

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE | THE NATIONAL SEMINARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

# *the* **Crossroads**

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Summer 2020

**NEW  
LEADERSHIP**

**SPRING BREAK  
MISSIONS**

**LIFE DURING  
QUARANTINE**





The Crossroads is published three times a year by the Office of Institutional Advancement of Theological College. It is distributed via nonprofit mail to alumni, bishops, vocation directors, and friends of TC.

**Rector**

Rev. Gerald D. McBrearity, P.S.S. ('73)

**Media & Promotions Managing Editor**

Suzanne Tanzi

**Contributing Writers**

Santino Ambrosini • Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S. • Garrett Bockman • Peter Bui • James Buttner • Anthony Ferguson • Liam Gallagher • Mark Garrett • Elmer Herrera-Guzmán • Ryan Hiaeshutter • Alexandre Jiménez-Alcántara • Michael Kieler • Jaime Maldonado-Avilés • Anthony May • Justin Motes • Mary Nauman • Jonathan Pham • Rev. Carlos Piedrahita • Gregory Schettini • Nicholas Shiver • Rev. Andrew Szablewski, P.S.S. • Kyle Vance • John Winslow • Stephen Wong

**Graphic Designer**

Rebecca Sum

**Photography**

Santino Ambrosini • Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S. • Catholic Standard/ Andrew Biraj • Cross Catholic Outreach • CUA/Patrick Ryan • Nazareth Farm • Dave Scavone • Society of St. Sulpice • Rev. Andrew Szablewski, P.S.S. • Suzanne Tanzi • Stephen Wong

**Theological College**

401 Michigan Ave., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017  
202-756-4914  
theologicalcollege.org  
theologicalcollege.catholic.edu

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.



04

**NEW ACTING RECTOR**

Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., passes the reins to Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., TC's new Acting Rector.

**GRADUATION 2020**

On May 16, Catholic University and President John Garvey hosted a virtual graduation. TC's 12 graduates share reflections on their years at TC and CUA.



14

**FORMATION ADVISING**

TC's Deacon Ed McCormack is the author of the first publication on the ministry of seminary formation advising.



08

**MEDIA EVANGELIZATION**

Deacon Anthony Ferguson with EWTN host Rev. Thomas Petri, O.P., during a recent interview about the Alberione Project on "The Church Alive."



28

**02 \ FROM THE RECTOR**

**04 \ COMMUNITY NEWS**

New Acting Rector  
S.T.L./J.C.L. Program  
Alumni Day

**08 \ GRADUATE REFLECTIONS & MEMOIRS**

**14 \ SEMINARY LIFE**

Catholic Social Media and the Alberione Project  
Pastoral Ministry at L'Arche  
Evening of Recollection with Dr. Timoney  
Spring Break Mission Trips  
Quarantine Experiences  
Pastoral Year: Part III

**26 \ HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS**

**28 \ FACULTY AND STAFF**

**30 \ ALUMNI**

Class Notes  
In Memoriam

**Cover:** By Sunday, March 29, 2020, all TC seminarians had evacuated the building, leaving only the TC priest faculty in residence.





# Opening a New Chapter

**Rev. Gerald D. McBrearity, P.S.S. ('73)**  
*Rector*

I have an ever deeper and firmer belief that nothing is merely an accident when seen in the light of God, that my whole life down to its smallest details has been marked out for me in the plan of divine providence and has a completely coherent meaning in God's all-seeing eyes.

**St. Edith Stein**

After much prayerful consideration and with the support of the American Province of the Sulpicians, I will be retiring from the ministry of rector of Theological College and will be opening a new chapter of my life as a priest and Sulpician. As I approach this moment of transition, I am reminded of what one spiritual writer wrote: "A blessing is a visible, perceptible, and effective presence of God. A blessing demands to be passed on — it communicates itself to other people. To be blessed is to be oneself a blessing."

During my many years of service at Theological College, whether in the role of a formation advisor, spiritual director, vice-rector, or rector, I have been blessed. I have been blessed with talented and deeply committed faculty colleagues, with a devoted and dedicated staff, and, above all, with generations of intellectually gifted, articulate, creative, funny, deeply caring, prayerful, and honest priesthood candidates who, year after year, have been a blessing calling forth from me a heightened awareness of God's gracious and abiding presence in my life. Albert Schweitzer wrote, "Sometimes our light goes out but is blown again into instant flame by an encounter with another human being. Each of us owes the deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this inner flame." Almost every day my inner flame has been rekindled by the seminarians under my care and for this I am profoundly grateful.

In her poem "When Did It Happen?" the poet, Mary Oliver, wrote:

When did it happen?  
It was a long time ago.  
Where did it happen?  
It was far away.  
No tell. Where did it happen?  
In my heart.  
What is your heart doing now?  
Remembering. Remembering!



For four years, Father McBrearity has welcomed new seminarians to TC at the opening Liturgy in August. Here, he greets first theologian John Kist from Philadelphia.

As I write this reflection during the Easter Season, I am remembering multiple honest and blunt conversations with seminarians who were totally transparent as they discerned their vocation. I am remembering those seminarians who, in the midst of the sexual abuse crisis, renewed their commitment to be priests who would evidence the emotional and psychosexual maturity needed to make an informed commitment to a life of celibate chastity. I am remembering the courage of so many seminarians who acknowledged that they would be ordained priests in dioceses undergoing profound institutional changes and challenges. I am remembering those seminarians who grew not only in self-awareness but in multicultural sensitivity. I am remembering those seminarians who have led the seminary community in serving the poor whether in remote Honduras or Guatemala; in Appalachia or in the District of Columbia. I am remembering generations of seminarians who showed the maturity and capacity for dialogue needed to engage classmates from across the country and from very different vocation narratives, enabling Theological College to be a diverse but united seminary community. As a seminarian at Theological College, a priest in residence at Theological College during doctoral studies, and during my 17 years as a formator, vice-rector, and rector, generations of seminarians have supported and energized my vocation as a Sulpician and have been, time and time again, an inspiration and source of joy.

Years ago, I was sent this quotation from the writings of St. Edith Stein, Sr. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross: "I have an ever deeper and firmer belief that nothing is merely an accident when seen in the light of God, that my whole life down to its smallest details has been marked out for me in the plan of divine providence and has a completely coherent meaning in God's all-seeing eyes." As I remember so many people and events at this time of transition, my trust in the providence of God has deepened, a God who saw

to it that so much of my life as a priest and Sulpician took place in this beloved seminary.

In the spring of 2018, a seminarian completed a year at Theological College as a pre-theologian and was then assigned to another seminary for theological studies. During that summer of transition, he sent me the following poem:

## No Other Way

I wouldn't have it any other way.  
From our first hello to our most recent,  
I would not change a thing.  
And the challenges, all the laughs,  
All the joys and sorrows, the worries  
And the doubts, all were gifts from His  
Merciful love.  
Since love is that which endures,  
I am most confident in and happy for the  
Sacred friendships that He has ordained—  
Ordained from all eternity just for you and for me.  
A time for prayer, sharing a laugh,  
Sacred silence, and Holy Mass?  
An image of our lives and a foretaste of everlasting life  
In communion with God and neighbor?  
I would have this last encounter no other way.

This seminarian captures in his poem my heartfelt belief that "I wouldn't have it any other way." ■



## New Acting Rector Named to Theological College

The Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, has appointed Sulpician Father Dominic G. Ciriaco, P.S.S., M.A., M.Div., as acting rector of Theological College, effective July 1, 2020. This appointment has been made by the Sulpician Provincial Council with the approval of Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington and Chancellor of the University, and University President John Garvey.

The designation “acting rector” is due to the practice of the U.S. Province to appoint only definitive members of the Society to chief administrative positions. Father Ciriaco, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark, N.J., ordained in 1999, joined the Sulpicians in 2015. Having completed the Sulpician Candidate formation program, he was admitted to temporary membership in 2018. He is currently in the process of completing his doctoral studies.

Father Ciriaco joined the Theological College faculty in 2015 and served as the director of the Basselins and associate director of Intellectual Formation from 2017 to 2019 before being appointed vice-rector in 2019.

Before joining the Sulpicians, Father Ciriaco had extensive parish and archdiocesan experience as a parochial vicar; as the pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Dumont, N.J., for three years; and as the Dean of Bergen County, N.J. He served in parish and high school ministries for a total of 14 years. Father Ciriaco holds an M. Div. and a Master’s degree in Systematic Theology from Seton Hall University in South Orange, N.J. (where he attended seminary at Immaculate Conception Seminary at SHU).



Father McBrearity and Father Ciriaco after celebrating a Liturgy for the TC community.

The Acting Provincial Superior, Rev. Daniel F. Moore, P.S.S., S.T.D., praised the appointment, saying, “Father Ciriaco is a very intelligent and articulate priest. He has studied various spiritualities in the Church and has published in this area. He is devoted to the spirituality of Father Olier and will be an excellent leader for Theological College. Likewise, his extensive pastoral experience will be an asset to be shared with seminarians as they prepare for priestly ministry.”

Father Ciriaco will replace Rev. Gerald D. McBrearity, P.S.S., an alumnus of Theological College and Sulpician since

1975. Father McBrearity will retire and reside at Villa Olier, the Sulpician retirement community in Baltimore, Md. Father McBrearity, who is said to possess “a pastor’s heart,” has been serving as rector for four years. In addition to his term as rector, Father McBrearity has served the U.S. Province admirably in several capacities over his many years as a Sulpician.

The Provincial Council is confident that Father Ciriaco will provide the quality of leadership to Theological College that has characterized the tenures of Father McBrearity and other Sulpician rectors over the years. ■

## S.T.L./J.C.L. ACADEMIC TRACK: New Program, New Adventure

**Rev. Carlos Piedrahita, S.T.L.**  
*Director of Intellectual Formation  
and Director of Basselin Scholars*

The academic year 2019–2020 was unique in many ways. Of course, we will all remember the challenges of the COVID-19 spread and quarantine mandate and their impact, including the changes in the formation process of our seminarians in the second half of the spring semester. However, at Theological College, we will also remember this academic year as the beginning of a new adventure: the five/six-year program. This overview, for those who are unfamiliar with TC’s new academic track, provides an opportunity to review its value for the seminary and the U.S. Church as the school year draws to a close.

Attending to the needs of different dioceses around the country, Theological College, in cooperation with The Catholic University of America’s School of Theology and Religious Studies, implemented a program in which some seminarians could obtain, in five years, a Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology (S.T.B.) and a Licentiate of Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) with concentrations in either Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Historical Theology, or Liturgical and Sacramental Theology. Similarly, students could be enrolled in a six-year program for an S.T.L. in Biblical Theology, or in collaboration with the School of Canon Law to obtain a Licentiate of Canon Law (J.C.L.) after they had completed their S.T.B. program.

