

The Crossroads

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College • Fall 2018



Welcoming a New Century • Focus on Hope • Seminarian Ministries

Theological College | The National Seminary of The Catholic University of America

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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 his work of salvation. In affiliation with The Catholic University of America, Theological College assists seminarians in the task of vocational discernment and in the preparation for priestly life and ministry at the diocesan level, particularly as experienced in the United States.



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Cover Image:

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

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 source 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 be a community of hope preparing a new generation of diocesan 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 tests 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 a 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 McBrearity, P.S.S. ('73)
Rector

Ordinations 2018

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.



Rev. Jeffrey Chichester (Rochester) confers a blessing on his newly ordained classmate Rev. Wade Bass after ordination on June 2.



Rev. Louis Masi (B '14), far left, and Rev. Carlos Limongi, to the front right of Cardinal Timothy Dolan, were ordained with others from the Archdiocese of New York on May 26.



Rev. Jonathan Demma, left, and Rev. Maurice Moon were ordained by Bishop Michael Olson on May 19 for the Diocese of Fort Worth.



Rev. Henri Chaix, a seminarian at TC during the Spring 2016 semester, was ordained in Bordeaux, France, on June 24.



Rev. Stephen Ingram was ordained by Bishop Edward Burns in Dallas on May 26.



Rev. Joseph Boykow takes the chalice from Bishop Arthur Seratelli at his ordination in Paterson on May 26.



Rev. Rhett William was ordained by bishop Robert E. Guglielmo in Charleston on June 8.



Bishop Barry Knestout imposes hands on Nick Redmond during his ordination on June 2 while TC's Deacon Chris Masla (left) looks on.



Rev. Wade Bass with Bishop Michael Olson ('89) at his ordination May 26 for the Diocese of Dallas, presided by Bishop Edward Burns.



Andrew Clyne was ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 16.

Ordinations 2018

Diaconate Ordinations

From April to November, 15 TC seminarians from nine dioceses were ordained to the transitional diaconate: Walter Genito for New York; Christopher Masla and Cassidy Stinson for Richmond; David Roman for Bridgeport; Anthony Federico for Hartford; Brendan Dawson, Timothy Deely, David J. Egan, and Mingwei Li for Pittsburgh; Stefan Megyery, 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.



Deacon David Roman with his family after his ordination.



From left, Deacons Kyle O'Connor (B '14), Chris Masla, and Cassidy Stinson with Bishop Barry Knestout on May 19.



Deacon Walter Genito with the Archdiocese of New York's Auxiliary Bishop John O'Hara, Vice-Rector Fr. Nguyen, P.S.S., and Rector Fr. McBrearity, P.S.S., at the April 7 ordination in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

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 morning 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 McBrearity.



The Class of 1989 returned to celebrate Alumni Day 2018.

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 Sulpicians, 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 Mandolini of Rome (see cover photo).

Father McBrearity 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



Seminarian Reflection on the Centennial

As Theological College enters its second century, it is worth reflecting on the impact of the work of the Sulpician Fathers who began and continue to form young men for the priesthood. The end-of-centennial celebration book I helped produce, *Celebrating the Century — Welcoming the Future*, offers this opportunity for reflection on a mission that has impacted men throughout the country over the past century, and in turn has contributed to the Church and society across the United States. We are grateful for the countless men and women who have dedicated and continue to dedicate their lives to the formation of those who will serve the people of God as priests. We thank God for his trust in them and their zeal and courage in building upon the foundation laid by those that came before them.

We are also thankful for the ordinary men with ordinary gifts who have accepted God's call to accomplish his extraordinary mission. Although the times have changed, our faith remains strong, hope constant, love renewed, and the mission of Theological College and the priesthood of Jesus Christ unchanged.

At Theological College, each seminarian is invited to take responsibility by being the agent of his own formation, which requires an open and honest attitude. In collaboration, the guidance of the formation faculty and spiritual directors at Theological College fosters the ability to receive and grow in formation to the extent that one is open to it, to become the best possible priest, with the heart of Christ, for the diocese he will serve.

As TC steps forward into a new phase of its history, we celebrate the past and give thanks to God. Looking toward the future, we trust and pray that God's work may continue to be done in this part of the vineyard of the United States. May Mary, Seat of Wisdom, guide our seminary as it continues to form men for the priesthood after the heart of her Son, Jesus Christ.

Charles Silvas
Second Theology
Seminarman for the Diocese of Corpus Christi

a lifetime of outstanding priestly service as a humble and collegial missionary disciple and educator in the tradition of the priests of St. Sulpice.” A very large contingent of Father Murray’s friends and family from Maine attended the celebration, including Bishop Robert Deeley of Portland (Basselin Class of 1968).

Following Father Murray’s moving speech of gratitude, Father Kemper, acting as chair of the Theological College Board of Trustees, launched the Rev. John S. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy campaign. Its goal is to build the musical and 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 firsts. It is the first time that Theological College has made a concerted effort to gather a large group of alumni, Sulpicians (including three former rectors), Catholic University leadership, and Archdiocese of Washington leaders under its roof. The event highlighted the close relationship between these constituencies and the Basilica of the National Shrine and the Dominican House of Studies. It was also the first time that a student planning team of seminarians was established (Matthew Browne of Rockville Centre, Michael Russo of Washington, Michael Kieler of Saint Augustine, and Charles Silvas of Corpus Christi) – this team began its work with the staff for this event in the early spring. As guests and alumni left the dinner, they received the publication, *Celebrating the Century — Welcoming the Future*. This booklet highlights the history of TC and the four dimensions of its formation program, as well as its myriad supporters. The entire evening offered a unique communal opportunity to celebrate all that TC has achieved and to pray for the launch of a fruitful second century of forming priests after the heart of Jesus.

