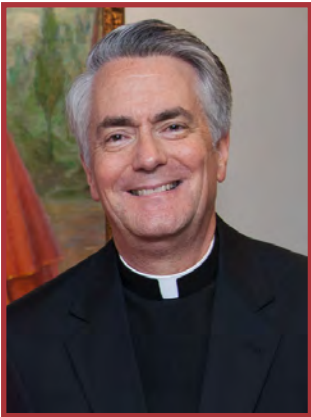




BLESSED JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



After much anticipation, the 50th Anniversary year of Blessed John XXIII National Seminary is now in view and with it will come several exciting changes as we embark on a bright future. One of these new developments is this new-look newsletter, with a greater focus on our seminarians and life in formation and ministry at Blessed John XXIII.

I wish to call your attention to the story inside about the seminary's upcoming celebration of the April 2014 canonization by Pope Francis of our patron, Blessed Pope John XXIII, which will highlight the 50th anniversary year calendar. Blessed

John XXIII National Seminary will be represented in Rome by approximately 50 faculty, seminarians, alumni and friends for an Easter-week pilgrimage for the celebration. The elevation to sainthood of our patron will also prompt the revision of the name of our seminary to "Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary" and the design of a new seminary logo.

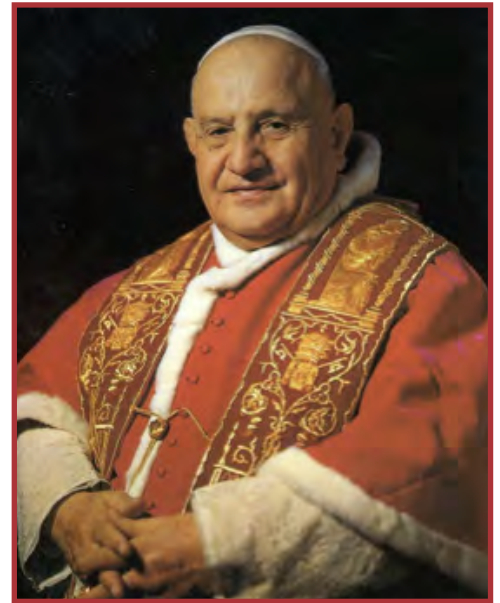
We are proud to kick off the New Year with the ordinations of our five Archdiocese of Boston members of the Class of 2014 as transitional deacons on Jan. 18 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. On Dec. 9, 2013, many members of the Class of First Theology will be instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte at Mass in Alumni Chapel, their first step toward Holy Orders.

In this issue, we also look back on two special yearly events, the Lawn Party gala and Alumni Days, both of which saw a record number of supporters and alumni return to share memorable and inspirational get-togethers.

As we prepare for the 50th Anniversary of Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, we lift in prayerful gratitude those many supporters, without whom we could not fulfill our mission of forming men for the priesthood.

We look forward to sharing with you the excitement of this historic year for our seminary.

Rev. William B. Palardy, Rector



Blessed Pope John XXIII

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Pope John XXIII Canonization
- Incoming Class
- Seminarian Corner
- Alumni Days
- Lawn Party

Seminary to Attend Canonization of Pope John XXIII

A celebratory 50th Anniversary year at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in 2014 grew even more exciting with the announcement by Pope Francis that Pope John XXIII will be canonized a saint on April 27, 2014. The historic anticipation of the canonization has been a tremendous source of pride and prayer for faculty, seminarians and alumni at Blessed John XXIII.

A large seminary contingent led by seminary Rector Rev. William Palardy will travel to Italy on a seven-day pilgrimage capped by the canonizations of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on Divine Mercy Sunday. The change of the seminary name to Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary will follow.

Here is a brief look at the legacy of Pope John XXIII:

Name: Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli, one of 13 children.

