The Crossroads

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College • Summer 2019



Farewell to Rev. David Thayer • New Priests' Residence • Seminarian Initiatives

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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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Rev. David Thayer, P.S.S., left, and Rev. Mel Blanchette, P.S.S., right, were warmly feted at the semester's closing banquet as they take their leave of Theological College. Deacon Matt Browne (Rockville Centre), center, will return to TC for the 2019-20 academic year, among the first priests-in-residence to live in the newly renovated Providence Hall (see p. 8).





Each year during Lent, Theological College celebrates Tenebrae, a service of darkness. In this prayer service, darkness becomes the symbolic representation of the context in which the passion and death of Christ occurred. This is a darkness that is experienced by every

person at some point in his or her life. It is a darkness experienced by many at this moment in our nation's history and at this moment in our Church's history. Yet amidst this darkness we are invited to turn our attention to the light of Christ, our hope. This is the reason we sing those astonishing words "light of Christ" at each Easter Vigil.

The mission of Theological College is to prepare a future generation of priests who will go forth to proclaim the light of Christ in a cultural and religious context that is at times dark and menacing, to be that person through whom a little more love and goodness, a little more light and truth comes into our world. This challenge is captured in the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: "If we do not radiate the light of Christ around us, the sense of darkness that prevails in the world will increase."

The American writer Edith Wharton wrote that "there are two ways of spreading light: to be a candle or to be a mirror that reflects it." Jesus spreads the light of his Father's love both as a candle casting a clear and bright light on the political and religious culture of his time and as a mirror, becoming for everyone he encountered a sacrament, a reflection of the Father's compassion, gentleness, healing, and mercy. Theological College is committed to preparing each seminarian to be ordained to incarnate these two essential dimensions of Christ's life, to be like a candle, a proclaimer of God's message of truthfulness, responsibility, and justice, and to be like a mirror, a reflection of the Father's healing and mercy. The significance of this challenge is captured in the words of Blessed James Alberione, the holy inspiration for TC's Alberione Project (see p. 23): "The true personality is one that is rooted in Christ: that is, a personality in which

our thoughts are conformed to the thoughts of Jesus; we think like Jesus, love what Jesus loves, desire and do what Jesus would desire and do." Only then will the newly ordained be regarded by their parishioners as the "light of Christ."

To be the light of Christ at this moment in history requires courage. Pope Francis has written: "True evangelization presumes a desire in the Church to come out of itself and go to the peripheries, not only geographically but also to areas where the mystery of sin, pain, injustice, ignorance, and indifference to religion has its permanent dwelling." The intensive TC formation program seeks to educate each seminarian to the missionary zeal so needed at this time in history, a zeal evidenced in acts of charity, in concern for the poor, in a compassionate presence to those who are ill, in teaching and preaching skills, and in their capacity to collaborate and welcome feedback.

However, this missionary zeal can only make an impact in a world plagued by sadness if our seminarians, as future priests, are able to impart a resurrection joy and to communicate hope and a profound happiness. In the Sulpician tradition, personal and spiritual accompaniment assist our seminarians to evidence this joyfulness and to acknowledge that, as priests, those under their care will need to hear why they smile, why they laugh, why they welcome others, why they wonder, why they don't take themselves too seriously — in short, why they are, on the deepest level, happy. For when they smile and laugh, when they welcome and wonder, when they are happy, they are proclaiming that they are the light of Christ, courageous, holy, and joyful for a world that so desperately needs to hear the good news of Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Gerald Me Breaty, pro

Reverend Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S. ('73) Rector

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Archbishop Gregory recently visited Saint Anthony's Catholic School in D.C.'s Brookland neighborhood.

Welcoming a New Archbishop

On May 21, 2019, Archbishop Wilton Gregory was installed as the seventh archbishop of Washington. As the Ordinary of the Diocese in which Theological College is located, he is the First Superior of the seminary and Chancellor of the University. Archbishop Gregory will be principal celebrant and homilist at the upcoming Theological College Alumni Day Mass on October 2, 2019 (see pp. 28-29). The following letter from University President John Garvey announced the appointment in April.

To the University Community:

It is with great anticipation for the future that I welcome the news that Pope Francis has appointed Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory as the seventh Archbishop of Washington, and by virtue of his office, the Chancellor of The Catholic University of America.

The Archbishop brings many gifts and valuable experience to the nation's capital, where he will serve as a shepherd to a Church in crisis. He served as the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops during the sexual abuse crisis in 2002, and under his leadership the bishops implemented the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. I look forward to cooperating with him on efforts that seek to combat the evil of sexual abuse and to contribute to the renewal and rebuilding of the Church.

For the past 14 years, Archbishop Gregory has served as a member of the Board of Trustees, and now a Fellow, of Catholic University. Over the years, I have known him to be a true servant of the Church, and to live out his episcopal motto, "We are the Lord's." I am confident he will continue to serve well Catholic University as Chancellor, representing this University in relations with the Holy See, and in particular the Congregation for Catholic Education.

I want to express the University's gratitude to Cardinal Donald Wuerl for his many years of dedicated service to Catholic University. He is an alumnus of the University and its seminary, Theological College, where he was a Basselin Scholar. He has served faithfully as Chancellor since 2006, and he helped bring about a corporate reorganization of the University in 2017. Since then he has served as chair of the Fellows of the University. His relationship with us has been characterized by generous service, loyalty, and fidelity to our mission.

My prayers are with Archbishop Gregory as he assumes a new role in this critical moment for the Church. As Pope Francis said at the conclusion of the February summit on sexual abuse, we are only just beginning to "combat this evil that strikes at the very heart" of the Church's mission. I look forward to working in conjunction with the archbishop of Washington, and all the bishops, to carry out "an all-out battle against the abuse of minors" both within the Church and in the world at large.

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Sincerely, John Garvey President, The Catholic University of America

Cardinal O'Malley Speaks to Seminarians

A Call for Sainthood in a Time of Crisis

His Eminence Séan Patrick O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Boston, is President of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, member of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, member of The Catholic University of America's Board of Trustees and Theological College's University Seminary Committee, and a former professor and alumnus of Catholic University. On March 18 in Heritage Hall, he offered a private address and discussion session to seminarians and religious brothers and sisters in formation in the D.C. area on the topic of hope in the wake of the current sexual abuse crisis facing the Church. This was a required event for the TC community, and a privileged moment, as two seminarians explain, below.

Deacon Walter Genito Jr.

Fourth Theology, Archdiocese of New York

Being at Catholic University allowed the TC community to be part of a recent gathering of seminarians and religious men and women to meet with Cardinal O'Malley on the current state of the Church. His gentle demeanor, calming voice, and Franciscan robe imparted the sense that he was among us as a brother and father who wanted to have a conversation. The way he weaved the story of his ministerial journey into his talk, as well as his humor, made the evening all the more personal.

His central theme was the Church's response to the abuse crisis and what we can learn from it. When he was beginning priestly ministry, he said that the subject of abuse was not on the radar. Eventually, when cases arose, most people at the time did not understand the significance of abuse or how to respond to it. The lack of well-thought-out policies caused bishops to improvise, oftentimes not in favor of the victims. Somberly, he apologized for how "we often put the Church's good name and patrimony ahead of the good of our children." He added that even though we are a community of faith, we can never grasp how deeply this damaged the spiritual and psychological well-being of these children.

Where do we go from here? His Excellency believes that hope will guide the way. We now have the Dallas Charter



TC's Basselin scholars and Father McBrearity enjoy a moment with Cardinal O'Malley after his presentation on March 18 in Heritage Hall.

which has mapped out clear and effective policies for the protection of God's children. We have a renewed call for holiness among the clergy and the faithful. Our youth who hear the testimonies of victims and are moved with compassion are the ones who will be the future of the Church. All of this, for the Cardinal, shows how our dedication to mercy and holiness will always enable us to have a renewed encounter as a Church with the risen Jesus, who is ever-present among us to offer healing and refreshment.

David Schmidt

Second Theology, Diocese of Pittsburgh

It was meaningful to have Cardinal O'Malley address concerns about the Church milieu of today because of his personal history as bishop of multiple dioceses that have dealt with issues of clergy sex abuse. One of the things he strongly emphasized was the importance of Church protection of the most vulnerable in society. He asserted that the Church's failure to safeguard the most vulnerable by not immediately reporting cases of abuse led to the crisis we face today.

Cardinal O'Malley relayed the message of hope that many within the Church have been proclaiming. He told us that throughout the Church's history, during times of great turmoil, we have seen great saints emerge to help lead the Church through crises. And he called us to imitate these saints today. During the question and answer session, Cardinal O'Malley confirmed that concrete proposals will be presented on how to address the current scandal at the bishops' meeting in June.

The message of sainthood during this time of crisis is of course a central focus, but I think a real sign of hope that many of us are looking for is a concrete plan of action. This plan should ensure an environment of transparency, accountability, and zero tolerance — which Cardinal O'Malley spoke about multiple times during his talk — in this case, among Church leaders. This would allow the Church to truly move forward, heal, and be purified, so that it may experience the springtime that so many people believe is right on the horizon.

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Community News



Father John Kemper, Provincial Superior, right, with Father Thayer.

About Rev. David D. Thayer, P.S.S., S.T.M., Ph.D., S.T.L

Ordained in 1975 for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Father Thayer has been serving on Sulpician faculties since he was a deacon. He earned both a master of sacred theology (S.T.M.) and a licentiate degree in sacred theology (S.T.L.) from St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore. He received his Ph.D. in philosophy from Pennsylvania State University in 1982.

Father Thayer has been a member of the formation faculty at Theological College since 1997. For more than 20 years he was director of intellectual formation. He also served as director of liturgy and from 2002 to 2007 he served as vice-rector. He is a greatly appreciated spiritual director and formation advisor, accompanying generations of seminarians as well as many of TC's priest alumni who continue to seek him out for spiritual guidance.

Along with advising and spiritual direction, Father Thayer served as a lecturer in the School of Theology and Religious Studies and in the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America. He has taught Ecclesiastical Latin for decades as well as, more recently, the pre-diaconate and pre-priesthood workshops and a class in preaching.

Father Thayer will continue to serve as First Consultor for the general administration of the Society of St. Sulpice. He has been a member of the Society's Commission for the Research of Sulpician Sources and Traditions for decades, and editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin de Saint-Sulpice*, an international scholarly Sulpician journal for priestly formation. Father Thayer has lectured and published extensively on the French School of Spirituality, and is considered the world's top authority on this topic.

Farewell to Rev. David Thayer, P.S.S.

Father David D. Thayer, P.S.S., S.T.M., Ph.D., S.T.L., has taken leave of Theological College after 25 years of fruitful service to assume the responsibility of senior researcher in the French School of Spirituality and Sulpician Tradition. The Crossroads offers here some personal reflections from a few of those who have known him and appreciated his influence in their lives and in the life of the Church.

Father Thayer is an eloquent representative of the French School of Spirituality, evidencing in his own life its ideals of self-surrender, the cultivation of an apostolic spirit, and faithful practice of lexio divina. While he has multiple degrees and has served in diverse and challenging roles on the formation faculty of Theological College and the academic faculty of Catholic University, perhaps his greatest gift to the community has been as a wise and dedicated spiritual director and formation advisor for scores of seminarians and priests who have benefited from his self-giving spirit. Michelangelo once wrote, "I saw the angel in the marble and I carved until I set him free." This is Father Thayer's central and lasting legacy. I believe this moment of transition is a moment of grace for him and for us, a new adventure filled with possibilities and animated by the prayers of all those who have grown to love and respect him so deeply.

 Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., Rector Theological College

An intense devotion to the Incarnate Word, coupled with a deep concern for the dignity and holiness of priests, inspired Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier to found the Society of St. Sulpice. It is this same devotion and concern that stirred in Fr. David Thayer the desire to become a Sulpician. In his many years of priestly ministry, he has incarnated Father Olier's mission and carried it forth to countless seminarians and priests. I'm grateful to be one of them. At various times, he has been for me a faculty member, professor, liturgical despot, and practicum instructor, but the relationship I will cherish above all is that of spiritual father and son as lived out in formation advising. I am thankful to Father Thayer for walking with me on this journey and for teaching me about Sulpician spirituality. May our loving Savior drown him in an ocean of his love.

Deacon Brendan DawsonDiocese of Pittsburgh

I am overwhelmingly thankful to God for allowing me to work with Father David Thayer these past years as my formation advisor at Theological College. He has both guided and challenged me in incredible ways, which have borne much fruit and growth in my life. I am so grateful for his mentorship and, now, for his friendship. I hope that I can imitate the ways in which he has guided me in the ways that the Lord will call me to guide others as a parish priest.

— Deacon Matthew Browne
Diocese of Rockville Centre

Father Thayer's approach towards priestly formation was a breath of fresh air. His unique style, while often a challenge to seminarians, drew its inspiration from Jean-Jacques Olier's invitation to "se laisser à l'Esprit" — open oneself to the spirit. There is no doubt in my mind that he has prepared priests who are in touch with reality and not confined to the religious establishment. Rather, the spiritual offspring of Father Thayer are priests who love their people, who laugh with them, who cry with them when tragedy strikes, and who identify themselves with the lowly and meek whom Christ came to serve.