This program is an excellent opportunity for dioceses to fulfill their needs for specialized clergy in different areas. While their newly ordained priests benefit from TC’s community life and enjoy the recently renovated student priests’ residence in Providence Hall, they also receive premium academic formation under respected scholars from Catholic University’s ecclesiastical faculties. Moreover, after their four years of diverse pastoral experiences in the Washington, D.C., area, the students can continue their ministerial exposure

through priestly service in nearby parishes, while the seminary faculty continues to accompany them during the completion of the program.

This year, the program started with three newly ordained TC alumni priests and four seminarians enrolled for the upcoming years. The interest in the program has proliferated. For the past academic year, we welcomed to the TC community two new dioceses whose bishops were attracted by the program: the Archdiocese of Santa Fe and the Diocese of Salt Lake City. The biannual meetings of intellectual formation advising with each seminarian and personal conversations with vocation directors provided opportunities for the faculty to explore the topic with those interested in the program — and interest continues to grow. For the 2020–2021 academic year, a total of 17 seminarians will participate in the five/six-year program – a 143% increase from the previous year. Judging from incoming numbers, the increment could reach nearly 300%.

The century-long collaboration between Theological College and The Catholic University of America is bearing fruit in this new program offered in theological formation, which will greatly benefit the American Church. The amalgamation of the first and second cycle of ecclesiastical formation, following the directions of the Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia Christiana*, and the integration with TC’s superior pastoral formation program deliver a decisive and balanced response to the current challenging needs faced by our national dioceses.

We pray that, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the protection of Our Lady of Divine Providence, this five/six-year program will prepare many holy priests for ministry to the People of God. We pray that they may be dedicated teachers of Catholic doctrine and humble ministers of divine grace, for the benefit of the faithful and the glory of God. ■

Rev. Carlos Piedrahita, director of Intellectual Formation, meets remotely with Deacon Elmer Herrera-Guzmán from the Diocese of Dallas during the pandemic.





# Basselin Memories

## Bishop, can you share some thoughts about your three years at TC?

I just loved the joyful spirit of the house and the incredible people. Father McBrearity was on the faculty and was a wonderful priest to guide us through the spiritual life. Father Mel Blanchette, former rector, was the director of the Basselin Program when I was there and has remained to this day a great friend. Father Joe Bonavio, former rector at the seminary in Menlo Park, was my spiritual director. These Sulpician personalities were real spiritual leaders. I remember those years as happy, joyful years. We were 19, 20 years old and full of enthusiasm.

## How significant was the Basselin Scholars Program for your formation and future?

Catholic University and the Basselin Scholars Program have had a decisive, massive impact on my entire life. In fact, I have a little photograph of Theodore Basselin right over my desk because he founded the scholarship program that catalyzed this impact. The Basselin Program, with its seriousness and its philosophical focus, introduced me to the great Catholic intellectual tradition, the great Catholic “both and,” faith and reason, theology and philosophy, nature and grace.

Msgr. Robert Sokolowski and Msgr. John Wippel, both of whom are still teaching Basselins at Catholic University today, and Dr. Thomas Pruffer were some of my amazing teachers. We learned the art of philosophizing together and almost everything I have written has been inspired by them. As not only teachers of philosophy but philosophers themselves, they taught ideas that have sustained me throughout my life as a priest, as an academic, and as a writer to the present day.

## What is your favorite memory from your time as a Basselin?

One of my classmates, having finished a presentation on the *Nicomachean Ethics*, asked, with a sigh of exasperation, “What then are we to do with the *Nicomachean Ethics*?” To which the moderator, Father Robert Sokolowski, responded, “Perhaps we could read it more carefully.”

# Alumni Day 2020

## Mass Principal Celebrant and Alumnus Lifetime Service Awardee



**Bishop Robert E. Barron**  
*Basselin Class of 1982, Ph.L., S.T.B., M. Div., S.T.L., D.D., S.T.D., V.G.*

The Most Reverend Robert E. Barron is the Episcopal Vicar of the Santa Barbara Pastoral Region, one of the five pastoral regions in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He was appointed Titular Bishop of Macriana of Mauritania and Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles in 2015.

From 1979 to 1982, Bishop Barron attended The Catholic University of America while in seminary formation at Theological College, receiving his M.A. in Philosophy in 1982. His master's thesis was titled, “Production and the Political Animal in the Writings of Karl Marx.” He received his S.T.B., M.Div., and S.T.L. from the University of St. Mary of the Lake (Mundelein) and, in 1992, his S.T.D. from Institut Catholique de Paris.

The bishop is a prolific media evangelist and inspiration for Theological College seminarians hoping to follow in his ministerial footsteps. On page 14, he is pictured conversing about this mutual passion with Deacon Anthony Ferguson, co-founder of The Big Tree podcast series, an apostolate of TC's Alberione Project, which has garnered more than 2,500 followers since its launch in January 2019. Bishop Robert Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries. He is also the host of *CATHOLICISM*, a groundbreaking, award-winning documentary about the Catholic faith, which aired on PBS. His recent film series, *CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players*, has been syndicated for national television and nominated for an Emmy award.

Bishop Barron is a #1 Amazon bestselling author and has published numerous books, essays, and articles on theology and the spiritual life. He is a religion correspondent for NBC and has also appeared on FOX News, CNN, and EWTN. His website, WordOnFire.org, reaches millions of people each year, and he is one of the world's most followed Catholics on social media. His regular YouTube videos have been viewed over 40 million times and he has over 1.7 million followers on Facebook.

Bishop Barron has been invited to speak about religion at the headquarters of Facebook, Google, and Amazon. He has keynoted many conferences and events all over the world, including the

World Youth Day in Kraków and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, which marked Pope Francis' historic visit to the United States. He has shared dialogue with Dr. Jordan Peterson, Dave Rubin, Ben Shapiro, and William Lane Craig, among other thought leaders.

His most recent project is the Word on Fire Institute, a new hub for spiritual and intellectual formation, training members of the Word on Fire movement to proclaim Christ in the culture.

Former rector Rev. Gerald McBrearity, acting rector Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, and the entire Theological College community are honored by the opportunity to bestow the Alumnus Lifetime Service award upon this distinguished alumnus and lifetime supporter of the seminary.

## Annual Alumni Day Lecturer



**Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti**  
*Class of 1984, D. Min., Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Catholic University of America*

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs in 1973 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the USAF. He received an M.A. in political science from the University of Pittsburgh and served in Air Force intelligence. In 1980, he entered seminary at Theological College, where he earned a Doctor of Ministry degree. In 1994, he received a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Boston College.

After ordination in 1984 for the Diocese of Syracuse, he served as a parish priest for nine years before joining the staff at Saint Luke Institute in Maryland, a treatment center for priests and religious with addictions or psychological problems. He soon became executive vice-president and, in 1996, was made the president and CEO of the institute. In 2009, Rossetti stepped down from that position and in 2010 joined the faculty of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He returned to Saint Luke Institute from 2013 to 2014. He has been the chaplain of the Washington Nationals since 2009.

Rossetti is an outspoken writer, lecturer, and advocate for the importance of using the insights of modern psychology in collaboration with orthodox Catholic theology. He has appeared on such television shows as *Meet the Press* and *Larry King Live* and has been the recipient of numerous honors, including the 2004 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from Theological College.

# Alumni Day 2020

## Schedule of Events

Wednesday, October 7

**1:45 p.m. — Rector's Welcome**

**2:00 p.m. — Alumni Lecture: “The Call to Priestly Holiness” by Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, D. Min., Ph.D.**

**3:00 p.m. — Break**

**3:15–3:45 p.m. — Q & A with Msgr. Rossetti**

**5:15 p.m. — Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception celebrated by His Excellency Robert E. Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles**

**6:30 p.m. — Alumni Recognition and Awards Dinner honoring Bishop Robert E. Barron, recipient of the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award**

*To register for the annual Alumni Day reunion, and/or for sponsorship opportunities, go to [theologicalcollege.org](http://theologicalcollege.org) and click on the “Alumni” tab.*

**Congratulations to all classes celebrating anniversary milestones in 2020!**



# GRADUATE REFLECTIONS & MEMOIRS

The graduating class of 12 men for the Class of 2020, representing 10 dioceses, had the unique complication of being displaced from the seminary and completing all their course work and exams remotely, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this annual feature, these TC graduates highlight how their education and formation have brought them to this point on their life's adventure, which was marked by an unexpected historical challenge that they met with the steadfast focus and prayerful and productive energy for which the Class of 2020 has become known.

## Reflections of a Theologian

**Rev. Mr. Garrett Bockman**  
*Diocese of Dallas*

As I approach presbyteral ordination, my prayer is to be a gift to those to whom I am sent. I was first attracted to seminary because I wanted to offer an undivided heart to the Lord. I had experienced the gift of an undivided heart in those who helped me in my own journey of faith. I made many new friends who welcomed me into their lives and offered me a vision of myself as someone who is loved. As time went by, I began also to experience the love of God in new and healing ways. I was experiencing the Catholic Church as the sacrament of my own salvation, and the Lord was sowing seeds of generosity in my heart.

As I prayed about entering seminary, I was grateful to be a recipient of the mercy of God, regardless of the vocation to which I might be called. But the priesthood has stuck with me as an opportunity to communicate the same mercy to a wounded world, desperately in need of the healing love of God. I see the priesthood as an

opportunity to become a response of gratitude; having received so much from the Lord, I feel called to give back to whom-ever I am led.

I wish to remember the lessons of loving and being loved that I learned in seminary. I want to remain open and compassionate throughout my life so that those who are hurting may experience a consoling presence. I am especially grateful for the experience of ministering to the vulnerable. I continue towards Holy Orders in prayer. I pray that the ministry I am offered may be the source of my own salvation as well as that of many others.

**Rev. Mr. Anthony Ferguson**  
*Diocese of Richmond*

"You give them something to eat." These words of our Lord to the Twelve before the miraculous feeding of the five thousand reveal something fundamental about the ministerial priesthood: Jesus calls broken men who don't have enough to provide superabundantly for the Church.

When I first started seminary, I thought the goal was to become "enough" — to become "full" — namely, to accumulate information, grow stronger and stronger, more and more competent. In my time at Theological College, however, I've come

to see that seminary is much more a process of becoming empty, of discovering one's fundamental "not-enoughness." It's only from this recognition of how little I have and how desperately I depend on the Lord that I dare approach the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Think of the Apostles at the miraculous feeding: they had nothing to offer to the crowds. And yet, Jesus has the mysterious audacity to say to them: "You give them something to eat."

In my years at Theological College, I've thankfully had the time, the freedom, and the support to delve deep into the absolute "nothing" that I have to offer on my own terms — while all the time being amazed over and over by what God can do with that tiny little "nothing." This is the most valuable lesson Theological College could accompany me in discovering: that Jesus is constantly extending his hand, asking me to give the People of God something to eat. He is inviting me to nourish the people's faith, to fill them with hope, to comfort and exhort them with the news of God's unconditional love — all while remembering that apart from him, I can do nothing!