Birth date: Nov. 25, 1881 Died: June 3, 1963

Home town: Sotto il Monte (Bergamo), Italy

Ordained a priest: 1904

Elected Pope: Oct. 20, 1958 at age 76

The future Pope John XXIII's seminary studies were interrupted by service in the Italian Army, before completing work on a doctorate in Theology in 1905. He also earned a degree in Canon Law and taught Apologetics, Church History and Patristics. In 1915 he was recalled to

military service for Italy in WWI as a chaplain for three years. After being appointed director of spiritual formation at the seminary upon return from the war, he then went on to serve as apostolic delegate to Bulgaria (1925), Turkey and Greece (1934) before appointment as papal nuncio to Paris (1944) to assist in the Church's post-war efforts in France. In 1953, he became cardinal-patriarch of Venice, expecting to spend his later years there in pastoral work. He was correcting proofs of the synodal Acts of his first diocesan Synod (1958) when he was called to Rome for the conclave that elected him Pope.

In his first three months as Pope, John XXIII announced the first-ever Synod for Rome (1960); convened the historic ecumenical council, Vatican II, for the universal Church (1962); and formed the Pontifical Commission for the Revision of the Code of Canon Law (1963). His most memorable encyclicals are *Mater et Magistra* (1961) and *Pacem in Terris* (1963), advocating human freedom and dignity as the basis for world order and peace. He also approved the new code of rubrics for the Breviary and Missal.

50 years ago...

Future "XXIII Grad" sang at JFK Funeral



Then...

Timothy Corcoran, future member of Class of 2012 from Blessed John XXIII. Tim sang as a plebe with the U.S. Navy Choir at the funeral of President John F. Kennedy in 1963. Above, the Kennedy family processes with the casket of JFK in Washington, D.C.



Now...

Father Corcoran retired from the U. S. Naval Reserve as a Lieutenant Commander in 1991. In 2003, he also retired as a United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Florida, having served in that judicial office for 14 years. Ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Diocese of St. Petersburg in 2012, he is presently serving as parochial vicar at St. Mary Catholic Church, Tampa, FL.



Members of the Kennedy family lead the funeral procession for President John F. Kennedy from the White House to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC, to the strains of the Catholic Choir's "Dona Nobis Pacem." Photo by Robert Knudsen, courtesy of White House Photographs/John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston

Incoming Class 2013-2014

VICTOR ANDREOZZI

DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Victor Andreozzi was Vice President of Facilities for the MedWest Health System in North Carolina. He also worked as a Healthcare Engineering consultant for Crothall Healthcare. His most recent assignment was Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. He grew up in Seekonk, MA and earned a B.S. degree in Marine Engineering from Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Victor's home parish is Our Lady of Loreto in East Providence and he is also very active in St. Alexander's parish in Warren, Rhode Island. Reflecting on his vocation journey, Vic said: "The grace I have received through my devotion to the Blessed Sacrament is what led me to discern the priesthood."



MICHAEL P. BOVA

SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONARIES

Michael Bova was born in Los Angeles, California and is the oldest of three children. He received a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the UCLA School of Medicine and worked in the biotechnology industry for close to 14 years before entering religious life, and eventually Blessed John XXIII National Seminary. Said Michael: "Probably one of my most rewarding life experiences has been working with the homeless at St. Anthony's soup kitchen in Palo Alto. Now I look forward to serving those in need in Africa as a member of the Society of African Missionaries (SMA Fathers) in the future."

JOHN CRONIN

DIOCESE OF ALBANY, N.Y.

John Cronin was raised in Watervliet, NY, and is a parishioner of St. Brigid's Parish, where he was educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. He attended La Salle Institute High School in Troy, NY and later earned a B.A. in Psychology and Government & Politics from Manhattan College in Riverdale, NY. John also earned a Masters in Educational Psychology & Statistics from SUNY-Albany, and later studied childhood education and literacy. His versatile resume also includes careers in retail management and elementary education.



MICHAEL E. COVEYOU

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, N.C.

Michael E. Coveyou was born and raised on a farm in Petoskey, MI. He earned a B.S. degree in Computer Science and Mathematics at Central Michigan University and worked in the telecommunication field, designing network software for GTE, Siemens and Nortel Networks. He was also an elementary school teacher. Mike has been involved in his home parish, Holy Family, in Hillsborough, NC, as a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 9549, a Religious Ed. teacher and Eucharistic Minister. He is the proud father of two boys, Tim and Matt.

FRANK D'AMATO

DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH, Fla.