Rev. Timothy Iannacone (Class of 2017)
 Diocese of Bridgeport

I first met Father Thayer in 1997, his first year back at Theological College. I remember having a conversation with him at a social event, when I suddenly got the feeling that he could see right through me, in the most positive sense — he sensed my thirst for God. Shortly after, Father Thayer agreed to take me on as his directee. As my diaconate ordination approached, I went through a serious personal crisis, and he guided me through it, acting as a true instrument of God's healing grace. It wouldn't be the last time.

I had at that time, and still have, an interest in issues of social justice. In our discussions on the topic, he asserted that the source of our social problems was that people did not know that they were loved. I was puzzled by this, thinking perhaps he was delusional. After 19 years as a priest, I have to admit that there was much truth in what he said. As anyone who has had him for an advisor or spiritual director can tell you, Father Thayer wanted to convince you that you are truly a beloved child of God, and everything flows from that. It took a while to get that through my head, but I was convinced — it is in fact what the Scriptures are trying to tell us. You can't earn love — it's freely given, right now. If only we would respond in kind in our own human relationships.

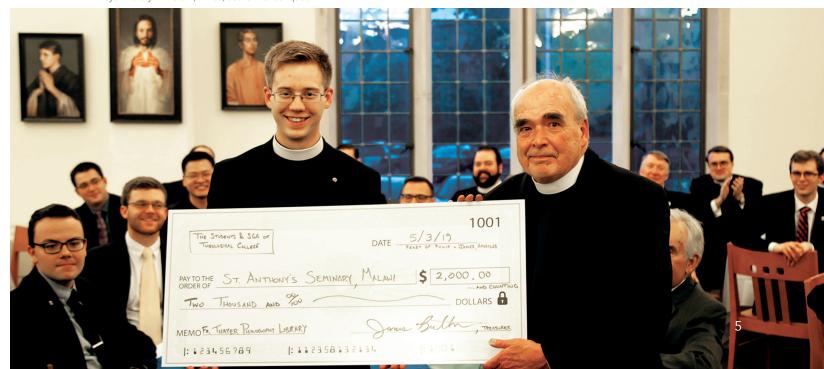
I was the only one ordained for my diocese in the year 2000, and my bishop welcomed my choice of Father Thayer as homilist. For once, his homily was longer than 45 seconds! Two striking points he shared stuck with me: The first was, "You are called to be a shepherd; but that doesn't mean that you can treat your people like sheep!" The second was, "Remember that there is only one Messiah — and you are not he." Sound advice for any priest.

When I became a pastor, I invited Father Thayer to give a parish Lenten mission. His opening homily began with one word, "Listening." The parishioners were amazed by the spiritual depth of his reflections that week; they continued to ask about him years later. For my part, I continue to use many of his writings on the French School of Spirituality in my own spiritual life, and in my preaching.

When I returned to TC this year as a resident priest, I asked him to be my spiritual director again, and that has again borne much fruit. But more than anything, I am honored to call him my friend.

Rev. Timothy Cusick (Class of 2000)
 Diocese of St. Augustine

James Buttner (1-T, Syracuse), student government treasurer, presents Father Thayer with the seminarian contribution toward the soon-to-be-dedicated Thayer Library in Malawi, Africa, at the final banquet.



Community News

It has been a tremendous grace to work jointly with Father Thayer in his role as director of intellectual formation at Theological College. The combination of his decades of experience, his own commitment to the intellectual life, his generosity as a collaborator in directing the TC seminarians in their academic programs with the School of Theology and Religious Studies, and his wise counsel to me personally as associate dean of graduate ministerial studies will be sorely missed as he concludes his service to Theological College. I'm particularly grateful for the decades he has taught Theological Latin to our first-year seminarians as well as courses in ritual praxis and homiletics. A man for all seasons! May the next chapter of his ministerial life continue to enrich others and be a blessing for him.

Monsignor Michael Clay (Class of 1980)
 School of Theology and Religious Studies,
 Catholic University

I am grateful for the friendship and the seminary and doctoral research mentoring of Father David Thayer. He and Father Larry Terrien opened the doors to the Sulpician Archives in Paris and provided a network of 17th-century French School of Spirituality experts to assist and inspire me in writing a dissertation on Father Jean-Jacques Olier. This experience enriched my life and enriched and sharpened my view of the priesthood, the Church, and the world. Father Thayer lives daily the great sacerdotal punch-line of Father Olier: "The heart of the priest must be as large as the Church."

— Most Rev. John O. Barres (Class of 1989)
Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre

Ever since the Second Vatican Council encouraged religious communities to get in touch with their roots and charism, the Sulpicians have been putting together resources that retrieve our tradition and interpret it for today's Church. A precious few of the members, however, have dedicated themselves to

this task in a conscientious way. Father David Thayer, P.S.S., is one of them. Though trained in philosophy, Father Thayer developed a serious interest in understanding the French School of Spirituality, particularly the Sulpician expression of it. He developed the necessary language skills in French that enabled him to work with the original sources. His new role is rife with possibilities for creative ways to enrich the Society on the meaning and the implications of its spirituality. I can't wait to see how he will draw out contemporary implications from the spirituality of his friends of 17th-century France.

Rev. Richard Gula, P.S.S.
 Provincial Consultor and Director of Personnel for the U.S. Province

As a Sulpician, David Thayer has usually been known for his refined skills as a formator and spiritual director of seminarians, and as a knowledgeable and demanding professor of philosophy and Latin. For the past 11 years, however, Father Thayer and I have served together on the General Council of the Sulpicians, so I have seen him from a different angle, as we worked together on many projects. He accepted, for instance, the extra duties of becoming the "secretary to the Council." I am amazed at how he takes seemingly a minimum number of handwritten notes during the meetings, and then uses them to put together a superb first draft of minutes, usually in the span of a few days. His accurate recall of the Council's detailed discussions have been of great help in safeguarding our collective memory. I thank Father Thayer for his devoted service to the General Council, and also for his enduring interest in the French School of Spirituality and Father Olier, which is to be the focus of his "retirement." I wish him every success in this endeavor, and I look forward to further insights on the French School that will emerge from his fertile mind in the years ahead!

Very Rev. Ronald D. Witherup, P.S.S.
 Superior General, Society of St. Sulpice



From left, Father Tim Cusick, priest-scholar in residence, with St. Augustine seminarians Michael Kieler (2-T) and Justin Motes (2-B).

Alumni Scholars in Residence at TC

"The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love."

— Saint John Paul II

Rev. Timothy Cusick, Class of 2000

I attended TC as a seminarian from 1995-2000. When I arrived, there were 50 men in the house — and the previous year there were only about 35! By the time I departed, the house was more or less full. I originally lived in what is now the McCormick Pavilion, and moved to the current residence hall when the renovation of the building was complete. It was a big improvement; the accommodations are even nicer now! The rector, Father Howard Bleichner, P.S.S, was a wonderful teacher and a good administrator — and he gave engaging rector's conferences. I was ordained for the Diocese of Saint Augustine, Fla., in May of 2000.

This school year, I was asked by my bishop to return to Catholic University for an S.T.L. in Moral Theology, to prepare to teach at Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach. I find this course of study especially engaging because I have had a long-standing interest in social ethics, particularly concerning property ownership, corporate capitalism, and distributism. I requested housing at TC mainly because my diocese has two seminarians here, as well as because TC's location is extremely convenient. I've found the community here to be excellent — a hospitable, dedicated Christian community with a zeal for serving the Church. I've been blessed to be able to share some of my experiences as a pastor with a number of seminarians. I've also been inspired by their commitment to their faith and to the Church.

Rev. Keith Hathaway, Class of 2015

I was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth in 2015. Currently, I am enrolled in the two-year licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) program at Catholic University. My bishop asked me and another priest of the diocese to obtain the degree in order to provide canonical assistance throughout the diocese. We have a few priests in Fort Worth who possess licentiates and even fewer are trained in Canon Law. I am grateful to be asked to help fill the pressing need for canonists at home. The invitation to attain this degree was welcomed as I have always been interested in the law. Catholic University has the only School of Canon Law in the United States and its professors are highly respected in the field.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to return to Theological College. Aside from the new faces, not much has changed here in the few years since I was last here as a seminarian. TC still

has a vibrant and welcoming community. Encountering the eagerness and zeal of seminarians daily also gives me hope for the future and challenges me to become a better priest myself. My class schedule unfortunately limits my full participation in the life of the community. However, TC's location in Brookland allows me to celebrate Mass several times a week for a nearby community of religious sisters when I have early morning classes.

Rev. Christopher Seibt, Class of 2014

I first came to Theological College in 2005 as a Basselin scholar. In 2007, I received the Ph.B., and the Ph.L. the following year. I then entered first theology and received the S.T.B. in 2012, and the S.T.L in Sacramental Theology in 2014. Completing the licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L.) this year brings my total time at TC to 10 years! My experience here has been very blessed. I have grown in many ways through the various facets of the formation program. I have met some remarkable and wonderful people during this time. And, most importantly, I have deepened my knowledge and my love for Christ and his Church as well as my joy in being able to serve both as a priest since I was ordained for the Diocese of Syracuse in 2013.

When my bishop asked me to study Canon Law, I decided to pursue the J.C.L. program at Catholic University because it is the only program in the country and it has an outstanding reputation. Canon Law is important and interesting to study because the goal of the law of the Church is directed to the highest law, namely, the salvation of souls. Ultimately, the J.C.L. will enable me to be a minister of justice and mercy, particularly in the diocesan tribunal or office of canonical affairs, when, for example, working on cases of marriage nullity.

Now in my third incarnation at Theological College, I have found living here as a student priest to be a very positive experience. It is extremely convenient. More importantly, it offers much needed opportunities for prayer and community life, while studying and being involved in pastoral ministry. Participation in the life of the community is highly encouraged. Consequently, it has been, for me, an authentic exercise of the communauté éducatrice. I have learned a great deal from the faculty, the other student priests, and the seminarians. And I hope that I have been able to contribute something from my studies, experience, and life as a priest to their current and future ministries.



One of Providence Hall's resident priest rooms ready for occupancy.

Providence Hall Renovated to Host Student Priests

For some years, Theological College has extended hospitality to priests striving to complete J.C.L., S.T.L., and other degrees at The Catholic University of America (see previous article). More recently, the School of Theology and Religious Studies crafted a five-year S.T.L. program with degree specializations in biblical, historical, systematic, liturgical, sacramental, and moral theology. Participants in this program will return after ordination for their final year to earn an S.T.L. In conjunction with this development, Theological College is now able to offer separate accommodations in its Providence Hall annex to eight student priests, who will enjoy the support and privileges of the seminary community while living in the renovated residence.

As the fifth-year program was coming together in 2017–2018 under the direction of S.T.R.S.'s Monsignor Michael Clay, Associate Dean for Graduate Ministerial Studies, Theological College's Sulpician leaders faced space and comfort concerns for the expected increase in ordained program candidates. Very Rev. John Kemper, Provincial Superior, and Rev. Gerald McBrearity, TC rector, were helped by Tim Murphy, TC facilities manager, to consider the Providence Hall destination.

For many years, Apple Tree Institute for Education Innovation had been renting the third and fourth floors of Providence Hall, until Sept. 2018 when it found a bigger, more cohesive space elsewhere in D.C. With the expertise of Suzanne Giguere of Corkill Cush Reeves Architects, plans were drafted for the vacated space: eight rooms with private baths, plus a communal kitchenette and an extra bathroom. Ms. Giguere spent several days analyzing, measuring, and floating ideas for the most efficient use of this century-old space. Providence Hall was formerly the convent for the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence who served the Sulpician Fathers and TC seminarians for almost 70 years, until 1986.

Buch Construction, which had handled several McCormick Pavilion office space renovations, was the general contractor. According to Tim Murphy, "The biggest hurdle was to get the drawings approved by the D.C. government; we were happy to clear this hurdle with the city to begin work in November." Other challenges included issues with asbestos removal, meticulously accomplished by Buch workers. Some of the old flooring and floor joists also had to be replaced. The contractors were able to finish the project in five months, leaving plenty of time before August for final details, such as furniture selection.

For the 2019–2020 school year, the rooms will be occupied by three newly ordained TC alumni and one graduate of the North American College, all of whom will be studying at Catholic University for a final year to complete their S.T.L. degrees. They will be joined in Providence Hall by two J.C.L. candidates of the TC classes of 2015 and 2017, and two Maryknoll-sponsored priests from China.

Graduate Reflections and Memoirs

The graduating class of 16 men for the Class of 2019, representing 11 dioceses, is one of Theological College's largest graduating classes in past 30 years. With the class of three Basselin Ph.L. graduates (representing two more dioceses), it is marked by characteristics described in this issue's Letter from the Rector — they "incarnate these two essential dimensions of Christ's life, to be like a candle, a proclaimer of God's message of truthfulness, responsibility, and justice, and to be like a mirror, a reflection of the Father's healing and mercy." They have become known for their courage in going "out to the peripheries," for their missionary zeal full of charity and compassion, and for their witness of resurrection joy. In this annual feature, these TC graduates highlight how their education and formation have brought them to this point on their life's adventure.