I am incredibly grateful to Theological College, especially in the areas of spiritual direction and advising, for accompanying



The Deacon Class of 2020. Back row (L-R): Jaime Maldonado-Avilés, Mark Garrett, Garrett Bockman; front row: Anthony Ferguson, Elmer Herrera-Guzmán, Ryan Hiaeshutter.

me as I've grown in courage to say "Yes" to the Lord's invitation to "give them something to eat." The friendships I've cultivated here and the experiences I've had in my time of initial formation have not only filled me with a deep desire to follow the Lord into the life of a priest but, more fundamentally, to be a man of God, striving (and failing) along the road to sanctity. It's sad that my time at Theological College ended with the coronavirus crisis, but this is once again an opportunity to become empty, and rely entirely on the Lord to provide everything I need as I begin this new ministry in the life of the Church.

**Rev. Mr. Mark Garrett**  
*Diocese of Dallas*

After hearing I was heading to Theological College for Theology, the focus of my joyful anticipation was the fact that I would finally be wearing clerics publicly. I had spent four years in college seminary and only ever put on a collar to serve Mass. This one simple change excited me to the extent that it was the content of my imagination when I thought about the future.

Upon arriving, I realized it was not just the wardrobe that separated TC from my minor seminary. TC was a place that called us to take ownership of our own formation.

Our formators required it because they know, like we all know, that our formation does not stop at ordination, but it becomes the lens through which our future people will see and encounter Christ.

So, at TC I wore clerics but, more importantly, I was treated as someone who wears clerics. While living amongst any group for an extended time, tensions will occasionally arise, but I always felt I was treated as a future priest when I discussed these concerns with the faculty and with my fellow seminarians. This fact, along with the opportunity to be educated at The Catholic University of America, has



helped me to be formed to minister well to the people of the Diocese of Dallas.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to learn, to lead, and to live in community with my brothers at Theological College. I leave having formed bonds that will shape not just my priesthood but my entire life. I have learned about the Church — not only the one in the great state of Texas, but the Church in America. I will continue to pray for the ministry of the faculty and seminarians of TC, that they continue to seek out Christ the Good Shepherd to guide their priesthood in the same way I pray he guides mine.

**Rev. Mr. Elmer Herrera-Guzmán**  
*Diocese of Dallas*

I have been at Theological College since 2015, and it has been a time of joy and discovery. I have been challenged in many ways and I received the guidance and support that I needed most during my formation. I have made many new friends and strengthened my friendship with diocesan brothers whom I’ve known for a while. I am happy to be a part of the mission here at TC. It has helped me build a strong foundation for my future ministry. I will always hold dear the memories made with my brothers, faculty, and staff during my time here, and I hope to keep connected as best I can. I support the mission of this seminary and the integrity and effort of the faculty who care for the seminarians entrusted to them by our respective dioceses.

I will certainly miss many aspects of TC, but I also look forward to the ministry I’ve been preparing to fulfill, using the guidance and wisdom of the formation faculty and the seminary program from which I have learned so much. I hope to be a good steward of the many gifts I have received from my formators, and to imitate the hard-working staff. They all

have been a great example of Christian life and charity. I also pray for the future of Theological College. As long as Christ is the foundation — as he has been during my time here — I can rest assured that this seminary will continue to thrive amidst the challenges we face in our Church today. Go TC!

**Rev. Mr. Ryan E. Hiaeshutter**  
*Diocese of Dallas*

I can still remember the day that we drove into Washington, D.C., with a U-Haul attached to the back of the truck. It was evident that we were nearing our destination because the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was becoming more and more prominent. As we pulled into the driveway of Theological College, there were seminarians already standing outside, waiting to help us unload and move into our respective rooms. Soon after my belongings were moved in, a deacon immediately entered and blessed my room. That was my very first experience at Theological College — one of service and holiness. From the outset, this experience set the tone for the next four years.

I am reminded of *Matthew* 20:28: “... the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” If a man cooperates with the seminary process, if he engages with the community, if he truly becomes the agent of his own formation and yields to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, he will learn how to serve and lay down his life for many. This is what I have experienced over the past four years, and it is what I will take with me into my priesthood. Theological College provides the space for the seminarian to take ownership of his personal growth not only as an individual but, more specifically, as a man of God.

When I entered seminary formation

back in 2011, the vocations director for the Diocese of Dallas told me that one should be as healthy as he can be by the time he reaches ordination. Note that he did not say “perfect.” TC brought me to a place of accepting both my strengths and my weaknesses so that I may be a well-rounded, healthy individual. And I could only come to this place within the context of a vibrant and lively community. I am deeply grateful for all four years of formation (well, perhaps 3¾ years, due to the pandemic). It was a time that was truly ordained by God, and I will be forever thankful for the relationships and memories that I have made at Theological College.

**Rev. Mr. Jaime Maldonado-Avilés**  
*Archdiocese of Hartford*

Ultimately, I have been asked to open myself to change, such that my entire life looks more and more like the life of Jesus. Not an easy task to accomplish and a truth that becomes particularly evident in moments of crisis. This task is undoubtedly an ongoing process.

I was blessed with the opportunity to spend six years of seminary formation at Theological College and The Catholic University of America. The fundamental call to conform my life to Christ, to open myself to the acting grace of God, has become a priority for me thanks in great part to the work of the Church, and especially the work of my formators and spiritual directors at Theological College.

To the extent that I am able to serve the faithful with humility, compassion, attentiveness, understanding, respect, wisdom, deep faith, and devotion, to that extent, I will not only be making manifest an ongoing openness to be conformed to Christ, I will also be exemplifying the kind of man and Catholic priest the past six years of seminary formation have called me to be.

# Memoirs of a Basselin

**Santino Ambrosini**  
*Archdiocese of San Francisco*

**Thesis**  
The Metaphysics of Gender in Aquinas and Finley

**Director**  
Angela Knobel, Ph.D.

Looking back over the last three years at Theological College, I can definitively say that these have been some of the most highly formative years of my life. There are so many rich opportunities and blessings that have come about as a result of being in formation at TC. Living in Washington, D.C., is a unique and enriching experience in itself. Being at TC, in the Basselin Program, has afforded me many opportunities for which I am most grateful.

The academic opportunities and ability to study philosophy at Catholic University have given me an appreciation for philosophy that I certainly did not have when I began seminary. Studying philosophy has helped me to grow intellectually and to foster a deep appreciation for the scholastic tradition of the Church. At TC, I have also been able to prayerfully and thoroughly discern my vocation, granting me clarity and greater trust in the Lord.

What I will always remember most poignantly, though, are the friendships that I have formed with my brothers from TC and the Basselin Program. These past three years have been memorable, and I am deeply thankful for them. Being at TC has allowed for very different people from very different parts of the country to come together in fraternity to form strong and meaningful friendships. Through life

in the seminary and beyond, I know that these close friendships that have arisen from my time at TC will continue to last for years to come.

**Liam Gallagher**  
*Diocese of Portland (Maine)*

**Thesis**  
Execution or Creative Intuition: The Fine Arts in the Philosophy of Jacques Maritain and Etienne Gilson

**Director**  
Antón Barba-Kay, Ph.D.

The very first thing that struck me at Theological College when I arrived was the inscription above the front doors, *Providentia Dei Nos Providebit*. As I was entering — both figuratively and literally — a period of intense academic work in addition to the challenges posed by seminary life, this inscription reminded me of how much I needed to trust in the providence of God and allow him to provide for me. The claim “God’s Providence will provide for us” was proven time and time again in my three years here. He provided for me in the faculty, especially in the person of my rector, Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., to whom I am grateful. He also provided for me many opportunities for formation and growth as I continued to discern his call. I will always recall this phrase whenever his providence shines through in the moments only a loving God could ordain.

I will remember fondly the community life at Theological College and will especially treasure the many friendships I have cultivated with my brother seminarians. Through these friendships, I have traveled to many wonderful places, read and discussed many books, and, most importantly, grown closer to the Lord. I am grateful to my classmates and fellow members of the “Basselin College” who have provided me

with so much support, encouragement, and laughter. The originality and levity of my brother seminarians, perhaps best displayed in my over-the-top induction to the third-floor residence following a mid-semester move (due to a flood), continues to inspire me. There was never a moment when a bad mood or difficult situation was not made easier by a late-night jumbo slice or good-natured shenanigans.

Finally, I must express my gratitude to the School of Philosophy and its dean, John McCarthy, Ph.D. The classes I have taken stretched my mind and gave me freedom to explore new ideas. I took full advantage of the marvelous cultural opportunities in the city, particularly the National Gallery of Art, which I visited frequently. My final word of thanks is to Theodore Basselin, without whom none of these things would have been possible. May perpetual light shine upon his soul.

**Justin Daniel Motes**  
*Diocese of St. Augustine*

**Thesis**  
The Theory of Free Will in Henry of Ghent’s First Quodlibet

**Director**  
Tobias Hoffmann, Ph.D.

As a 19-year-old moving from Florida to Washington, D.C., I was filled with worry as to what would lay ahead but also with much excitement and wonder for having the opportunity to study in the Basselin Program. My three years in the program have challenged and pushed me in ways I never thought possible; likewise, the life-long friendships I have formed here have helped me to be a better Christian man. The School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America has been beyond excellent in forming me in the philosophical tradition of the Catholic Church and in





The Basselin Class of 2020. Left to right: Justin Motes, Liam Gallagher, John Winslow, Jonathan Pham, Nicholas Shiver, Santino Ambrosini.

preparing me for my theological studies. Being trained in the rich Aristotelian and Thomistic tradition, while also exposed to current philosophical trends and issues, will not only prepare me for priestly ministry but for life as a Catholic man.

I am indebted to Theodore Basselin for his trust in the mission of Theological College, which I am proud to call my seminary alma mater, not only for my philosophical studies but also for my theological studies, as I will be continuing at TC in September, God willing. Theological College has given me the freedom to explore who I am as one who is made in the image and likeness of the Beloved Father, and it has offered me a holistic approach to spirituality and eventual priestly ministry for the Diocese of St. Augustine. I am further indebted to the Sulpician Fathers for the freedom in formation that they have offered to me so that I may always continue to strive after the perfect will of God. Finally, I am grateful to the seminary community in which I have made lasting friendships that have brought me great joy and support, and which will nourish me throughout the rest of my life.

**Jonathan Pham**  
*Diocese of Rockville Centre*

**Thesis**  
Cultivating Wonder as a Virtue

**Director**  
Ignacio De Ribera-Martín, Ph.D.

I am grateful to the generosity of Theodore Basselin for supporting a program that has intellectually formed me to be a better philosopher. The professors of the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America have continuously impressed me by their wonderful commitment to helping students synthesize and appreciate the love of wisdom. The professors have challenged me to delve deeper into the riches of our Catholic philosophical tradition. I am especially grateful for the guidance of my thesis director, Ignacio De Ribera-Martín, for his insight and generosity with his time. In my appreciation of the intellectual formation at The Catholic University of America, I am excited to be continuing my studies next year in the School of Theology and Religious Studies while remaining in formation at Theological College.