Frank D'Amato was raised in Deerfield Beach, FL, which he still calls home. After graduating from Florida Atlantic University with a BA degree in Communications, he worked for many years in the luxury resort, golf, and convention industry, a career that allowed him to travel the world. Frank is one of three children, with five nieces and nephews. Frank recalls hearing God's call to discern the priesthood while praying in Lourdes, France. "I feel so blessed to be part of the Blessed John XXIII seminary community," he said.



MARK BRANTLEY

DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY, Kan.

Mark Brantley began his life’s journey right down the road from Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Waltham, MA. As an Air Force pilot and the son of an FBI agent, Mark has lived and worked in all parts of the world. After retiring from the Air Force, he flew for a number of years as a commercial airline pilot. He admits hearing God calling him many times to the priesthood and always thinking “I’m too old.” It was while on a parish mission trip in what he calls his “perfect storm,” that he met the daughter of Class of 2015 seminarian Russ Mower, and learned about Blessed John Seminary. “I’m too old” excuse no longer applied and God’s whispers turned into shouts. “In January 2013, my life’s journey took a 180 degree turn,” he says. That turn brought him to Blessed John XXIII Seminary.



CHRISTOPHER J. WITTENSOLDNER

DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN, Pa.

Chris Wittensoldner was born and raised in Canton, Ohio but now resides in Allentown, PA. After earning a B.S. degree in electrical engineering at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, he worked for 27 years for the AT&T family of companies on retail communications equipment, modems and applications. At his home parish of St. Ann’s Allentown, he has served as catechist, commentator, lector, communion minister and financial secretary for the Knights of Columbus. He recently completed a three-year Institute for Lay Ministry diocesan program.

ERIC GARCIA

DIOCESE OF MAYAGUEZ, P.R.

Eric Garcia was raised in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. He earned B.S. and B.A. degrees in Organizational Studies from the University of Puerto Rico and a Masters degree in Non-Profit Management from Sacred Heart University (San Juan, P.R.). He was an executive staff member of the Puerto Rico Commission for Volunteerism & Community Service of the Office of the Governor and First Lady. He previously worked as a consultant/advisor for several non-profit organizations in Puerto Rico. During the Jubilee of Youth in Rome in 2000, Eric said that a homily by Pope John Paul II impacted him greatly. “His words have been with me since that day,” Eric said. “Pope John Paul said, ‘You are sent out to proclaim to others the words of life you have received. They will act and take root in you the more you share them with others ... Do not be afraid to accept your responsibilities: The Church needs you. She needs your commitment and generosity.’”



DAVID W. GREEN

DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH, Pa.

David Green entered Theology I at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary after beginning his studies at St. Paul and St. Vincent Seminaries in Pittsburgh, PA. He earned a B.S. degree in education from Johnson & Wales University and a Masters of Education degree from California University (PA). Prior to entering the seminary, David was an elementary school teacher. David has long been active in his home parish, teaching fifth and eighth grade CCD classes, serving as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and as a member of the Catholic Men’s Fellowship Group.

KYLE JORDAN**SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONARIES**

Kyle Jordan was born into an Irish Catholic family in the Archdiocese of Newark, NJ and has been an associate member of the Society for African Missions for the past three years. He spent two years as a lay missionary in Ghana, West Africa working for the Environmental Concerns Office in Winneba, Ghana. Kyle also coordinated youth ministry programs promoting Bible sharing and organizing athletic competitions in the Archdiocese of Cape Coast. Prior to his ministry with the SMA lay program, Kyle was working for a real estate developer in the sales and marketing division for 4 years on New Jersey's "Gold Coast."

**RICK LESSER****DIOCESE OF ALBANY, N.Y.**

Rick Lesser is a widowed father of three children. Rick earned a Masters in Divinity from Saint Bernard's School of Theology & Ministry in 2013, and entered Blessed John XXIII as a Theology III student in the Class of 2015. Rick and his wife practiced equine veterinary medicine in eastern New York and western Massachusetts. He served in various capacities at the New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell, the American Association of Equine Practitioners, and shared practice management advice with 20 other equine practices and 11 university veterinary hospitals.