Reflections of a Theologian

Deacon Matthew Browne

Diocese of Rockville Centre

The phrase inscribed on the front of the building, *Providentia* Dei Nos Providebit, meaning, "The providence of God will provide for us," is a fitting way to describe my experience as a seminarian at Theological College. God's providence has abundantly provided for me in so many ways with experiences that have helped to form me and prepare me for my future ministry as a priest of Jesus Christ. These include plumbing the depths of the Catholic intellectual tradition at the University, various pastoral experiences of serving the poor, hospital chaplaincy at Walter Reed, two years of parish ministry at Saint Bartholomew's, the first papal visit of Pope Francis to the United States and the first canonization of a saint on American soil, the planning of TC's centenary celebration, the cultural experiences of our nation's capital, living across the street from and serving at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and, finally, the privilege of being one of three students to pioneer a fifth-year S.T.L. program.

At the heart of my entire experience, however, TC has given me the freedom to be formed — teaching me to live fully for God in Christ Jesus while being the agent of my own formation. As I prepare to be ordained a priest, I will be forever grateful to the Sulpicians, the TC staff, and to the friends that I've had the incredible honor of living with these past four years, all of whom have encouraged, inspired, and challenged me to grow in ways I never would have expected. In a particular way, I will be forever indebted to the invaluable friendship and guidance of my formation advisor, Father David Thayer, my spiritual director, Father Melvin Blanchette, and the pastor of Saint Bartholomew's, Father Mark Knestout, all of whom have witnessed to me in powerful ways what the heart of a priest really is.

Continuing to trust in God's good providence, I look forward to what lies ahead, where the fruits of this entire experience will be put into practice as a parish priest in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. To quote the famous Swedish diplomat, Dag Hammarskjöld: "For all that has been, thanks. For all that will be, yes."

Deacon Brendan Dawson

Diocese of Pittsburgh

In my second year of pre-theology studies, my apostolic work was at a hospital in Pittsburgh. One day, I was asked to go to the maternity wing of the hospital to visit some families. Walking down the hallway, I turned the corner and abruptly found myself standing in front of the nursery where several newborn babies were peacefully resting. It was a beautiful sight. The image of those precious infants elicited a deep emotion in me. I found myself thinking, "I wish that I was a priest so that I could bless them." At first, I was surprised that my initial reaction wasn't about being a biological father and holding my own baby boy or girl. This thought did come a bit later, but it was spiritual fatherhood that was my first instinct.

As I look back on my seven years of seminary, I am grateful to God that he has continued to call me to the spiritual fatherhood that I felt so acutely that day standing before those newborn babies. I am deeply thankful to the priests on faculty at Theological College for helping me to take that profound burning desire to be a priest and mold, shape, and purify it so that I can serve as a shepherd in the image of Christ the Good Shepherd. It is at TC that I have learned to be a priest. As I leave here, there are many things that I will take with me. One valuable keepsake is Sulpician spirituality. It has helped me to see myself as "a nothing capable of God" whom Jesus Christ loves intimately and wishes to drown in an ocean of mercy. As a priest, I want to show others that same love and mercy.

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Feature: Graduate Reflections

Deacon Timothy DeelyDiocese of Pittsburgh

I find it tough to put into words the gratitude I feel towards the Theological College community: the faculty, staff, seminarians, and priests who have shaped my experience at TC. I have found a home here — a transitory one, to be sure, but a real home, nonetheless. Spiritually and personally, I will always see TC as a home — a place where I have been known, a place where I was welcomed, a place that formed me and challenged me for my own good and for the sake of Jesus Christ and his Church.

Top billing on my list of gratitude goes to my formation advisor, Father Thayer, and to my spiritual directors, Fathers McBrearity and Blanchette. I have found them to be exactly the kind of spiritual fathers that I hoped to encounter in seminary, when I left so many things behind to discern the priesthood, following the Lord's call. And to Sunder and Paulette and the truly wonderful members of the Sodexo staff: thank you for taking care of us over the past years. Don't tell the Sulpician Fathers, but I tend to think of you first when I think of TC.

I am grateful, too, to many of the guys I have lived with during my time: good and holy and normal men, who have inspired me by their learning, their holiness, and their humor. The old Sulpician idea of the *communite educatrice* is alive and well at TC — I have experienced it and I hope that I have contributed to it. It is something that cannot be faked; and

the genuineness of the community, the fraternity, and the charity present here at TC are proof that not only can this idea and ideal be realized, it can be done well.

It is bittersweet to leave TC. And yet, thanks to the excellent people here and the formation I have received, TC will always be very close to my heart.

Deacon David (D.J.) Egan Jr. Diocese of Pittsburgh

Theological College has been my Penuel. It is the place that I have wrestled with God. My experience has been challenging but I have loved every minute of it. I will be leaving TC with a greater knowledge and love of God than I had when I entered. As I look back on my four years at the seminary, I am filled with a sense of gratitude. Among other things, I am especially thankful for the faculty. They were always willing to listen to me and help me in any way that they could. They gave me the freedom to develop in a healthy manner. They did not force my formation like authoritarians but gently invited me to grow in maturity and holiness. I am also thankful for the friends that I made while at TC. There are many men whom I am proud to call my brothers. The other seminarians helped to keep me happy and made TC feel like a second home. I am grateful for everything that TC has done for me and I look forward to the next stage of my vocation. I am excited to be finished with seminary, but I will sorely miss Theological College.

TC's Class of 2019: Front row, left to right: Walter Genito, Mingwei Li, Raymond Kalema, Cassidy Stinson, Anthony Federico; standing: Patrick Mullan, Matthew Browne, Brendan Dawson, Ramiro (R.J.) Regalado, David (D.J.) Egan, Timothy Deely, Michael Russo, Christopher Masla, Stefan Megyery, David Roman, and Nye (Joseph) Wiley.



Deacon Anthony Federico IIIArchdiocese of Hartford

When my advisor asked, rather bluntly, why I wanted to be a priest, I had a quick, generic answer ready. I had been at TC for several years at that point, I was sure of my vocation, and I had answered this question many times before. Yet, in that moment, the reasons I gave sounded hollow and unconvincing, even to myself. He asked the question again, this time directing me to avoid clichés and platitudes. I told him, somewhat crestfallen, that I couldn't explain why I wanted to be a priest — not to him and not to myself. He seemed pleased and, in his knowing way, said, "May I suggest that you don't want to be a priest, you need to be a priest. You need to be a priest to become who you are." His words gave shape and depth to a feeling I had never been able to articulate before. I am being offered the unfathomable privilege of participating in the priesthood of Jesus Christ and until I am a priest, the deepest part of me will be incomplete, unfulfilled, longing, restless.

As that long-awaited moment approaches and the next chapter begins, I am thankful for my six years at Theological College. I am especially grateful to Father Mel Blanchette and Father David Thayer, who have guided me in the often-painful process of growing in authentic freedom and self-knowledge. I offer my appreciation also to Father McBrearity, the formation faculty, and the dedicated seminary staff. Lastly and most especially, to my brother seminarians — thank you for teaching me, for the first time in my life, to be myself.

Deacon Walter Genito Jr.Archdiocese of New York

Being at Theological College over the past four years has been wonderful. I had the chance to meet guys from across the country and form friendships that I know will last beyond my stay here. The different house events, such as the Mini Sedes Cup indoor golf and Iron Seminarian tournaments, were always highlights, as well as the Super Bowl party and the fall and spring house parties. Fraternity is a good word to describe TC and it really resonates here. For me, gathering for Liturgy has brought a sense of togetherness, a feeling of being connected with everyone in a common faith and experience. For sure, there is diversity in the house and differences over how guys think of things — whether it be about Church or society — but this hasn't negatively affected the community. This is simply a mature house where people are able to voice their views and agree or disagree as adults, rather than judge others under the guise of an "orthodox" high ground.

I would like to thank the Sulpician Fathers for having the foresight and wisdom to give everyone the space and environment to be adults, as it has led to greater self-awareness and growth. I am also thankful for being one of the three pioneers in the new dual-degree program, which is a five-year track during which one receives an S.T.B. after their first

three years, begins an S.T.L. in their fourth year, and then comes back for a fifth year to complete it. My hope is that this new program will greatly benefit the TC community in the future. I look forward, God willing, to being ordained a presbyter of the Archdiocese of New York this May and returning this fall for a fifth year to be a part of TC as it begins this new chapter.

Deacon Raymond Kalema

Diocese of Spokane

As I come to the completion of my seminary training, a question that often comes to mind is, "How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?" — words from *Psalm* 116:12. I have been in formation for quite a long time. This is a journey I started back in Uganda and am now finishing here in the United States for the Diocese of Spokane, Wash. Glory and honor I give to God for having granted me the grace to persevere through all the challenges I have encountered along the way. Even when life seemed to give me lemons, God turned that into lemonade!

I want to thank from my heart all the people who have traveled with me throughout my seminary formation. First, special gratitude to my family for supporting my desire to serve the Lord as a priest. A big thank you goes to the faculty and staff of TC for providing an environment in which we could grow in freedom and take responsibility for our formation. I also appreciated their simplicity, generosity, kindness, and patience, especially for me, coming from a different cultural background. Heartfelt gratitude to my bishop, His Excellency Thomas Daly, for being very supportive of me, and to Cardinal Blase Cupich, former bishop of Spokane, at whose invitation I joined the Spokane Diocese. My professors, brother seminarians, priests, religious, and friends, your presence in my life has been a great a pillar of support and you will forever be cherished.

"How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?" Thus far, all I have received is his mercy and love. Now as I step forward to be ordained a priest, I pray that I become that instrument to dispense God's mercy and love to all his people. I will do this by lifting the cup of salvation every day as I call upon his name. Mary, mother of priests, help me and my brother deacons to be holy and faithful priests of your son, Jesus Christ.

Deacon Mingwei LiDiocese of Pittsburgh

I have been frequently asked about my seminary formation in D.C., and my usual and honest response is that my time here at Theological College has been quite fruitful. It is a seminary that provides the environment and the atmosphere for much personal and formational growth, with the condition that a man be honest with God, with the formators at TC, and with himself. He also must be prudent with the freedom and

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free time afforded to him. When I first arrived at TC, I was impressed with the freedom that is offered in formation and the trust that the faculty here have in the seminarians to be responsible and mature men on their path toward priesthood. These aspects of the environment —freedom, formators' trust, and the expectation of honesty and prudence — are what make TC ideal for formation.

The seminary is located in the heart of Washington, D.C., surrounded by Catholic institutions and houses of formation for religious orders. It has been beneficial for me to learn about the many religious orders and institutions that are part of our rich and diverse Catholic culture, while I am being formed for the diocesan priesthood. I have also benefited greatly from the solid theological education provided by The Catholic University of America, which upholds high standards.

But the most important thing for a man who has been called to TC is that he possess a heart and a mind that are truly open to the Lord and his Holy Spirit, in order to be moved, changed, and formed for his future ministry in the service of God and his holy Church.

Deacon Christopher Masla

Diocese of Richmond

"Come and see." It all started with an invitation from Jesus. From a vocation retreat during my senior year of college to the steps of the Theological College, Jesus has been inviting me to "come and see" a new vision for my life. This vision of priestly service and holiness has been fostered over these past six years of seminary formation, years for which I am immensely grateful.

TC has provided opportunities for service and ministry that will stick with me for the rest of my life: working alongside the Missionaries of Charity, serving as a hospital chaplain at Walter Reed Military Medical Center, and going on food runs for the homeless of D.C., to name a few.

As a community of men in formation, we have certainly helped to form each other, as "iron sharpens iron," in countless ways. But we have also had a lot of fun along the path. I'll never forget the many years of cheering and competing in the "Iron Seminarian" tournament. And I'll truly miss being the starting goalkeeper for TC in the Vianney Cup soccer tournament — I am proud to have helped bring home the trophy once!

Seminary formation at Theological College has been a time of growth in all areas of my life, during which, profoundly, Jesus has revealed himself more and more to me. And through this, I've come to see more clearly who I am. "Christ," as *Gaudium et Spes* states, "fully reveals man to man himself and makes his supreme calling clear."

Jesus has not ceased inviting me to "come and see," even as he prepares to send me back into the Diocese of Richmond as his priest. "Come and see that I am enough for you, and what you have to offer is enough for me."

Deacon Stefan Megyery

Archdiocese of Washington

According to the Program for Priestly Formation, "The seminary is first and foremost a learning community of the disciples of Jesus ... a community of charity and friendship, ... a worshiping and praying community that finds its source and summit in the celebration of the Eucharist."

Looking back, I can say that Theological College embodies this description in a beautiful way. We all know that Jesus' disciples were not perfect, and neither is our community here — I am sure we struggle with the same human weaknesses and temptations as the Apostles did — but, at the same time, in the same way as they were willing to give up their former lives and follow Jesus, I found among us here the same ardent desire to grow closer to Christ and to conform our lives to him.

On our journey, we were accompanied by a faculty that was always there for us and supported us. I really appreciated their approach: allowing us to find our way as adults but always helping and guiding us to make good decisions using and strengthening our individual gifts and talents. I met great priests from whom I learned a lot. Together with the always kind and helpful staff, they provided a wonderful atmosphere of charity and friendship here in the house, which even every visitor witnessed and which was so conducive to my formation to become, I hope, a joyful and holy priest.