Theological College, likewise, has offered accompaniment and freedom to be formed in embracing my authentic self, a person who continues to discern and follow the perfect will of God. The Sulpicians and the seminary community continuously mold me to have a heart and mind striving after Christ, the Good Shepherd. Further, the French School of Spirituality and the Sulpicians have impacted my own spiritual life. I have a deep connection with the Trinity Icon in the Blessed Sacrament Reservation Chapel of Theological College. The icon is an invitation to be in relationship with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are called to this divine union with God in the Trinitarian love so that we may be sent out on mission to love and serve others. The formation environment at Theological College has given me the freedom to accept the invitation into the Trinitarian love so that I may be a person of relationship, communion, and mission.

**Nicholas Shiver**  
*Diocese of Charleston*

**Thesis**  
Obtaining Knowledge through  
Reliable Sources of Authority:  
A Look into the Epistemology  
of John Henry Newman

**Director**  
Jeffrey Dirk Wilson, Ph.D.

My time as a Basselin scholar has been filled with countless meaningful experiences that will live on as joyful memories for the rest of my life. Though much of the program has certainly been one of academic strife, this three-year journey has consisted of much more. I must first express my humble gratitude toward Theodore Basselin, who was willing to invest in the program to which I have been called. Without his love for the Church and her priests, this wonderful opportunity would have never been possible for me.

I am indebted to the faculty of The Catholic University of America, especially those in the School of Philosophy, for their fantastic work in building a solid foundation for philosophical thought. Being able to think well, particularly as a priest in the times in which we live, is such an important skill that deserves significant attention. As I depart to begin theological studies and move closer toward ordination, I am confident that my philosophical education from Catholic University has prepared me well for the many intellectual challenges ahead.

I am also indebted to the different institutions within the D.C. area for providing so many incredible opportunities outside the seminary and academic setting. Having access to iconic national sites, such as the White House, the National Mall, the Smithsonian Museums, and the Arlington National Cemetery, has helped me to grow

as a holistic citizen. Having never been short of social and cultural opportunities in areas such as sporting events, concerts, talks, restaurants, and tours has had a positive impact on my formation in these young adult years. Lastly, having received many pastoral and religious experiences from the D.C. area regarding service with the homeless, liturgical ministry at the National Shrine, and catechetical teaching at different locations, I cannot express how such opportunities have shaped me as a future leader in the Church.

Finally, I am indebted to all the people who have been alongside me in this journey of priestly formation, especially to my fellow seminarians and Basselin scholars at Theological College. This process would have been impossible without their fraternity and support. I am confident that the friendships that have been built and nourished during these years will last for many more. TC has successfully developed a culture in which fraternity and genuine friendship may flourish, inside and outside of these walls. For these relationships, and for the opportunity to have them, I am most grateful.

**John Winslow**  
*Archdiocese of Washington*

**Thesis**  
The Development of John Duns  
Scotus's Understanding of the Dual  
Affections in the Will

**Director**  
Tobias Hoffmann, Ph.D.

My three years at Theological College in the Basselin Program were filled with growth, discernment, and fraternity. I will be forever grateful for all the growth toward maturity that the faculty of Theological College catalyzed in my life. I have grown and developed both as a man and as a

disciple of Christ. I was taught how to navigate the blessings and the challenges of life, while always remaining dependent upon the Lord for his grace.

As a result of this growth in discipleship, I am now better able to listen to the Lord and discern his call for me. My time and formation at Theological College helped to contribute to my falling in love with the priesthood of Christ and introduced me to many priests who now serve as important role models in my life. As I transition into theological studies, I am able to go forward with clarity and confidence, thanks to this process of discernment and these examples of holy, healthy priesthood.

The growth and discernment that happened ultimately rest on a foundation of fraternity. The bonds of brotherhood that developed during my time as a Basselin strengthened and encouraged me, and I know they will continue to do so even as I leave Theological College to continue the formation process. My fellow seminarians, especially those in the Basselin Program with me, continually brought me closer to God. Their examples of fraternity, lived out in the presence of the Lord, will always be remembered with gratitude. I know that wherever the Lord takes us individually throughout our lives, I will always be able to turn to these men for a needed laugh, strength and support in times of difficulty, and, above all, prayer. For this, I will always cherish my opportunity to be member of the Basselin Program.





At the annual USCCB General Assembly, Anthony Ferguson discusses the Alberione Project with Bishop Robert Barron, whose own media work was one of the inspirations for this initiative.

## Catholic Social Media and the Alberione Project

### Deacon Anthony Ferguson

*Fourth Theology, Diocese of Richmond*

Back in November 2019, Sister Helena Burns, F.S.P. — a Daughter of St. Paul and “media nun” — delivered what could be described as an urgent and energetic appeal to the Theological College seminary community. She called for wider, more intentional media literacy in line with Church teachings on the subject.

“Media is not a ‘God-free zone!’” Sister Helena boldly insisted, as she exhorted the group of seminarians gathered in Viéban Hall to more closely examine their media use through the optimistic — yet always prudently cautious — lens of the Church. “The internet

is not purely virtual. What we do virtually is real,” she said. “We have a world in our hands! It matters!” Who could have known how immediately relevant these words would soon become?

As restrictions mounted in the face of the threat of the coronavirus in mid-March, the Church had to scramble to organize its resources in what seemed a matter of hours to meet a radically new pastoral landscape. Regular parish life now included live-streaming Mass, Zoom meetings, and creative social media outreach as a matter of course. We didn’t have much of a choice. As St. Paul himself once put it so well: “Necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!” Parishes should be applauded for their fast-acting online outreach. This urgent and very real ministry has positively affected many people who long for the Church’s proclamation of hope, peace, and courage in the face of so much anxiety.

Indeed, the swift media response to this crisis effectively “brought” the Church right into the homes of families, nursing homes, and makeshift homeschool programs. When social

distancing became the status quo, the Church rose to the challenge and did what it could to proclaim the Gospel through the modern means of social communication, which have been at her fingertips all along! This outreach has not been limited to Catholics, either. Estranged family members, friends, and the so-called “nones” (those with no religious affiliation) have all been beneficiaries of this content.

As Bishop Robert Barron told the Theological College community in a video message: “If we’re going to reach the unaffiliated, we have to use this tool which ... through God’s providence has been made available to us.” He went on to encourage all seminarians: “One of the most important things you can do is prepare for this type of ministry.”

The next question on my mind, however, is: How will this change the average parish’s use of media moving forward? Once public Masses resume, will we abandon the “digital continent” as Pope Benedict XVI once dubbed the internet? Will we gladly banish our video cameras, tripods, and microphones to the parish closet, never to be fiddled with again? Was all this just an unfortunate, necessary concession in the midst of a crisis — or do media offer tools worth investing in for the future evangelization needs of parish life?

I strongly believe this painful experience has presented us with a unique opportunity to harness these means of communication moving forward in our pastoral ministry. I have personally been surprised and amazed to see the most unexpected priests and seminarians step up and learn how to use these tools to meet people where they are at: stuck in quarantine in front of a computer.

Now, to be sure, as Sister Helena Burns herself made so beautifully clear in her presentation to our seminary, a smartphone screen is never a substitute for a human person! Personal, face-to-face relationships are essential. “Our bodies are not optional,” Sister proclaimed. In fact, they are precisely the means by which God has designed for each of us to make a “sincere gift of self.” The shocking beauty of the Incarnation is that the Word was made flesh at a particular time, in a particular place. Even so, I think we ought to resist the natural urge to toss our media efforts aside once we can return to some form of “normal.”

Here’s the key: Any media evangelization we continue to undertake must always lead to authentic communion. We need to think of creative ways to engage parishioners, not to keep them glued to their screens, but to call them into deeper relationship with the Lord and with one another. Communion culminates most definitively in the source and summit of our faith: the Most Holy Eucharist. No live-streamed Mass can ever possibly replace



Sister Helena Burns, F.S.P., speaks to TC seminarians in November about media literacy and evangelization.

being physically present before our Incarnate Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Our media use, both during and after this pandemic, should flow from and lead back to the Liturgy.

This is central to why the Alberione Project, a seminarian-led media evangelization initiative at Theological College, has always had the goal of pointing out the great need to keep communion at the center of any use of the modern media. Regardless of the medium, whether we preach the Gospel via podcasts, Instagram stories, YouTube series, or Facebook live feeds, the end goal is always communion with our Risen Lord within the life of his bride, the Church. As our patron, Blessed James Alberione once said so beautifully, “From the Tabernacle, everything. Without the Tabernacle, nothing.” Any media initiative that does not have communion with the Lord and his body the Church at the absolute center ought to be abandoned.

It is my sincere hope and desire, therefore, that our experience as a Church in the midst of the coronavirus crisis will do two things. First, I hope it increases our appreciation and hunger for the deep, lived communion with our Lord in the Sacraments and our relationships with one another. Second, I pray it will inspire Church leadership, including seminary formators, to recognize the great gift and responsibility of using the media in a human way to reach people in their daily lives — quarantined or otherwise.

*To learn more about this media initiative co-founded by Deacon Anthony Ferguson, the Alberione Project and its biweekly apostolate, The Big Tree podcast series, go to <http://www.theologicalcollege.org/alberioneproject/>. There are currently over 30 episodes featuring dynamic interviews on a variety of subjects with bishops, priests, scholars, religious men and woman, and laity — hosted and edited by Theological College seminarians. You can also find the Alberione Project on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook for the latest updates!*



# Pastoral Ministry at L'Arche



**Anthony May**  
*First Basselin, Diocese of Raleigh*

The surprising thing about my ministry assignment at the L'Arche community in Washington, D.C., is how much it was like being at home. I personally am one of many siblings, and life at L'Arche curiously parallels daily life in my own family. Before being sent home for the semester to avoid spread of the coronavirus, I served at L'Arche on Sunday afternoons with another seminarian, and we engaged in the "ministry of presence" and in household chores while we were there for the day.

I had selected L'Arche as a pastoral ministry placement because I have known very few mentally disabled people and have always felt uncomfortable when I did meet them. Working at L'Arche was a way I could throw myself into a ministry that I found quite intimidating. I hoped to come to know and understand more about those with mental disabilities while accompanying them in their daily life.

Every week, we would drive up behind the L'Arche townhouse, where the two of us were admitted by an assistant serving the residents. The premises are very much a home. Because it is situated in a townhouse, L'Arche does not feel clinical. The walls are decorated with the residents' own paintings. The dining room has a comfortable worn table and china cabinets, and the cozy living room is full of books and even a photograph-adorned piano.

The first of our activities was to sit and speak with one of the core members, the mentally disabled adults who are residents of L'Arche, while he prepared for church. There are six core members, four living in this ministry site and two down the road, within a few minutes' walk from the townhouse.

Because we came on Sunday, most of the other core members would attend church for an hour to an hour and a half during our visit. L'Arche is ecumenical and while most of the core members are Catholic, they attend several parishes as well as churches of other denominations. While they were not present, we would be asked to do such chores as folding laundry, cleaning the kitchen, dispensing with the recycling, or cooking a soup for dinner. When the residents returned, we would have the opportunity to help them with lunch, and then sit and do something as simple

as watching a show with them. The day was not so very different from the quintessential Sunday in my own household in Kentucky.

