A Horizon of Hope

Roger Schutz in his book, Living Today for God, wrote, “During the darkest periods of history, quite often a small number of men and women, scattered throughout the world, have been able to reverse the course of historical evolutions. This was only possible because they hoped beyond all hope. What had been bound for disintegration then entered into the current of a new dynamism.”

The prophet Isaiah wrote, “Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar as with eagle’s wings; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and never tire.”

And in the words of Pope Francis at the outset of his pontificate: “… to protect every man and woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!”

I share these quotations because as Theological College begins its second century of service to the Church in the United States, hope is needed as the Church faces the consequences of its history of sexual abuse and coverups. Shock, anger, discouragement, feelings of betrayal and distrust toward those in positions of authority all permeate this present moment in the Church’s history. At this crucial moment, Theological College renews its commitment to prepare men who will be good shepherds and inside the Church. “At this time of challenge and controversy, the seminary remains faithful to this hope. Theological College continues its work of providing a cultural orientation to the formation of priests who hope in the Lord, who will renew their strength, who will run and not grow weary, who will walk and never tire, who will protect every man and woman, who will open up a horizon of hope and let a ray of light break through the heavy clouds that darken this present moment in our Church’s history.”

In order to prepare future priests who will be able to restore hope and confidence amongst the people of God, Theological College is responsible for discerning the readiness of a priesthood candidate to enter the seminary and benefit from the formation program; psychological testing and interviews, background checks, training programs related to protecting the most vulnerable are all essential to the process of acceptance into Theological College. Once accepted, every seminarian is accompanied by a spiritual director and a formation advisor throughout their formation. A list of approved therapists is available for those who need psychological assistance. Pastoral supervisors are trained to both guide and evaluate seminarians as they minister to the poor in religious education programs, in hospitals, and in parishes. Reporting procedures related to inappropriate conduct are described in the seminary’s Rule of Life. Yearly evaluations describe how seminarians evidence affective maturity, psychosexual integration, and a full understanding of the consequences of a commitment to celibate chastity. Once a semester, Kathy Galleher, a licensed psychologist, offers Rector’s Conferences on human development, sexual integration, and boundaries in pastoral ministry, as well as on how a healthy and balanced lifestyle can assist a priest to avoid personal and sexual vulnerabilities, especially in times of stress and anxiety (see p. 19).

In this issue (p. 10), recent alumnus Father Matthew Gworek (’16) also calls upon us to embrace the hope of Jesus Christ: “It’s a hope that throughout our history has helped faithful men and women endure struggles and tragedies of all kinds, from outside and inside the Church.” At this time of challenge and controversy, the seminary remains faithful to this hope. Theological College renews its commitment to prepare men who will be good shepherds after the mind and heart of Christ, priests who acknowledge that everything they say and do can and will have lasting consequences in the lives of those they serve.

As a seminary, Theological College prays for all victims of sexual abuse and expresses its sorrow and anguish. At the same time, Theological College believes that this moment of crisis can become a moment of grace, a new beginning, allowing the Church to move into the future promising greater accountability, transparency and care, especially for the most vulnerable.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Gerald McBrearty, P.S.S. (’73) Rector

A Letter from the Rector

The Crossroads Fall 2018

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Cover Image:
A centennial gift to the seminary from the United States Superciles, this one-of-a-kind Holy Family mosaic icon by acclaimed artist Rita Mandolin of Rome was received at the Alumni Day 2018 celebration (see page 5).

A Letter from the Rector

Rev. Gerald D. McBrearty, P.S.S. (’73)

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Theological College participates in the mission and responsibility of the bishops to provide for the people of God wise and holy priests close to the heart of Christ and consumed in the work of salvation. In affiliation with The Catholic University of America, Theologi- cal College assists seminarians in the task of vocational discernment and in the prepara-

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tion directors, and friends of TC.
Priestly Ordinations

During May and June, 10 seminarians of the Theological College Class of 2018 were ordained to the priesthood for eight different dioceses: Jonathan Demma and Maurice Moon for Fort Worth, Joseph Boykow for Paterson, Carlos Limongi for New York, Wade Bass and Stephen Ingram for Dallas, Jeffrey Chichester for Rochester, Rhett Williams for Charleston, and Andrew Clyne for Washington, D.C.
Community News

Ordinations 2018
Diocean Ordinations
From April to November, 15 TC seminarians from nine dioceses were ordained to the transitional diaconate: Walter Genito for New York; Christopher Maal and Cassidy Stinson for Richmond; David Roman for Bridgeport; Anthony Federico for Hartford; Brendan Dawson, Timothy Deley, David J. Egan, and Mengwei Li for Pittsburgh; Stefan Vojvory, Patrick Mullan, and Michael Russo for Washington, D.C.; Ramiro J. Regalado for Corpus Christi; Nye (Joseph) Wiley for Wheeling-Charleston; and Matthew Browne for Rockville Centre.

Centennial Celebration and Alumni Day
By Rev. Mr. Michael Russo
Fourth Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

The annual gathering of alumni at Theological College is a chance for remembrance and celebration. This year’s event provided a privileged opportunity to mark the end of the centennial celebration of Theological College. Faculty, staff, and seminarians spent the past year planning a special effort to mark this important milestone in the life of the seminary. Invitations were sent to many friends and partners of TC in addition to alumni. The response was overwhelming. This year’s Centennial Celebration and Alumni Day was the largest event held at TC in the past 50 years.

The day began with a fascinating talk by Robert J. Wicks, a renowned psychologist and spiritual writer. Wicks spoke to alumni about his book, Night Call: Embracing Compassion and Hope in a Troubled World. His talk focused on ways the priest can handle stress and live in peace, especially when facing ministerial challenges. Many alumni found the talk and ensuing question-and-answer session greatly edifying in this time of struggle in the life of the Church. The talk was followed by a “State of the Seminary” update and lunch with the rector, Father McBrearty.

The main highlight of the day was Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop John Barres of Rockville Centre and TC alumnus of the Class of 1989 was the celebrant and homilist. The bishop reminded all present of the words of Father Olier: “The heart of the priest must be as large as the Church.” He then spoke directly to his fellow alumni, saying, “Thank you for your fraternal spirit and charity and the little daily ways that we call each other, share a pastoral insight, and support a brother in these painful times.” He spoke of the Holy Spirit sending “tongues of flame” down to help the Church in need.

