

SPARKS OF LIGHT

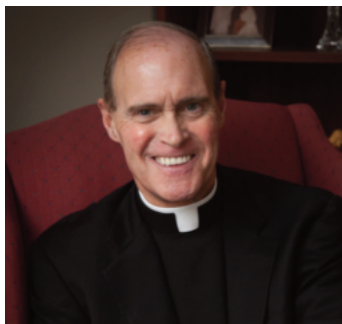
Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary

Answering the Call | Founded in 1964

FALL 2024



FROM THE RECTOR



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is apparent that the year 2024 is turning out to be one of transition. On the national level, we prepare for a new President and stay united in the hope that our nation's future will be both prosperous and peaceful for all.

Locally, here in the Archdiocese of Boston, we are transitioning from the leadership of Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap. as our Archbishop to the ministry of our new Shepherd, the Most Reverend Richard G. Henning. Archbishop Henning, a native of Rockville Center and previous Bishop of Providence, was appointed on August 5th by our Holy Father Pope Francis. He was installed as the Archbishop of Boston on October 31st during a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. Archbishop Henning also became Chairman of the Board of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary when he assumed his new position. I am confident that all will join me in welcoming our new Archbishop and assuring him of our prayers.

As we celebrate the appointment of our new Archbishop, we also want to gratefully acknowledge the tremendous ministry of Cardinal O'Malley. For the past 20 years, Cardinal O'Malley has led the Church in Boston through some difficult and challenging moments and has impressed all of us with his kindness, prayerful presence and humility. We have been blessed by his wise counsel and guidance and we thank him for all that he does to support the mission of this great Seminary.

In August, we welcomed 14 new men who transitioned from the secular world and entered into the sacred reality of priestly formation. These men participated in an extended period of orientation prior to beginning their academic studies and were exposed to the human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral aspects of our program. I look forward to witnessing the positive effects as they adjust to Seminary life.

And lastly, a transition has occurred with the Faculty as two members have retired and three new members are welcomed. It is a true blessing to have Fr. Kevin Deeley, Fr. Derek Borek, and Deacon John Nicholson join our Formation Team and to rely upon their considerable skills and insights. I also want to publicly thank Msgr. James Mongelluzzo and Rev. Stephen Linehan for their tremendous contributions and dedicated service to our Seminary.

With my love, my prayers, and my thanks for all that YOU do to enrich this Seminary and asking for a remembrance in your prayers, I remain,

Faternally yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely
Rector

Administration

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely
Rector and President

Rev. Paul E. Miceli
Vice Rector
Coordinator of Human Formation

Rev. Vincent Daily
Coordinator of Spiritual Formation

Deacon John Nicholson
Coordinator of Pastoral Formation

Rev. Joseph Zwosta
Coordinator of Intellectual Formation
& Academic Dean

Rev. Scott Surrency, OFM Cap.
Dean of Seminarians

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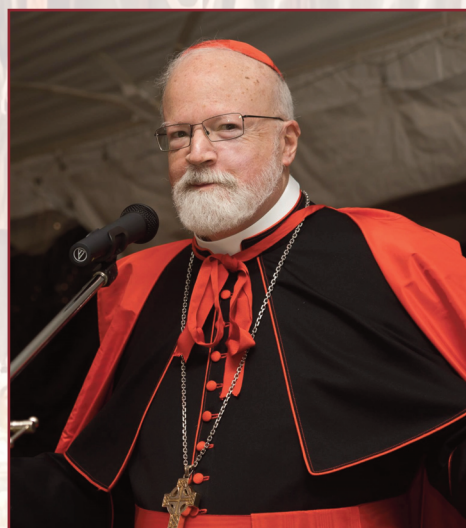
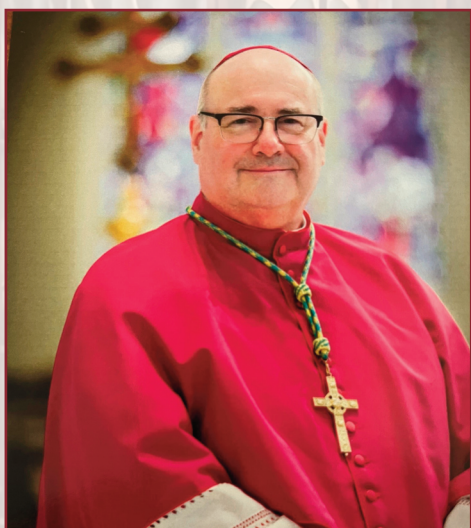
Most Rev. James Massa

Ms. Mary Ann McLaughlin

Most Rev. Mark O'Connell

Mr. R. Newcomb Stillwell





With Gratitude

Welcome Archbishop Richard G. Henning, to the Archdiocese of Boston! Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary is grateful for all of your service in the Church. We look forward to witnessing your ministry here in Boston. We joyfully and humbly anticipate helping, with the best of our abilities, in your ministerial work with the people of this archdiocese.