As should be true for the life of every priest, the celebration of the Eucharist is also at the center of our life as seminarians at TC. And although it took me a while to adjust to the arrangements here, I started to appreciate the beauty of the simplicity with which our liturgies are celebrated.

Finally, I would like to express a word of heartfelt gratitude for the growth that I have experienced on all levels — personal, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral — here at Theological College, a growth that will surely assist me in serving in the vineyard of the Lord.

Deacon Patrick Mullan

Archdiocese of Washington

Saint Francis de Sales said, "Be who you are, and be that perfectly well." The slightly less eminent theologian, Jerry Garcia, said, "What a long, strange trip it's been!" Both of these sentiments accurately describe my journey through seminary formation. After 15 years, start to finish, I am thrilled that presbyteral ordination looms so much closer now, as daunting and humbling as that seems.

At the invitation of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ has gently led me deeper into communion with the Father. This journey has been the fulfillment of a lifetime of searching for acceptance — one that was really painful at times, especially when I got stuck on myself. The Lord has revealed his love for me during my time in seminary, and this has been a most

liberating experience. It is only in his love for us that we are able to truly be ourselves, and be that to the full.

Theological College has been a home for me — a joyful place, full of happy memories, fulsome fraternity, and the challenge of growth. I experienced such freedom at TC that I may know who I am in his sight. I am profoundly grateful to all of the people at TC who were a part of this experience. To the faculty, especially Father McBrearity — the last (and best) rector I'll ever have — and Deacon Ed McCormack, my formation advisor; to the staff, who support TC's mission in more ways than I could ever give credit; to the wonderful people of Sodexo, whose service, smiles, and devotion have all been a witness for me; most emphatically, to my brothers, past and present, who have helped me become the man I am today; and, most importantly, to God for his abundant goodness: thank you! May God be praised, forever!

Deacon Ramiro (R.J.) Regalado Jr.

Diocese of Corpus Christi

"He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land." This is just like Jesus: inviting himself into our lives. He radically changes our ideas of who we are in order to discover who we truly are in him. Becoming a priest was not my choice of a career; Jesus invited himself into my life and radically changed who I thought I was and invited me to see the person he knows me to be.

My time at Theological College was no different. Arriving on the front steps of TC in 2015, I had ideas of who I was and what kind of a priest I wanted to be. Jesus invited himself

into my life once again and called me to the foot of the cross. As difficult as it can be sometimes, it has also been a great source of grace and understanding of who I am and how God moves in my life. The men in this house have also been a source of joy and comfort. Knowing that we are after the same goal — to become the men God has called us to be — we pray with and for each other and encourage one another along the way. As I look forward to the next chapter in my life, I am encouraged by the bond of brotherhood that I have made with the men at TC and in the presbyterate of my own diocese. With the tools and formation that I have received at Theological College, as the Lord continues to invite himself into my life, I am confident that I will be able to embrace the challenges and graces that He will provide for me in order to become the man He calls me to be.

Deacon David Roman

Diocese of Bridgeport

As I reflect on my time at Theological College, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and blessing at having been formed for the priesthood here. The seminary program gave me a means of living out what John Henry Cardinal Newman highlighted in his motto: "Cor ad cor loquitor." To allow the hearts of my brothers and sisters in Christ to speak to mine and vice-versa became a cornerstone in my ministry, in my friendships, and in my prayer. There is no doubt in my mind that in those everyday human interactions I encountered the love of God. It was in the parish where I walked with the young and the old in their pursuit of the Gospel truth. It was with my good friends that I was challenged to strive for holiness and enjoy life. And it was in my prayer that God showed me the beautiful vision of where the center of the priestly life is located: the Most Sacred Heart of his son, Jesus.

Jesus, in his high priestly prayer, said to his Father, "I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them" (*Jn* 17:26). That all-encompassing concrete love of God has been the catalyst and safeguard of my vocation. And undoubtedly my priesthood will forever bear the mark of those sacred moments from my time here at TC when I was able to experience his loving presence.

Deacon Michael Russo

Archdiocese of Washington

Four years has been enough time at Theological College. This is not a negative statement; rather, it is one that reflects

Year-End Celebration and Send-Off



On May 3, the Feast of Saints Philip and James, the Theological College community gathered to celebrate the end of the academic term. The traditional Closing Mass and Banquet offered an opportunity to give thanks to God for another successful year, and to bid farewell to our 16 fourth-year deacons, third-year Basselins, resident priests, and departing advisors and faculty members, Father David Thayer, left, and Father Mel Blanchette, right.

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the quality of preparation I have received. After four years as a seminarian at TC, I feel prepared to be a parish priest. The comprehensive nature of the program has allowed me to grow into my own identity and to prepare for the different ways God may be calling me to do priestly ministry.

The spirituality of the French School and the Sulpicians has impacted me deeply. Its focus on interior contemplation and especially on the example of Mary has helped me grow in love of the Trinity. TC has also given me the opportunity to grow in my love and understanding of Liturgy, especially with the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception right across the street. Further, intellectual formation at The Catholic University of America is rigorous and comprehensive. Thanks to the professors in the School of Theology and Religious Studies, I have a grasp of our rich Catholic intellectual tradition. I am also excited that I will be coming back next year to finish a License in Sacred Theology.

Our location in Washington, D.C., has afforded me numerous pastoral experiences. Doing pastoral work simultaneously with intellectual work has helped me to stay grounded. I have had chances to put theology into practice while in seminary — by teaching, serving as a hospital chaplain, and helping at a local parish for the past two years.

I have loved my time at Theological College. It has offered me the guidance and the freedom to become more authentically the person God made me to be and to learn how to be an effective minister of his Church.

Deacon Cassidy Stinson

Diocese of Richmond

In my final months of formation, I've found myself drawn again and again to reflect on the idea of my vocation, and really my entire seminary experience, as a "gift." I can identify many graces in my life that are indeed gifts: the gift of my family upbringing in the faith, the gift of supportive priests and campus ministries as a student, and now the gift of my own call to holy orders.

One of the most striking gifts of these past six years, however, has been that of the formation and encouragement I have received throughout my time here at Theological College. As I quickly learned, we live in a complex institution that shapes a man not only through his studies and prayer, but through the guidance and encouragement of the community itself, whether formally — as in my spiritual direction and advising relationships with our faculty — or informally, through the friendships and bonds formed with all of my brother seminarians.

With that in mind, I think one of the greatest gifts Theological College could ever give me is that gift of brotherhood, a brotherhood that began with my fellow seminarians from the first seconds of my arrival on our fronts steps, and continues to the brotherhood that I joyfully anticipate sharing in the priesthood of Jesus Christ with all of the faculty who have guided me through these years.

To all who have been part of my time at Theological College — alumni, faculty, and brother seminarians alike — I simply say this: Thank you for the gift of my seminary formation, the gift of your fraternity and joy, the gift of your vocation, and your own "yes" to Our Lord. I hope, in some small way, I have been a gift to you in return.

Deacon Nye (Joseph) Wiley III

Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

What I will remember most about TC is the fraternity. During my time here, we have had many good men come through who love our Lord Jesus Christ and have responded to the call to consecrate their lives to the service of God and his Church. The faculty at TC gave us the encouragement and the space to build this fraternity.

I have been able to meet with three different Sulpician priests for spiritual direction and they all have given me good guidance and helped me to grow in my interior life. My formation director has given me good practical advice to help me be a well-balanced person and a better preacher. My classes at The Catholic University of America have given me a lot of knowledge that will be very helpful in my future ministry. I particularly liked my courses on Sacred Scripture and on spirituality.

I want to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported my vocation during this long time of formation, both in my diocese and at the seminary. Thank you and God bless you.

Memoirs of a Basselin

Reed Bellingham

Diocese of Lafayette

Thesis: "Jacques Maritain and the Principles of Human Rights"

Director: Dr. V. Bradley Lewis

Moving into Theological College from St. Ben's (Saint Joseph Seminary College) three years ago was certainly a big transition. Each of these two seminaries offered their own share of strengths and weaknesses that, I believe, have helped conform me to Christ the man. I would like to acknowledge some fond memories of TC that I will take with me as I prepare to begin the theologate, focusing on conforming myself more especially to Christ the priest.

I will remember the fun-loving atmosphere that permeated all of TC but was most concentrated outside my door at the notorious 3rd-floor intersection, known as "Pavolic Place." The irrational shenanigans, belly-laugh-inducing jokes, and Michael Russo's reliable coffee sessions that occurred there from orientation week to graduation provided an unforgettable respite from the anxieties of trying to comprehend esoteric tomes like *The Phenomenology of Spirit*.

I will never forget the wonderful opportunities in which TC's location allowed me to participate. As a lover of art, I was able to frequent the National Gallery of Art and the National Portrait Gallery and receive a little of the transcendental quality of life that can only be revealed through an artist's hand. I was also uplifted by many musical performances of various genres. And, best of all, TC's location allowed this Cajun boy to spend all of his long weekends and school breaks either hiking somewhere through the various mountain ranges that the East Coast has to offer or serving the needy in rural Appalachia.

Finally, I will never forget the devotion of the teachers and faculty members at both Catholic University and TC who, in their great wisdom, attempted to cram their decades of knowledge and life experience into my thick head over a very short period of time. I can only pray for and strive to make their generous efforts worthwhile.

Daniel Sessions

Diocese of Birmingham

Thesis: "The Role of Feelings and the Will in the Constitution of Subjectivity according to Edith Stein" **Director:** Dr. Michele Averchi, Ph.D.

I must admit that I was filled with a mixture of trepidation, excitement, and nervousness when I was asked to apply for the Basselin Scholars Program. However, when I was accepted into the program, I was given a great peace in my prayer. It was with this consolation that I began my time at Theological College three years ago.

My first class as a Basselin Scholar was Philosophy of Human Nature with Antón Barba-Kay, Ph.D., a class that excited my curiosity in a completely novel manner. We delved into discussions about how one can determine the presence of rationality and what such a presence entails. Many more similarly exciting classes would follow throughout the next three years. As I complete the Basselin Program, I know that I am not the best philosopher, but that I am a better seminarian because of the intellectual formation that I have received. For all of this, I am grateful to the generosity of Theodore Basselin.

In addition to the challenging and stimulating academics, being formed at Theological College has offered other opportunities that have impacted me. The intensity of shifting from discussions about contemporary theories of free will to presenting basic truths of the faith to sixth graders at a local parish was an invaluable pastoral experience. Furthermore, I will always be grateful for having the opportunity to pray daily at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and to delve into the French School of Spirituality. Ultimately, my three years as a Basselin have given me a deeper

understanding of the angelic doctor's profession: "Nothing but you, Lord." My formational experiences at Theological College have given me a desire to know the truth so that I may love and proclaim Truth Himself.

Michael Vidrine

Diocese of Lafayette

Thesis: "Demonstration and Myth According to Plato and the Philosophers in the Islamic World" **Director:** Thérèse-Anne Druart, Ph.D.

In spite of all the blood, sweat, and tears of these past three years in the Basselin Scholars Program, I am extremely grateful for my time at The Catholic University of America. Studying is made easier when one has good teachers, and the teachers in the School of Philosophy at Catholic University have continuously impressed me with their dedication, skill, enthusiasm, and incredible minds. These teachers have given me much more than I ever hoped from an education.

I also look back gratefully on my time at Saint Ambrose Catholic Church in Annandale, Va., my pastoral assignment through Theological College. I am thankful that, even though I have been a thousand miles from my home diocese, I was not far from the life of a parish where I can teach and serve the Mass, where I am welcomed and feel at home. It has been an ever present and ever sweet reminder of the vocation to which I am ultimately aspiring.

I am thankful, furthermore, for the Theological College community, especially for those with whom I have been able to further cultivate my love for the outdoors through our frequent backpacking trips; for the Basselin community, and the particular kind of support and friendship that can only come from those who understand what it means to be Basselin; and for the guidance of spiritual direction from Father David Thayer and formation advisor Father Dominic Ciriaco.

I give thanks to the Lord for these and so much more from the past three years that must go unmentioned in this short memoir. I pray that my continued learning will forevermore be just as much of an inspiration of wonder and love for God.



Basselin scholars of the Class of 2019 with the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Christophe Pierre (center) and Father McBrearity. From left, Michael Vidrine, Reed Bellingham, and, at far right, Daniel (Jeff) Sessions.



Seminarian Luke Kirk (1-B, Lafayette) discusses the art exhibit with visitors on opening day.

"Epiphanies of Beauty" Art Show

Charles Silvas

Second Theology, Diocese of Corpus Christi

Through the joint sponsorship and support of Theological College and the Father Blanchette Fund for the Arts, Theological College hosted its second biennial "Epiphanies of Beauty" art show on Saturday, March 23, in honor of the 20th anniversary of Saint John Paul II's "Letter to Artists." The event was attended by seminarians and friends of Theological College, the surrounding houses of formation, and students from The Catholic University of America.