The bishop then turned to the example of the now-beatified Oscar Romero: “Archbishop Romero provides a shining example of hope in a time of turmoil and trouble in both the Church and society. Archbishop Romero showed the world how a successor of the Apostles should lead.” He ended his homily declaring that now was the time to move forward following Saint Oscar Romero’s example: “We ask his intercession for the healing of survivors of clergy sexual abuse and a new and powerful experience of Church reform grounded in holiness, mission, and a commitment to dramatic missionary growth.”

Following the Mass, alumni, guests, faculty, and seminarians gathered in the Basilica for a reception, replete with an orchestral quartet. Guests then made their way across Michigan Avenue to Theological College. TC’s kitchen staff, working with a team of seminarians, prepared and served a fantastic meal. The dinner started with a video summarizing the 2017 centennial book, Ecce Quam Bonum: A History of Theological College. At the end of dinner, on behalf of the United States Sublocians, the Provincial Superior, Very Rev. John Kemper, P.S.S., presented the seminary with a one-of-a-kind Holy Family mosaic icon by acclaimed artist Rita Mandolfini of Rome (see cover photo).

Father McBrearty then presented Portland’s Father Frank Murray, Class of 1981, with the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award. In highlighting his exemplary 40-year ministry to God’s Church, the award was given to Father Murray “in recognition of
The Crossroads Fall 2018

Community News

Celebrating the Century — Welcoming the Future

received the publication, (of Corpus Christi) – this team began its work with the staff for this established (Matthew Browne of Rockville Centre, Michael Russo of Washington) leaders under its roof. The event highlighted the effort to gather a large group of alumni, Sulpicians (including three firsts. It is the first time that Theological College has made a concerted Archdiocese of Washington leaders under its roof. The event highlighted the close relationship between these constituencies and the Basilica of liturgical formation of seminarians in TC’s second century. After this unveiling, Catholic University President John Garvey, also gazing toward the future, encouraged all present to continue their prayerful and courageous formation and ministry during these tumultuous times. The evening concluded with remarks and a benediction from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. The archbishop described the evening as “truly awesome.” This Centennial Celebration and Alumni Day was an evening of time. The evening concluded with remarks and a benediction from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. The archbishop described the evening as “truly awesome.” This Centennial Celebration and Alumni Day was an evening of

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touch our Bulgarian parish in this community. He has sung to the Lord, Blessed His name, and declared for all the world God’s wondrous deeds. “Throughout the past 100 years, Theological College has invited its seminarians to sing to the Lord and bless his name, day after day. At each celebration of the Eucharist and each time the community prays the Liturgy of the Hours, participates in Benediction, gathers for the Stations of the Cross during the season of Lent, celebrates an ordination, and at every major community celebration, Theological College has sung to the Lord, Blessed His name, and declared for all the world God’s wondrous deeds.

For 100 years, Theological College has taught its seminarians the importance of music in the liturgy as one of the most profound and effective means available to give God thanks and praise. And throughout all of history, the greatest composers have reflected on the power of music. Beethoven wrote that “music is the mediation between the life of the senses and the life of spirit.” Finally, the writer, Aldous Huxley, wrote that “after silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.” These themes have been an integral part of the formation of generations of seminarians, leading them in and through music to a heightened contemplative awareness of God’s action in their lives and to a deepened awareness of the need to share this religious experience with others. The transforming power of liturgical music has for generations drawn toward the future, encouraged all present to continue their prayerful and courageous formation and ministry during these tumultuous times. The evening concluded with remarks and a benediction from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. The archbishop described the evening as “truly awesome.” This Centennial Celebration and Alumni Day was an evening of

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Mathew Brady is justly famous for his studio portraits of President Lincoln, Generals Grant and Lee, Frederick Douglass, and other leading figures of our nation's history. Yet we are also indebted to Brady for the countless photographs he took out in the field. Especially striking are his many group portraits of people otherwise unknown to us: the crew of a gunboat casually arrayed on its deck, a mutton-chopped general flanked by staff officers, a regimental drum corp standing erectly before their tents, a company of infantrymen in a trench before Petersburg. Was it on the minds of these men, one wonders, as they steadied themselves for posterity? What became of them all? How well would each play his part in the war? And if he chanced to survive, how did he fare thereafter? To raise such questions is only to hint at what it means to say that in the great majority of cases, the lives of those Brady photographed during the years 1861 to 1865 are an inimenable mystery.

Over the past several years, the corridors and common rooms of Theological College have accrued a growing prominence to the work of portraiture. (The artist responsible for the College's newest portraits is not, like Brady, a layman but a Sulpician priest, and not a photographer but a painter, which is as needs be because Sulpician Father Peter Win. Gray's monumental subjects are not statesman portraits is not, like Brady, a layman but a Sulpician priest, and not Brady for the countless photographs he took out in the field. Especially striking are his many group portraits of people otherwise unknown to us: the crew of a gunboat casually arrayed on its deck, a mutton-chopped general flanked by staff officers, a regimental drum corp standing erectly before their tents, a company of infantrymen in a trench before Petersburg. Was it on the minds of these men, one wonders, as they steadied themselves for posterity? What became of them all? How well would each play his part in the war? And if he chanced to survive, how did he fare thereafter? To raise such questions is only to hint at what it means to say that in the great majority of cases, the lives of those Brady photographed during the years 1861 to 1865 are an inimenable mystery.

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Summer Ministry Reflections

For seminarians in formation, summer is a time to reflect and regroup, work on theses, commit to language-immersion experiences, volunteer at Catholic youth camps, and/or get involved with various aspects of parish life under the mentorship of a model pastor — from vacation Bible school to adult faith formation, from training altar servers to assisting at liturgies. For those who have entered the master’s level theolagogy program, summer placements are decided with the vocations director and the bishop of each diocese. For Basselin scholars and those in pre-theology, parish assignments may not be required by most dioceses, though seminarians at this level who are not writing theses full time seek out fulfilling ministries with the help of their advisors. Below, The Crossroads takes a look at a small sampling of summer placements among students at Theological College.