For a copy of *Celebrating the Century — Welcoming the Future* and/or *Ecce Quam Bonum: A History of Theological College*, email TCCentennialBook@gmail.com or call (202) 756-4914.



The head table at the Alumni Day Centennial Celebration dinner, clockwise from front left: Bishop John Barres; Matthew Browne (4-T, Rockville Centre); Deacon Anthony Federico (4-T, Hartford); Rev. Frank Murray, Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient; Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the U.S.; Catholic University President John Garvey; Jean Garvey; and Father McBrearity.

The Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S. Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy

By Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S.

“The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.”

— Johann Sebastian Bach



At right, TC donor and Advisory Board member Jonathon Smith with his wife Hiroko, enjoying the post-Mass Alumni Day reception with Very Rev. John Kemper, P.S.S. (center), chair of the Theological College Board of Trustees, and Father McBrearity.

In Psalm 96, we find the invitation, “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless His name; announce his salvation, day after day. Tell His glory among the peoples, His 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 priesthood candidates into a deeper appreciation for God’s action in their lives and a deeper compassion for those who yearn for such a religious experience.

As Theological College begins its second century of service to the Catholic Church in our nation, the Board of Trustees would like to celebrate this milestone with the establishment of the Rev. John

C. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy. The goal of this campaign is \$1.5 million. The funds raised will become part of the Endowed Chair and will cover the costs associated with providing formation in sacred music and liturgy at Theological College for generations to come.

About the Endowment

- One hundred percent of your gift will go to the Endowed Chair thanks to the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, which is underwriting the cost of the campaign.
- This Endowed Chair will greatly alleviate the strain on the annual operating budget of Theological College.
- The hope of the Board of Trustees is to reach our goal and establish this Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy to both honor Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S., and to ensure the highest quality of musical and liturgical formation of candidates preparing for ordained ministry at Theological College.

As Theological College moves into a second century of service, I ask you to join with me in making a gift/pledge to the John Selner Endowed Chair. This gift will secure the wonderful and inspiring musical and liturgical programs at TC. Thank you for your consideration of this important initiative. Information on participating in the campaign is found on the back cover of this issue.


Centennial Congratulations from Our Deans

Very Rev. Mark Morozowich, S.E.O.D.

Dean of Theology and Associate Professor of Liturgical Studies and Sacramental Theology

As the Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies of The Catholic University of America, I am privileged to be able to collaborate with the Sulpicians in their ministry of forming men for the priesthood of the Catholic Church in the University’s seminary, Theological College. On behalf of our entire faculty, I extend our heartfelt congratulations on this one-hundred-year jubilee!

My relationship with Theological College began during my seminary years. I started my theological studies for the priesthood in 1986 while living in St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Seminary at the top of Harewood Road. Having just completed the program at St. Basil’s Ukrainian Catholic Seminary in Stamford, Connecticut, I was inspired by the great possibilities that lay before me at The Catholic University of America and the School of Theology and Religious Studies. When I first met my classmates during Orientation, I was in awe of the more than 50 new seminarians, most of whom were from Theological College. They were from Alaska, Washington, Baltimore, Texas, and even Hawaii. Truly, the entire United States was represented. This first encounter developed over the years and led to many friendships that have



About Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S.

Musician, composer, writer, and director of music, Father John Selner arrived at Theological College in 1956, where he served for 11 years as musician and spiritual director for seminarians. During his last five years at Theological College, he served as vice-rector. At the same time, he was an associate professor at The Catholic University of America and was music director at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In 1969, Father Selner retired from active seminary ministry and returned to Nazareth, Mich., to the Sisters of Saint Joseph, his teachers so many years earlier. He continued to serve as chaplain at the retirement home of the sisters until his death on November 20, 1992, at the age of 88.

spanned decades. We worked together, we played together, and we studied together. I remember countless hours spent reading and comparing notes and discussing class lectures. I can even remember studying for Monsignor Ellis’ exam together with my friends at Theological College. These connections served as bright lights even during the difficult times of seminary formation.

These early experiences form my vision of Theological College. In those days, I did not think that I would ever come back to The Catholic University of America as a professor. However, in God’s grace and his love and mercy, I was able to go to Rome to engage in doctoral studies and then finally to return to the United States and accept a position here at The Catholic University of America. It is such a distinct privilege and honor to teach seminarians and to work as the Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, to continue this long-standing tradition of theological excellence. I work together with my colleagues to help provide



Father Mark Morozowich relaxes with Father McBrearity at TC’s annual September Faculties Appreciation reception in Olier Hall.

world-class theological formation. I trust that this intellectual formation provides the tools and elements for their tomorrows. I hope that we can find new opportunities for young men to grow in understanding their faith and to build bonds of friendship to foster common work for the kingdom of God.

On behalf of our faculty, please accept our congratulations and thanksgiving for all the achievements of the past 100 years. We pledge our common efforts to work together in shaping the next 100 years. May they be blessed and may we rejoice in the work of the future priests, the laborers of God's vineyard, for years to come.



Dean John McCarthy extending congratulations to Basselin graduates at the May diploma ceremony in TC's Mary Seat of Wisdom Chapel.