CHRIS KOEHN**DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, N.C.**

Chris is from a military family, born in England and raised in Virginia, the youngest of four brothers. He earned a B.B.A. in Accounting and a minor in History from James Madison (Va.) University. As a project manager for Chesapeake Hospitality, Chris's previous career has taken him throughout the United States and provided varied parish experiences. Chris credits his attendance at daily Mass and reception of the Holy Eucharist as instrumental in his call to serve the Church. "I felt a call to help the wonderful clergy I came to know in the Church," he said. "I began to pray the midday Liturgy of Hours with my parish, and then morning and evening prayer as well. The prayers help focus one's life on Christ. Now at the seminary we get to joyfully pray in community." Said Chris: "Each parish experience in my travels illustrated the gifts and needs of the Church."

**STEVE MADDALONI****DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTER, N.Y.**

Steve Maddaloni was raised on Long Island and taught English as a second language and History at the high school level for 17 years, while also earning an M.A. in Theology, prior to discerning the call. Steve is a graduate of public schools and later earned a B.S. in business administration from SUNY-Albany. After several years in the business world, he moved to Italy for a time, teaching English in Treviso. The experience launched his career as a teacher. Upon his return to the States, he earned an M.A. at C.W. Post University and Long Island University that led him into secondary education.

STEVE MATTHEWS**DIOCESE OF ALBANY, N.Y.**

Steve Matthews is originally from Long Island, NY where he studied for two years at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception. He later earned an M.A. in Theology. Steve's professional career included banking and credit card dispute resolution training and staff management for 12 years. After some 22 years in California he returned to upstate NY in Sept. 2012 where he was impacted by a prayerful and wonderful pastoral year in a vibrant parish. Said Steve: "By God's grace, I have been called to the sacramental priesthood of Jesus Christ and God-willing, I will be ordained for the Diocese of Albany, NY in 2016."

**DANIEL OLVERA****DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS, Ohio**

Dan Olvera was raised in Columbus, Ohio and served as a middle school mathematics teacher for the past 17 years. He holds a teaching license in Elementary Education with certification in middle school Mathematics and a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. He also is a licensed principal having obtained a Masters from OSU. Said Dan: "I look forward to serving the people of God in the years to come. Thanks to all those praying for me and Our Lady for her assistance in my vocation."

PHILIP SCHULZE**ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD, Conn.**

Philip Schulze entered Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Theology II following previous seminary study. A native of New York, Phil is a proud alumnus of the University of Notre Dame, where he earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree. He later received his graduate business degree in Real Estate Appraisal and Investment Analysis from the University of Wisconsin. Phil began his career in architecture in Chicago, before relocating back to New York where his career evolved into the real estate asset management, development, finance and global corporate property sectors. Most recently, Phil had integrated his background into Catholic social teaching with the transformation of underutilized Catholic properties to new uses that extend the mission of the Church.

**JOHN O. SCOTT****DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH, NOVA SCOTIA**

John Scott is a native Nova Scotian, where he practiced his faith in the Anglican Church. In 1993 he was ordained a priest for the Anglican Church of Canada and for another 18 years pastored throughout the Diocese of Nova Scotia, including an 18 month term as acting Dean of the Cathedral Church in Halifax. He retired in 2011. John soon after began to receive instruction and was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Shortly thereafter, John says he felt the call of God to enter the Roman Catholic priesthood and began the process to be admitted to Blessed John XXIII. Prior to becoming an Anglican priest, John was one of the first graduates of the Respiratory Therapy Institute in Canada. He established the first department of Cardio-Pulmonary Services at the Halifax Infirmary, owned and operated by the Sisters of Charity, Halifax. He also completed a residency in Neonatology and Neonatal Transport. In 1972 he became one of the founding directors of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa. In 1992 he earned a Bachelors degree in Theology from the University of Saint Paul and the University of Ottawa.

Alumni Spotlight...