Honduras: Beauty and Need
By Michael Kieler, Second Theologian, and Justin Motes, Second Basselin, Diocese of St. Augustine

One morning, we spent four hours straight in the hot sun trekking to coordinate our schedules for the mission, receive us at the chapel, and find housing. Without fail and in every town, the delegates were the ones who welcomed us. Essentially, these delegates are the spiritual backbones of their communities, which sometimes only receive a priest for Mass once per month or even less. A single parish, usually in a small city, is typically surrounded by many satellite chapels in outlying mountain villages. In one case, a single priest was responsible for 45 communities!

As a result of the dispersion of communities and shortage of priests, certain “Delegates of the Word” have been appointed by the priests, under whose parochial domain the villages fall, to read the Scriptures on Sunday, preach, and fulfill other ministerial needs. Essentially, these delegates are the spiritual backbones of their communities. Without fail and in every town, the delegates were the ones to coordinate our schedules for the mission, receive us at the chapel (and often in their own homes), and guide us during our daily home visits. During our third mission, we were blessed to have our own vice-rector, Father Hy Nguyen, P.S.S., join us in a town called Santa Maria to provide the people with Mass, anointing, and confession. One morning, we spent four hours straight in the hot sun trekking up and down mountains so that Father Hy could anoint and provide Communion for sick people in remote locations. For some, it was possibly their last opportunity to receive the sacraments. We are grateful to Father Hy for his time and also to the delegates who are keenly aware of the needs of their neighbors and who sacrificed those days of “missioning,” which they otherwise would have spent meeting the pressing needs of their farms and homes.

The people of Honduras struck us as beautiful in their generosity. Wherever we went, they provided us with the best that they had — slaughtering and cooking their own poultry, providing other meals that were extravagant by Honduran standards, offering us coffee and bananas, or simply giving us the nicest places to sit down in their homes. On one mission, during which we slept in the chapel, a family lent us their mattresses so that we would not have to sleep on the floor. After they left for the night, one long-term missionary commented to me quietly, “They will probably be sleeping on the floor tonight.” It was tremendously humbling that, despite all their poverty, the Honduran people provided us with much more than we could give them.

As men in formation for the priesthood, God is not calling us to simply accept the Church as we find it. Pope Francis continually urges us to be “mission-oriented … to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself” (Evangelii Gaudium, 27). We are called to “pour out” ourselves in missionary service, to use the words of the Apostle (cf. 2 Tim. 4:6). Our experience this summer has helped increase the desire within us to give everything to the mission, after the example of Him who gives Himself for us all.

Totus Tuus: Spreading a Love for Jesus and Mary
By Liam Gallagher, Second Basselin, Diocese of Portland

This past summer, I had the privilege of leading a team of four college students on a mission of evangelization. The other teachers and I administered the inaugural program of a new summer program in my diocese called Totus Tuus. This program is essentially Catholic and unabashedly enjoyable. It is simple, cheap, and effective in spreading a love for Jesus and his mother, Mary. Its five pillars are the Eucharist, Marian devotion, catechetical instruction, vocational discernment, and fun. It was designed by a seminarian in Kansas and has spread to almost 50 dioceses in the United States and Canada. Because the program is especially suited for small parishes without a large budget, it was brought to the Diocese of Portland. In our first summer, we traveled to six parishes across the state of Maine and worked with over 375 children and youth — from first graders to recent high school graduates. The program ran in two parts, with the younger kids coming during the day and the high schoolers coming to evening sessions.

The program’s curriculum always presents two themes which change cyclically every year. This year, the two themes were the Luminous Mysteries and the Creed. The program began every day with prayer, games, and engaging songs. There were four classes each day, the first always being a new mystery of the rosary and the rest following the theme of the Creed. There were always breaks with snacks, games, and more songs between each class. The high point of each day was the holy sacrifice of the Mass. The teachers and I would prepare the kids each day for Mass by explaining parts of it to them, helping them to understand how to participate, and by inspiring them with stories of saints who loved the Mass. Each day, a different grade would have the opportunity to go to confession and experience God’s mercy. We prayed the Angelus and a decade of the rosary each day with the kids, which were always prayed at the beginning and end of each class. The teachers and I strove to be an example to the children by following the motto of Pope Saint John Paul II of totally giving ourselves to Jesus through Mary.

The high school program consisted of games, talks, and prayer. Each night we would begin with a game, like volley-dodge (a combination of volleyball and dodgeball), give a few talks, and end with night prayer. One night a week, we would have adoration and confession with the teens. Our last night with them would be a fun night, which we usually spent playing “shaving cream waffle ball.” I had the opportunity to speak to many teens about vocations, especially about the priesthood and religious life, while providing them with a concrete example of joyfully following that call.

Bringing this program to parishes week after week was the most difficult and most enriching thing I have ever done. It was difficult in that it was a full day of work which began at 8 a.m., with morning prayer and the rosary, and ended at 10 p.m., once all the high schoolers had left. The program was also difficult because working with kids of any age requires a lot of energy. However, it was also incredibly fun and rewarding. There is no better feeling than teaching the hypostatic union to third and fourth graders and realizing that they are intrigued by it and able to understand it, and want to know more about how Jesus could be both God and man. The feedback forms that students and parents filled out were wonderful to read. As one eighth grader in Scarborough put it, “This was, without a doubt, the best part of my summer!” I could not agree more.
It was this background narrative that moved me to ask my diocese during winter break of last year, I found myself having a conversation with my father during a family hike in the woods near our home in Camillus, N. Y. He was sharing his concern that the diocesan priesthood might not be a good fit for me because he didn’t see it as being compatible with my strong interests in being outdoors, auto mechanics and cars, and being in community. His concern had been at least partially born from observing many diocesan priests who live alone in rectories, who often suffer from overeating or overdrinking and lack of exercise, and who certainly do not seem to have the time, resources, or interest to pursue a hobby such as car racing.