The late Holy Father addressed this letter to "all who are passionately dedicated to the search for new 'epiphanies' of beauty so that through their creative work as artists they may offer these as gifts to the world." The Holy Father goes on to say, "Not all are called to be artists in the specific sense of the term. Yet ... all men and women are entrusted with the task of crafting their own life: in a certain sense, they are to make of it a work of art, a masterpiece."

The pieces of art on display were comprised of works from the communities of Theological College, Capuchin College, Institute of the Incarnate Word, and the Sister Servants of the Lord & the Virgin of Matará.

The show was coordinated by TC seminarian artists Elmer Herrera-Guzmán (3-T, Dallas) and Anthony Ferguson (3-T, Richmond). Ferguson highlighted that "art is important because it is an expression of the image of God in us. We create art because God first created us — just as we love because he first loved us!" Ferguson went on to explain art's potential as a means of evangelization, noting that "it's crucial that our artwork points beyond our own creativity and personality to the Lord who is the source of all creativity and personality. Apart from him, we can do nothing."

The display of this year's art show coincided with Theological College's annual appreciation reception and dinner for the site supervisors who host seminarians for their pastoral placements (see p. 17). The exhibit remained on display until April 12, 2019.

Supervisors' Appreciation Dinner

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., Director of Pastoral Formation, and Mrs. Cornelia Hart, Administrative Assistant

Theological College is honored to continue its institutional relationship with 24 parishes, three universities, five hospitals, and eight nonprofit organizations to facilitate the pastoral formation of its men. The seminarians spend four to six hours a week engaging in various ministries in diverse pastoral settings within the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

On Wednesday, April 3, 2019, the TC community gathered with a sense of profound gratitude to honor pastoral supervisors for their dedicated service and excellence in supervision. After guests were greeted by seminarians and faculty for Solemn Vespers at 5:30 p.m., the chapel began to fill with prayer, chant, and the sweet odor of incense. Father Chris Arockiaraj, Director of Pastoral Formation, presided over Vespers. Rev. Gerald McBrearity, the rector of TC, welcomed the guests. In his homily, Father Chris highlighted the life



Father McBrearity presents Father Andrew Fisher with the award for excellence in pastoral supervision.

of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, focusing on her authentic sense of recognizing and serving God through her charitable and pastoral ministry: "Mother Teresa found meaning and true joy in identifying herself as an ambassador of Christ's love." He encouraged the seminarians in their pastoral zeal and dedication in ministry and commended the supervisors for their genuine support of the mission of Theological

College. Father Chris directed them to the example of Pope Francis, who said, "The seminary is intended to prepare seminarians to be shepherds in the image of Christ; priestly formation must be permeated by a pastoral spirit. It will make them able to demonstrate that same compassion, generosity, love for all, especially for the poor, and zeal for the Kingdom that characterized the public ministry of the Son of God. This can be summed up as pastoral charity" (*Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* — 2016). Following Vespers, there was a brief reception with hors d'oeuvres followed by a banquet for the 52 guest participants.

For the benefit of all assembled, Father McBrearity briefly recounted the history of the Pastoral Formation Program at Theological College, the first of its kind and a model for seminaries worldwide. The highlight of the evening was his presentation of the 2019 Fr. Gerald S. Brown Award for Excellence in Pastoral Formation Supervision, given to Father Andrew Fisher, pastor of Saint Ambrose in Annandale, Va., in recognition of his extraordinary generosity and shining

example to our seminarians. Father Fisher's involvement in the formation of priests began in 2001 when he was Director of Liturgy at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He began working closely with Theological College as an extern spiritual director during Father Tom Hurst's term as rector of T.C. Father Fisher's position at the National Shrine allowed him to give seminarians an opportunity to learn from and be part of the Basilica's impressive liturgies and busy ministerial life. In 2009, Father Fisher was made pastor of Saint Ambrose Church, and happily took on the responsibility for assisting in the pastoral formation of another generation of seminarians, this year hosting four TC seminarians in their pastoral ministry in his parish.

Father Fisher expressed heartfelt thanks for the award, saying he felt deeply honored to receive it "as part of the Theological College Community." He recalled the words of Saint Vincent de Paul on priestly formation, revealing the heart of TC's pastoral formation program: theology learned in the classroom is best understood when brought to families, to the parish, and to the people. He exhorted our seminarians, "Know the reason for your vocation, ... [which is] to inspire those who hunger for God ... If only one person is to hear and believe, your priesthood is fruitful beyond imagining." Father Fisher went on, "Love your people, greet them after Mass, respond to those e-mails quickly, visit the sick, and visit the classrooms. Go to them. Make time for those who come without appointments. If they know you love them, they will help in all things." He concluded his moving remarks with these inspirational words to our seminarians:

"As you know, these are challenging times. You — the seminarians and deacons here tonight — are the men God chooses to be priests at this time and place in history. God has called each of you to play a special role in the work of rebuilding the Church. When you are in your parishes, let the people of God see your faith, your fidelity, your chastity, your commitment to the truth, and your love for God's people."



Father Chris Arockiaraj offers the homily during Solemn Vespers with pastoral supervisors.



Pastoral Ministry Profile

Chaplaincy Education at Children's Michael Kieler

Second Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine



the nurses at every weekly visit to determine which patients are most in need of a chaplain that day and how the medical staff can better care for these children

Even from my first days as a seminarian nearly five years ago, hospital ministry had always seemed daunting. During my first four years, the pastoral dimension of formation included ministries to college students, the homeless, immigrants, and many others. Yet hospital chaplaincy seemed like a challenge of an entirely different sort. Finally, this year, as a second theologian

at Theological College, I participated in a chaplaincy internship while taking Basic Supervised Ministry at Catholic University. For my internship, I was assigned to Children's National Medical Center here in Washington, D.C.

Chaplaincy at a pediatric hospital has been both challenging and rewarding. Perhaps the case that most effected me this year best illustrates the complex dynamics involved in the ministry. One day, I entered a patient's room, expecting to encounter a child with a treatable, chronic condition. Instead, I found myself listening to his parents lamenting the tragic loss of their baby just days before. I tried my best to keep my composure as they recounted to me the distressing story of their baby's death. They asked me to pray with them, to which I agreed and prayed as best as I was able in the moment. After the parents left for an errand, their older child was anxious to leave the hospital room to play in a common area where there were many toys. For the next hour or so, my job changed from the intensity of consoling grieving parents to the levity of supervising a child at play. Interning as a chaplain at Children's, I have learned that both roles are just as dignified and necessary. Though I could not understand how this child was suffering interiorly from the loss of his sibling, I saw that playing with other children seemed to bring him some consolation.

With all of the challenges that this year has presented to me, I have grown tremendously in my skills and confidence as a pastoral minister. Father Quinn Conners and my classmates in Basic Supervised Ministry have provided me with immensely helpful feedback, as has Rev. Matthew Schlageter, my on-site supervisor and a full-time chaplain at Children's. Reflecting on the intimidation I faced at the beginning of chaplaincy — and which is still a reality at times — I find consolation in the example of the Virgin Mary. She might have been frightened by the implications of the Archangel Gabriel's message at the Annunciation. She probably feared being rejected and persecuted by those who knew nothing of her virginal conception of Jesus. Yet, rather than remaining in her fear, we are told that she hastily left Nazareth to visit her cousin Elizabeth (cf. Luke 1:39). She brought to her relatives the living presence of Christ and the joy that this presence invoked. Similarly, I find that my calling as a pastoral minister is to move past my own apprehensions and simply bring the presence of Christ to people who are suffering or despairing. I am immensely grateful for my experience as a chaplain this year and for all the ways it has helped to form me in my vocation.

Spring Break: Focus on Mission

Spring break for Theological College seminarians is a welcomed opportunity for pilgrimages, charitable work, academic efforts, and rest. This year, many TC seminarians traveled overseas to Rome, Barcelona, Lourdes, Fatima, Paris, and Ireland. Four seminarians joined the Appalachian Service Project, an organization that TC has partnered with annually since 2016. Twenty percent of the house, representing seven different dioceses, went to Comayagua, in the Republic of Honduras, to work with the Missioners of Christ (Misioneros de Cristo). Participants in these latter two mission trips offer their reflections, below.

Appalachia

Brian Ashmankis Second Theologian, Diocese of Worcester

Over the spring break (March 10 through 16), four seminarians embarked upon the annual service trip through Appalachia Service Project (ASP). The Social Justice Committee has sponsored this trip with the help of the Sulpician Province of the USA for the past four years. Smaller in number this year, we had the opportunity to grow in friendship with each other and to serve as spiritual mentors and role models for over 60 college students who participated in the same program.

The TC group heading to Wyoming County, W.Va. (population 21,210), a rural area in the southern part of the state, consisted of Nic Cochran (2-PT, Wheeling-Charleston), Ryan Braam (1-T, Washington), Aaron Ledgerwood (2-T, Pittsburgh), and myself. We drove out Saturday and stopped for the night in Richwood, W.Va., where we participated in parish Masses Saturday evening and Sunday morning, an experience that was deeply affirming of our calls to parish priesthood. We then drove on to Brenton, W.Va., where the ASP service center is located. For the rest of the week, we found ourselves crawling under a trailer to install insulation during the day and, in the evenings, learning from the residents about Wyoming County and the causes and effects of poverty.

Although blessed by beautiful mountains, kind and hardworking people, and many natural resources, Appalachia has found all these exploited throughout her history, leaving the land and water polluted and the people in extreme poverty and oppressive working conditions, if there is any work at all. Her coal and timber are mined and logged for minimal compensation, her people forced to work in unsafe conditions, and her mountaintops literally blown up in a mechanized process requiring little labor and leaving much pollution. That week we were able to provide some help to reduce a resident's unmanageable heating bill, but more important were the relationships we built with the residents and the lessons we learned regarding the situation in which so many Appalachians find themselves. During our times of reflection, we discussed the issue of poverty's impact (or lack thereof) in our own lives and how we are called to minister to those for whom poverty is a daily reality. We saw structures of sin especially in industries which place profit over people.

Another important moment of this trip was the opportunity to attend weekday Mass at Holy Cross (the only Catholic church in the county), celebrated daily because of our presence there that week. Holy Cross is one of five parishes the pastor has been entrusted with, so Sunday Mass is celebrated only once a month there for the 18 parishioners registered. We then joined the priest and two of those parishioners, a retired married couple who provide leadership for the parish in

Before leaving, the participants in the Appalachian and Honduran mission trips received a special blessing from Father Chris Arockiarai,



Seminarian Life
Seminarian Life

the interim between Masses, for dinner. We received a taste of the facets of parish life that we will one day conduct as priests: ministering to the poor, accompanying young people on their faith journeys, and building relationships with our fellow priests and ministers. We look forward to our next trip to Appalachia as we continue this excellent TC tradition.

Brian Ashmankas has been selected to participate in the 2019 Seminary Program of the Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). He will take part in a two-week program in Germany and Poland this summer, which will focus upon the historical examples of clergy and religious leaders in Nazi-occupied Europe and how these studies may influence contemporary professional ethics, especially among those who will exercise leadership in their clerical and pastoral careers. (Watch for the next issue of The Crossroads to read about his experience!)

Honduras

Alexandre Jiménez de Alcântara Second Theologian, Diocese of Richmond

The work of the Missioners of Christ has become known to many at Theological College through the experience of Joseph Kauflin (2-T, Richmond), who had spent three years with them prior to his entrance to the seminary. Joe has returned to their mission every spring break, bringing more and more

seminarians with him each time. The Missioners of Christ is a Catholic community of lay people whose lives are centered in prayer, focusing especially on evangelization, including street ministry and door-to-door visitations.

During my spring break with the Missioners of Christ in Honduras, I was able to visit two different mountain communities with my assigned team. My team, comprised of two leaders, one Focus Missionary, three college students, and myself, lived with the communities of Quebradas and Zacatales. While there, we visited about 20 different homes where we were welcomed so graciously by the people. We ate with them, heard their stories, shared about ourselves, and, in a special way, shared our Catholic faith. We also offered Mass and a Holy Hour to both communities — events which they usually experience only a few times a year. The Catholics in those communities struggle to live out their faith because of tensions which have escalated recently with the Protestants. More people seem to be leaving the Catholic Church to join Protestant denominations. Therefore, those who have chosen to remain Catholic are in great need of support, encouragement, and ministers to serve them.

Because of this reality, I felt blessed to be able to share in their struggles and to stand by them as a fellow Catholic brother. I also felt inspired by the people — by their humility, their openness, their kindness, and their hard work. They have a special place in my heart and, God willing, I hope to return to visit them one day.

Deaconate Ordinations 2019



From left, newly ordained deacons from Dallas, Mark Garrett, Elmer Herrera-Guzmán, Ryan Hiaeshutter, and Garrett Bockman on April 27, 2019. Other TC seminarians recently ordained to the diaconate are Anthony Ferguson (Richmond) and Jaime Maldonado-Avilés (Hartford). Brother Matthias Hagge (Little Rock, Subiaco Abbey) will be ordained July 16.