Revs. Fragoso, Brewer Moved by XXIII Return

By John Cronin '17 and Steve Maddaloni '16



Fr. Mike Fragoso

The Blessed John XXIII community happily welcomed many graduates on Oct. 22-23 for the annual Alumni Days celebration. Notable among them in their return to Weston after their spring 2013 ordinations to the priesthood were Rev. Michael Fragoso (Diocese of Metuchen, NJ) and Rev. Vince Brewer (Diocese of Madison, WI). Brewer and Fragoso were among a large group of the Class of 2013 returning to XXIII for Alumni Days, the Lawn Party, or both. All were warmly received by their former seminary brothers, and their celebrations of the Eucharist in the Alumni Chapel were inspirational experiences for all. Fr. “Doc” Fragoso and Fr. Vince Brewer spent some time during Alumni Days reminiscing with their brother seminarians to discuss their first six months as priests.

Q: What were you looking forward to most, coming back to Blessed John?

Fr. Fragoso: “I was really looking forward to coming back for Alumni Days, especially the communal prayer at the seminary. I really miss coming together as a community for the Liturgy of the Hours. In this one aspect, parish life seems lonelier, although there are wonderful opportunities to enjoy support, living with five other priests. They provide a solid community, but it can be challenging to find common times with differing schedules and duties.”

Fr. Brewer: “I was looking forward to many things. First, I was looking forward to seeing friends at the seminary again. I also wanted to visit the parishes that I was assigned to during my five years at the seminary. I was able to celebrate Sunday Mass at three of them. I was also looking forward to being able to celebrate Mass at the seminary. After watching so many alumni return to celebrate Mass with the seminary community, it was an honor to be able to be the presider at the Eucharistic Liturgy.”



Fr. Vince Brewer

Q: What has been most satisfying early in your priesthood?

Fr. Fragoso: “I’ve been a pediatrician, – and confecting the Eucharist is a true wonder. But, as a former physician, I find I am moved by bringing Jesus’ healing to his people in confession. I do more healing now as a priest than I did as a pediatrician. An old mantra of doctors states: ‘We cure sometimes, soothe often, and console always.’ Confession does all three of these things, all the time. People are freed from recurrent patterns of harmful behavior.”

Fr. Brewer: “I am in a really great parish (Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Sun Prairie, WI) with a terrific pastor who is both willing to teach me and to let me be me. The people are wonderfully supportive and really care about you. You have an ability to make a real impact on people’s lives. You are there at incredibly joyous moments like baptizing a new baby or being the church’s witness at the marriage of a young couple. You are also there to provide comfort and healing by administering the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to someone near death or to bring the hope of the good news of the Resurrection at a funeral liturgy to those who are in mourning. We are there to make Christ and the Church present at all the important times in a person’s life.”

Q: Have there been any surprises early in your priesthood?

Fr. Fragoso: “I expected it would be great. But whatever I thought it would be like, it was actually greater, as in Anselm’s proof – God is ‘a being than which no greater being can be conceived.’ Once my ordination happened,

Along “The Way” with XXIII’s Russ Mower

Inspired by the 2011 movie, “The Way,” starring Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez, Blessed John XXIII Seminarian Russ Mower made a 32-day summer pilgrimage along the famed 475-mile Camino de Santiago in Spain this summer. The Camino route concludes at Santiago de Compostela on Spain’s west coast, where the relics of the Apostle Saint James are kept in the city’s cathedral.



Russ Mower '15, along “The Way”

Early in 2010, about six months after the death of my wife, I felt strongly that I was being called to the priesthood. I discussed this calling with my friends, pastor, vocation director and others whose spiritual guidance I trusted. Everyone was very encouraging and helped me to discern what God had in store for me.

I am most grateful for their support and prayers, as well as the support of the faculty at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, where I am a Theology III student. While I was quite sure that God was calling me, I realized that most of my discernment was with and through people who wanted me to succeed, who perhaps wanted me to become a priest. I wondered if I had spent enough time by myself in prayer, without outside influences. A pilgrimage would afford that opportunity and force me to face the question on my own.

On May 11, I flew to Madrid, Spain and took a bus to my starting point in Pamplona. Everything I would need for the next month was in my backpack. I followed the same trail that pilgrims had traveled since the 10th century. The route wandered through vineyards, mountains, wheat fields and small villages. There were small cafes and shops along the way where one could eat, and each afternoon pilgrims would seek out hostels, called “albergues” for night lodging.

Each morning before sunrise, the walk resumed, covering between 20 and 30 kilometers each day. The trail passed many ancient churches, monasteries and hostels built to house the original pilgrims. In Burgos and Leon, the Camino took travelers to beautiful Gothic cathedrals.