During the diocese, the only answer I was able to offer my father was the same spiritual life- preserver I had been tugging tightly in the midst of my own questions: I sincerely believed that I had discerned well up to that point, which meant that I was where I was supposed to be. That reality, taken along with the conviction that God genuinely desired my happiness and fulfillment, meant that I should be able to trust that he was leading me toward a life that would not be too confusing or constraining with respect to my own passions or interests. But the fears and concerns still lingered.

It was this background narrative that moved me to ask to my diocese if I could attend the nine-week summer formation program at the Institute for Priestly Formation (“IPF”) in Omaha, Neb., this past summer. One of the goals of IPF for me was a recognition that my vocation is unique, just as in the vocation of every person. My vocation – that is, God’s personal invitation and call to me – is intended specifically for me and is different than the call that each of my fellow seminarians receives. While God may be calling all of us seminarians to be priests, He is not calling us to be the same priest. God’s call to the priesthood is not an arbitrary decision He makes because He wants to boost the numbers for clergy in my home diocese of Syracuse. Rather, it is His providential plan for the life of each person. My vocation is unique, just as is the vocation of every person.

But the fears and concerns still lingered. This summer, my bishop suggested that I accept an appointment as an intern at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations in New York City. While there, I grew in understanding of the goals for peace and unity that the Holy See strives to achieve. My life as a seminarian has helped me to appreciate the grace of God as He moves us to seek unity through both social and spiritual things which draw people together, and which were so evident at the UN. Take soccer, for example. During my summer assignment, I witnessed how soccer brought the world together at the UN. The 2018 FIFA World Cup stirred great joy into the hectic life of the U.N., as delegates and ambassadors gathered together to watch the soccer games.

On a deeper level, and despite the busy schedule, there was not a day when I did not feel, “Lord, make haste to help me,” resonated with the Holy See Mission’s work of bringing the Catholic Church’s experience of humanity to the UN.

After the staff and interns prayed, we were sent into the Holy See’s multilateral work at the U.N. During my two-month summer assignment, I worked alongside brilliant, highly educated people from all over the world. I attended U.N. meetings, cultural events sponsored by the U.N., and wrote daily reports for the Holy See Mission. My main assignment was with one of the U.N. organs called the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which deals with economic and social issues. I reported on events that discussed a multitude of topics like migration, human rights, health, and peace building. In addition to ECOSOC, I was occasionally assigned to the Security Council, where I learned about the situation in Libya and the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In maintaining service at the Holy See Mission, I lived in residence at Holy Family Parish, which was a couple blocks away from the U.N. headquarters. Under the supervision and guidance of the pastor, Rev. Gerald Murray, the parish’s generosity and hospitality gave me invaluable insight into parish life. I am tremendously grateful for my experience at the Holy See Mission and the U.N. It was amazing to witness the respect delegations have for the Holy See Mission. The presence of the Holy See at the events was evident. Just as the FIFA World Cup brought the world together, so too prayer and the faith unite the Holy See Mission family to bring the joy of the Gospel into the world.

This summer, I was reminded of just how fulfilling a life of service can be by entering into the history of the people of Sacred Heart, by getting to know them and learning to love them. I was also reminded of the ways in which the priesthood can be affected by a pathology that leads a man to take advantage of the people entrusted to his spiritual care and the horrors that spring forth from such an illness. These reminders served to purify my intentions as I continued seminary life at the outset of the semester and once again take on the work of my formation. In short, this summer helped renew a desire in me to become a priest who loves his people to the point of death, until the very moment he reaches his grave, always conforming his heart to that of the Most Holy Heart, the Good Shepherd. It is love that drives me now, and for this I will always be grateful to the people of Sacred Heart.
Ministry at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine
By Rev. Mr. Cassidy Stinson
Fourth Theologian, Diocese of Richmond

What does it mean for a seminarian to be, as we often say at Theological College, an “agent of his own formation”? This year, I have had the opportunity to learn the answer to this question firsthand as I begin a unique pastoral assignment, serving as a transitional deacon at the St. John Paul II National Shrine, here in The Catholic University of America neighborhood.

Such pastoral assignments, broadly speaking, are a normal part of the priestly formation for every seminarian in their third and fourth theology years. What makes this particular assignment distinctive, however, is that for the vast majority of seminarians, their pastoral training takes place in a local parish, replicating as best as possible the sort of environment priests can expect to encounter in their own diocese.

Based on this model, launching a new assignment at a location like the Saint John Paul II National Shrine or the nearby Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception might seem possible the sort of environment a transitional deacon at the St. John Paul II National Shrine might encounter in their own diocese. Thanks to my diocesan pastoral year program. As I approached my last year of formation, I was hoping to broaden my experience beyond the parish environment in which I had already grown so comfortable. As I discussed this with my formation advisor, an idea started to emerge in which I had already grown so comfortable. As I discussed this over the year with my formation advisor, an idea started to emerge from our conversations: What if the ideal assignment meant to continue to form me for parish ministry wasn’t in a parish at all?

My association with the Saint John Paul II National Shrine has lasted throughout my time at Theological College, beginning when I had the opportunity to serve the first Divine Mercy Sunday Mass celebrated in their new chapel space to celebrate the canonization of Saint John Paul II and Saint John XXIII. More recently to celebrate Saint John Paul II’s feast day, I joined a group of friends in my ministry at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine’s Redemptor Hominis Church. Working with the Shrine staff during this production, I became aware of how many new pastoral programs had been launched there in my time away on pastoral year. As a newly ordained transitional deacon, since September I have already had the opportunity to involve myself in the life of this remarkable shrine in a number of ways. The Saint John Paul II Shrine regularly hosts family catechesis events and retreats, men’s and women’s group meetings, a monthly young adult event coordinated by the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, and has recently introduced a series of weekly spiritual formation events and Holy Hours. Of course, pride of place in all of these programs goes to celebrating the life and legacy of the saint himself; in addition to the usual feast day festivities, this year the Shrine will also be hosting a special series of talks and liturgies to celebrate the 40th anniversary of John Paul II’s election to the papacy.

During this final year of my priestly formation, I am hoping that this assignment’s unusual mix of an intense liturgical life and diverse catechetical ministries will continue to challenge me in ways that are outside the usual range of options provided in a “typical” parish environment. Already, I find myself continually inspired to take the ideas and models I have encountered at the Shrine and think of ways I might be able to introduce them to the communities of my own diocese, or to tailor them to their own parishes and spirituality.