John C. McCarthy, Ph.D.
Dean of the School of Philosophy and Associate Professor of Philosophy

Mathew Brady is justly famous for his studio portraits of President Lincoln, Generals Grant and Lee, Frederick Douglass, and other leading figures of the Civil War era. Brady's photographs of the good and the

great have done much to enhance our appreciation of that defining moment in 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 corps standing erectly before their tents, a company of infantrymen in a trench before Petersburg. What was 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 impenetrable mystery.

Over the past several years, the corridors and common rooms of Theological College have accorded a growing prominence to the art 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 Wm. Gray's monumental subjects are not statesman and generals from a single defining moment in our nation's history, but Christian saints, most of whom lived well before the invention of the camera. Gray's portraits remind TC's seminarians of men and women who lived at various times and in various places but who all served and serve the universal Church.

Graphic reminders of the saints are so integral a part of the Christian tradition that one can scarcely imagine a seminary without them. The images of Peter and Paul, Patrick and Aloysius, Agnes, Thérèse, Karol, and the other holy men and women that grace the public spaces in Theological College serve as a kind of confirmation of the goodness of a life devoted wholeheartedly to Christ. In the

witness of their lives, the saints offer seminarians a glimpse of what is possible for them, unlike the subjects of Brady's most renowned studio portraits. Moreover, the saints depicted by Father Gray are not only models to emulate but also friends, able to advocate on behalf of those who seek their help. It is surely fitting that the residents of the College be reminded of the saints as they walk to breakfast or class or compline.

I am partial, all the same, to the few old group photographs still hanging on the walls (or brought out for display on special occasions) of past residents of TC. If you look very closely at one of these, you will sometimes find gazing back at you a youthful version of someone you recognize, someone who had gone on to wear a bishop's miter, say, or had a distinguished academic career. When you make such a discovery, you cannot help but be struck by the fact that the passage of time has put you in position to know things about their lives that they could not possibly have known on the day the photo was taken. In the oldest photos, however, those that date back to the first decades of the seminary, the prospects of recognizing anyone are slim. Like the soldiers Brady documented in Civil War camps and battlefields and hospitals, the priests and seminarians assembled in the oldest group portraits of the seminary led lives that are now almost totally hidden from human view. Unlike Brady's soldiers, though, these cassocked figures testify by their very anonymity to the Christian belief, at once sobering and hopeful, that every human life, past, present, and future, is fully known to God, and to Him alone. What I most appreciate about the old seminary portraits, in short, is their power to remind each one of us of the truth about our own situation.

"The Church," T. S. Eliot writes in his "Choruses from 'The Rock,'" "must be forever building, and always decaying, and always being restored." In their accumulation over the decades, the seminary's group portraits, replaced in more recent years by a montage of "headshots," also attest to this "forever." They attest, in other words, to the ongoing life of the Church and to its unchanging mission to the world, despite the fact that the Church is also, as Eliot writes, "forever decaying within and attacked from without." God alone knows all of the contributions the graduates of Theological College have made over the course of the last century to the building of His Church, but we can be sure that they constitute the hidden glory of the seminary.

Together with the School of Theology and Religious Studies of The Catholic University of America, it has been the great privilege of the School of Philosophy to assist Theological College in its formational work for the past hundred years, and so share, in some small way, in its true glory. On the occasion of its centenary, and on behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Philosophy, I would like to express a word of gratitude first and foremost to the graduates of Theological College for all they have done over the past century in service to the Church and her people. We are grateful, as well, to the faculty and staff of TC for the spirit of collaboration they have so often demonstrated over the years. May the Lord welcome all deceased alumni of the College into the company of the saints, may He grant all of the living associated with the place the grace to remain faithful to the tasks he has entrusted to us, and may He continue for generations to come to raise up from this house of formation many good and holy priests.

Holding on to Hope: A Reflection on Clerical Abuse in the Church

By Rev. Matthew Gworek ('16)



We've heard tragic things.

Stories of unthinkable, criminal acts. Ways in which our Church and its leaders have failed again and again, committing or allowing suffering and mistreatment. There's no excuse for what happened to so many men, women, and most especially children who have been abused. There's no thing that can be said. No apologetic, well-crafted response that can take away the pain.

Because of that, the impulse might be to throw up our hands and just quit, giving up on our bishops, our priests, our Church. And to be honest, that impulse is ... understandable. When faced with such darkness, such a twisting of who we as a Church are supposed to be, the instinct to run might seem reasonable.

As painful as it's been for me, though, to see the darkness that's happened in this Church that I love, there's been one thing that's helped me not run or give up, and that one thing is hope. Hope for our Church, for our future, for our Pope, our bishops, our priests, our deacons, and all our leaders. Hope, too, for the men, women, and children in our pews.

That hope comes from Jesus Christ, who from the very beginning reached out to those who had been mistreated. 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. And it's the hope that I hold onto now as tightly as I can. I also know, however, that a priest saying, "Have hope! Jesus will make it okay!" can sound hollow, trite, or just cliché. Because, at times, in moments like this one, we need something a little more concrete and specific to point to and say: "That is why I have hope."

For me, that concrete and specific something is the experience I've had as a young priest and, especially, as a seminarian.

I attended Theological College at The Catholic University of America for six years, beginning in 2010. In many ways, it was a wonderful time. It certainly wasn't perfect, but it was a period of great maturing and growing in my faith. In that time, we were challenged as seminarians to become integrated, healthy priests, and much of what we did was focused on the four pillars of priestly formation: human formation, spiritual formation, intellectual formation, and pastoral formation. The idea was pretty simple. If you've been well formed in those four areas, then you're set up to live out a healthy priestly ministry.