Importantly, we would not only interact with the core members, but often with the assistants who manage the house. So, we got to know the residents as well as those great people who are their caretakers.

Events that we participated in outside of the premises themselves were also wonderful experiences. One weekend, we walked up to a potluck brunch hosted by the church of one of the core members who, after the service, invited us to gather in the back of a D.C. restaurant. We even brought the tomato soup that an assistant had made for that event.

What warms my heart is the gift of a growing capacity to empathize with the mentally disabled who were the focus of my pastoral ministry. L'Arche provides disabled adults with an awesome domestic community, and I was so privileged and happy to be a part of it! ■

## EVENING OF RECOLLECTION

# The Redeeming Love of Christ: Insights from St. Catherine of Siena

**Michael Kieler**

*Third Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine*

This spring semester, on February 14, as part of an Evening of Recollection, TC seminarians had the privilege of attending a conference given by Professor Susan Timoney, S.T.D., of The Catholic University of America's School of Theology and Religious Studies. Given that it was Valentine's Day, and most of America had romantic love on the mind, Dr. Timoney opened the talk by acknowledging the irony of her topic: "Bathed in the Blood of Christ." Specifically, she presented St. Catherine of Siena's bold imagery of the blood of Christ as an example of how we can do a better job of engaging the imagination and affectivity of modern Catholics. Afterall, Dr. Timoney reasoned, St. Catherine resembled today's average parishioner in that her theological training was limited to sermons and the Liturgy itself. She leaned not on complex terminology and theories, but on her imagination and the essential experience of being loved by Christ.

The blood of Christ is very prominent in all of Catherine's writings. One can find incredibly vivid images such as becoming "drunk" with Christ's blood, and instructions to "immerse yourself ... Submerge and drown yourself in the blood of Christ crucified" ("To Raymond of Capua," *Letters*). Moreover, as "vessels" of the precious blood, Christians are "recreated in grace," to use Dr. Timoney's words. We are thus enabled to make a "sincere gift of self," which leads to lasting joy (*Gaudium et Spes*, 24). Priests, in particular, are called to the outpouring of charity that immersion in Christ's blood inspires. I was reminded of the words during the Ordination Rite of a priest: "Imitate what you celebrate and conform your life to the mystery of the Lord's cross."

I greatly appreciated Dr. Timoney's powerful reminder of our need to be grounded in the Passion of our Lord. Looking back, this profound reflection was one I am sure many of us revisited in the ensuing weeks as we faced the unexpected impact of the coronavirus pandemic with our families and in our dioceses across the country. In concluding the conference, Professor Timoney recited St. Catherine's prayer for priests, which reiterates this point: "Father, I beseech You, direct the hearts and wills of the servants of your bride, the holy Church, unto Yourself so that they may follow the poor, bleeding, humble, and gentle Lamb of God on the way of the cross. Make them angels in the shape of men; for after all, they have to administer and distribute the body and blood of your only begotten son!" ■



Susan Timoney, S.T.D., meets with seminarians gathered to learn more about the evangelical dynamism of Saint Catherine of Sienna.

# SAVE<sup>THE</sup> DATE

8th Annual Sedes Cup Golf Tournament



MONDAY

# 10.26.20

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.

**Watch for registration details on our website, [theologicalcollege.org](http://theologicalcollege.org), or contact coordinator Mary Nauman: 202-756-4905; [nauman@cua.edu](mailto:nauman@cua.edu).**



# Spring Break Mission Trips

## Appalachia

During spring recess, two of our seminarians participated in a service retreat at Nazareth Farm in Doddridge County, W.V. Nazareth Farm is a 40-year-old Catholic service organization that offers home repairs to local residents, a service experience to high school and college students, and a welcoming home to every visitor. Life at the farm is based on their four cornerstones of prayer, simplicity, community, and service. The seminarians were joined by groups of students from Benedictine College, Notre Dame University, St. Xavier University, and Long Island University. (To learn more about the farm, visit their website at: [www.nazarethfarm.org](http://www.nazarethfarm.org).) The two seminarians who participated in this annual TC commitment share their experiences, below.



**James Buttner**  
*Second Theology,*  
*Diocese of Syracuse*

“Welcome Home!” As we pulled into the gravel driveway of the farm, we were greeted with heartfelt hugs and this phrase on

a sign. It was a particularly resonant phrase for me, not only because this was my fourth time at the farm, but because a lot of my actual “home” was right there with me: one of my younger brothers serves on the staff, my older brother had traveled from California to make the drive with us, and my older sister was scheduled to show up a little later that week! While I went into the week joined by them, as well as by one of my “brothers” from the seminary, the entire community became like a family.

I found that working alongside others was a great way to get to know each other. Over the week we worked on a number of different job sites: removing a collapsing porch and beginning construction of a new one, replacing a leaking roof on a family’s home, installing flooring, and painting the interior of a house — which really helped brighten up both the rooms and the homeowner too! Some of these projects were straightforward, but others were extensive and required us to work and communicate well with each other. We also worked together daily cleaning the farm and cooking dinners to take to the job sites.



Inspirational handmade signs adorn the barns and buildings around Nazareth Farm.

This was one of those rich experiences in which a true community forms, characterized by joy and mutual charity. As is almost always the case, an initial intent to go and serve others had ultimately resulted in receiving a great gift myself: the gift of a loving community, formed by the other volunteers, the staff, and the incredible people of West Virginia with whom we were privileged to talk, pray, eat, and serve.



**Kyle Vance**  
*Second Theology,*  
*Archdiocese of Washington*

There was something special about the authenticity and genuineness of the community that developed among this group

of former strangers during that week of service. While I went into the week only knowing one other person (my brother seminarian, James), over the course of the week I found the new relationships rapidly deepening. This started on the car ride, getting to know James’s amazing older brother. Once at the farm, over the course of the week, we mixed with the other student groups in a way that became life-changing for us all. We were able to comfortably jump into everyday life and various work projects with all these other groups and people. We discovered that even within the groups, people who often seemed like they had known each other for years had themselves just met in earnest earlier that week!

The deep fostering of this new community for me was enabled by the practice of simplicity, particularly by being focused on “God’s time” that week— without use of a phone or watch. We had to learn to be present in the moment without the usual preoccupation with time. Instead, we focused on the present moment, and often that meant being attentive not only to the work at hand but also to each other’s presence in the moment as well.

This all culminated for me in our Friday night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The week was concluding; we had just had our final supper followed by the usual after-dinner prayer moment in the house’s upper room. Yet, the evening was only beginning (for me at least). In our upper room of prayer for that week, we had set up an intimate candlelit space for adoration, against the backdrop of partial evening darkness for us to adore Our Lord. Yet there was a more profound backdrop to his presence that I felt leading into this final evening, which was the deeply unified and sincere community we had formed that week. As adoration began, I sensed that we were making this prayerful movement into God’s

eternal presence together, not just as individuals. And for me it wasn’t something to take for granted or to expect in our often individualistic culture of today. Rather, it was a reality that called for gratitude in response to the grace of seeing God and his gifts in all things: gifts given to us through Nazareth Farm that week.

## Honduras

**Gregory Schettini**  
*Second Theology, Diocese of Dallas*

After months of preparation, including a benefit concert (see *The Crossroads* spring issue, p. 12), a group of six TC seminarians with two priests travelled on mission to Honduras during the Catholic University spring recess in March, before the broader spread of the coronavirus epidemic. We felt privileged to have been able to go on this fruitful mission and return safely, just days before the seminary and the University were forced to close.

This highly organized mission is run by the Missioners of Christ, with whom TC seminarians have been collaborating for some years. In total there were about 70 missionaries for the week: three priests, seminarians from TC and the dioceses of Phoenix and Richmond, and students from Texas A&M and Christendom. We were split into smaller groups, each attending to several communities of about 200 to 300 people. Every community has its own chapel where they would offer catechesis, Liturgy of the Word services, and, when the pastor or mission priest came around, the Mass. My group of TC seminarians lived at a parish and served in four different small communities, villages called *aldeas*. With a car, these communities were close together; it took us about 30-40 minutes to drive through all four of them.

The structure of the mission is that we join with the long-term “missioners” for two days to pray together, practice running retreats, and learn how to evangelize. On Monday, we split into the small groups, each with one or two long-term missionaries and three to five weeklong missionaries (such as ourselves). These small groups cluster together, so four to six small groups might all be serving different neighborhoods surrounding one parish. The pastors and the bishop assign to us our communities, which have already spent time preparing for our visit.

Thursday was my last day in Las Pavas, a small *aldea* outside of Santa María in Honduras. Thursday was also the day that my group’s priest arrived. Rev. Paul Sullivan, vocations director for the Diocese of Phoenix, comes for a week annually, this year bringing seven of his own seminarians. So, the missionaries assigned to Santa María included 12 seminarians, five long-term missionaries,

Father Paul, and a deacon — all to serve four small communities (a total of over 800 people) near the parish.

This was my third experience serving with the Missioners of Christ in Honduras. Put simply, their mission is to strengthen and encourage the Catholics in Honduras to remain faithful to their community and to the Church, and to provide foreign missionaries (usually from the United States) with an opportunity to encounter Christ through evangelization. On missions like this one, with so many seminarians and priests, there is a special emphasis on the sacraments.

The pastor at Santa María serves some 60 of these small *aldeas*. He does his best to minister to each one, but he obviously cannot offer a Mass in each chapel weekly. In fact, one of the catechists in my *aldea* told me with tears in his eyes that this was the very first time that the Eucharist was here in this small *ermita* (chapel). When Father Paul came to celebrate the Mass, this chapel that could seat about 30 people was holding well over 100. Outside, dozens were pressed close to the door trying to catch a glimpse of the Eucharist and to hear a word of the Gospel. The love that they have for the Eucharist and their work of fostering authentic Christian community when deprived of the sacraments have left an enduring mark on me, especially in this time of social distancing.



Rev. Andrew Szablewski, P.S.S., blesses parishioners at the Honduran mission.





Some members of the Honduras mission team, from left: Dillon Bruce (NAC, on pastoral year from Richmond), Michael Vidrine and Reed Bellingham (Basselin Class of 2019, Lafayette), Joseph Kauflin (pastoral year, Richmond), Gregory Schettini (2-T, Dallas), Rev. Casey Sanders ('17, J.C.L. candidate, Louisville), Rev. Andrew Szablewski, P.S.S. (TC formation faculty), William Buckley (2-T, Richmond), and Jeison Cortes (B '19, Galveston-Houston).

Before splitting into small teams for our missions to the remote mountainous villages, the director asked for volunteers to share why they had come to Honduras. When no one responded, she called me out by name. I told the group that I came back to Honduras because I am weak. I cannot fix the poverty of the people there, I cannot replace the parents who have fled to the U.S. trying to provide for their children, I cannot heal the damage done by abusive boyfriends, and I can hardly even speak their language well enough to ask if they have anyone in particular for whom they would like to pray. But that is exactly the point. After spending a lifetime defining myself based on what I can do, measuring myself up against others, I need the reminder that I cannot do anything. I am not their savior. They have one Savior, and he is the same one who will save me. Placing my trust in him, I can be his humble instrument of grace and mercy.