I was struck by the history of the Camino de Santiago. Here I was, traveling the same path that Christians had traveled for over a thousand years, looking at the same churches and other holy sites, and wondering about my role in God’s plan.

It was here that God’s plan seemed so much bigger than I had realized. As I walked, I prayed. I offered thanks and praise and prayed for the intentions of friends and family. And I listened. Walking for extended periods of time can take your mind off things. There were no distractions, no news stories, no blaring television, no one wanting a piece of your day. I asked God to show me if I was supposed to be a priest, or at least to make it clear if I was not to be one.

God delivered. He put people in my path who challenged me and who sought my counsel. He gave me opportunities to serve His people and worship Him. My vocation became more clear as I walked.

The experience was capped on the last day of my journey when I had the opportunity to serve at the pilgrim Mass in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. After 32 days, I had walked 475 miles, lost twenty pounds, and had a renewed sense of commitment to serving our Lord Jesus Christ in His Church.

- Russ Mower, '15

Russ Mower is in Third Theology at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA. His home parish is St. Jude Catholic Church in Allen, TX. He is scheduled to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate next April.

AROUND THE SEMINARY

On December 9, **Most Rev. John B. Brungardt**, of Dodge City, Kan., will be the celebrant for the Mass of Institution of Acolyte for first Theology Class. On Jan. 18, 2014, our five men in Theology IV from the Archdiocese of Boston will be ordained transitional deacons at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston. Those to be ordained deacons are: **Jeffrey Archer, Peter DeFazio, Kevin Hickey, Mark Storey and Ren Tocci.** **Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM, Cap.,** of the Archbishop of Philadelphia, will travel to Weston to celebrate the Mass of Candidacy for our Class of 2015 on Feb. 25, 2014, with most of that class now preparing for their diaconate ordinations in the spring and summer of 2014.



Jim Cardosi (L) and Kevin Mulligan

As high school reunions go, the story Jim Cardosi and Kevin Mulligan have may top them all. It begins 40 years ago, with graduation in 1973 from Bishop Kenrick High School in Norristown, Pa. in suburban Philadelphia. Today, after many stops along the way, Cardosi and Mulligan walk down a different aisle together – as classmates answering God’s call to the priesthood at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary.

The two were reunited at Blessed John XXIII in 2011, after not crossing paths once since high school. Cardosi was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy as Mulligan headed to college in western PA. Cardosi was a high-ranking Navy pilot and married father of five, while Mulligan entered seminary after working as Archdiocese of Phila. associate director for communications and a Philadelphia sportswriter. Their seminary reunion took another wonderful turn in June, when Cardosi’s transfer from the Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla. to his native Archdiocese of Philadelphia became official, with the blessings of Archbishop Charles Chaput and Bishop Felipe Estevez (St. Augustine). For the first time, Mulligan and Cardosi began their Theology III studies as Archdiocese of Philadelphia members of the Class of 2015.

“It is further testament to how God works in the lives of those who embrace His plan for us,” said Mulligan, who was Philadelphia’s first “second-career” seminarian sent to Blessed John XXIII. “To think that two guys from neighboring Catholic schools (St. Titus, St. Helena) who grew up about a mile apart are now seminary classmates – it gives me the chills every time I talk about it. God has been so good to us. I am happy and blessed to be able to call Jim an archdiocesan brother in our great class of ‘15. He is a very special man and we have shared many wonderful moments since being reunited.”

After flying for the Navy for 28 years, Cardosi retired early to care for his wife, Cindy, who died of a rare brain disease in 2008. “I look back on that time caring for Cindy as a blessing in my life,” he said, “one that drew me closer

A Special High School Reunion: 37 years later at Blessed John XXIII

to God, through our prayer together.” It is an experience, he says, that eventually led him to discern God’s calling to a priestly vocation, with the support of his wife and children before she was called Home.

Both seminarians point to prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in their respective parish adoration chapels as keys in their vocational journeys. “That is where God first reached out to me (at Visitation BVM parish),” said Mulligan. “It is where His plan for me took shape at a time when, just like Jim, I was open to listening and moved to answer.”