If there is one final lesson I would share from the first months of this new experience, it is the value and enormous potential of going outside my comfort zones to be creative in pursuing God’s will for my ministries, whether in determining the course of my seminary formation, or in working to build up my home diocese parishes. As I’ve discovered, sometimes the results are surprising. Perhaps Pope John Paul II put it best in the words of his inaugural homily: “Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors for Christ.”

A New Year of Liturgy at Theological College

The opening of the 2018-19 formation and academic year was filled with the dynamism of all new beginnings at TC, including in the area of house liturgy. And rightly so, as the Sacred Liturgy “is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed and, at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows” (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 11). David Lang, director of music, continues to inspire and educate the community in monthly house rehearsals. He also offers the Schola Cantorum (boasting more than 25% house membership) and cantor ministry and leadership through playing the organ and additional instruments appropriate for inclusion in the liturgy. New to TC, Father Leo Gajardo, F.S.S. (see p. 20), took the helm as the director of liturgy this year, supporting seminarians by encouraging reflections on Mass readings before celebration of the Eucharist, and other initiatives.

In response to the call from Pope Francis and to a request presented by seminarians, the faculty designated a day at the outset of the semester as a community day of prayer and penance in solidarity with the victims of clerical sexual abuse. The day included celebration of the Eucharist using the orations and readings from the Mass of the Forgiveness of Sins. Purple vestments were worn in which I had already grown so comfortable. As I discussed this over the year with my formation advisor, an idea started to emerge from our conversations: What if the ideal assignment meant to continue to form me for parish ministry wasn’t in a parish at all?

My association with the Saint John Paul II National Shrine has lasted throughout my time at Theological College, beginning when I had the opportunity to serve the first Divine Mercy Sunday Mass celebrated in their new chapel space to celebrate the canonization of Saint John Paul II and Saint John XXIII. More recently to celebrate Saint John Paul II’s feast day, I joined a group of friends in my ministry at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine’s Redemptor Hominis Church.

A special community rosary included meditations on the mysteries prepared by the USCCB’s Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection. There was a meetless menu at all meals, in order to observe abstinence throughout the day, and all were encouraged to observe a fast according to the usual protocol (one full meal and two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal). Father Gajardo indicated that the faculty’s desire was for the seminary community to “join with fellow believers throughout the world in praying for God’s healing for victims of clerical sexual abuse and for His mercy to forgive and renew us all.

As the month of October is traditionally dedicated to devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the month’s observances included the celebration of four Masses taken from the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Mass formularies used were dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of All Creation; Holy Mary, Mother of Unity; and Holy Mary, the New Eve. Father Gajardo explained the significance of this initiative: “We come together to pray that our liturgical celebrations of Mary, under the various titles in which she is known, may lead us to enter more fully into the events of salvation and the mystery of Christ.”
The Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) is a very active and intentional ministry for Theological College seminarians. The SGA, which meets every month, serves the mission of the house in three of its key dimensions: human, spiritual, and pastoral.

The SGA is now supporting a New Evangelization digital media group under the leadership of Anthony Ferguson (3-T, Richmond).

The name of the new student group is “The Alberione Project,” named after Blessed James Alberione. At his beatification, Pope St. John Paul II called him “The First Apostle of the New Evangelization.” The Alberione Project’s mission is to help equip and empower seminarians to use new media effectively. They will accomplish this by producing a seminary podcast with its own associated social media accounts. Stay tuned for a report on this exciting initiative in the spring issue of The Crossroads!

SGA president Deacon Anthony Federico reported on several other highlights of the fall semester: The Vianney Cup soccer tournament pep rally was “a blast” — and though TC was not the champion this year, the exuberant fraternal unity of the rally carried well into and beyond the round of tournament games played the next day (see story, p. 18). The Fall House Party on October 19 afforded much needed respite at the end of midterms, as the men celebrated over a meal of delicious traditional Cuban cuisine followed by a lively poker game (with Jaime Maldonado-Avilés — 3-T, Hartford — emerging as victor). Following Fall House Party tradition, a successful collection was taken up for an important cause — this time raising support for those in the Kerala, India, region. Facing the road ahead to priesthood, Federico commented that another highlight this semester was an SGA-sponsored meeting with psychologists Kim Santora and Caley Arzamarski. Their expertise addressed how to respond in difficult pastoral encounters — a conversation that has taken place over time with Federico, who is Santora’s cousin. The psychologists’ presentation and ensuing question-and-answer session complemented the October Rector’s Conference with Kathleen Galleher (see p. 19), which incisively addressed this and other important relationship concerns faced by seminarians and priests today.

Hispanic Affairs

Washington’s Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville celebrated the monthly Spanish Mass at TC on Oct. 16.

“Christ gives us the method: ‘Come and see’ (Jn 1:26), ‘Follow me’ (Mt 9:9), ‘Remain in me’ (In 15:4), and ‘Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations’ (Mt 28:19). The method includes encounter, accompany, community, and send.”

— From Living as Missionary Disciples by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Theological College is committed to forming seminarians prepared to meet the needs of the increasingly diverse cultural environment of the U.S., with particular attention given to ministering to the Hispanic population, which comprises more than 35% of the Catholic Church in America.

The Hispanic Affairs Committee, part of the Student Government Association, organizes Mass and evening prayer in Spanish, Spanish film nights, Hispanic food and fellowship gatherings, and tutoring for those who wish to improve their language skills.

From left, Mark Dwyer (3-T, Washington), Social Justice Committee; Deacon R.J. Regalado (H-T, Corpus Christi), Hispanic Affairs Committee; Deacon Anthony Federico (H-T, Hartford); President; James Butner (2-T, Syracuse), Treasurer; Chris Kelley (2-T, Hartford), Prayer and Worship Committee, and Mark Garrett (3-T, Dallas), Community Life Committee. Not pictured here are Rev. Mr. Timothy Deely (Pittsburgh), Vice President and class representative for Fourth Theology, and the other class representatives: Garrett Bockman (Dallas), Third Theology; Jacob Guder (Pittsburgh), Second Theology, Austin Hoodenpyle (Fort Worth), Fine Theology; Peter Bar (Worcester), Pre-Theology; and Santino Ambrosini (San Francisco), Basselin College.