## Guatemala

### Michael Kieler

*Third Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine*

This spring break, the organization Cross Catholic Outreach sponsored a group of 10 TC seminarians and Father Carlos Piedrahita (TC's director of intellectual formation and Basselin scholars) to participate in a missionary "vision trip" to Guatemala. In a real and tangible way, the entire TC community also came with us. During the fall semester, the seminary's Hispanic Affairs

Committee hosted a fundraiser for Cross Catholic's "Boxes of Joy" (see *The Crossroads* spring issue, p. 13). About the size of a shoebox, each of these boxes is stuffed full of items that would be useful or fun for kids living in poverty (toys, toiletries, notepads, arts and crafts, clothing, etc.). The generous response of the community was impressive: seminarians, faculty, and staff raised approximately \$2,000 and made it possible for 75 youngsters to receive a Box of Joy. This trip also received aid from the benefit concert held in January.

During the mission trip, we had the privilege of seeing the impact of these gifts. Fernando Marquez, Cross Catholic's coordinator for the trip, arranged for us to personally give boxes to dozens of kids, first at a public school and later at a girls' orphanage run by religious sisters. What impressed me most was their joy and gratitude. As happy as they were to receive the gifts, they were even more grateful for our presence there. This was especially true at the orphanage. It was heartbreaking to think that those children were living at the orphanage because they came from broken families or abusive households. Yet the expressions on the girls' faces showed that they were anything but discouraged by their circumstances. Aided by the love and dedication of the religious sisters, they seemed able to enjoy life in a relatively carefree way, as only children can.

The other thing which most impacted me during our time at the orphanage was the love and devotion which the children had for our Lord. When Father Piedrahita celebrated Mass with

the sisters and the children, their enthusiasm and attentiveness to the Liturgy was astounding. They sang far louder than any congregation of adults I have heard in recent memory! In the Gospel, Christ tells us that "unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" (*Matt* 18:3). Sadly, at all too early an age, many children in the world lose the innocence and carefreeness which Christ envisions here. I am so grateful to have seen the work of these sisters to help preserve the innocence and joy of these children.

I felt blessed to catch a small glimpse of the great work that Cross Catholic Outreach does to benefit institutions like the orphanage in Guatemala and in many other developing countries. As diocesan priests in the United States, God willing, it will be our duty to be attentive to poverty and need at the global level, even while tending to the pastoral needs in our homeland. Several of our own TC faculty, including Father Piedrahita, have been supporting the work of Cross Catholic by preaching around the USA on behalf of the organization. In the words of Pope Francis, "We constantly have to broaden our horizons and see the greater good which will benefit us all ... We need to sink our roots deeper into the fertile soil and history of our native place, which is a gift



At a school in Guatemala, Rev. Carlos Piedrahita (right) and Nicholas Waldron (2-B, Rockville Centre) give out "Boxes of Joy" that the seminary community had funded and packed for mission trip distribution.

of God. We can work on a small scale, in our own neighborhood, but with a larger perspective ... The global need not stifle, nor the particular prove barren" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 235).



TC community members after Mass in their Guatemalan mission town, from left: Vincent Castaldi (1-T, New York), Elmer Herrera-Guzmán (4-T, Dallas), Carlos De La Rosa (pastoral year, Corpus Christi), Rev. Carlos Piedrahita, Cesar Garcia (2-T, Dallas), Luke Kirk (2-B, Lafayette), Jaime Maldonado-Avilés (4-T, Hartford), Michael Kieler (3-T, St. Augustine), Andrew Heidelbaugh (1-B, Harrisburg), Nicholas Waldron (2-B, Rockville Centre), and Peter Bui (1-T, Worcester).





Stephen Wong with the Archdiocese of Kingston's Archbishop Charles Dufour, his former pastor in the 1970s.

## Jamaica

### Stephen Wong

*First Pre-Theology, Archdiocese of Washington*

During spring recess, I participated in a mission trip to Jamaica with a charitable organization called Mustard Seed. As described on their website, “Mustard Seed is a Christian-based charity that has mission ministries in Nicaragua, Zimbabwe, Dominican Republic, and Jamaica. Mustard Seed Communities provide homes for the abandoned, the severely disabled and intellectually handicapped, children who are HIV positive, and teen mothers with their babies. Mustard Seed’s mission is to provide a secure and supportive environment to aid in the physical, mental, and spiritual development of its residents. They currently serve over 500 people in these vulnerable populations.”

The Archdiocese of Washington’s John Paul II Seminary sponsored this year’s mission to Jamaica from March 6 to 13 in Moneague. The trip was led by Father Kevin Regan, vice-rector and dean of men at the JP II Seminary, and included 17 other seminarians from the Archdiocese of Washington.

I was born and raised in Kingston, Jamaica, until my family immigrated to the U.S. in 1979. En route from Baltimore to Jamaica for this mission trip, I prayed not only for myself and my homecoming but for our team, that God would bestow many blessings and reward us with his presence (maybe in a laid-back Caribbean way!). I prayed to see him at work with us and the Jamaican people during our assignment at Mustard Seed’s Jacob’s Ladder, a home for mentally and physically disabled young adults over the age of 18.

Stepping onto Jamaican soil for the first time in 30 years, I was filled with anxiety and excitement. My anxiety stemmed from not knowing if I would feel or experience a sense of belonging in my home country. On the other hand, I yearned to reminisce on the island where I was born — to rekindle within myself the rhythm and freedom of spirit of the Jamaican people. Upon landing in Montego Bay, I was immediately struck by the friendliness of the immigration officer. He readily recognized me as a native. “Once a Jamaican, always a Jamaican,” he said, adding, “So yu ha won ha we.” That’s translated as, “You are still one of us.” I praised and thanked God as my anxiety quickly disappeared and I felt him working among us.

I assimilated immediately into the Jamaican culture, language, and people. Because of the trust I gained from some of the locals, I heard stories not told to others. I learned about their many sufferings to meet basic needs and the reasons why people often revert to crime. I sensed fertile ground for the message of the Gospel to change their lives. This is also the Christian basis for the Mustard Seed ministry.

Prior to my trip, I had contacted Archbishop Charles Dufour, my parish priest during the 1970s. He surprised us with a visit. He offered Father Regan and me insights about Jamaican religion and politics. We were also thankful when he took time to meet and speak with the rest of the mission team. We needed his encouragement. The past few days had brought loads of rain due to an unexpected cold front that prevented us from working on some construction projects. To complicate matters, the coronavirus precautionary measures limited our visits with the residents. Instead of hugging them, we settled for touching elbows!

Our desire to help was strong, so we prayed for the rain to stop, which it did, on Tuesday, March 10, when the great Jamaican sunshine graced the commencement of our labor. We worked extremely hard, hand in hand with Mustard Seed’s maintenance crew, making concrete, moving heavy debris, and installing poles and fences.

Hours of making and shoveling cement was strenuous, but it also reinforced friendships we developed with the Jamaicans and seminarians taking part in the mission. The most blessed and rewarding experience for many of us was witnessing 16 of the disabled residents participating in the Stations of the Cross.

Jamaica’s national motto beautifully describes our week’s experience in prayerfully working with the locals and our hope for the country’s future: “Out of many people, one people.”



## Quarantine Experiences



### Hearkening to God’s Voice

#### Rev. Andrew Szablewski, P.S.S.

*Formation Faculty*

How could one even look for any “gifts” in the midst of this world havoc? There is death and suffering, frustration and anxiety, fear of the unknown and uncontrollable future. We have to open our eyes to see the gifts that might be in front of us. We have never celebrated Easter this way; we have never done priestly formation this way; we have never even done a simple haircut this way. Still, we believe that Christ is risen and that we will not only survive this difficult and painful time, but, just possibly, we will grow stronger because of it.

I personally have more time to read, but is that just an escape from reality? I like to learn new languages, but is that just “killing time” so as not to think about what is going on? I love to pray ... and here is where I am able to embrace reality in many different ways and for many different people. Silence and solitude bring all sorts of things from our subconscious: issues we are not comfortable with (which we should have dealt with long ago) and issues that we were not even aware of. Moreover, silence also brings out the voice of God which now, with all the silence and solitude, has gotten louder and clearer — and how beautiful it is. These extended periods of silence bring internal stillness and peace. They are even more treasured and looked forward to. Every word in the psalm prayed seems to sing its own music, a different music, a music perhaps undiscovered before. Every word of the Scripture plays a tune that brings those same assurances of love divine and hope, that did not sound like that before. The voice of

God and the music create a great and welcoming harmony that one cannot disregard but within which one wishes to remain, longer and longer. This music is (sometimes) translated into reflections and homilies; into prayer and charity. And how beautiful it is to offer a prayer for someone who is pained by frustration or fear, and sometimes more, and who does not know where to go or whom to ask for a message of hope.

This has been a time to listen to God and to others; a time to focus on the here and now, because our future is uncertain; a time to elucidate and authenticate our life priorities; a time to look forward to the better and brighter future with God and with our loved ones. We will come out of this stronger because we are more aware that we are not in control and that God is present in our lives for good and for bad, in sickness and in health. He does not waver; he is steadfast. We should therefore also be steadfast, trusting in him at all times.



### Multiplying the Fruit of Formation

#### Peter Bui

*First Theology,  
Diocese of Worcester*

All of us, in some way, whether directly or indirectly, have been affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The World Health Organization’s global reports of confirmed cases of COVID-19 have reached into the several millions. In mid-March, the day after I returned from a spring recess mission trip to Guatemala (see p. 20), The Catholic University of America and Theological College announced the decision to close their academic and housing buildings for the safety of their students. As a result, we seminarians were asked to return to our respective dioceses. Despite the challenges of transitioning to online classes



and the interruption of our important formation conversations at TC, I recognized that, even in this less-than-ideal situation, there were many opportunities for formative experiences for us as we continue to sincerely discern the calling to a vocation to the priesthood.

Although the in-house formation program was put on hold due to the crisis, I felt sure that the fruits of my formation would be multiplied. I believe this because we who have chosen to commit ourselves to the formation program have become the good soil in which the seeds of formation cannot help but produce a crop — 100, 60, or 30 times what was sown (*Matt* 13:8). It can be expected then that the fruits from our previous life at the seminary — weekly conferences, bi-weekly spiritual direction and formation advisor meetings, daily attendance in class and daily participation in the Most Holy Eucharist — have formed and continue to form us in ways that we would have never imagined.

For instance, since returning to my diocese, I have been in contact with my spiritual and formation advisors via the internet and phone. Although the process is not ideal, I find it helpful to hear from the faculty whom I trust and from whom I seek guidance. Both my advisors have emphasized the importance of keeping my prayer life strong, especially during this challenging time. I shared with them that although public Masses have been cancelled, I still have the opportunity to serve as an altar server at private Masses or attend Masses via the internet or television. Nevertheless, I must humbly admit that I have a greater appreciation for the Mass now than I did before, in part because I recognize just how much I

depend on the Eucharist to fuel my life and heart as I answer the call to the vocation of the priesthood.