Thank you, Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap., for your twenty years of service to the Archdiocese of Boston and as Chairman of the Board of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary. We appreciate you!

Welcome

NEW SEMINARIANS



ALEXANDER BAUGH

Diocese of Venice

Class of 2028

My interest in music has been lifelong. Our home was always full of classical music, and my sister and I played piano, before I began my strong bond with the guitar and ukulele. Having studied at University of Central Florida for a career in Hospitality, I was able to travel with a band, and as a solo artist throughout our country and other continents. I enjoy performing and encouraging people to seek joy!

My recent years in Christian music opened my heart to God's Presence in my life. Many of my listeners wrote to me, telling me that their faith flourished after listening to my songs. It was then, some five years ago, that I began attending daily Mass. When I spoke about God to my friends, they had no response and little interest. Perhaps it was then, when I realized that God wanted me to help feed His sheep. I moved to Sarasota, became a member of the Diocese of Venice, and here I am at Pope St. John XXIII, ready for the Holy Spirit to fill my sails!





MICHAEL CATTEHAN

Archdiocese of Hartford

Class of 2028

Before coming to Pope St. John XXIII, I was a truck driver for an asphalt company. I started feeling a call to the priesthood, but my first thought was "I'm too old." My priest then told me about Pope St. John XXIII. I attended one of the vocation retreats at PSJS in the

fall of 2023 and it was a great weekend. I felt comfortable right away. I officially applied and was thrilled to learn of my acceptance.

There are a couple of reasons I felt PSJS was the right place for me. First, I would be around men who are close to my age. And second, it was a comfortable thought knowing I would be in seminary with men who have children. I have two children, ages 25 and 22, and they, with all of my family, have been very supportive of me. I am looking forward to this journey and, God willing, I hope to become a priest.



TERRY GASTAUER

Diocese of Venice

Class of 2028

Before attending Pope St. John XXIII, my employment experience included jobs in the grocery, retail, customer service, custodial and maintenance services, and healthcare industries. In the healthcare realm, I worked in the admissions and customer service departments

of an in-patient drug/alcohol detox and psychiatric hospital and also in a full-service hospital. After receiving the Eucharist at Daily Mass, I experienced what I believe to be a powerful, clear, and humbling calling from the Holy Trinity to become a priest, and many doors opened. I am a Third Degree Knight of Columbus, and I have a loving devotion to Mother Mary.

What brought me to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary specifically are the generosity and recommendations from my bishop and vocation director, along with splendid interviews and an acceptance by seminary formators and the Rector. My hobbies include swimming, camping, watersports, and skateboarding. I am blessed and grateful to be a seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary and pray that God wills for me to be ordained a priest.





RUSSELL GRAFRATH

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Class of 2028

Prior to entering the seminary, Russell had been running an insurance brokerage for 9 years and was a fishing guide on the side. Russell had experienced a high level of success in the industry and even held the number two position in his company

for several years. Eventually, the glamour of success began to fade, and the spiritual life became more important.

"I had actually spoken to my diocese about 10 years ago about going to seminary, and due to several of life's twists and turns it didn't work out. More recently I remember slowly losing my zeal for the insurance industry, and one day in confession, I found myself very thankful for the priest who was hearing my confession. I was thinking that he had given up his time so that he could be here, hearing my confession, and I felt very drawn to that sacrificial call. That, plus some very significant experiences in prayer, led me back to the front door of my diocese to complete an application to the seminary. This time it finally worked out."



PETER JIMÉNEZ

Archdiocese of Boston

Class of 2026

Before coming to PSJS, I had the privilege of working in diplomacy and founding a company dedicated to exchange programs for students and adults abroad. I have studied law, economics, and political science. I have deepened my studies in philosophy and, now as a seminarian, am completing my theology studies. Additionally, I have pursued master's degrees in Pastoral Theology and Thanatology.