Seminarian Initiatives

Theological College has long been recognized for its generative atmosphere, in which students are actively involved in their own formation while inspiring collegiality and profound fraternity among brother seminarians. In the appreciative words of the rector, Father McBrearity, "Consensus, creativity, charity, and compassion characterized this year's Student Government Association team and animated all their projects." In this issue we put the spotlight on two SGA committees as well as the Alberione Project, which have had an energizing impact not only on those at TC, but on many others, near and far, who have come in contact with them.



Deacon Tim Deely greets Sister Helen Prejean, an outspoken restorative justice advocate, who stayed in TC accommodations during her recent visit to campus.

Social Justice at TC

Nic Cochran Chairman, Social Justice Committee Second Pre-Theology, Diocese of Charleston

The USCCB calls the social teachings of the Church "a central and essential element of our faith." This year, the Social Justice Committee (SJC) worked to provide robust experiences

for seminarians as it strove to elevate Catholic Social Teaching (CST) and serve as a reminder that the social teachings of our Church are not a part of the "buffet Catholicism," but essential to the faith. This year, we offered many opportunities for seminarians to accept Jesus' invitation, in the Gospel of Saint Matthew, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and ransom the captive.

Two seminarians, Wesbee Victor (2-T, New York) and David Schmidt (2-T, Pittsburgh) coordinated with Sodexo's Sunder Michael and his staff to provide meals for people experiencing homelessness. Men in the house offered their time to prepare and package these meals, and another team drove to Catholic Charities on New York Avenue to distribute food. Shortly after our fall and spring breaks, we invited seminarians to donate unwanted clothes and new socks and underwear to distribute during our food runs. We also had the opportunity to spend time getting to know our brothers and sisters experiencing homelessness, hear stories of how they had become homeless, and listen to their hopes and dreams. A notable highlight occurred when one of the team spent time talking with a Muslim man, answering questions about Catholicism.

One of the SJC's biggest endeavors is the diaper drive held every spring during the Iron Seminarian tournament. In the weeks leading up to the finals, each class collects diapers to donate to the DC Diaper Bank, which, in turn, gives them to organizations that support expectant mothers.

This year, however, the Diaper Bank was filled to capacity with diapers. After discussion with the Diaper Bank, the coordinators of the drive, Joe Gonzalez (1-PT, Washington) and Nick Rapkoch (1-T, Raleigh) informed the community

Monsignor McPartlan on the Centrality of the Eucharist

Kyle Vance First Theology, Archdiocese of Washington



The Prayer and Worship Committee of Theological College was recently privileged to host Monsignor Paul McPartlan, S.T.L., D.Phil., a Catholic University priest-professor renowned for Roman Catholic-Orthodox ecumenical dialogue and Eucharistic

Ecclesiology. Monsignor came one evening to speak on "The Role of the Liturgy in Priestly Life and Spirituality." In his engaging presentation, Monsignor McPartlan emphasized the Eucharist as the source and summit of priestly life, the centrality of the Eucharistic Sacrifice in the life of the priest, and how that leads us out to mission. The priest centers his spirituality around the altar; rooted in the fertile ground of his common priesthood, he personally offers up the sacrifice of his life (as do all the baptized by their common priesthood) in and through the one sacrifice of Christ that he offers by virtue of his ministerial priesthood. Thus, renewed by Holy Communion and transformed into the body of Christ which he receives, he finds it his solemn task to guide the members of this body in bringing God's love and grace into the world as did the first apostles after Pentecost. As De Lubac would say, our Churches are the upper room were not only the Last Supper, but Pentecost also, are renewed in the celebration of the Mass. "We gather, and then we go."

Seminarian Life



David Lang and TC seminarians visit Washington Hebrew Congregation.

PWC Outreach to Washington Hebrew Congregation

Luke Kirk *First Basselin, Diocese of Lafayette*

As we walked through the welcoming doors into the Washington Hebrew Congregation on March 23, we passed the armed guards and entered into a space rich with history and the holy. Thanks to the TC Schola director, David Lang, our liaison to the synagogue, the seminarians of Theological College were welcomed to both a Shabbat and Bar Mitzvah service at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, an educative visit supported by TC's Prayer and Worship Committee. This congregation, D.C.'s first and largest Jewish congregation, began in 1852. They petitioned Congress for permission to establish themselves, and President Pierce signed the Act of Incorporation in 1856. President Truman laid the cornerstone for their present building, which was dedicated by President Eisenhower in 1955.

Before the service, Cantor Susan Bortnick gave us an in-depth presentation on Judaism, particularly in the United States, and went through the signs and symbols of the services we were about to experience. We were struck by the shared elements of our worship as together we prayed our common Biblical prayers, sang the Sanctus, and were lifted up to God through beautiful chant. As the Torah was taken from the ark and was processed through the Congregation, their reverence for the Word of God led one to appreciate even more deeply the wonder of the Word made Flesh, who dwells among us in our tabernacles. At this particular moment in our history, the TC seminarians were honored to stand and pray to God with our Jewish brothers and sisters, and through this experience have been blessed with a deeper understanding of our shared traditions.

that we would collect baby wipes instead of diapers this year. Theological College was able to donate over 170,000 baby wipes to the Diaper Bank.

During the fall semester, the SJC invited Deacon Andy and Kate Grosmaire to share their experience with restorative justice. They spoke to us about forgiving their daughter's murderer, relating their powerful journey to reconciliation through restorative justice based on Gospel values (see the Spring 2019 issue of *The Crossroads*, p.13).

In early April, the SJC also hosted Mike Curtin from the D.C. Central Kitchen (DCCK), an organization dedicated to quality employment and job training for people who were formerly incarcerated or who are otherwise viewed as "unemployable." Mike shared with us how the Central Kitchen has provided quality nutritious food at economically challenged schools and homeless shelters while empowering and providing skills to its staff. However, while both works fulfill the mission of DCCK, Mike said the most important work they do is facilitating encounters between their personnel and volunteers. It is through these volunteer opportunities that people are able to work with others they normally wouldn't work with. As Mike put it, "a real estate agent and a homeless felon wouldn't normally work together, especially with the felon teaching the real estate agent the finer points of culinary art." Like the Grosmaires, Mike spoke to how we can ransom the captive in our lives today.

In addition to these discussions about social justice, morethan-willing seminarians put their boots on the ground. Austin Hoodenpyle (1-T, Fort Worth) coordinated with Catholic University's Cardinals for Life and led seminarians to a Planned Parenthood clinic during the 40 Days for Life. There they were a prayerful witness to those entering and leaving the clinic and they provided spiritual support to the students who had arrived to pray, as well as to the sidewalk counselors. Many seminarians offered helping hands and hearts in Appalachia and Honduras (see pp. 19-20). Brian Ashmankas (2-T, Worcester) coordinated volunteers for Lighthouse DC. Lighthouse DC is a startup nonprofit in the city that provides furniture for people transitioning out of homelessness as they qualify for city housing but who still lack the means for furnishing their new home. Seminarians helped organize the warehouse, drove U-Hauls to pick up donated furniture, and assisted with delivering that furniture to the new homes of families in need.

Not only are our seminarians promoting social justice through discussions and volunteer opportunities, but they are ready to put their money where their faith is. Deacon Elmer Herrera-Guzmán (3-T, Dallas) facilitated the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program and raised over \$300. Deacon Joseph Wiley (4-T, Wheeling-Charleston) informed us of the major flooding in Kerala, India. We raised \$257 to donate to The Congregation of the Little Flower in Kerala to assist these religious priests in their efforts to provide relief for the people in that region. Peter Bui (2-PT, Worcester) brought to the SJC's attention the need of the Salesian Sisters of Don

Bosco in New Jersey. The sisters run an all-girls school and in 2018 there was a four-alarm fire that decimated their chapel. During our spring house party, we raised over \$1,100, which was matched by an anonymous donor, resulting in a donation of over \$2,100.

This year, the life of the Student Government Association's SJC has provided enriching opportunities for men to serve their sisters and brothers at micro and macro levels. We strive, as the USCCB urges, to stand on the two feet of charity and social justice. In the upcoming year, we hope to foster stronger relationships with the various SGA committees, especially the Prayer and Worship Committee, to bring social justice themes into our liturgical life. We are grateful to be a prayerful presence for those on the margins, and to serve as a reminder to ourselves and others about the central and essential social teachings of our Church.

Prayer and Worship Committee Update

This year's Prayer and Worship Committee (PWC) was committed to its mission to support spiritual formation at TC. In addition to events such as those decribed in the blue sidebars in this article, the committee hosted two pilgrimages in the spring. The first was an hour's drive away, to the Carmel of Port Tobacco, founded in 1790 and the oldest Carmelite monastery in the United States. Those on the pilgrimage were able to talk through the grille with the interesting and animated Discalced Carmelites about their life and the history of their order and monastery.

The second pilgrimage, in anticipation of the spring weekend of recollection at TC, was to the beautiful Shrine of the Sacred Heart near the corner of 16th Street, about two miles away. This walking journey included the Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, and private prayer. Seminarians appreciated the thought-provoking tour of the Shrine, through which they learned about its history and spiritual significance.

Attending to smaller but important needs, the PWC purchased a set of five shorter Christian Prayer books for use by guests visiting TC during celebrations of Morning

and Evening Prayer. They also purchased two reference books compiling the USCCB newsletters from 1965 to 2010 regarding liturgical changes and notices, for anyone who is doing research or who would like to explore a change that was made over the years.

The Alberione Project Flourishes

Within its first six months of existence, The Alberione Project's apostolate, The Big Tree, released 11 fascinating podcasts on topics of concern to seminarians and lay people alike, such as Catholic journalism, media apostleship and Thomistic principles, Catholic social teaching, the theology of blessing, and, of course, priestly formation. The Alberione Project also sponsors formation events for seminarians at Theological College as a part of its mission to aid them in using the media for the sake of evangelization as diocesan priests. The first event, at the outset of the project in November, hosted the Daughters of St. Paul, who spoke of how their own mission was catalyzed by Father Alberione, and the shape that work takes today. In March, the team invited a speaker from Life Teen, a social-media driven outreach who mission statement reads: "As a Eucharistcentered movement within the Roman Catholic Church. Life Teen leads teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. With the Blessed Virgin Mary as our intercessor and guide, Life Teen seeks to unleash the fullness of the sacramental power present within the young Church."

Inspiration from LifeTeen

Ryan Braam

First Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

Fittingly, it was by the power of modern media that Leah Murphy, the Coordinator for Digital Evangelization and Outreach for Life Teen International, gave a video conference to the gathered seminarians about how parishes can best use different social media platforms to reach both parishioners and nonparishioners.



TC seminarians formed an assembly line in Olier Hall to prepare meals for the homeless.

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Throughout her presentation, Leah emphasized how much time people, especially young people, spend on social media. Therefore, it is critically important for parishes also to be present there in order to meet people where they are. While providing a basic overview of the different social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, she also provided concrete examples of how parishes can best utilize each platform based on the successful examples of actual parishes she has come across.

While some suggestions seemed obvious to me, such as listing upcoming parish events on a Facebook page, others challenged me to consider new ways that social media can be used by a parish. One of these ways was using social media as a means of providing pastoral care to parishioners throughout the week. One parish that Leah showed us is regularly publishing inspiring and encouraging content on an Instagram page. This really struck me as a creative way to help Christians to stay connected with their faith in the midst of ordinary life

while acknowledging that many people struggle to find the time to come to more conventional parish events.

The entire presentation led me to reflect more deeply about how using media, especially the Internet, will be essential to evangelization in light of the realities of today's culture. With so many people disassociating from organized religion, there are so many who will never be reached if we wait for people to come to us at the parish. Leah's presentation helped to highlight that the Internet and social media present a place to encounter people where they already are, so that they can experience the saving message of the Gospel. Personally, I am so excited by the potential that these tools present to us as future priests and pastors.

To find out more about The Alberione Project, see the Spring 2019 issue of *The Crossroads* (p. 8), or go to the *theologicalcollege.org* website and click on the Formation tab to find Media Evangelization, where information and *The Big Tree* podcasts are available.

Sports: A Semester in Review

Sean Neville
First Basselin, Diocese of Cleveland



While our athletic skills might not be of Olympic caliber, nonetheless, sporting competitions fuel the positive energy of Theological College's house of men like nothing else. The first of our major contests began in February with the annual Iron Seminarian Tournament — an in-house competition of darts, pool, and ping-pong where one lucky seminarian will triumph over all aspiring contestants and receive the coveted "blue vest of victory." After a month of play, it was anybody's game going into the semifinals. The semifinals and finals drew a big crowd of spectators, and the night was filled with lots of food, fraternity, and fun. Despite the best efforts of Deacon Joseph Wiley from the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, Alex Jiménez from the Diocese of

Richmond came out on top by beating Wiley in ping-pong. Jiménez could be seen the next day with a victorious smile on his face, clutching his championship vest proudly.

A few weeks after the Iron Seminarian Tournament, we had our first annual March Madness dodgeball tournament. Replacing basketball from former years, dodgeball allowed seminarians of all shapes, sizes, and athletic abilities to compete. Some men added to the spirit of the occasion by dressing up in various costumes, attracting quite an audience at the DuFour Center. The teams were divided by class, allowing for some pre-tournament smack talk. The championship game was between the Pre-Theology/Basselin team vs. Second Theology. The Pre-Theology/Basselin team put up a good fight, but it wasn't enough to surmount the Second Theologians in the end.