The Student Government Association
Self-Awareness and Self-Acceptance

By Kathy Galleher, Ph.D.

One of the extremely positive movements in formation of men for priesthood in the past 30 years is a recognition of the importance of addressing human formation — using the wisdom and science of psychology to foster healthier personal development. These men have to be especially well integrated and self-aware to meet the demands of ministry and serve the people of God.

Theological College has regularly offered workshops on aspects of sexuality and celibacy, and two years ago the faculty invited me to collaborate to develop a full five-year sequence of presentations that would cover the essential components of healthy sexual integration. They are presented in rector’s conferences twice a year, so there is a consistent opportunity for reflection and conversation.

The cornerstone of sexual integration is sexual self-awareness and self-acceptance. Although most of us have heard and know that sexuality is good and a gift from God, very often the messages we received growing up painted a much more negative picture and encouraged us to avoid, repress, or ignore this energy. The workshop invites men to a deeper awareness and appreciation of the sexual gifts and to embrace the goodness of it. They are invited to consider how best to use this energy to bring God’s love into the world, and how to cultivate a network of close friends and a deep relationship with God to make that sustainable.

We discuss some of the real-life challenges of living celibately — dealing with sexual desire, attractions, loneliness, and falling in love by normalizing these experiences and talking about how to deal with them can be very powerful. Several men have shared how helpful it is to know they are not alone in their struggles, and have appreciated the skills and tools provided in the workshop. We also address how essential it is to have emotional support and intimacy — a strong network of friendships with both men and women, with whom they can confide their hopes, joys, and struggles, and from whom they can receive support. These healthy sources of intimacy become part of that "hearth" that makes celibate life not only possible, but joyful and life-giving.

This fall, that topic of healthy boundaries is our focus. A key point is to develop an awareness of and sensitivity to power differences that exist in ministry and how essential it is to keep healthy boundaries to protect the vulnerability of others. Men in priestly ministry have to be skillful in observing both emotional and sexual boundaries, in order to offer healthy ministry and have healthy parish work. Our workshop offered practical insights into how to recognize power-differentiated situations, how to stay clear about one’s role, key ways to communicate and maintain healthy boundaries, and how to get help when they feel they are "in over their head."

The recent scandals are a sad reminder of how crucial boundaries are. These lapses in ministerial and pastoral boundaries did great harm to those involved and to the Church as a whole. My fervent hope is that with the kinds of workshops we are providing, we will produce a generation of leaders in the Church who can live their vows with joy and freedom, and work with sensitivity to boundaries, protecting those who are most vulnerable in their care and work to manifest God’s love in this world.
Father Hy Nguyen offering the homily at the Dong Cong Carthage Mission

named in August to Carthage, Missouri — along with 80,000 other pilgrims — to participate in the annual Dong Cong Carthage Mission to the Virgin Mary. As a missionary and a shepherd, he is particularly concerned about the poor and the suffering of the poor, and has worked with many organizations and communities in his diocese and beyond to address the needs of those in poverty. He has also served as assistant minister for the archdiocese, and has been involved in several charitable projects and missions around the world. The pilgrimage to Carthage is an opportunity for Father Nguyen to connect with his fellow pilgrims and to offer spiritual guidance and support to those in need.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the canonization of the Vietnamese martyrs from the 19th and 20th centuries, who were canonized in 1988 by Pope John Paul II. The celebration is held in Carthage, Missouri, and is attended by thousands of Vietnamese pilgrims from around the world. The event includes Masses, concerts, and other cultural activities, and is considered one of the largest Vietnamese religious events in the United States.

New Faculty

Father Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., M.A., M.Div., D.Min. (cand.)

Father Dominic Ciriaco joined the TC community in 2015. In addition to his role as a formation advisor, he now serves as the associate director of Intellectual Formation and the director of Basselin Scholars. He also teaches Preaching Practicum at The Catholic University of America. In spring of 2018, he was accepted as a temporary member in the Society of St. Sulpice. This fall, Father Ciriaco began part-time doctoral studies in preaching with the Aquinas Institute of Theology (St. Louis University, Mo.).

New Staff

Cornelia Hart

Cornelia Hart joined the staff at Theological College this year as administrative assistant for the Pastoral Formation Program after several years working in her home parish of Saint Bernadette in Silver Spring, Md. She brings a range of skills and experience to the parish secretariat, office manager, teacher, and sometime homeschooling mother.

Cornelia studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, graduating with honors and several prizes for academic excellence and performance. Shortly after completing her studies and returning to the U.S., she met and married her husband.

As her family grew and in answer to her own children’s needs and those of others in the larger homeschooling community, Cornelia developed curricula and taught classes for several umbrella programs offering accreditation in literature, composition and rhetoric, and creative writing for homeschooled students grades 6 through 12. Her belief in the important place of great art in the formation of young people led her to establish a Shakespeare performance program for secondary school students through HST Cultural Arts in Rockville, Md., where she served as artistic director for 12 years. This prompted her to develop age- and faith-sensitive training and coaching methods for teens, which she later adapted to accommodate pre-professional acting students and non-actors engaged in public speaking. One of her workshops, Verse Performance in Shakespeare, was presented at Franciscan University of Steubenville’s drama department. Cornelia still coaches professional actors occasionally and, at the invitation of her pastor, she volunteers at Saint Bernadette as a trainer of lay lectors.

Cornelia and her husband, Alan, have been blessed with four children and nine grandchildren. In the past several years, the nest has emptied, and she has had the opportunity to perform again, appearing on the stages of Olney Theatre Center, The Shakespeare Theatre Company, Studio Theatre, and the Kennedy Center where, when she’s not at TC, she plays Mrs. Shubert in the long-running comedy hit, Shrek: The Musical.
Father Daigle visited TC in September as part of his work to share how the power of faith can transform lives and communities.