I speak six languages. Among them, Portuguese is the one that fascinates me the most. I have played the cello since the age of seven. Another of my great passions is photography, particularly landscape photography. As a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Boston, I feel truly fulfilled. This seminary has welcomed me unconditionally from day one. Here, the environment is familiar and close-knit. I am convinced that this is the place where my vocation can fully flourish.



“Every believer...must be a Spark of Light”

–Pope St. John XXIII



JOHN LYNCH

Archdiocese of Boston

Class of 2028

Prior to entering Pope St. John XXIII Jay had a 22-year career in the real estate industry in the Greater Lowell area.



"Growing up, my Catholic faith was always very important. I went to a Catholic high school and both of my children attended Catholic schools. We became very involved in the school and our parish. In serving in many ministries, my relationship with Jesus and his Church grew stronger. I first heard the "call" for a priestly vocation about 20 years ago. I didn't think much about it as my children were very young and I thought I was too old. A few years ago, I could no longer "ignore the call." I discerned it with my spiritual director and met with Fr. Eric Cadin, the vocation director in the Archdiocese of Boston. Over the last year, I attended most First Friday Holy Hour devotions as well as two retreats at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary. The community of staff and seminarians were very gracious and helpful with my discernment process. After a couple of visits, I knew that this is where God wanted me!"



LOUIS NAMUGERA

Archdiocese of Boston

Class of 2026

Louis studied accounting and finance in Uganda, East Africa, and spent a year working at a bank. However, he did not receive the contentment that he seeks in life; he soon realized that his heart was yearning for something more fulfilling. Louis resumed discerning his sacerdotal vocation in 2018.

Each day of his discernment brings him closer to the sacred altar of Jesus, filling his life with purpose and joy. Louis is known for his kindness to everyone he meets and his tender and cheerful presence, which keeps him connected to the people of God.

"I am drawn to the Archdiocese of Boston and Pope Saint John XXIII Seminary because of the presence of a hospitable Ugandan community, the rich cultural connections, and the vibrant diversity within the archdiocese. Boston is a very organized Archdiocese, and PSJS is a prayerful, mature, strong, and fraternal community Seminary, making it the ideal place for me to continue my journey with joy and grace."



*Formation at PSJS coupled with
life experience enriches the Church*



PAUL OTIENO

Archdiocese of Oklahoma City

Class of 2028

My life has been a remarkable journey from Nairobi, Kenya to Oklahoma City, thanks to God's Grace. I started as a member of the Kenyan national soccer team and later pursued studies in the United States on a scholarship. After earning a degree in Business Administration in 2003,

I continued my education and obtained an MBA in Finance in 2011, both at Oklahoma Christian University.

Despite my background in finance, I felt called to the classroom and became a math teacher at the Oklahoma Office of Juvenile Affairs in 2018. For six years, I positively impacted young lives before this call to the priesthood. In my free time, I enjoy relaxing at Starbucks with a good book and coffee. I am a fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder and Gor Mahia Football Club. Through my diverse experiences, and guidance here at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, I continue to grow personally and strive to make a difference in the lives of others.



MICHAEL SALICE

Archdiocese of Hartford

Class of 2028

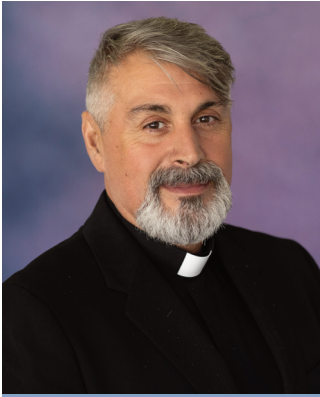
Prior to entering seminary, Mike spent over twenty years in the asset management industry, most recently as a Portfolio Manager and co-Chief Investment Officer with a focus on high yield bonds and equities. Mike

holds a B.A. in Economics from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from New York University's Stern School of Business. He is originally from Bristol, CT.

Mike began to more seriously discern a vocation to the priesthood after the start of the COVID pandemic, as the quiet of a work-from-home environment presented opportunities for self-reflection and greater clarity of thought. "Bolstered by an incredibly supportive family, rewarding experiences gained through parish volunteer work, and a persistent feeling of being called to a different way of life, I am truly grateful for this opportunity made possible by the Archdiocese of Hartford Vocations Office and the faculty of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary."



