in fully experiencing hope in our Lord.



### **Deacon John Tanyi**

Archdiocese of Boston | Ordination: May 25, 2024



*Tempus fugit irrevocabiliter* ("time flies irretrievably") is an old Latin adage. Where has the time gone? My time at seminary is almost over and ordination to the priesthood of Christ is imminent. My seminary journey with men from all walks of life has truly been a blessing. My life and worldview have been wonderfully enriched. We have been mentored by holy and dedicated formators, who work indefatigably to form balanced men for the Holy priesthood. Among other things, I will miss their well-prepared homilies.

I have been blessed with some great pastoral assignments. My time at Regina Cleri, the home for retired priests of the Archdiocese of Boston, was definitely a grace-filled learning experience. The one-to-one conversations with priests, most of whom have been in the priesthood for over fifty years, were interesting and inspiring. Some of the men were members of the St. James Society, and as such were missionaries to different countries of South America. My time with them prompted memories of the wonderful missionaries from Europe and America who brought the Catholic faith to Africa.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of my current deaconate assignment at St. John the Baptist & St. Thomas the Apostle Parishes in Peabody, MA. It has been a good preparation for the priesthood. Baptizing, preaching, visiting the sick, and presence among the people have all been a tremendous learning experience. My pastor, Fr. Derek Borek, has been a good teacher and mentor. The Almighty God, "The Hound of Heaven," may have finally gotten his prey, John Tanyi. May the Lord bring the good work he has begun in me to fruition. Amen.



### **Deacon Jozef Ukaj**

Diocese of Bridgeport | Ordination: June 15, 2024



I am especially excited to offer spiritual direction to people. The ministry of a priest is ordered towards the sanctification of the people, and nowhere can that progress better be detected than in spiritual direction. God does not only offer salvation and deification generally, He works within each soul individually, crafting and pruning. And since a priest should imitate God in every way and work closely with people, he should also mirror this dynamic.

At my assignment last year at Sacred Heart in Roslindale (a neighborhood in Boston), I met a parishioner who was able to communicate only through hand signs, while also having some other physical limitations. Even though he had these difficulties he radiated a happiness that I don't think I have seen in too many people. Whenever I communicated with him, he was always making gestures and signs that spoke of God's goodness. His life reminded me that even if I may be going through difficulties, there is only One that we need and only One that is necessary.



## Deacon Gregory Zingler

Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. | Ordination: June 15, 2024

As I contemplate the priesthood, there is more of an overarching aspect of parochial ministry that I am excited for – and this “responsibility” can be best expressed by Jesus’ commission to Paul as his servant and witness: “to open the eyes of those he was sent, that they may turn from darkness to light and from dominion of Satan to God; that through their faith in Jesus, they may obtain forgiveness of their sins and a portion among God’s people.” (Acts 26:18)



My seminary experience can be best explained by sharing a story about my daughter when she played the violin as a young girl. After becoming familiar with the instrument, her teacher had her work on playing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Needless to say, as proud parents, we gave her many opportunities to master the lullaby-poem. A few years later, when another “proud moment” arrived on Thanksgiving at Grandma and Grandpa’s, our daughter performed a more advanced repertoire. After finishing the piece, her great-uncle replied, “She’s come a long way from Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”.