At the end of March, we had our second annual Copa Inmaculata soccer tournament. This was a competition between the many different seminaries and religious communities that study with us at The Catholic University of America. The weather was beautiful, and TC fought hard. Missing some of the more skilled soccer players in house, our team made it to the semifinals where we lost to the tournament champions, the Institute of the Incarnate Word. It was a great time to compete and converse with the various communities represented at the University.

Sports have played a large role in the formation of many of our seminarians' lives. We are very grateful for the various opportunities we have to continue to glorify God and to grow together through sporting activities. I know I speak for many of the guys when I say that we're excited to return at the conclusion of this summer and get back out onto the field for some sports.

Strategies for De-Escalating Conflict

"You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness." James 1:19-20

Emotions and tempers flare quickly in our busy, high-stress world, and even well-intentioned efforts to defuse interpersonal conflict can backfire. When tensions run high, often the best short-term solution is conflict de-escalation, not conflict resolution. De-escalation helps ensure the immediate conflict does not spiral out of control. Conflict resolution is a longer-term process that is more likely to be successful if early interactions are handled in a thoughtful, pastoral way. Cultivating skills for empathic listening and remembering to focus on the person, not the problem, can help lower the temperature of a difficult situation.

Being Right Versus Being Effective

The guiding principle for navigating interpersonal conflict should be pastoral, not personal. Our very human reaction to being challenged is to stand our ground and insist on our own point of view. When the other person becomes upset or angry, however, it is helpful to put those personal feelings aside until they can be addressed in a less emotionally charged setting.

Listen Carefully to Understand

In the heat of the moment it is tempting to stop listening and focus instead on choosing the best words to "fight back." When de-escalation is the goal, it is important to listen even more carefully than usual. Seek to understand what the person is feeling and why they are behaving in this way, and then respond accordingly. Empathy is key: even if you do not agree with the person, expressing genuine understanding about why he is upset can help minimize the potential for escalation.

Getting to Yes

The more often we can get the other person to say yes, the more quickly the conflict will de-escalate. It can help to ask clarifying questions and make summarizing statements that prompt agreement: "You are feeling frustrated because of

these three things that have happened, is that correct?" This also reinforces the feeling that you understand what they are saying. It is always helpful to make a personal connection; just using the person's name when you address him or her can often ease some of the immediate tension in the room.

De-escalating Yourself

It is important to be aware of how this type of encounter activates our own negative emotions. Identify and understand your personal triggers: what words or actions are more likely to put you on the defensive? How does your body language and tone of voice change when you are challenged? If you do become agitated or angry, try these quick steps to become more physically and emotionally balanced:

- Take three deep, slow breaths in through your nose and out through your mouth
- Physically take a step back from the person with whom you are in conflict
- Use a slower, low tone of voice

Avoid clichés and condescending or dismissive language; telling a person to "calm down" can often produce the opposite result. Careful, empathic listening also gives you more time to collect your thoughts, breathe, and respond calmly.

Shift the Conversation to the Future

Give yourself permission to end the conversation if the person is not responding to your attempts to defuse the tension. Ask for a "time-out": suggest that the conversation be continued at another time and make an appointment to speak further about the issue. Using the word "we" suggests a shared solution — "What do we need to do to move things forward?" Deescalation will not necessarily solve the big-picture problems that might have led to the current confrontation. It can, however, help shift the conversation into a healthier space and ultimately facilitate long-term conflict resolution.

This column was provided by Beth Davis and SLIconnect, the continuing formation resource of Saint Luke Institute, offering online and print resources for Catholic clergy, religious, and lay leadership designed by experts in psychological and spiritual health. Visit www.SLIconnect.org to learn more.



Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff

Faculty and Staff

Rev. James L. McKearney, P.S.S., M.S./M.Mus., S.T.L., S.T.D.

Rev. John C. Selner Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy

Rev. Richard M. Gula, P.S.S., Sulpician Consultor and Director of Personnel for the U.S. Province



Theological College has a long tradition of providing excellent pastoral training for its seminarians. An integral component of being prepared to provide liturgical leadership is to have an understanding of the musical structure of Liturgy, along with an ability

to prepare and judge appropriate music for worship. To ensure that there will be the highest quality of musical and liturgical formation of candidates preparing for ordained ministry at Theological College, the Sulpician Province has established the Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S., Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy.

Father Selner is well remembered as a musician, composer, writer, and director of music who served at Theological College for 11 years. While on the faculty of TC, he also served as an associate professor at The Catholic University of America and was music director at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. His legacy will now live on through this endowed chair. The endowment for this chair

has already reached \$920,000 towards the goal of \$1,500,000.

The Province is happy to announce that the first to hold this Chair will be a Sulpician, Rev. James McKearney, P.S.S. Father McKearney was ordained for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., in 1997 and has been a Sulpician since 2001. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position. He served as music teacher for adults with special needs (1985–1990) in Southbury, Conn.; parish music director at Assumption Church in Ansonia, Conn. (1988–1992); dean of the American Guild of Organists, Danbury Chapter (1988–1991); associate pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford, Conn. (1997–1999); and director of music while on the faculty of St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, Calif. (1999–2002; 2006–2013).

He received a Bachelor's (1984) and then a Master's (1987) in Music Education from Western Connecticut State University; a certification as a music therapist from the American Association for Music Therapy in 1988; an M.Div. from St. Mary's Seminary & University in 1996; an S.T.L. (2006) and an S.T.D. (2008) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, with the thesis: "Sacred Music's Theological and Catechetical Significance: A Patristic Foundation for Contemporary Music Criticism."

About his position, Father McKearney says, "I look forward to this fine opportunity and am honored to be the first Sulpician to hold the Rev. John C. Selner Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy at Theological College. Among my hopes are helping seminarians to receive an education in Church music suitable for the needs of the Church and today's parish. Also, I hope to be able to prepare seminarians for their role as future singers and celebrants. I think it is wonderful that TC will have a Sulpician in this position full time."

Rev. Andrzej (Andrew) Szablewski, P.S.S., B.Th., Psy.L., S.T.L.



Father Andrzej (Andrew) was born in communist Poland, where he grew up in a happy family of three boys: Andrew, Peter, and Paul. His youngest brother, who is physically handicapped, was a major influence on his priestly vocation discernment, which began

when he was young. He entered the seminary in his diocese right after graduating from high school. He had completed a philosophy degree and had begun a theology degree when the Spirit led him to Canada, where he would do missionary work. He loved the people and the country and decided to remain where it seemed he was needed the most. In time, he was sent to Edmonton to continue his priestly formation. Besides studying theology, he enjoyed learning to play Canadian sports, reading, and watercolor painting.

He was ordained in 1999 for the Diocese of Prince Albert, northern Saskatchewan. First, he served as an assistant pastor, and then as a pastor of five rural parishes of his diocese, where he also enjoyed fishing, canoeing, and camping with the people of God that he served. After several years of service he was called to join the Sulpician Fathers (Canadian province), who had expressed a desire to have him in their ranks. Following a brief experience in formation ministry in Montreal, Quebec, he was sent to complete a degree in psychology at the Gregorian University in Rome, from which he received his Psy.L. in 2008.

His first appointment was to Saint Joseph Seminary in Edmonton. He served on the Sulpician team, where he

was responsible for human formation and counseling. He directed the Enculturation Program for International Priests and taught psychology and pastoral courses at Newman Theological College, where he also served as the chair of that department. He was available for pastoral counseling and therapy, as well as spiritual direction of diocesan clergy and laity.

After seven years working in seminary formation, Father Andrew went on to complete an S.T.L. in moral theology in 2015 (also at the Gregorian), and he was then appointed to teach and to form seminarians in Montreal. During a two-year period there, he taught psychology, moral theology, and ethics. He was involved in formation ministry and was responsible for the human formation sessions, with both spiritual and human accompaniment. He was also involved in the permanent formation program. He is fluent in Polish, English, French, and Italian.

Father Andrew is looking forward to his appointment at Theological College, with its new challenges and joys. He is keen to hear from all students and faculty as to what books, movies, sports, and art he should seek out to get acclimated to Washington, D.C., and the United States of America — his new home away from home.



David Lang offers words of appreciation for his time at TC and encouragement to seminarians at the house's final music practice, at which he received a Saint Cecilia bronze relief plaque as a token of gratitude for his incredible contributions to the seminary music program.



On behalf of all TC seminarians, Nick Rapkoch (1-T, Raleigh), right, greets the Sodexo staff to a surprise spring luncheon planned by the men to thank them for their devoted service to the seminary community.

Alumni Day

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Annual Alumni Lecture

"Healthy Ministry: Self-Care in Times of Stress and Transition" Theological College, Viéban Hall, 9 a.m. Kathy Galleher, Ph.D., Presenter



Kathy Galleher, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist with over 25 years of experience who specializes in working with those in ministry and religious life. She received a doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology from Colorado State University in 1993 and has been a therapist, university professor, consultant, and workshop presenter.

For eight years she was a staff psychologist at the Saint Luke Institute, where she worked with priests and religious on a wide variety of mental health and boundary issues. In 2006, she left SLI to open KMG Consultation, which specializes in offering workshops and individual therapy to support healthy ministry. She presents workshops on healthy boundaries, selfcare, conflict management, healthy sexual integration, and Internet pornography. She regularly presents conferences on healthy sexual integration and boundaries to seminarians at Theological College and directs the Healthy Sexual Integration in Religious Life program in the Washington, D.C., area. She has presented to a number of groups including the Institute for Religious Formation, Religious Formation Conference, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the National Religious Vocations Conference, and the Catholic Volunteer Network. She has also worked with numerous dioceses and men's and women's congregations.

Alumni Day Mass

Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 5:15 p.m. Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, Principal Celebrant



28

His Excellency Wilton D. Gregory was installed as the seventh Archbishop of Washington on May 21. Archbishop Gregory was born December 7, 1947, in Chicago and attended Saint Carthage Grammar School, where he converted to Catholicism. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles

College (now Saint Joseph's College Seminary) of Loyola University and Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 9, 1973, and in 1976 began graduate studies at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant' Anselmo) in Rome. There he earned his doctorate in sacred liturgy in 1980.

After having served as an associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, Ill., as a member of the faculty of Saint Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, and as a master of ceremonies to Cardinals John Cody and Joseph Bernardin, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Chicago on December 13, 1983. On February 10, 1994, he was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., where he served for 11 years. On December 9, 2004, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Gregory as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was installed on January 17, 2005.

Archbishop Gregory has served in many leading roles in the U.S. Church. In November 2001, he was elected president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) following three years as vice president under Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. During his tenure in office, the crisis of sex abuse by Catholic clergy escalated; under his leadership, the bishops implemented the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

He has served on the USCCB's Executive and Administrative Committees, the Administrative Board, the Committee on Doctrine, and the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on International Policy. He previously served as the chairman of the Bishops' Committees on Personnel, Divine Worship and the Third Millennium/Jubilee Year 2000 from 1998-2001, and Liturgy from 1991-1993.

Archbishop Gregory has written extensively on Church issues, including pastoral statements on the death penalty and euthanasia/physician-assisted suicide, and has published numerous articles on the subject of liturgy, particularly in the African-American community.

Archbishop Gregory has been awarded nine honorary doctoral degrees. He received the Great Preacher Award from Saint Louis University in 2002; Doctorate of Humanities from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill. (2002-2003); Sword of Loyola from Loyola University of Chicago (2004); Doctorate of Humane Letters from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. (2005); Doctorate of Humane Letters from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio; Doctorate of Humane Letters from McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.; Doctorate of Humanities from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Mo.; Honorary Law Degree from Notre Dame University (2012); and the Chicago Catholic Theological Union Honorary Doctorate (2013).

In 2006, he joined an illustrious group of preachers with his induction into the Martin Luther King Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta. At the National Pastoral Life Center in Washington, D.C., Archbishop Gregory was honored with the Cardinal Bernardin Award given by the Catholic Common Ground Initiative (2006).

Alumnus Lifetime Service Award Dinner

Theological College, Refectory, 6:30 p.m. Monsignor Michael Clay, D.Min. Class of 1980



Monsignor Michael Clay, a priest of the Diocese of Raleigh, is associate dean for graduate ministerial studies and associate professor of practice in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America.

He has an extensive background in pastoral ministry, having served his diocese as pastor of three parishes

and on the diocesan level at various times as director of liturgy, vocations, and the permanent diaconate. In addition, he was the legislative liaison and lobbyist for the two Catholic bishops of North Carolina to the state General Assembly. He previously served on the formation faculty of Theological College at Catholic University (1989-1995). In 2013, he was appointed by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity as a member of the International Commission for Roman Catholic–Church of Christ (Disciples of Christ) Dialogue.

Previously he was Associate Adjunct Professor at St. Mary's University in Winona, Minn., in its Institute for Pastoral Ministries program. He has served as a member and chair of the Diocese of Raleigh Council of Priests and on the Diocesan Clergy Personnel Board. On the national level, he has been a member of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions, serving on its Board of Directors for two years, and as a member of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors and the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

For 30 years, he has been an internationally recognized authority on the implementation of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and has spoken on the rite and other liturgical areas in over 75 dioceses in the United States and Canada.