*If there are no priests, there is no Mass;
If there is no Mass, there is no Eucharist;
If there is no Eucharist, there is no LIFE.*



JOSÉ TORREJAO

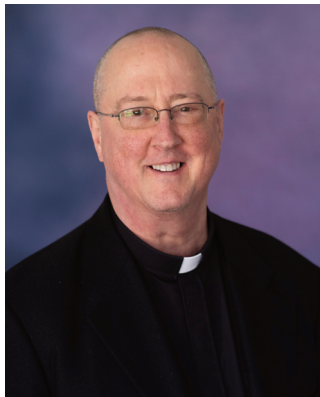
Diocese of Fall River

Class of 2026

José is from Portugal and was accepted as a Fall River seminarian in 2023. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in New Bedford has become his new home parish. Having recently obtained his student visa, he enrolled as a seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII Seminary.



While living at the seminary, José is taking English language courses at the EF International Language School in Boston. Previously, as a member of the Montfort Missionaries, he completed his theological course requirements for ordination. However, before ordination to the diaconate for ministry in the Diocese of Fall River, he will complete three semesters of formation at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.



GERARD "JERRY" USHER

Diocese of Orlando

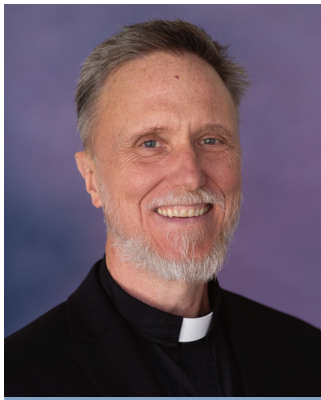
Class of 2028

Jerry was born in Seattle, Washington, and grew up on the Pacific Coast. He later moved to Daytona Beach, Florida. He had an uncle who was a priest, and who proved to be the spiritual influence in Jerry's family. With his uncle's example, and through prayer, Jerry began studying for the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon in his early twenties.



Jerry prayerfully took what he thought would be a short time out of formation. It turned into 28 years. He made a professional career start in sports radio in Seattle and then Portland before becoming host of the EWTN radio show, *Take 2 With Jerry and Debbie*. In November 2022, the notion of priesthood came back to him very strongly. He pursued it in prayer, and it led him to being accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Orlando, and acceptance for formation at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.

I heard God. Now I am Ready to Serve.



DANIEL WALDRON
Archdiocese of Boston
Class of 2026



Daniel was born and raised in Baltimore, MD. From an early age, family members noted that he had a strong faith, but after moving out of the family home at age nineteen, he let the regular practice of the Faith slide. He attended Baltimore International Culinary College and worked in the food service industry in various capacities for fifteen years. During that time, at age twenty-seven, he experienced a reversion to his Faith while on a Marian pilgrimage and became part of a young adult prayer group where vocations were openly discussed. He responded to an invitation from his pastor, who was a Franciscan, to attend a come-and-see weekend. Discerning a call to religious life, he joined the Franciscans of Primitive Observance in New Bedford, MA in 1999.

Although he had taken final vows as a permanent lay brother, Daniel sensed a “call-within-a-call” in 2018 and began studying for the priesthood at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton. In July of 2023, he decided to leave the Franciscans and was accepted as a seminarian for Diocesan priesthood for the Archdiocese of Boston.

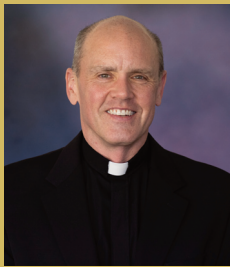
Chapel Livestream

Every Sunday during the semester Sunday Mass is livestreamed at 9:30 AM EDT.
The Culture of Life Chaplet and Rosary takes place every Thursday at 9:30 AM EDT.
Be sure to check the PSJS Chapel Livestream webpage often and join us for special events
<https://psjs.edu/chapel-livestream>

2024-2025 PSJS EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
Rite of Candidacy	October 30, 2024 4:30 PM EDT	Bishop David L. Toups, Diocese of Beaumont
Ministry of Lector	December 4, 2024 4:30 PM EDT	Bishop Douglas John Lucia, Diocese of Syracuse <i>Livestream from Alumni Chapel</i>
March for Life	January 24-25, 2025	Washington, D.C.
Ministry of Acolyte	February 19, 2025 4:30 PM EDT	Archbishop Timothy Broglio, J.C.D., Archdiocese for the Military, USA <i>Livestream from Alumni Chapel</i>

Three new faculty members joined the PSJS community in the fall of 2024. We asked them: What impresses you the most about Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary (besides the cookies!)?