At the same time however, I am aware that we are all called to suffer and mourn with those who have been harmed by COVID-19. Across our dioceses, our parishioners have lost jobs and loved ones; they have experienced the difficulties of school closures and suffered the reality of suspended public Masses without the possibility of receiving bodily Communion. It is obvious that the goal of our seminary formation is not to form our character for our own sake, but to bring about a greater love in service to God and God’s people. Therefore, I view the temporary closure of the seminary not so much as an obstacle to formation but as an opportunity to put into practice what I have received and learned during my time at TC.

You may be thinking: that sounds good, but what does that actually look like? It is often very simple. For example, this morning, sharing with others what I have received during my time in formation took the shape of simply making calls to friends and family and asking them how they were doing during this time of crisis, while making sure to include them and others in my prayers. Another day, I was interviewed on Facebook by a priest from my diocese, reaching out to others by telling them a little about myself. During Holy Week, I led virtual Stations of the Cross prayer sessions with my former youth group to help them in their own spiritual lives, and I continue to serve private Masses in the parish where I live. And now, before the day’s end, I leave the rest up to God, whom I trust to do the multiplying. ■

### PART III

## Pastoral Year Reflections

**Alexandre Jiménez de Alcântara**  
*Pastoral Year,*  
*Diocese of Richmond*

In the last several weeks, I have had the opportunity to engage in certain types of ministry that I never expected during a parish assignment. These have included serving in live-stream Masses,

attending parish events from home over Zoom online chat, calling parishioners to ask if they have access to basic needs, like food and medication, and also sanitizing more church chairs than I would ever have imagined. Although COVID-19 has introduced new changes in the parish, it has also been an opportunity for learning and for being inspired by the people in my parish community.

Out of the three parishes to which I have been assigned since beginning formation, Saint Ann’s has demonstrated particularly a great love for fellowship and community. It is the type of parish where people love

to gather after Mass in the narthex to chat and catch up on each other’s lives. Consequently, the effects of COVID-19 have proven especially difficult for the community here, with its suspension of communal worship and parish events.

It has been humbling and moving for me to see how deeply not being able to gather together has affected parishioners. A parishioner expressed to me in a conversation how much she missed being able to see everyone and how one doesn’t fully realize the gift of fellowship until it is no longer available. She told me this with tears welling up in her eyes. In response to

this challenge, what has also inspired me about Saint Ann’s is how quick we were to brainstorm and create new ways to stay connected, particularly via the internet.

Only a couple of days after our diocese announced the suspension of all public Masses and most parish gatherings, we had a staff meeting in which our youth minister was already eager to share some of her ideas of how to stay connected to the parish community. What resulted from the collective efforts of our staff has been a panoply of online events where parishioners have been able to continue to participate in the communal life of the parish: daily live-stream Masses, Sunday youth group over Zoom, and Wednesday night music and prayer, among others. Although we had to remain physically distant, these online events meant so much for parishioners. It has also been a great learning experience in my own formation to see how my pastor and our staff have responded so readily, prudently, and with great devotion to the changes. One parishioner jokingly, but sincerely, said to me, “If you can make it through all this, you’ll be able to make it through anything in your priesthood!” Being at my parish during COVID-19 has taught me about the importance of solidarity, responding efficiently to emergencies, and overall respect for human life.

On a personal level, something else I have learned on pastoral year has been the gift of embracing my humanity. At times while in seminary I have led myself to believe that I must be perfect to be a priest. The image that comes to my mind is somebody who never makes a mistake



Alex Jiménez with his supervising pastor at St. Ann’s, Rev. Daniel Cogut (right), and Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., TC’s director of pastoral formation, during a visit in February.

and is always caught up in spiritual things. However, since being on pastoral year, I have grown in my ability to accept my own weaknesses and to develop a deeper appreciation for those very things which make us human. For me, some of these have included learning to cook in the rectory, making it a point to stay in touch with my family and friends, and enjoying a good laugh while watching a television comedy with my pastor.

In embracing the gift of my own humanity, what I have also come to find are more authentic, meaningful, and fruitful encounters with those in my pastoral ministry. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote in his apostolic exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, that it is important that a priest mold his human personality in a way that becomes a bridge for others in their meeting with Christ. I have definitely seen his words ring true in my own experience on pastoral year. Along with being kind

and approachable, I have found that people also enjoy knowing that their priests and seminarians are normal human beings with normal human interests and hobbies. For example, I cannot forget one particular group of boys who were excited to ask me if I played video games when I visited their classroom one morning at the nearby Catholic school.

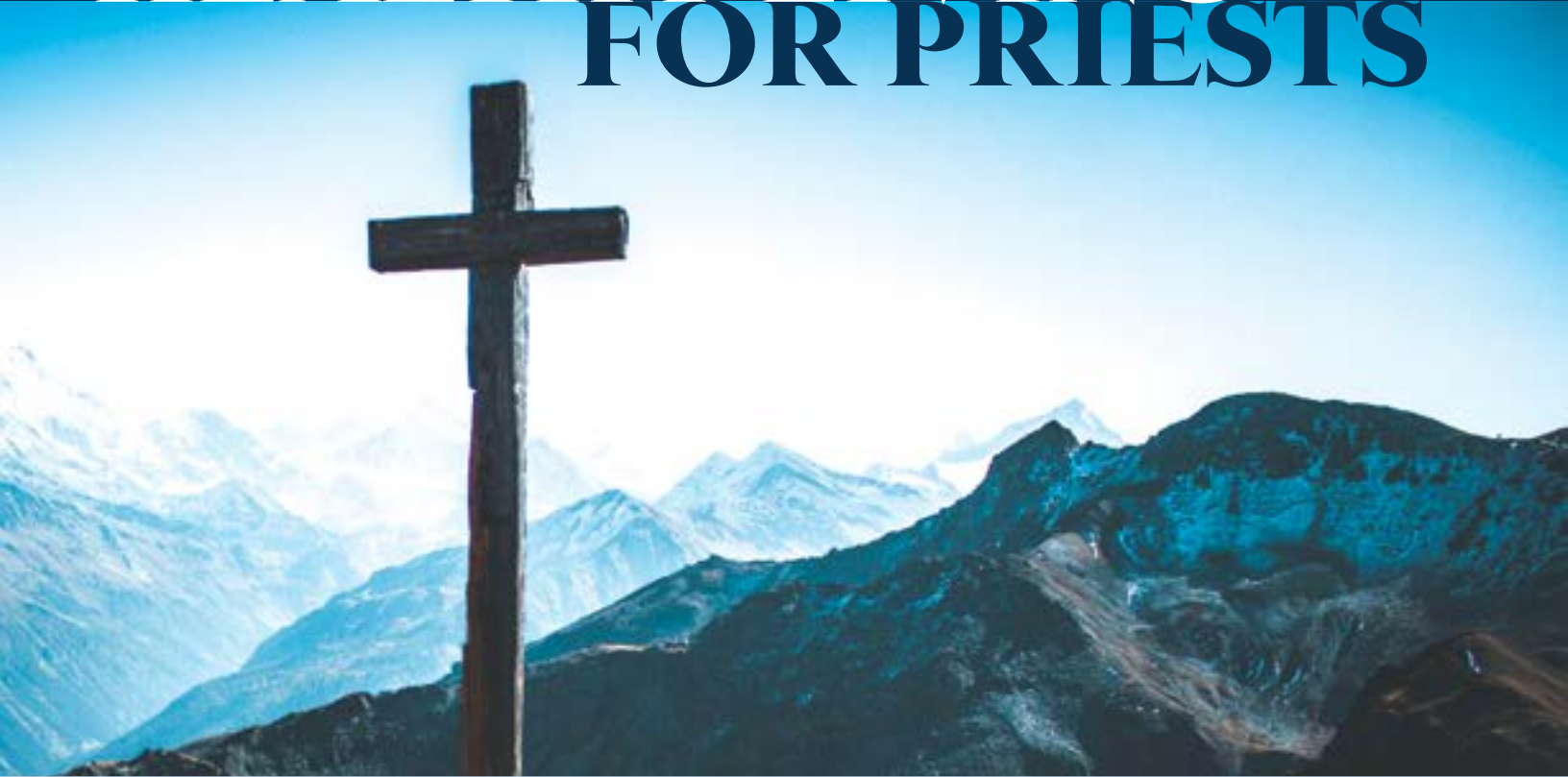
I cannot believe I will soon be finished with my pastoral year. I have experienced so much over the course of this past year and I know I have also learned so much about myself and about parish ministry. I am deeply grateful to my pastor, the staff, and to all the parishioners of Saint Ann’s for making my pastoral year so meaningful for me. God willing, I will return for Christmas and the 2021 Triduum to help serve the liturgies. In the meantime, I look forward to returning to TC for third theology and continuing to follow the Lord’s will for my life each day. ■





# HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS

HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS



## Shepherding in a Time of Traumatic Stress and Anxiety

**Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., Ph.D.**  
*Director of Pastoral Formation*

**Celebrating Holy Week Liturgy virtually? No one ever heard of it in the history of the Catholic Church. But now millions of Catholics throughout the world are trying to get accustomed to de-localizing liturgical participation through virtual Mass and spiritual communion. Yet it is still unimaginable and unprecedented for many pastors to celebrate Mass in an empty parish church. Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* blessing of March 27 and Holy Week celebrations in an empty St. Peter's Basilica showed us his ecclesial solidarity and pastoral support during this pandemic era. In his Angelus address on March 15, Pope Francis expressed that he wanted his priests to be creative during this time of unprecedented challenges. Here are some creative ways priests can cope with the most significant effects of COVID-19 — namely, traumatic stress and anxiety.**

### TRAUMATIC STRESS

The pandemic situation pushed some to a state of traumatic stress, emerging from feelings of intense shock, uncertainty, and fear, arising from conflicting media messages and the illnesses of loved ones and parishioners, among so many others.

#### TRAUMATIC STRESS CAN BE MANAGED BY:

##### A) Monitoring our emotions, such as:

- Sadness and grief that we survived the illness when a family member or friend died.
- Anger and frustration that God is not helping us at this crucial time.
- Helplessness that we are vulnerable to death at any time
- Guilt that we do not have a quick fix to this situation.

##### B) Cultivating hope:

Hope in the future should be nurtured. The worst is over and there is light at the end of the tunnel due to bailouts, expedited research in medication and vaccines all around the world, and concrete plans for the reopening of states and countries.

##### C) Maintaining a life balance:

- Stay informed about the current situation and the updates but be aware of spending too much time on social media and watching TV, which may increase anxiety and fear due to overwhelming rumors and conflicting information.
- Connect with people. While reaching out to parishioners through social media, phone calls, video chat, text message and emails, do not ignore staying in touch with friends and family members for your social support. Maintain a balanced schedule for personal and pastoral/professional relationships.
- Exercise and nurture a healthy diet. While trying to sustain a regular exercise schedule and healthy eating habits, monitor your consumption of junk food and alcohol and your use of tobacco.