Father Raymond serves as pastor of the Parish of the Precious Blood, a cluster parish comprised of 10 parishes located in rural Maine. Though he wasn’t named the winner of the award, as a nominee Father Raymond will receive a $1,000 grant to help with his work in the many parishes where he addresses the immediate needs in the community, especially through food pantries. Additionally, he hopes to create sustainable changes for those in need through the creation of financial literacy mentoring programs, healthy cooking classes, and nutrition and physical wellness programs. “I cannot separate what I do with who I am,” said Father Raymond. “I am called to be the light of Christ in whatever I do. I am called to be a servant to everyone entrusted to me. My faith is a gift, and my work naturally flows from my faith.”

Class Notes

80s

Monsignor Michael Clay, ’80, is Catholic University’s associate dean for Graduate Missionary Studies, associate professor of Practice, and Pastoral Studies area director. He continues to field-test a new model of catechesis for the Period of Evangelization and Pre catechumenate in the R.C.I.A., to address the importance of first evangelization in the formation process. He recently presented the model to catechumens in the Diocese of Houma — Thibodaux in August and in the archdioceses of Cincinnati and New Orleans in September.

Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, ’84, of the Diocese of Syracuse, is teaching Pastoral Studies at The Catholic University of America. His latest book, The Priestly Blessing: Rediscovering the Gift (Ave Maria Press) has just been published.

00s

Rev. Gerald Goodrum, B ’01, of the Archdiocese of Galveston — Houston, is currently serving in Pasadena, Tex., as pastor of St. Juan Diego Parish, which, last year, celebrated 100 weddings and many more quinceañeras. He has recently published a bilingual book of jokes titled, And Also My Mother: Notes of Matrimonial Humor, which he uses for marriage preparation classes. In his free time, he is an artist (see his website, geraldgoodrum.net). Father Goodrum returned to TC for the first time since his graduation for Alumni Day 2018, representing his bishop, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (B ’72), who could not be present this year.

LCDR Rev. David A. Daigle, ’03, of the Diocese of Bridgeport, has been serving as a Navy chaplain for the past 11 years. Assignments have included ministering onboard aircraft carriers, a large deck amphibious assault ship, and with a USMC battalion. His current assignment is serving as a chaplain program officer with Navy Recruiting Command. As a CP0, his duties include assisting chaplain recruiting in the Navy recruiting districts of New England, New York, Philadelphia, and Richmond. In addition, he has the national mission of assisting the Archdiocese for the Military Services in recruiting Catholic priests and seminarians. Father Daigle visited TC in September as part of his work to share with seminarians what it’s like to minister as a priest in the Navy.

Rev. David Raymond, ’03, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), was named a nominee for the 2018-19 Lumen Christi Award bestowed by Catholic Extension to “an individual or group who demonstrates how the power of faith can transform lives and communities.” Father Raymond serves as pastor of the Parish of the Precious Blood, a cluster parish comprised of 10 parishes located in rural Maine. Though he wasn’t named the winner of the award, as a nominee Father Raymond will receive a $1,000 grant to help with his work in the many parishes where he addresses the immediate needs in the community, especially through food pantries. Additionally, he hopes to create sustainable changes for those in need through the creation of financial literacy mentoring programs, healthy cooking classes, and nutrition and physical wellness programs. “I cannot separate what I do with who I am,” said Father Raymond. “I am called to be the light of Christ in whatever I do. I am called to be a servant to everyone entrusted to me. My faith is a gift, and my work naturally flows from my faith.”

10s

Rev. Joseph Goldsmith, ’12, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar at Mount Carmel, Newport News, to serve as administrator of three parishes south of Richmond: St. James, Sacred Heart, and St. John Nepomucene. Father Goldsmith will reside at Sacred Heart Parish in New Bohemia.

Rev. Joseph de Ortegozio, B ’14, ordained by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor on June 2 for the Diocese of Little Rock, is serving as associate pastor at St. Teresa Church in Little Rock, Ark., and as an instructor at the Seminarian House of Formation, also in Little Rock.

Stephen Eiker, B ’14, ordained by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor on June 2 for the Diocese of Little Rock, is serving as associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Fort Smith, Ark., and as chaplain at Trinity Junior High School, also in Fort Smith.

Rev. Alan Martineau, B ’14, ordained by Bishop Robert J. McManus on June 23 for the Diocese of Worcester, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Anne’s Parish in Shrewsbury, Mass.

Rev. Louis Masi, B ’14, ordained by Cardinal Timothy Dolan on May 26 for the Archdiocese of New York, served as parochial vicar at St. Gregory the Great for the summer, and has returned to Rome to complete his second year of patristic studies at the Pontificio Istituto Augustinianum in Rome.

Rev. Leo Song, Pre Theology, ’14, ordained by Bishop John O. Barres on June 23 for the Diocese of Rockville Centre, is serving as associate pastor and director of faith formation at St. Rose of Lima Church in Massapequa, N.Y.

Rev. Michael DeSeye, Pre Theology, ’15, ordained by Bishop David M. O’Connell, C. M., on June 2 for the Diocese of Trenton, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Marlton, N.J.

Rev. Jeremy Mohler, ’15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, Southeast Washington County, to serve as parochial vicar of a new group of parishes including Good Shepherd Parish, Braddock/Braddock Hills/East Pittsburgh, Madonna del Castello Parish, Swissville, St. Maurice Parish, Forest Hills; and Word of God Parish, Swissville/Rankin.

Rev. Henri Chais, ’16, of Bordeaux, France, was ordained by Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard in the Cathedral of Saint-Andre on June 24. Father Henri was a second theologian at Theological College during the spring 2016 semester. His treasured time at TC was short but he did manage to win the Iron Seminarian championship for the house that year!

Rev. Justin Miller, ’16, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester, completed two years as a parochial vicar at St. Joseph’s Church and Church of the Holy Spirit in Penfield, N.Y. He has now been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Church and Sts. Mary and Martha Parish in Auburn, N.Y. He also assists in Catholic ministry at St. Joseph’s Regional Elementary School and Tyburn Academy of Mary Immaculate, both in Auburn, N.Y.

Rev. Andrew Clyne, ’18, ordained by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on June 16 for the Archdiocese of Washington, is serving as parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer Parish in College Park, Md.