Two friends together again. Now, as future priests for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



GOLFERS AND ALUMNI SAVE THE DATES!

Monday, May 19, 2014
Seminary Golf Tournament

Tuesday, Wednesday,
October 21-22, 2014
Alumni Days



32nd Annual Lawn Party

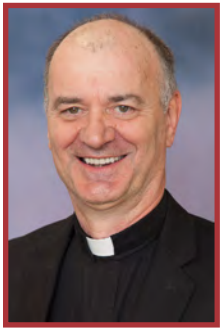


*"Under the tent..."
Record attendance and revenue!*



Co-chairs Scott and Mia Gieselman with Cardinal Sean O'Malley and Rev. William B. Palardy at the 32nd Annual Lawn Party.

Inspiring Journeys...Kevin Hickey & Anthony Bittar



Kevin Hickey '14

Despite coming to his second vocation at the age of 58, seminarian Kevin Hickey said he approached it with the faith of a little child.

"What we want and what God wants of us are not always the same. Sometimes you've got to take that leap of faith. It's like the child standing on the pool's edge with the daddy in the water," he said. "Sometimes we have to have that same trust in God."

Hickey is one of five men studying at Blessed John XXIII National Seminary who will be ordained priests for the Archdiocese of Boston next spring. This year, the Annual Lawn Party attracted nearly 400 people, the most ever attended. Alumni came from as far away as Denver and Orlando.

Hickey told the crowd that his first vocation was marriage, to his wife of 20 years. He spoke with obvious affection about her and her deep faith. Their first decision as a married couple was to attend Saturday Vigil Mass together after their wedding reception. They left for their honeymoon early the next day and the first question his wife asked at the hotel when they arrived was where to find the nearest Catholic church. She was diagnosed with breast cancer at age 36 and passed away seven years later in 1999.

After she died, Hickey became more involved at his parish. He actually thought about entering the seminary, but said, "I thought my time had come and gone." His parish priest knew otherwise and approached Hickey about becoming a priest. Hickey applied to Blessed John and was accepted. Hickey said that without Cardinal Richard Cushing's vision in establishing the seminary and the support of people like the attendees at the Lawn Party, he and his fellow seminarians might never have found their delayed vocation, and the Catholic Church would be poorer for it.

Rev. William Palardy, Rector, said that it is up to the the Blessed John community to continue its good work for the next

50 years. The Seminary recently began its first-ever capital campaign. The initial phase, funded almost exclusively by our alumni, allowed for the renovation of our Chapel, the front entrance and the installation of a new fire detection system. The next stage includes a new Learning Center which will provide an updated library with expanded study space as well as improvements in infrastructure and an increased endowment.

Scott Gieselman, the Lawn Party co-chair, said that Blessed John has an incredibly important mission. He said, "Seminarians bring their talents and experience from the secular world to their vocations in the priesthood.

They will someday serve Catholics across the country at baptisms, weddings and funerals - in their joyful moments and trying times." Seminarian Anthony Bittar, a second-theology seminarian for the Archdiocese of Denver and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, added that the seminary community is like a family and is particularly close knit when it comes to the "brother seminarians." Bittar is a captain in the military and served for 10 years, including a 12-month tour in Iraq. The entire time he spent in Iraq, Bittar never saw a priest, he said, adding that he wants to serve deployed soldiers.

His Eminence Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, OFM, Cap. praised the Rector for his dedication and thanked all the people who enable the seminary to do its unique work.

"A vocation can come at any moment in our life," O'Malley said. "That is what Pope John Seminary XXIII is all about."



Anthony Bittar '16

SAVE THE DATE!

33RD ANNUAL LAWN PARTY • WED. SEPT 17TH

Alumni Spotlight...

continued from page 7.

it became inexplicably greater. Greater than I had imagined it could be. It's amazing. God makes me worthy. It's His grace."

Fr. Brewer: "I don't think you can be fully prepared for the experience of hearing confessions. The depths of the spiritual pain that some people endure can be immense. To be the instrument used to bring God's forgiveness to those who seek it is an awesome privilege."

Q: What message can you offer the Class of 2014 as they approach ordination?