If there's one thing that's certain in what has come out about clerical

sexual abuse, it's that the men involved were not living a healthy priestly ministry. They were lost, sick, and able to do appalling things to the most vulnerable. Why were they allowed to be ordained? ... What led them to abuse and sin in the ways they did? ... Those are big, complicated, messy questions. I don't have answers for those, and there probably are no good ones. What I do have an answer for is what I experienced at Theological College.

The priests and formation team were tasked with getting to know us, recognizing our strengths and weaknesses, learning who we were and what made us tick. Through spiritual direction, advising, intellectual work, and spending time with us, they got to know each seminarian to help him become a better priest someday or make the decision that he wasn't ready or fit for this life of delicate work and ministry. It was an intricate process of discernment, working together to try and truly follow God's will in choosing priests who would lovingly care for God's people.

Especially since the revelations of abuse in 2002, this whole process has included an amplified focus on topics such as proper boundaries, sexual health, and emotional maturity, and we were regularly asked to consider what it meant to be a healthy individual: physically, mentally, spiritually, and sexually. I'll admit, there were times when we'd walk into yet another conversation or conference to discuss sexuality, and I'd be irritated, thinking, "We already talked about this. Why do we have to do it again?" It just felt excessive. And yet, looking back on it, that's the point. That's the point because there will never be a "too many times" for talking about what's okay and what's not. Or a "too often" for driving home the importance of protecting children. Or a "too thorough" when it comes to making sure that the heinous sins of abuse, cover up, clericalism, or ignorance are not repeated.

If forcing seminarians to hear and think about proper sexuality, mental health, boundaries, and protection means that even a single child won't be abused in the future, then there's no doubt that it's the necessary thing to do. That's what happened at Theological College. And that's what gives me hope.

It's tragic that this wasn't always done in the past and that, as a result, horrific abuse took place and situations were unacceptably handled. But as heartbroken as that makes me, it doesn't deter my hope for the future or dissuade my confidence that the next generation of the Church will be more prepared to listen, learn, and do whatever we can to stop abuse and injustice.

As a young priest, there are countless things I've yet to encounter, but I do know what I experienced in seminary: a place that pushed me and those around me to become more integrated, healthy individuals who could build up a Church that would be and do better in the future. That's what we must do. Together as men and women, clergy and laity, we need to respond with loving prayer, action, and change. I believe we will. I believe we will work to better protect our children and every single child of God. I believe it, and I have hope. Because I've seen the beginnings of the change that's taking place in our seminaries, in our priests, and in all the men and women of our Church.

This reflection, in its entirety, was recorded by Salt + Light Catholic Media Foundation and first aired as a blog post on August 23, 2018. Rev. Matthew Gworek is a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford who is currently working as an intern at Salt + Light.

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 theologate 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



Michael Kieler, left, and Justin Motes with TC vice-rector, Father Hy Nguyen.

Latin America is a land of contrasts. Beautiful, colonial-style churches are juxtaposed with dirty back alleys and homes on the verge of collapse; picturesque countrysides and farmland with air pollution and piles of trash on the sides of highways. Everything seems to cry, simultaneously, “beauty” and “need.” During this past summer, the two of us were assigned to Honduras to briefly experience missionary life. Throughout our seven weeks in the country, we were most touched precisely by the beauty of the people whom we encountered, a beauty which was only accentuated by their neediness.

Our mission trip was spent with the Missioners of Christ, a lay organization of Catholic missionaries that originated in the United States and has been present in Honduras for more than 16 years. They were essentially recruited by brothers from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in order to meet a great pastoral need in their neighborhood in the Honduran city of Comayagua. Carol Restaine, servant leader of the Missioners’ community, recounted to us that on first arriving she found the neighborhood ridden with gang violence and incredibly dangerous. Thanks be to God, and to His instruments in the Missioners and the Franciscan Brothers, their work in the neighborhood gradually helped to bring peace and healing there. Now it is a safer place, and some of the gang members have left their previous lives and are now very religious.

During our time in Honduras, mission work expanded far beyond the city limits of Comayagua. The Missioners strive to meet Christ’s “Great Commission” (cf. *Matt.* 28:19), which was reiterated by the Second Vatican Council, “to reveal and to communicate the love of God to all men and nations” (*Ad Gentes*, 10). For us, that meant traveling with the Missioners into very remote mountain 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 pastors, 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



Liam Gallagher reads to young participants in the Church’s popular Totus Tuus camp program in Maine’s 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 were the inaugural team 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 wiffle 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 interested in it, are 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.

IPF:
Listening to the Voice of God

By James Buttner
First Theologian, Diocese of Syracuse



TC seminarians who participated in the Institute for Priestly Formation program in Omaha this past summer. James Buttner is at the center-back of the group.

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 maintenance.

During the hike, the only answer I was able to offer my father was the same spiritual life-preserver I had been tightly holding 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 confining or constraining with respect to my passions or interests. But the fears and concerns still lingered.

It was this background narrative that moved me to ask my diocese if I could attend the nine-week seminarian formation program at the Institute for Priestly Formation ("IPF") in Omaha, Neb., this past summer. One of the graces of IPF for me was a recognition that my vocation is unique, just as is 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 me precisely because it is that path which will allow me to truly flourish as the best version of myself.