Rev. Jonathan Demma, ’18, ordained by Bishop Michael F. Olson on May 19 for the Diocese of Fort Worth, is serving as parochial vicar at St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, Texas.

Rev. Stephen Ingram, ’18, ordained by Bishop Edward J. Burns on May 26 for the Diocese of Dallas, is serving as associate pastor at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Plano, Texas.

Rev. Carlos Limongi, ’18, ordained by Cardinal Timothy Dolan on May 26 for the Archdiocese of New York, is serving as parochial vicar at Church of the Assumption in Peekskill, N.Y.

Rev. Maurice Moon, ’18, ordained by Bishop Michael F. Olson on May 19 for the Diocese of Fort Worth, is serving as chaplain at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, Texas.

Rev. Nicholas Redmond, ’18, ordained by Bishop Barry C. Knestout on June 2 for the Diocese of Richmond, is serving as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Newport News, Va.

Rev. Rhett Williams, ’18, ordained by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone on June 8 for the Diocese of Charleston, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Simpsonville, S.C.
Monsignor Edward T. Madden, B ’48, died on August 23, 2017, at the age of 91. Monsignor Madden was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 7, 1952, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Archbishop Urban J. Vehr. His dedicated priesthood ministry, spanning more than six decades, included service at more than nine parishes in the Denver archdiocese. Additionally, among the many other archdiocesan positions that he held, he served as a member of the Archdiocesan College of Consultants, the Presbyteral Council, and as dean to the Colorado Springs Deanery and Boulder Deanery. On September 29, 1996, Pope John Paul II appointed Father Madden as Prelate of Honor, bestowing upon him the new title of monsignor. He retired from active priestly ministry on June 15, 2005. Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L., Archbishop of Denver, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Monsignor Madden on August 27 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, with interment at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge. Memorial donations may be made to the Holy Trinity Parish, 309 Buffalo St., Fulton, NY 13069.

Rev. Moritz Fuchs, ’55, died on June 19, 2018, at the age of 92. Father Fuchs, a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse for 63 years, was ordained in May of 1955 and served in over nine parishes throughout his many years of dedicated priestly ministry. After his retirement in July 2000, Father Fuchs continued to serve as sacramental minister to his home parish of Holy Trinity in Fulton, offering daily Mass and hearing confession. On his 60th jubilee, in reviewing his path to the priesthood, Father Fuchs said, “It’s crazy to think while I was serving in the war I received the call to become a priest. The only Latin I knew at the time was ‘E pluribus unum’ and I had never even served Mass before as an altar boy. But it has been a great adventure and I am so glad I did it. Being able to offer Mass, having the privilege of hearing confession and freeing people of their pain, being close to God and trying to be more like him every day are just some of the things I am proudest of in my career.” Notice of Father Fuchs’s death was sent by classmate Bishop Thomas Costello, ’54, who said, “Father Moritz Fuchs is an alumnus of whom you can be very proud. He was at his suggestion that The Crossroads was so named.” Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of Syracuse, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Fuchs on June 30 at Holy Trinity Parish with interment at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Fulton. Memorial donations may be made to Holy Trinity Parish, 309 Buffalo St., Fulton, NY 13069.

Rev. Thomas F. Esper, ’51, died on December 27, 2017, at the age of 91. Father Esper was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Detroit on June 2, 1951. His dedicated priestly ministry spanned more than six decades and included service as associate pastor at six parishes, and as pastor at two parishes, Holy Innocents in Roseville, and most recently at St. Edward on-the-Lake in Lakewood, where he retired in 1996. Father Esper was remembered as a “wonderful priest” and as a “humble servant but such a pillar of the Catholic community” who served as an “excellent role model” for his parishioners, especially with his dedication in celebrating the Mass and the sacraments, demonstrating the great love he had for his vocation.

Most Reverend Allen Vigneron, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Esper on January 2, 2018, at St. Edward on-the-Lake Catholic Church with interment at St. Alphonsus Cemetery, Dearborn. Memorial donations may be made to St. Edward on-the-Lake Catholic Church, 6943 Lakeshore Rd., Lakewood, MI 48050 or to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, MI 48201.

Robert J. Ryan Jr., B ’08, died on August 19, 2018, after a short but aggressive battle with brain cancer. A native of Saint Louis, Missouri, Rob spent three years at Theological College and The Catholic University of America as a Baselin scholar. During his time at TC, he was known for his deep and passionate faith, his intelligence and athletic ability, his kindness and generosity, and his infectious laugh. After completing first theology at Kentrick-Glenmon Seminary, Rob discerned a call to marriage, and on March 1, 2014, he married his wife Jen (McGuire). While completing a master’s degree in theology at St. Louis University, he served as a youth minister in various parishes, touching the lives of many. He then returned to Catholic University as a doctoral student in theology. Shortly before he was diagnosed with a grade IV brain stem glioma, he successfully passed his comprehensive exams with distinction.

Father Donald Anstoetter (B ’08), classmate and friend, presided and preached Rob’s Mass of Christian burial. During his homily he reflected on “Rob, the husband,” noting how the deep, selfless love between Rob and Jen, especially during his illness, was a real symbol of God’s love for us and of Christ’s love for the Church. Father Anstoetter also reflected on “Rob, the man of faith,” who not only led others to Christ by his words but, more importantly, by his actions, particularly the beautiful way he embraced the immense suffering he endured throughout his illness. Rob’s funeral was a real paradigm of the Church at prayer. Those who attended laughed when reflecting on his many humorous qualities and character- istics. They cried when thinking about the way he touched their lives and how much they miss him. And they prayed fervently — a testament to the powerful example he gave throughout his life. In her eulogy, Rob’s wife Jen told all those gathered that when he was first diagnosed, and they reflected upon the journey ahead of them, she reminded him that this was the moment they had been preparing for their whole lives and now the Lord was calling them to live it. A powerful witness, indeed!

Upon departing from the Church, Monsignor McPartlan, pro- fessor at Catholic University said, “That was everything a funeral should be because Rob was everything a Christian should be.” A clarion call for us all!

— Rev. Chris Seibert, B ’08
The Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S.  
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