Rev. Derek Borek

Spiritual Director

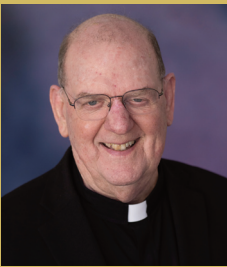
Professor of Theology

S.T.L., Pontifical University of St. Thomas
(Angelicum), Rome

M. Div., St. John's Seminary, Boston

B.S., University of Massachusetts, Lowell

"What impresses me the most is the spirit of the house and the eagerness and openness with which the seminarians give themselves over to the formation process. Oh yeah. And the cookies."



Rev. Kevin Deeley

Faculty

M.Div., Saint John's Seminary

B.A., Saint John's Seminary

"What impresses me the most is the joy that is so present in the seminarians, the faculty and the staff. It is very uplifting to be a part of that!"



Deacon John Nicholson

Coordinator of Pastoral Formation

Archdiocese of Boston,
Permanent Diaconate, 2002

B.S., Boston College

"What impresses me most about PSJS is the diversity of backgrounds and life experiences, as well as the strong faith that these men bring here and, God willing, will bring to future ministry in the Church."



Rev. Joseph Zwosta is the PSJS Coordinator of Intellectual Formation. This semester, Fr. Kiely appointed Fr. Zwosta to also serve as interim Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy.

At the time of the appointment, Fr. Kiely stated that "Fr. Zwosta possesses a great knowledge of the liturgical practices of the Roman Catholic Church, and he has graciously agreed to accept this important position on an interim basis... I am very grateful to Fr. Zwosta and to all of the liturgical ministers in our community for the wonderful work that they do to help ensure that we worship God reverently and well." The effective date of this appointment was August 18, 2024.





Annual Lawn Party celebrates Pope St. John XXIII Seminary's unique mission

Wes Cipolla Pilot Staff Local Friday 4th of October 2024

The following article was written for The Pilot and perfectly captures the essence of this year's Annual Lawn Party.

WESTON -- People often ask **Deacon John Williams** if his two combat deployments to Iraq were what inspired him to become a priest. They're right, he tells them, but not in the way they expect.

In February 2003, 20-year-old Deacon Williams dropped out of college and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, one month before the invasion of Iraq.

"I rarely saw a priest in Iraq," he said. "For two years in a row, we went through two entire Lenten seasons with practically no access to the sacraments."

In a single year, he went to Mass five times.

During Holy Week in 2004, his battalion "experienced some of the worst urban combat since the Vietnam War." Three of his fellow Marines died on Easter Sunday morning.

"Yet we could not go to confession on the eve of battle," Deacon Williams recalled. "We could not receive the Eucharist on the holiest day of the year. There was no priest to help us mourn our fallen friends. It was the critical absence of the church during this very vulnerable time in my life that made a profound impression on me."

His division chaplain was a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston -- Father Bill Devine, now pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Bridgewater. As chaplain, Father Devine was the only priest in a 53,000-square-mile area. In 2023, Deacon Williams was reintroduced to Father Devine and thanked him for his ministry. Deacon Williams, a transitional deacon and seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, told his story at the seminary's 43rd annual Lawn Party on Sept. 25. The party was attended by over 350 people and raised over \$400,000 for the seminary, the only seminary in the U.S. that specifically trains men over 30 for the priesthood.

"What I most appreciate about this place, and indeed what I am continually in awe of, is how open to growth the men are here," Deacon Williams said in his remarks. "They are not content to ride off into the sunset. When two roads converged in a wood, they took the one less traveled by."

Deacon Williams said that his fellow seminarians have lived lives full of accomplishment -- founding successful businesses, traveling around the world, rubbing elbows with prominent people, filling powerful positions in government, and raising families. Now, however, their work is mundane. They clean stairwells, iron linens for the seminary chapel, tidy up guest rooms, and clear tables of dirty dishes.

"And they do this because they love God, and they wish to serve the church," Deacon Williams said.

He said that he "wouldn't make it" if he was in a seminary with younger men. He joked that if a lightbulb went out at a seminary full of young men, they would have various reactions. The traditionalist would wonder what the Latin word for "lightbulb" is. The philosopher would ponder the nature of light. The seminarian concerned with social justice would think of those without electricity in third-world countries. The average seminarian at Pope St. John XXIII, however, would simply change the lightbulb.

"And that's why a seminary like this needs to exist," Deacon Williams said. "We need a place where men of our unique personal and professional experience can safely land, feel at home, and embrace our vocations."

Since its founding in 1964 by Cardinal Richard Cushing, Pope St. John has formed men from 150 dioceses and 25 religious orders. Over 750 men formed at the seminary have been ordained as priests. All of the seminary's funding comes from tuition and private donations.