By showing me that he has very intentionally and thoughtfully called me to this particular path, God revealed to me that there is nothing to fear with respect to my father's original concern. I came to believe that my specific desires, passions, and interests were in fact placed in my heart by God, and He desires nothing more than

to satisfy them Himself. I was invited, however, to trust His wisdom and providence, which often vary from my own vision or expectations. For example, in letting go of my own dream of working on my car by myself at home, I saw that this desire was an opportunity to invite others to enjoy this hobby with me, and I was able to invite some fellow students I work with in Campus Ministry here at The Catholic University of America to join me to do a brake job. This proved to be an occasion to spend time with the students and get to know them better, as well as teach them how disc brakes work!

IPF played the crucial role of creating an environment of prayer and discernment where I was able to renounce the voices of fear that had been bothering my father and me. Through daily prayer, discussion-based classes focused on priestly identity and spirituality, an eight-day Ignatian silent retreat, and weekly spiritual direction, I spent the summer listening to the voice of God speak to my heart. It was in that place of peace and inner tranquility that I was able to surrender my own self-fashioned dreams to God and offer those fundamental desires of my heart to Him — desires for happiness, fulfillment, intimacy, and peace. In response, God offered back to me all those secondary desires (to work on cars, to spend time outdoors, to be in community), but they were purified and transformed into something better and more beautiful than my own imagination could have ever fabricated. Most importantly, I learned that I have a heavenly Father who listens intently to the desires, yearnings, fears, and joys of my heart and never tires of responding to them with His perfect love. It is that knowledge, more than anything else, which I believe will carry me through all the ups and downs of life, leading me always closer to the one place where my restless heart will find true peace.

U.N. Internship:
An Education in Faith and Unity

By Jonathan Pham
Second Basselin, Diocese of Rockville Centre



Jonathan Pham with Holy See Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Bernadito Auza.

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 under-

standing 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 secular and spiritual things which draw people together, and which were so evident at the U.N. Take soccer, for example. During my summer assignment, I witnessed how soccer brought the world together at the U.N. The 2018 FIFA World Cup inserted 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 that went by without putting God first. At the Holy See Mission, the staff and interns prayed mid-morning prayer together with Permanent Observer Archbishop Bernadito Auza, the Apostolic Nuncio there. The words, "O God, come to my assistance; 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 U.N.

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 addition to serving 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.

Sacred Heart Parish:
Learning to Love

By Jonathan Barahona
Second Theologian, Archdiocese of Washington



Jonathan Barahona chats with youth at Sacred Heart Parish after Sunday Mass.

The summer is a noteworthy time in the life of seminarians, for it is a time when we are generally released from our seminaries and placed in a parish assignment by our dioceses so that we may experience for ourselves the life of the parish, the life toward which our entire seminary experience is focused.

The parish assignment is supposed to remind us that we are not preparing ourselves for a life

of rigorous study, a life of comradery with our fellow seminarians, or a life in which we are hyper-concentrated on our spiritual exercises — as we are accustomed to in seminary — but rather a life primarily dedicated to the people of God, in the service of whom we will dedicate our lives. To be clear, our study, our social life, and our spiritual practices are good in themselves but should have as their ultimate end the fulfillment of God's will in the shepherding of God's people as parish priests. Therefore, the parish assignment is invaluable to seminarians preparing for priesthood.

This past summer, I had the privilege of serving Sacred Heart Parish, a suburban parish in Bowie, Maryland, alongside the pastor, Father Ron Potts. The parishioners are faithfully dedicated to serving the parish and some of the families have done so for generations. The parish is also the site of some major Catholic history for the chapel in which daily Mass is held is where John Carroll was elected the first bishop of the United States. The chapel also overlooks a cemetery where generations of families are buried alongside their loved ones. There is a clear sense of history pervading the parish, a history of the Catholic faith passed along over multiple generations, a clear history of how God has worked in the lives of the people at Sacred Heart. However, the most beautiful thing I noticed during my time at the parish was the fact that each former pastor, at the end of his life, wished to be buried in the cemetery alongside the people he served. It was in becoming aware of this history of pastoral love that I was able to make sense of the many clerical scandals that were splashed across the headlines this summer.

As a man preparing to become a priest for the Archdiocese of Washington, I would not be able to provide a full account, and it would be rather cowardly, if I were not to address the sex abuse scandals and subsequent cover-ups that were exposed during my summer assignment. What impacted me most was the contrast between what I encountered at the parish and what I encountered in the papers. At the parish, I found a culture of selfless love; in the papers, I found a culture of arrogant self-interest. At the parish, I found an atmosphere of mutual respect and honesty; in the papers, I was exposed to an atmosphere of fear and denial. At the parish, I found the example of pastors willing to lay their lives down for their sheep; in the papers, I found priests, and even bishops, willing to do violence to their flocks.

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 reentered 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 Sacred 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 and ministries that a newly ordained priest 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 counter-intuitive. However, in my case – and that of a growing number of seminarians – I have already had the benefit of extended training in a parish environment thanks to my diocese’s 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 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 diocese’s own Richmond Catholic Theater to perform his famous play, *The Jeweler’s Shop*, at the Shrine. 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



Deacon Cassidy Stinson at the ambo on the altar of the Saint John Paul II Shrine’s Redemptor Hominis Church.