To register for the annual Alumni Day reunion, and/or for sponsorship opportunities, go to *theologicalcollege.org* and click on the "Alumni" tab.

Congratulations to all classes celebrating anniversary milestones in 2019!

SAVIE DATE

2019 SEDES CUP GOLF TOURNAMENT



10.08.19

Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, Md.

Registration with breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m., with shotgun start at 9 a.m., followed by open bar and luncheon.

Register online at *theologicalcollege.org* under the "Events" tab or contact coordinator Mary Nauman: 202-756-4905; nauman@cua.edu.

Alumni

Class Notes

40s

Rev. A. Leo Spodnik, '48, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford and generous supporter of Theological College through the years, recently sent an update to *The Crossroads*: "I am 96. I am now in a nursing home. In recent weeks, I spoke by phone with my classmate, Father John Mattingly, P. S. S., who is in retirement. It was great."

50s

Rev. James L. Harrison, '56, a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Atlanta and benevolent backer of the TC mission since his ordination, recently shared with *The Crossroads* that he was Father McBrearity's high school principal, and that he is "proud of him" and all his accomplishments as his former student.

70s

His Eminence Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, B'72, originally from the Diocese of Sioux City, current Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, was one of the 2019 Rector's Award Honorees at the 27th Annual Rector's Dinner held on May 9 in Rome by The Pontifical North American College.

Rev. James I. Donlon, '75, of the Diocese of Albany, announced that he will retire from active ministry on May 31, 2019, after having served for 37 years in the Albany Tribunal, as well as serving as the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Albany for the past 26 years. Father Donlon added, "In retirement, I will continue to be sacramental minister to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Cobleskill, N.Y., where I have served for the past six years, as well as continuing as chaplain to the Sisters of the Presentation, Watervliet, N.Y. I will also continue to serve as canonical advisor to the bishop." Father Donlon concluded that he hopes to do some traveling during his free time and to visit some places yet to be explored!

80s

Rev. Philip A. Tracy, '88, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish and St. Matthew Parish to serve as pastor of the Parish of the Holy Eucharist, a cluster parish comprised of four churches: Holy Martyrs of North America Church, Falmouth; Sacred Heart Church, Yarmouth; St. Gregory the Great Church, Gray; St. Jude Church, Freeport, effective July 1.

90s

Rev. Daniel P. Greenleaf, VG, '95, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of the cluster Parish of the Holy Eucharist to serve as pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, a cluster parish comprised of five churches: Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, Holy Cross Church, and Holy Family Church, all in Lewiston, Holy Trinity Parish in Lisbon Falls, and Our Lady of the Rosary Parish in Sabattus, effective July 1.

10s



Father Rhett Williams (Diocese of Charleston), Class of 2018, was guest presider and homilist on a recent visit to Theological College.

Rev. Kyle Doustou, B'10, TC'14, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar at the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes to serve as pastor of the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord, a cluster parish comprised of four churches: Holy Family Church, Old Town; Our Lady of Wisdom Church, Orono; St. Ann Church, Bradley; St. Ann Church, Indian Island, effective July 1.

Rev. Kyle O'Connor, B '14, was ordained by Bishop Barry C. Knestout on June 1 for the Diocese of Richmond.

Rev. Edouard Guilloux, B '15, was ordained by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge on June 8 for the Diocese of Arlington.

Rev. Maurice Moon, '18, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, recently shared with *The Crossroads* that his work as a vocation liaison for his diocese, assisting with discernment events such as the St. Andrew Breakfasts with the Bishop and the "Come and See" event at St. Joseph Seminary in Louisiana, as well as serving as chaplain at Nolan Catholic High School have helped him recognize that "there are many youth out there who still want to follow Jesus Christ and his will."

Rev. Matthew Browne, '19, was ordained by Bishop John O. Barres on June 22 for the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

Rev. Brendan Dawson, '19, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 29 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Rev. Timothy Deely, '19, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 29 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Rev. David Egan Jr., '19, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 29 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Rev. Anthony Federico, '19, was ordained by Archbishop Leonard P. Blair on June 22 for the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Rev. Walter Genito Jr., '19, was ordained by Cardinal Timothy Dolan on May 25 for the Archdiocese of New York.

Rev. Raymond Kalema, '19, was ordained by Bishop Thomas A. Daly on May 17 for the Diocese of Spokane.

Rev. Mingwei Li, '19, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 29 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Rev. Christopher Masla, '19, was ordained by Bishop Barry C. Knestout on June 1 for the Diocese of Richmond.

Rev. Stefan Megyery, '19, was ordained by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory on June 15 for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Rev. Patrick Mullan, '19, was ordained by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory on June 15 for the Archdiocese of Washington. Father Mullan was chosen by his 2019 TC classmates to be their class representative.

Rev. Ramiro (RJ) Regalado, '19, was ordained by Bishop William M. Mulvey on June 8 for the Diocese of Corpus Christi.

Rev. David Roman Jr., '19, was ordained by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on June 1 for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Rev. Michael Russo, '19, was ordained by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory on June 15 for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Rev. Cassidy Stinson, '19, was ordained by Bishop Barry C. Knestout on June 1 for the Diocese of Richmond.

Rev. Nye (Joseph) Wiley, '19, was ordained by Apostolic Administrator, Bishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, on June 1 for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.



More than a dozen recent TC alumni contributed to the Student Government Association's "house project," refurbishing the lower-level game room.

30 The Crossroads Summer 2019 Summer 2019



In Memoriam



Rev. Robert J. Levis, B '45, TC '48, died on May 26, 2016, at the age of 94. Father Levis was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Erie in 1948 at St. Peter's Cathedral by Archbishop John M. Gannon. His dedicated priestly ministry, spanning more than six decades, included serving as associate pastor at several parishes in his diocese while serving

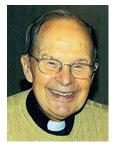
Gannon College in Erie, initially as registrar, director of admissions, and later as an instructor of several courses, primarily in theology. After receiving a Ph.D. in religious education from The Catholic University of America in 1962, Father Levis assisted the second president of Gannon College, Monsignor Wilfred J. Nash (1956-77), in securing the papal recognition of Gannon graduate courses in religious education which helped establish Gannon's graduate school in 1964. Later, in 1979, Gannon College attained university status. Father Levis conducted an annual workshop for priests at the university for 20 years, drawing nearly 150 priests from around the country and Canada for each session. Additionally, Father Levis served as the Director of the Pontifical Center for Catechetical Studies and as president of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy. He was one of the founders of the American Fellowship of Catholic Scholars, authored pieces on marriage for the Catholic Encyclopedia, chaired the writing of the history of Gannon University, and wrote numerous articles on catechetics for the Lake Shore Visitor and other Catholic newspapers. He also hosted several television and radio series on EWTN, notably the series titled, Web of Faith, co-chaired with Father John Trigilio of Harrisburg. Father Levis was remembered fondly by many for his "compassionate, priestly heart" and his wit and wisdom. Another friend noted at his funeral, "Father was a true representation of a priest. He told us the truth of our faith, as an accomplished theologian, and he did it with love and compassion." Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, Bishop of Erie, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Levis on June 1, 2016, at St. Ann's Church, Erie, with interment at Trinity Cemetery, Erie.

Most Rev. Thomas J. Costello, '54, died on February 15, 2019, at the age of 89. Bishop Costello's dedicated ministry of service to the people of his diocese spanned more than six decades, including over four decades of service as an auxiliary bishop. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Syracuse on June 5, 1954, by Bishop Walter A. Foery, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In his first assignment, he was appointed assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Syracuse until 1959. After serving as a secretary in the diocesan tribunal for one year, he was then named Superintendent of Catholic Schools in 1960, serving in that role until 1975. Following this work, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes from 1975 to 1978. For the next 31 years, from 1978 to 2009, he served as vicar general of the diocese. Bishop Costello received many papal honors, including being named a papal chamberlain with the title of Monsignor in 1965, elevated to honorary prelate in 1971 and Titular Bishop of Perdices and Auxiliary Bishop of Syracuse in 1978. Upon his ordination as auxiliary bishop on March 13, 1978, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse, Bishop Costello chose the episcopal motto: "As One Who Serves." Bishop Costello fulfilled that motto throughout his vocation, serving on many boards in his community and across the country, including Jubilee Homes,

Le Moyne College, and the former Syracuse Interreligious Council, WCNY, Loretto, and more. Additionally, he was in the forefront of speaking against racism, poverty, inequality, and violence. He marched in Selma, Alabama, with Dr. Martin Luther King, fought for employee rights, spoke against the death penalty, promoted the respect and dignity of life, and encouraged interfaith dialogue and equality for all. In 2002, Bishop Costello received the Lifetime Service Award from Theological College in recognition for his outstanding work as a man of deep faith, and a man of the people. He retired from active ministry on his 75th birthday in 2004 but remained vicar general until 2009. During his retirement, he continued to serve the people of his diocese by offering spiritual direction and conferring the sacraments, especially Confirmation. Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of Syracuse, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Bishop Costello on February 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Syracuse, with interment at St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery, Rome. Memorial donations may be made to the Light a Child's Future Fund, which provides tuition aid to Catholic school students in the diocese.



Bishop Thomas Costello, left, accepted the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from TC rector, Rev. Thomas Hurst, P.S.S., in 2002.



Rev. Richard F. Maichen, '54, died on August 14, 2017, at the age of 90. Before completing his studies for the priesthood, Father Maichen served in the U. S. Army during World War II, stationed in the Philippines. Upon his return, he studied philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque, graduating in 1950. Father Maichen then entered Theological College and

was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Dubuque in 1954 by Bishop Loras Lane. His active priestly ministry, dedicated and varied, spanned over four decades and included serving as a faculty member and priest at eight parishes and five high schools throughout his diocese before his retirement in 1996. Additionally, he served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus in Manchester and was a member of the American Legion. Remembered for his priestly heart

and generosity, Food for the Poor gave this consoling tribute at his funeral: "On behalf of Food for the Poor, we would like to offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Rev. Richard Maichen, who was a true friend of ours and of the poor whom we serve. Father Maichen's support has brought lifesaving help and hope to the poorest of the poor, which is a legacy to be honored. May God's peace be with you all during this time of separation." Most Reverend Michael O. Jackels, Archbishop of Dubuque, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Maichen on August 19 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Manchester, with interment at St. Mary Cemetery, Manchester. Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary Catholic Church or St. Mary Catholic School in Manchester or Loras College in Dubuque.



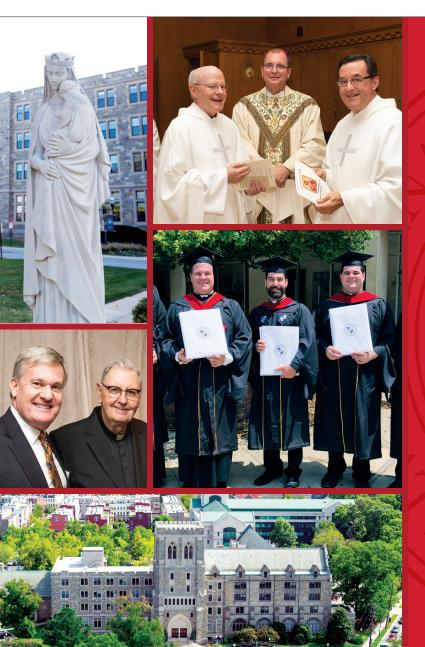
Rev. Eugene P. Selzer, B '57, TC '61, died on March 22, 2019, at the age of 84. Father Selzer was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of St. Louis on March 18, 1961, at St. Louis Cathedral by Cardinal Joseph E. Ritter. His dedicated priestly ministry, spanning almost five decades, began with his first assignment in May of 1961 serving

as associate pastor of Mary Queen of the Universe Parish in Lemay, as well as teaching religion part time at Bishop DuBourg High School in south St. Louis. From 1965 to 1969, Father Selzer pursued graduate studies in Rome at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of San Anselmo, and received his Doctor of Sacred Theology, with a specialization in Liturgy. For the next 18 years, Father Selzer served as associate pastor at several parishes throughout the archdiocese while also serving full time as a professor of Liturgy at Kenrick Seminary in Shrewsbury. In 1987, Father Selzer was named associate pastor of St. William Parish in Woodson Terrace, and was appointed pastor there in 1995, remaining until June 2002. After serving as senior associate at two additional parishes following this assignment, he was appointed pastor of St. Andrew Parish in Lemay from 2004 until 2009, when he retired from active ministry. In October 2012, Father Selzer moved to Regina Cleri, a retirement home for the retired priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. A generous and faithful supporter of Theological College through the years, Father Selzer contributed this past fall to the fund for the Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy, attesting to his love of sacred music and the liturgy. Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Selzer on March 27 at St. Matthias Church, St. Louis, with interment at Resurrection Cemetery, St. Louis. Memorial donations may be made to Catholic Charities, 4445 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 or Birthright Counseling of St. Louis, 2525 S. Brentwood, Suite 102, St. Louis, MO 63144.



Theological College 401 Michigan Ave., N.E. Washington, DC 20017





To register, go to the theologicalcollege.org website.

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