"I can't imagine a more critical mission for the church than the formation of future priests," the seminary's rector, Father Brian R. Kiely, said in his remarks, "because without priests, you will not have the Eucharist. Without the Eucharist, you're not going to live."

Deacon Williams said that he would not be alive if it weren't for a priest. He was the youngest of 15 children -- two brothers and 12 sisters.

"I grew up with two brothers and 13 mothers," he joked.

In 1968, Deacon Williams's father Harvey's first wife died of a brain tumor, leaving him to care for 10 children. The youngest was only two weeks old. Harvey's parish priest, Father Finley, set him up on a blind date with Anne, the woman who would become his second wife and Deacon Williams's mother.

"I'd pay a lot of money to go back in time and hear what my father said that evening," Deacon Williams said. "But whatever he said, it worked, and my mom married him, adopted his 10 children, and bore him five more."

Harvey and Anne were married for 50 years. Though both are now deceased, they have left a legacy through their 123 grandchildren.

"I never met Father Finley, but I am forever grateful for the pastoral care he showed my family," Deacon Williams said. "I would literally not be here if he didn't."

After growing up with 12 sisters, he said, he now has 40 brothers in the form of his fellow seminarians.

During the evening, the seminary presented two men the *Pacem in Terris* Award, which is given to an "individual who demonstrates generosity, humility, kindness, fidelity, and charity in support of the seminary's mission."

The first recipient was **James Mahoney**, a Boston-based investor and philanthropist who was a former trustee and development chair at Pope St. John. He led the campaign to build the seminary's new library, which now has over 60,000 volumes in its collection.



James J. Mahoney, Jr., *Pacem in Terris* recipient

"He has assisted us in so many ways," Father Kiely said of Mahoney. "We relied upon his advice, his counsel, his guidance. He has helped us to navigate forward into the future. And I came to believe he is emblematic of what it is to be an instrument of God's peace."

In his remarks, Mahoney called the seminary "a mission that makes sense, that's been around for 60 years, and needed more today than ever before."

"The strong mission, combined with the faculty and staff, the strengths of the people here, makes it easy for me" to be a part of the seminary, he said.

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INITIATIVES...

The Vocation Kit

Some of you may have noticed the two lawn signs at the entrance of PSJS as you turn off Route 30. In August of 2023, we received a grant from In Trust Center to help us “spread the word” about Pope St. John XXIII. We partnered with a select group of alumni to receive a kit to include: two lawn signs, a First Friday Holy Hour poster with dates for the semester, a suggested note to include in the parish bulletin, and a request to speak about the Seminary and their personal journeys from the altar during Mass. It is our hope that more people will be made aware of the Seminary through this effort and will perhaps strike up a conversation with their pastor or parochial vicar about Pope St. John XXIII. We rolled the project out again this year and have exhausted the grant funding. Next step is to poll the participants and record feedback that we can analyze and determine further action. It is just one of the many efforts we are making to increase the visibility of Pope St. John XXIII and make known that this is a place where older men can come and study to become a priest for God and His people.



...MOMENTUM



The Healthy Me First Guard Your Heart Wellness Program

In August of 2024, we received grant funding from The Catholic Foundation to help Pope St. John XXIII launch a wellness program to be made available to seminarians and faculty. We have wanted to build on our momentum of the acquisition of new fitness machines and equipment over the last couple of years. The next step was to have a wellness expert work with seminarians to instill healthy habits that the men will take with them when they become priests and are working in parishes. Fortunately, we have partnered with a couple who know and understand exactly what we are hoping to achieve. Enter **Maura and Edmund Duah-Asamoah**. Maura and Edmund work with many communities and individuals to help them achieve wellness and fitness. Maura comes to campus once-a-month while Edmund livestreams via Zoom from his gym. Each week, Maura sends a newsletter about healthy habits and steps for optimum nutrition. Edmund's focus is movement, movement, movement! He consistently reminds the men that they must care for their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit and that they can only be effective in their roles in parishes if they mindfully take good care of themselves. He often shares how his instruction is rooted in Bible teachings. The program is still in its early stages. Questions are being addressed and instructions being provided as we move forward to encourage healthy habits and create a wellness focus for those participating in the program.