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 patrons 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, P.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 and one of the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation was prayed. A special community rosary included meditations on the mysteries prepared by the USCCB’s Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection. There was a meatless 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, Image and Mother of the Church; The Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of All Creation; Holy Mary, Mother of Unity; and Holy Mary, the New Eve. Father Gajardo explained



Father Gajardo celebrating Mass on Oct. 5 in honor of Blessed Mary, Image and Mother of the Church.

the significance of this initiative: “We come together to pray that our liturgical celebrations of Mary, under the various titles in which we venerate her, may lead us to enter more fully into the events of salvation and the mystery of Christ.”



TC music director David Lang (standing, at right) and Father Gajardo recently invited Mr. Adam Bartlett (right) to TC to discuss liturgical music with them and interested seminarians. Adam is the president and editor of *Illuminare Publications* and is editor of the *Lumen Christi Series*. He works actively as a composer and conductor of sacred music and Gregorian chant, and teaches, speaks, and writes extensively on the topics of liturgy and liturgical music.

The Student Government Association



From left, Mark Dwyer (3-T, Washington), Social Justice Committee; Deacon R.J. Regalado (4-T, Corpus Christi), Hispanic Affairs Committee; Deacon Anthony Federico (4-T, Hartford), President; James Buttner (1-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 Gruber (Pittsburgh), Second Theology; Austin Hoodenpyle (Fort Worth), First Theology; Peter Bui (Worcester), Pre-Theology; and Santino Ambrosini (San Francisco), Basselin College.

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 car-

ried 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 a 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’ (Jn 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.



In celebration of All Saints’ Day (*Día de los Santos*) and All Souls’ Day (*Día de los Fieles Difuntos*), the Hispanic Affairs Committee recognized *Día de los Muertos* during November with this traditional Mexican prayer altar to honor deceased saints and loved ones, and to pray for them and for their intercession. All were also invited to place names in the Book of Remembrance next to the paschal candle, to recall during the month’s Masses those who “have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.”

Theological College Hosts Annual Vianney Cup

By Alex Jiménez de Alcântara
Second Theology, Diocese of Richmond

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On September 22, 2018, Theological College hosted the annual Vianney Cup soccer tournament, in which some 200 seminarians and priests from four different seminaries gathered for friendly competition and fellowship. Although Theological College was overcome by Mount Saint Mary's in the championship game, the team put on a hard-fought performance throughout the entire tournament. Facing a new and improved St. Mary's team in the first round, TC successfully earned a 1-0 victory to advance to the finals. In the finals, TC displayed tough determination and endurance against the usual victors of the Vianney Cup, Mount Saint Mary's. The final score was 0-1.

Leading the TC squad was Rev. Mr. DJ Egan (4-T, Pittsburgh), who served as coach and head team captain. Another key player on the squad was veteran goalkeeper, Rev. Mr. Chris Masla (4-T, Richmond), who made numerous outstanding saves, including a diving lunge in the final minutes of the first-round game against St. Mary's, which helped clinch TC's one-goal victory. Next, I was thrilled to score the goal for TC against St. Mary's, which allowed our team to advance to the finals. The goal came in the first half when Mark Garrett (3-T, Dallas) took a free kick which sailed perfectly towards me in the penalty area. All I had to do was jump straight up into the air to get my head on the ball. Next thing I knew, the ball was floating over the goalkeeper's hands to then bounce into the back of the net. This was the first header I had ever scored in an outdoor soccer game, and will always be one of my favorite memories of the Vianney Cup.

The TC squad also introduced a handful of talented newcomers who played in the starting 11. They included defenders Justin Damask (1-B, Charleston) and Sean Neville (1-B, Cleveland), as well as striker Cesar Garcia (1-T, Dallas). These starters brought tenacity and a new spark to the team. Other newcomers included mid-fielders Sean Skahen (1-T, Washington) and Kyle Vance (1-T, Washington), as well as defender Aaron Ledgerwood (2-T, Pittsburgh), who is not a new seminarian this year, but who decided to lend some of his Ultimate Frisbee skills to the soccer cause for the first time.

Needless to say, the team's firm victory and hard-fought battle were also made possible thanks to many returning players. Among these were three rock-solid defenders, James Buttner (1-T, Syracuse), Joseph Kauflin (2-T, Richmond), and Nick Shiver (2-B, Charleston). TC was also proud to showcase other veterans, such as mid-fielder Mark Dwyer (3-T, Washington), and three creative strikers, Armando Herrera-DosReis (2-T, Richmond), Elmer Herrera-Guzmán (3-T, Dallas), and Rev. Mr. Raymond Kalema (4-T, Spokane).

In a very special way, TC's fan club, made up of dozens of



Twenty-five TC seminarian players from dioceses across the country turned out for Vianney Cup 2018.

seminarians, faculty, and friends, also contributed to the team's overall strength. Leading this year's fan club was Reed Bellingham (3-B, Lafayette), who could be spotted at the pep rally and at the games with a trumpeting red vuvuzela. Rev. Mr. Pat Mullan (4-T, Washington) was, as usual, another notable figure in the club, entertaining the crowds with his comical commentary and decorous dancing.

What made this year's Vianney Cup particularly great, however, was the fact that Theological College had the honor of hosting it. The day started with all four seminaries gathering together for Holy Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Bishop Timothy C. Senior, rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, celebrated the Mass, and Rev. Mr. Walter Genito (4-T, New York) preached the homily. Worshipping together around the Lord's altar was the perfect way to kick-start a full-day of events. Following Mass, the day continued with first-round matches, lunch in the TC courtyard, the championship and third place matches, evening prayer, and a concluding dinner.