Fr. Fragoso: "Be cognizant of the love of Jesus. He's already drawn you to him. Like Fr. Wicks was saying in his (Alumni Days keynote) presentation on Pope John XXIII: the gifts of God are 'irrevocable'. We have to trust in God's gifts to us."

Fr. Brewer: "Try your best to be where the Church actually is and not where you want it to be -- either to the left or to the right. People are willing to accept you and

what you do when it is in the mainstream of actual Catholic tradition. You can defend what you do from that position."

Q: Any final thoughts or words of advice to the men at Blessed John ?

Fr. Fragoso: "My guiding principle came to me when Fr. Hoppough told us a story about Mother Teresa. She was asked to give a talk to a large group of seminarians on how to become better confessors. This little lion of a woman was greeted with great anticipation for her words of wisdom. Her audience was prepared to hang on her every word. As she scanned the audience, left, right, and center, she simply said: 'Be kind. Be kind. Be kind.'"

Fr. Brewer: "Hang in there. Persevere. Don't let little things get to you, because there are always little things to deal with. Life is great on the other side if you are willing to let God be in charge."



Twelve Men Instituted in the Ministry of Reader

The Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., was principal celebrant as 12 Blessed John XXIII National seminarians were instituted in the Ministry of Reader in a beautiful Mass in Alumni Chapel on Nov. 1, the Solemnity of All Saints.

Those being instituted included 11 members of the Theology II Class of 2016: Anthony Bittar (Denver); Anthony Cipolle and Matthew Gregory (Portland, Me.); Thomas Griffin (Norwich, Conn.); Steven Maddaloni (Rockville Center, NY); Stephen Matthews and Patrick Rice (Albany, NY); Joseph Rice (Worcester, Mass.); Jorge Rocha (Providence); Kevin Yarnell (St. Petersburg, Fla.); Br. Michael Young (Oratory of St. Philip Neri); and Theology III student from the Class of 2015, Rick Lesser (Albany).

The Rite of Institution of Reader appoints those being

called to proclaim the Word of God from Sacred Scripture in the liturgical assembly, with the exception of the Gospel at the Mass and other sacred celebrations. Those instituted as readers are commissioned to recite the psalm between the readings when there is no psalmist; present the intentions for the general intercessions in the absence of a deacon or cantor; direct participation by the faithful; and instruct the faithful for the worthy reception of the sacraments.

Over 200 worshippers, including many clergy, family members and friends of those being instituted, filled Alumni Chapel for the ceremonial Mass. A festive dinner followed.

The seminary's first-theology class will be instituted in the Ministry of Acolyte on Dec. 9, with the Class of 2015 celebrating its Mass of Candidacy on Feb. 25, 2014.

BLESSED JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

558 South Avenue
Weston, MA 02493

781-899-5500

www.blessedjohnxxiii.edu



NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WALTHAM, MA
PERMIT NO. 1103

RETURN POSTAGE REQUESTED

PLEASE CONSIDER INCLUDING BLESSED JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY IN YOUR CHARITABLE GIVING.
TO DONATE ONLINE, VISIT THE "SUPPORT US" AREA OF OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.BLESSEDJOHNXXIII.EDU

WHAT'S AHEAD AT XXIII

December

- 3: Advent Vespers Service
- 9: Ministry of Acolyte, Theology I, Mass/Dinner
- 11: Final Day of Classes, Semester I
Advent/Christmas Mass
- 13-17: Final Exams
- 18: Christmas break begins

January

- 8: Spring Semester Begins
- 18: Boston Diaconate Ordination
Cathedral of Holy Cross
- 20-22: Pilgrimage, National March for Life
Washington, DC

February

- 25: Mass of Candidacy, Class of 2015

March

- 3-9: Mid-semester break
- 5: Ash Wednesday
- 10: Classes resume
- 12: Lenten Day of Reflection

April

- 13: Holy Week
- 16: Easter break begins
- 20: Easter Sunday
- 27: Canonization of John XXIII
- 28: Classes resume

May

- 5: Class of 2014 Farewell Mass/Dinner
- 7-10: Final Exams
- 19: Pope St. John Golf Tournament

September

- 17: 33rd Annual Lawn Party