In early October, alumni returned to the Seminary for our annual **Alumni Days**. Those in attendance had a wonderful time re-connecting. The keynote speaker on Tuesday night was Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., a Senior Ethicist at The National Catholic Bioethics Center. He spoke to the audience on "Transgender Issues and Gender Dysphoria." The following morning, Msgr. William Fay, a professor of Theology and Philosophy at PSJS, spoke on "End of Life Decision Making: Physician Assisted Suicide, Euthanasia, Pain Management and Hospice." Both talks were incredibly relevant, with much to learn. The celebration concluded with the Annual Alumni Mass with a Remembrance of the Deceased, and a banquet with recognition of jubilarians. We were lucky to have **Msgr. Jim Burnett '74** who celebrated fifty years of being a priest preach the homily. We look forward to having our alumni join us again next year and experiencing a beautiful New England in October!

Congratulations to Fr. Michael Goodreau '20 on recently being named president of the Catholic Charities Agency of the Diocese of Springfield by Bishop William D. Byrne, Diocese of Springfield.

"Father Michael's vocation story makes him the ideal candidate for this new position," commented Bishop Byrne. "He brings nearly 20 years of business experience and acumen that will undoubtedly help to strengthen the mission of the Catholic Charities Agency."



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Rev. Msgr. Francis D. Kelly,
Pacem in Terris recipient

The second *Pacem in Terris* recipient was **Msgr. Francis Kelly**, currently a priest in the Diocese of Worcester. He served in the seminary for 13 years, 11 of those as rector. He is also a member of the College of Canons of St. Peter's Basilica.

"We all sense the joy that has come from the great apostolic initiative of Cardinal Cushing," Msgr. Kelly said in his remarks. "And personally, I'm very humbled to be given the *Pacem in Terris* Award this year."

He said his time at the seminary was "among the most happy and joyful and satisfying years in my 60 years of priesthood." "I was greatly edified and inspired by the faith and the gener-

osity of the men who came here," he said.

He described the seminarians he shepherded as men who gave up lives of pleasure, ease, and opportunity to serve Christ and his flock.

"I think in those wonderful 13 years, I got more from them than they got from me," he said.

Msgr. Kelly told the current seminarians that the key to their success in priesthood would be daily, prolonged prayer to Jesus.

"You must have a personal friendship with him," he said. "He chose those first seminarians, the 12, to be first disciples of him, then friends with him, and then apostles of him. And you are called to do the same."

Every seminary has a 'day off' where seminarians are free to relax and explore. For the men enrolled at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary that day is Thursday. Below see some of their adventures.

Reaching new heights

Seminarians visited Pawtukaway State Park in New Hampshire and climbed Mount Wachusett in Massachusetts



What a catch!

Deep Sea Fishing in
Gloucester, Massachusetts



Catching waves at Salisbury Beach
Salisbury, Massachusetts



AROUND THE SEMINARY

During Orientation week in late August, new men not only learned the basics of seminary life, they also had free time to get to know the area in and around Boston.



Saint Anthony's Feast Day

is celebrated in the North End neighborhood of Boston every year and is popular.

Bishop Robert P. Reed led the procession this year.

Homeless Outreach with The Movement Family (TMF)

Helping the homeless and those experiencing food insecurity in Lawrence, Massachusetts with TMF founder Mike Gorman (center).



Go Woosox!

The orientation team took the new seminarians out to the ballgame in Worcester, Massachusetts where the Red Sox minor league team calls home.



Tour Boston!



AROUND THE SEMINARY

Spreading the good word...