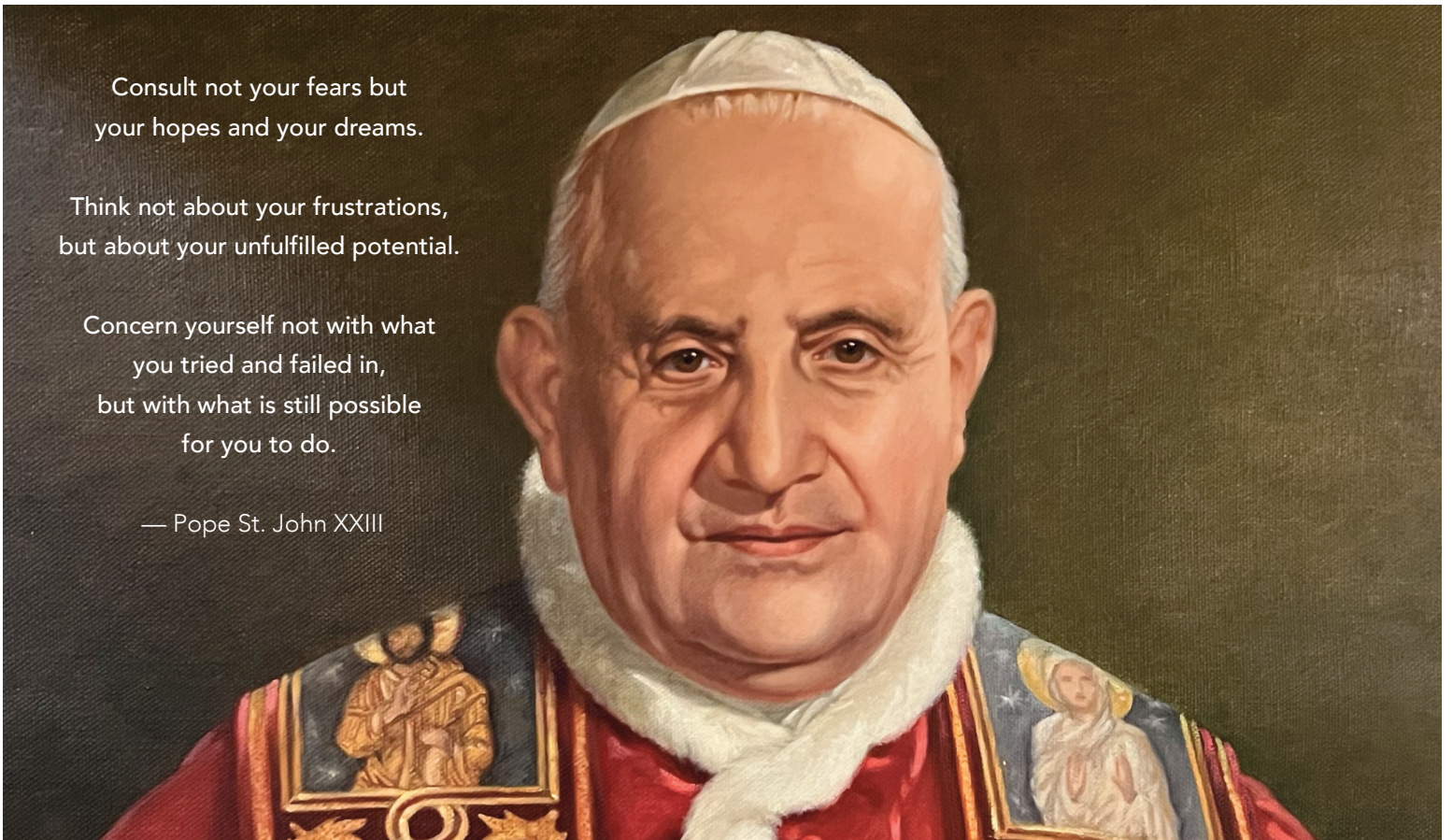
Pastoral and summer assignments, study and prayer, intellectual and spiritual formation, and fraternal development were introduced in a collective, yet respectfully paced manner at PSJS. After getting my feet wet, the staff and faculty continually raised the bar to ensure I was well and faithfully prepared to embrace the priestly vocation. It is because of the prayers and sacrifices of many people, and the grace of Almighty God that I have come from “taking little steps” to readying myself to be anointed a priest of God. Please Jesus, may I be in continual awareness of you and the Virgin Mary accompanying me as I journey with my parishioners along the road to our Father’s house.

Consult not your fears but  
your hopes and your dreams.

Think not about your frustrations,  
but about your unfulfilled potential.

Concern yourself not with what  
you tried and failed in,  
but with what is still possible  
for you to do.

— Pope St. John XXIII



# POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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## MISSION

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary is a Roman Catholic professional and graduate theological institution dedicated uniquely to the preparation of seminarians 30 years of age and older responding to a call to priestly ministry.

Our program fosters the human, spiritual, academic and pastoral formation of its seminarians. We especially respect and utilize the life experiences and accomplishments of our mature seminarians, as we prepare them for priestly ministry.

The Seminary program is based on the *Ratio Fundamentalis* of the Holy See, the Program of Priestly Formation Fifth Edition, of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Post-Synodal Exhortation of Pope St. John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*.

## DIOCESES SERVED

To date, candidates have come to the Seminary from more than 150 dioceses and 25 religious communities. Over 750 alumni serve in dioceses and religious communities throughout the world. Our alumni priests are serving the faithful both nationally and internationally, including dioceses in Australia, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Guam, Ireland, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, and South Sudan.



## Save these dates!

32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament  
"Fran and Stephen Rowen  
Memorial Tournament"

Monday, May 13, 2024

The Weston Golf Club • Weston, MA

[www.psj.s.edu/golf-tournaments](http://www.psj.s.edu/golf-tournaments)



43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lawn Party

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Weston, MA

[www.psj.s.edu/lawn-party](http://www.psj.s.edu/lawn-party)