In charge of organizing the full-day event was Rev. Mr. Michael Russo (4-T, Washington). Rev. Mr. Russo later said, "It was a great day. The seminary community came out in great numbers to help host the other seminaries, putting into practice charity and hospitality." Afterwards, the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary soccer team sent a thank you card to TC, saying, "Thank you for so wonderfully hosting the Vianney Cup ... The tournament itself as well as the welcome, organization, prayer, fraternity, and food were much enjoyed and appreciated."



Deacon DJ Egan (4-T, Pittsburgh), TC team captain, maneuvers around Mount Saint Mary's defenders.

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 their sexuality 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. Just 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 parishes. Our

"Human formation is an integral part of totality: social capacity, sociability, ability to respect others, even those who think differently, the ability to rejoice with friends, to enjoy a good soccer game ... these things of which someone thinks, "No, but a priest can not ..." Above all it is important for priests to have the human ability to integrate themselves in an educational and harmonious way in the social context. ... The ability to be a father is a capacity for fruitfulness, it is the ability to give life to others. Integral formation must think of forming for fecundity. This is to respond to the aspect of wholeness."

— Pope Francis' address to seminarians, March 16, 2018

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.



Kathy Galleher is a licensed psychologist who specializes in working with priests and religious. She worked for eight years at the St. Luke Institute and now runs KMG Consultation, which is dedicated to supporting healthy ministry through workshops and therapeutic services. She directs the Healthy Sexual Integration for Religious Life program for the Washington Area

Formation Network and a Healthy Sexual Integration program for Theological College and works with a number of congregations and formators.

The Vice-Rector’s Unique American Pilgrimage



Father Hy Nguyen offering the homily at the Dong Cong Carthage Mission Marian Days.

Theological College’s vice-rector, Father Hy Nguyen, P.S.S., journeyed in August to Carthage, Missouri — along with 80,000 other pilgrims — to participate in the annual Dong Cong Carthage Mission

Marian Days. Estimated to be the largest North American religious pilgrimage, these Marian days bring thousands of Vietnamese Catholic families to Carthage in honor of the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary, as well as in memory of their homeland across the Pacific. The annual event has taken place the first weekend in August since 1978 on the 28-acre campus of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer (CRM), which organizes the event. The festival is highlighted with a variety of mass ceremonies, teen and youth seminars, live entertainment, solemn procession, and opportunities for confession.

Attendees are mostly drawn from the Vietnamese emigre community in the United States but also include many others from Canada, Vietnam, and other nations all around the world. The event transforms the small-town rural community into a booming Vietnamese metropolis, complete with authentic music, activities, and official announcements delivered in native tongue. The celebration itself is like an extended summer picnic or camp out, which offers a wide variety of food from kiosks, farmer’s market products, and devotional and cultural items.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the canonization of the Vietnamese martyrs from the 1800s, Andrew Dung-Lac and companions. Father Nguyen gave three talks on these saints during the Aug. 2–5 meeting — two in Vietnamese and one in English. He was also honored to be invited to preach at the pontifical Mass. While this was not his first time attending, he was once again in awe of the experience: “It was tiring but wonderful. The masses of people praying and sharing fellowship in the Lord in honor of the Virgin Mary was so inspiring!”

New Faculty



Rev. Leonardo J. Gajardo, P.S.S., S.T.B., J.C.L., S.T.L., S.T.D. (cand.)

Father Leonardo J. Gajardo, P.S.S., was assigned in 2018 to serve as a member of Theological College’s formation faculty and as the seminary’s Director of Liturgy. An alumnus of

TC (Class of 2006), Father Gajardo was ordained in 2006 for the Diocese of Gary, Ind.

Father Gajardo was born in Santiago, Chile, and immigrated with his family to the United States in 1990. He did his undergraduate studies in philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Mich., and completed his seminary formation at Theological College, earning an S.T.B. from The Catholic University of America. After

three years of service in a parish in his diocese, Father Gajardo returned to Catholic University to complete his studies in canon law, receiving a J.C.L. in 2010. For one year, he served as an ecclesiastical judge of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Gary. In 2011, he was admitted as a Sulpician candidate. He served three years on the formation faculty and as professor of canon law at St. Mary’s Seminary & University in Baltimore, Md. In 2014, he was assigned to begin postgraduate studies in liturgical theology at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Sancta Croce) in Rome. He earned an S.T.L. in 2016 and is currently finishing work on his doctoral dissertation.



Rev. Carlos A. Piedrahita, Sulpician Candidate, B.B.A., M. Fin., M. Div., S.T.L.

Father Carlos Piedrahita joined the Sulpicians, as a candidate, in June 2018, and was assigned as a formation faculty member at Theological College. He was born and raised in Medellin,

Colombia. Before beginning his seminary studies, he earned a B.A. in Business Administration and an M.A. in Strategic Management of Costs and Finances at EAFIT University in Colombia. For some years, he pursued a successful career in business and finance. He worked for two banks, served as a financial consultant for companies in Colombia and Mexico, and was employed as a project evaluator for such international institutions as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Organization of American States, and the World Bank. In addition, he was a professor of finance and project management at two universities in Colombia — the Pontifical University Bolivariana and the University of Antioquia.

He studied philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Tex., and completed an M.A. in Divinity at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Mass. He just received a licentiate in Sacred Theology in Spirituality from Boston College, with a thesis on the humanity of Christ in the works of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Teresa of Avila. He has also received training as a director of spiritual exercises and as a spiritual director at St. Beuno’s Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales, United Kingdom.