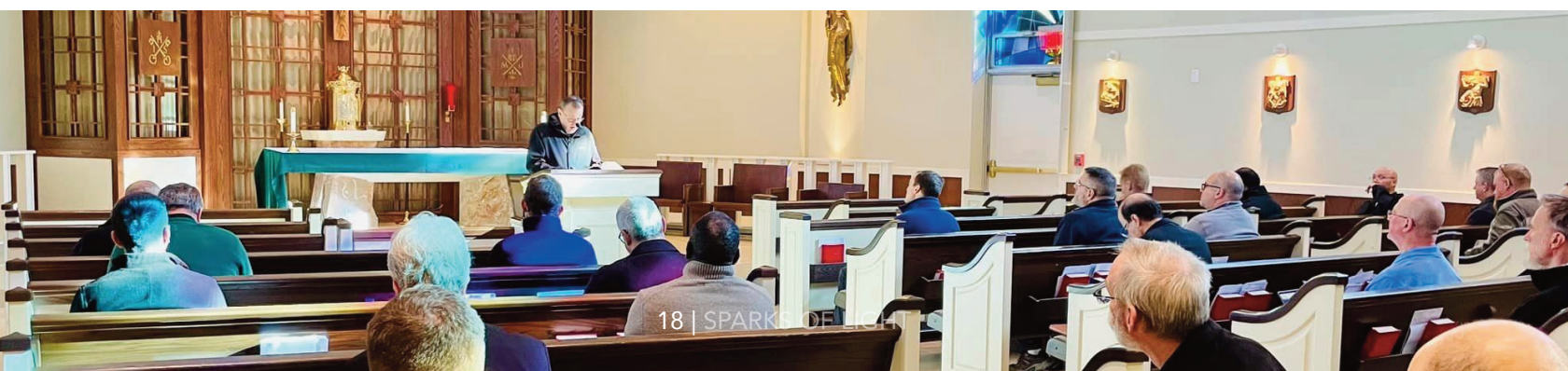
Seminary professor, formator and podcast host **Msgr. Bill Fay** was the guest speaker at a Pro-Life gathering at the Pastoral Center of the Archdiocese of Boston on Saturday, October 5. The meeting was hosted by Ms. Sylvia Fernandez, Director of the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office. Msgr. Fay focused on the great need for us to be witnesses to life in all its stages from conception to natural death. The gathering concluded with a Mass celebrated by Msgr. Bob Oliver, the judicial vicar of the Archdiocese. Seminarians Jay Lynch, Mike Cattelan and Alex Baugh assisted with the efforts of the gathering.



Time for Retreat

Each year, after midterms conclude, the seminarians participate in a retreat as a way to regroup and refocus as they prepare to finish the semester. Fr. Brian Kiely, often refers to the seminary as "This Holy House". This was certainly true when Fr. Dermot Roache, SMA, offered the seminarians their annual fall retreat.

Participants prayed over themes of deep personal holiness, devotion to Our Blessed Mother, and perseverance.



We Step Forward Together

Deacon John Nicholson is our new Coordinator of Pastoral Formation at PSJS. Having a deacon assume this role presents a great opportunity to highlight the relationship between permanent deacons and priests in the Catholic Church. On August 26, 2024, all seminarians returned from summer break to start the new formation year. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Brian Kiely, with the **homily delivered by Deacon John**. We wanted to share with you **highlights** of Deacon John's message that he delivered to the seminarians. He has a wonderful perspective. We look forward to having Deacon John bring his unique experience to the Pastoral Formation program, where he will help form seminarians into men of service to, and for, God.

Deacon John resides with his wife, Claire, in Marlborough, Massachusetts. They are blessed with 3 sons and 2 beautiful daughters-in-law, and 5 grandchildren with a 6th due next April.

Theme ... *Trust in the Lord*

...I feel privileged to be part of this community of faith as each one of you generously responds to God's call...

...Our emotions may be similar too, from recognizing more clearly God's call for our vocation and being filled with joy, to hearing voices of self-doubt. This was my journey to the permanent diaconate. And these are normal emotions as long as we pray, trust, and remain focused.

...Are we worthy of the call we have received? Looking at the various backgrounds and experiences of your classmates, you may wonder, "Do I have what it takes ... to run the race" ... as St. Paul might say. Doubts may creep in.

...There is a family here who will support you during challenging times and celebrate with you during times of joy. You are all from diverse backgrounds and walks of life, however you have a bond that is stronger than any difference in background. You are brothers on this journey together!

...When I think of my diaconal classmates, I no longer think of the diversity of our education or differences in our professional experience. Rather, I reflect on how the love we have for each other grew during our four years together and forged an unbreakable bond that will last a lifetime.

...I cannot express enough the joy my diaconal ministry has given to me and the privilege it is, ... the privilege it is to serve God's holy people. Like all of us, I have had times of uncertainty. I have been blessed with a wonderful partner in my wife Claire who loves me and calls me out, without hesitation during these times. She will say to me, "Worry is an insult to faith." ... Worry is an insult to faith. We need to hold onto faith, knowing we are not alone, that God is always there



walking right beside us.

I close with a passage from the Book of Proverbs that Claire gave me a while ago:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." (Prov. 3:5-6)

As we begin this new academic year, let us trust in the Lord, who is trustworthy, and who loves us, and who has called us.

God bless you all.



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!

33rd Annual Golf Tournament
"Fran and Stephen Rowen
Memorial Tournament"

Monday, May 12, 2025

The Weston Golf Club • Weston, MA
www.psjjs.edu/golf-tournaments



44th Annual Lawn Party

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary
Weston, MA
www.psjjs.edu/lawn-party