Father Piedrahita was ordained in 2013 for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., by Archbishop Henry Mansell. He served as a parochial vicar at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Waterbury, St. Paul Church and St. Augustine Church in Glastonbury, the Torrington Catholic Cluster, and St. Matthew Church in Forestville; as parish administrator of St. Mary Church in Newton; and as an assistant master of ceremonies for the archdiocese. Father Piedrahita also serves as a priest preacher for Cross Catholic Outreach, a ministry that serves the poorest of the poor, internationally channeling aid through dioceses, parishes, and Catholic missionaries, cost-effectively helping the poor break the cycle of poverty while advancing Catholic evangelization.

Faculty Update



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

Father Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., 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 as parish secretary, office manager, teacher, professional actor and director,

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 Theater 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, *Shear Madness*.

Class Notes

80s

Monsignor Michael Clay, '80, is Catholic University's associate dean for Graduate Ministerial 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 Precatechumenate in the R.C.I.A., to address the importance of first evangelization in the formation process. He recently presented the model to catechumenal ministers 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.



Alumnus LCDR Rev. David A. Daigle ('03), USN, left, with first theologian Nicolas Rapkoch (Raleigh) and Lt. Dillon Scherger, USN, on a visit to Theological College this semester.

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 Nepumocene. Father Goldsmith will reside at Sacred Heart Parish in New Bohemia.

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

Rev. Stephen Elser, 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.



Alumni Bishops Robert Barron (B '82) and Michael Olson (B '89) visiting with former rector, Father Mel Blanchette, and current rector, Father Gerry McBrearity at TC during the USCCB's Administrative Committee meetings in September.

Rev. Michael DeSaye, 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 grouping of parishes including Good Shepherd Parish, Braddock/Braddock Hills/East Pittsburgh; Madonna del Castello Parish, Swissvale; St. Maurice Parish, Forest Hills; and Word of God Parish, Swissvale/Rankin.

Rev. Henri Chaix, '16, of Bordeaux, France, was ordained by Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard in the Cathedral of Saint-André 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 Ss. 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. Wade Bass, '18, ordained by Bishop Edward J. Burns on May 26 for the Diocese of Dallas, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Monica Catholic Church in Dallas, Texas.

Rev. Joseph Boykow, '18, ordained by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli on May 26 for the Diocese of Paterson, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Clifton, N.J.

Rev. Jeffrey Chichester, '18, ordained by Bishop Salvatore R. Matano on June 2 for the Diocese of Rochester, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Penfield, 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.

In Memoriam

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 Denver on June 7, 1952, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by Archbishop Urban J. Vehr. His dedicated priestly 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 Consultors, the Presbyteral Council, and as dean to the Colorado Springs Deanery and Boulder Deanery. On September 29, 1996, Pope St. 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 29 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, with interment at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Wheat Ridge. Memorial donations may be made to Mullen Home, Little Sisters of the Poor, 3629 West 29th Avenue, Denver, CO 80211.

Monsignor Leroy E. Literski, B ’50, died on January 3, 2018, at the age of 92. Monsignor Literski was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester on December 19, 1953. After serving as parochial vicar in his first ministry assignment at St. Stanislaus in Winona, he went to Rome in 1957 to earn his Ph.D. in philosophy at The Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Upon his return to Minnesota, he began teaching philosophy at St. Mary’s College, Winona, and served as chaplain there. In 1968, he was named rector of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, at which time he was also made a domestic prelate with the new title of monsignor. In 1970, he was appointed pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Windom, and later served as pastor at three other parishes until 1991, when he became rector of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Monsignor Literski retired from active priestly ministry in 1996. Even in retirement, Monsignor Literski, known for his deep faith and dedication to his priestly ministry, was sought out for the celebration of baptisms, weddings, and funerals, as well as for prayer, advice, and mentoring. Most Reverend John M. Quinn, Bishop of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Monsignor Literski on January 10 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, with interment at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Winona.

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 Lakeport, 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, 6945 Lakeshore Rd., Lakeport, MI 48059 or to Sacred Heart Major Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit, MI 48201.

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, in an interview with *The Catholic Sun*, “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 prison, 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. It 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. Mark J. Reasoner, ’98, died suddenly on March 18, 2018, at the age of 53. Father Reasoner was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Dubuque on May 23, 1998, at the Cathedral of St. Raphael by Archbishop Jerome Hanus, O.S.B. Father Reasoner’s dedicated priestly ministry spanned 20 years and included serving as associate pastor and then pastor at many parishes in his archdiocese, with his last service at St. Jude Church in Cedar Rapids since 2005. Additionally, he served as the pastoral coordinator of Holy Family Catholic Schools, and previously served as pastoral supervisor for four other parishes as well. Father Mark loved to play golf and cheer for the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Cubs. He enjoyed following the life events of his many nieces and nephews, and was an avid reader, devoted to his Catholic faith. Most Reverend Michael O. Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Reasoner on March 22 at St. Jude Catholic Church, with interment at St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Iowa City. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Catholic Church, 50 Edgewood Rd., NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405.

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 Basselin 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 Kenrick-Glennon 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 characteristics. 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, professor 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 Seibt, B ’08



The Basselin Class of 2008, from left: Brendan Guilfoil, Donald Anstoetter, Chris Seibt, Stephen Giulietti, Rob Ryan, and Juan Cortes.



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