### ANXIETY

Anxiety reduces our brain function and increases compulsive behavior.

- Monitor anxiety level by using an online anxiety screening tool.

#### TO ENERGIZE BRAIN FUNCTIONING:

- Cultivate reflective listening, read poetry, listen to music, etc.
- Develop relaxation techniques such as repetitive prayer, mindfulness meditation, breathing exercises.
- Monitor sleep time and be aware of insomnia and hypersomnia.

#### ANXIETY TRIGGERS HYPERACTIVITY

- Monitor your emotions such as anger, short-temperedness, as well as reactive behaviors such as frequent online shopping and compulsive spending. Use an online shopping tracker.
- Practice acceptance — God who loves us is ultimately in charge.
- Balance your rationalized generalizations with localized reality. Check if the world or national news on COVID-19 fully applies to your locality.
- Be realistic: differentiate between what you can and cannot control in life.
- Avoid boredom by maintaining structure and a daily routine, allocating time especially for prayer. Avoid daydreaming and procrastination.
- Be creative to distract your anxiety. Develop some creative projects for yourself and for your parish.
- Build resilience; anxiety can intensify our vulnerability and feelings of helplessness.
- Develop trust in your potential, hope in a brighter future, and faith in God.
- Cultivate spiritual activities. Talk to your spiritual director. Read spiritual books.



# FACULTY AND STAFF ALUMNI

## A New Publication on Formation Advising

*A Guide to Formation Advising for Seminarians/Seminary Faculty*

by **Deacon Edward J. McCormack**  
*Catholic University Press (June 2020)*

Theological College's Coordinator of Human and Spiritual Formation, Deacon Edward McCormack, is the author of the first publication on the ministry of seminary formation advising. That a member of the TC faculty has produced this timely dual-volume work is a fitting reminder that TC has been at the forefront of best practices in seminary formation for decades. For example, in 1971, TC was the first seminary in the world to introduce both "supervised pastoral ministry" and the "external forum" as essential components of the seminary formation program — elements that are now mandated in the USCCB's Program for Priestly Formation.

Catholic University Press took up this publishing project in answer to a growing need. The future of the Church depends, in part, on forming future priests and ministers who are prepared to accompany, lead, and love the people of God. Formation advising is one important part of that work. The recent Vatican guidelines for seminary formation call for professional accompaniment of seminarians throughout their formation. For men and women new to the ministry of formation advising, *A Guide to Formation Advising for Seminarians/Seminary Faculty* provides practical and detailed guidance for formation advising as a ministry of accompaniment, participation, and evaluation. McCormack also offers a comprehensive introduction to the ministry of formation advising for seminarians studying for priestly ministry.

Beginning with an overview of the formation process, *A Guide to Formation Advising for Seminarians/Seminary Faculty* explains the role of the formation advisor and the skills required for this ministry. It describes the various ways the formation advisor accompanies a person through the formation process. McCormack provides concrete suggestions for how to promote in seminarians an active participation in the process. Formators will also find an explanation of the spring evaluation process with a style sheet and examples of written evaluations. The handbook contains an annotated bibliography on all the major topics with which a formation advisor will be concerned.



Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, third from left, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination on April 18 at a Mass with other formation faculty at TC. In the fall, with the return of the house, the community hopes to celebrate together with Father Chris!

*Deacon Edward J. McCormack joined the formation faculty at Theological College in August 2013 and currently serves as Coordinator of Human and Spiritual Formation. He also teaches in the D. Min. program as an adjunct professor in the area of Christian spirituality at The Catholic University of America.*

*He earned a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at Catholic University and an M.A. in Theology at Immaculate Conception Seminary in South Orange, N.J. He has been teaching theology for 30 years and training men and women for ministry in the Church at both the master's and doctoral levels for 15 years. Ed has served on the faculties at the Dominican House of Studies, St. Mary's Seminary & University, and Washington Theological Union, where he was an associate professor of Christian Spirituality and the Chair of the Spirituality Department. Deacon Ed has taught courses in Systematic Theology and Christian Spirituality, specializing in Ignatian spirituality. He has published widely on the intersection of Christian spirituality and pastoral practice. He is currently working on a book about guiding a person through the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Deacon Ed, a happily married father of two, is a permanent deacon at St. John the Baptist Catholic Community in Silver Spring, Md.*



## Class Notes

### 70s

**Rev. Msgr. Paul F. Stefanko**, J.C.L., '76, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), will retire from active ministry effective August 1, 2020. Monsignor Stefanko will continue exercising his priestly ministry by providing coverage in parishes, by assisting the Diocese of Portland's Tribunal as a judge as needed, and by serving as the vicar for priests for the Diocese of Portland.

### 80s

**Rev. Msgr. James D. Watkins**, B '84, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed administrator of Nativity Parish in Washington, D.C., while continuing to serve as pastor of St. Ann Parish, Washington, D.C., effective February 4, 2020.

**Rev. John R. Skehan**, '86, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine) is currently serving as pastor of St. Michael Parish (St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Augusta; St. Augustine Church, Augusta; St. Joseph Church, Gardiner; Sacred Heart Church, Hallowell; St. Denis Church, Whitefield; St. Francis Xavier Church, Winthrop) after being transferred from his service as pastor of the Parish of the Transfiguration of the Lord.

**Very Rev. Martin A. Linebach**, V.G., '87, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed rector of the Cathedral



Rev. Stefan Megyery ('19, Washington) at a visit to TC, shown here with Memphis seminarians Scott Bahrke (2-T), left, and Gabe Bouck (3-T).

of the Assumption in Louisville, while continuing to serve as vicar general for the archdiocese, effective August 5, 2020. Father Linebach will conclude his ministry as pastor of St. James in Elizabethtown, where he has served since June of 2014.

### 90s

**Rev. Timothy J. Nadeau**, '91, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Stella Maris Parish in Bucksport, St. Joseph Parish in Ellsworth, and Parish of the Transfiguration of the Lord in Bar Harbor to serve as pastor of the Good Shepherd Parish comprised of six churches: Most Holy Trinity Church, Saco; St. Joseph Church, Biddeford; St. Margaret Church, Old Orchard Beach; St. Philip Church, Lyman; Most Holy Trinity Church, Saco; and St. Brendan Church, Biddeford Pool, effective August 1, 2020.

### 00s

**Rev. Steven G. Cartwright**, B '01, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine) is currently serving as parochial vicar of St. Anne's Parish in Gorham, which includes Our Lady of Sebago Church in Sebago; St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Westbrook; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Windham, after being transferred from his service as parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Parish in Lewiston.

**Rev. Scott Hahn**, '03, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed administrator of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Seat Pleasant, Md., while continuing to serve as pastor of St. Jerome Parish, Hyattsville, Md., effective February 4, 2020.

### 10s

**Rev. John D. Dickinson**, J.C.L., '11, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish in Sanford and St. Matthew Parish in Limerick to serve as pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish in Cape Elizabeth, St. John & Holy Cross Parish in South

Thanks to our generous supporters who helped exceed TC's first annual Lenten **AlmsGiving Tuesday** goal of \$5,000 on March 24! We raised \$7,912 from 41 donors.



Portland, and Saint Maximilian Parish in Scarborough, while continuing to serve as judicial vicar for the Diocese of Portland's Tribunal for adjudication, effective August 1, 2020.

**Very Rev. Ruben Villarreal**, J.C.L., B '11, of the Diocese of Lake Charles, has been appointed temporary administrator of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Lake Charles, one of the largest parishes in the diocese, ministering to 1,600 families. Father Villarreal will continue to serve as vice chancellor, secretary adjutant to Bishop Provost, judge on the diocesan tribunal, and chaplain and faculty member at St. Louis Catholic High School.

**Rev. Robert Boxie III**, Pre-T '12, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was invited to speak at an interfaith prayer service at Our Lady of Victory Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, N.Y., on January 20, 2020, by Father Alonzo Cox, coordinator of the Vicariate of Black Catholic Concerns for the Diocese of Brooklyn, a service held annually on MLK Day. Father Boxie shared with the 200-plus in attendance the importance of Dr. King's legacy both in



Father Scott Holmer (2013 class representative), pastor at St. Edward the Confessor Parish in Bowie, Md., keeping safe distance away from penitents for drive-through Confessions during Lent. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

American history and our faith, emphasizing that his advocacy, nonviolent protests, and letters "peacefully sidestepped quiet submission and culminated in something greater that we continue to draw inspiration from."

**Rev. Stephen Wyble**, B'12, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac, Md., to serve as administrator of Sacred Heart Parish in Bushwood, Md., and Holy Angels Parish in Avenue, Md., effective February 17, 2020.

**Rev. David Roman**, '19, of the Diocese of Bridgeport, shared with *The Crossroads* during a brief visit to Theological College in early March that, as parochial vicar at St. Aloysius Parish and grade school in New Canaan, Conn., he is happily serving in many capacities, including in the youth, family formation, and religious education ministries, as well as serving as the chaplain for the local fire department. His robust parish, whose pastor is TC's alumnus, **Rev. Robert Kinnally**, '05, serves almost 3,000 families in a thriving Catholic community.



Rev. Anthony Federico ('19) celebrates Mass for the TC community, assisted by his Hartford diocesan brother, Deacon Jaime Maldonado-Avilés.

# In Memoriam

**Rev. John C. Kemper, P.S.S., M.Div., D.Min.**  
July 29, 1957–May 21, 2020



On May 21, Rev. John C. Kemper, P.S.S., the Provincial of the American Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, passed away after battling an aggressive cancer diagnosis for over two years. He went to the Lord surrounded by family, friends, and his brother

Sulpicians at Villa Olier, the Sulpician retirement residence whose renovation he had directed.

Father Kemper was ordained in 1983 for the Diocese of Harrisburg and was a parish priest for three years before being accepted as a candidate for the Society of St. Sulpice. Since joining the Sulpicians as a full member in 1989, he served the American Province in a variety of challenging ministries, all revealing his creative and organizational gifts along with his gift for friendship. While holding the rank of professor of pastoral theology, his assignments were many and varied — such as those of vice-rector and as president, director, and liaison for different programs at four seminaries, before working directly for the Province, whose home base is Baltimore. Father Kemper was a dedicated administrator with a warm heart, a good sense of humor, and a passion for building; he was admired and respected by both colleagues and staff wherever he served.

For the Aug. 24, 2019, dedication of the new priests residence in the century-old Providence Hall, Father Kemper blesses the plaque recognizing it as the former convent of the Sisters of Divine Providence, who tended to the domestic needs of the seminary until 1986.



Always a committed shepherd, Father Kemper continued to be engaged in pastoral ministry throughout his priestly career, as he frequently served as a confessor for the Oblate Sisters of Providence and was a spiritual director for seminarians. He would include himself in the mission co-op to preach appeals for money to support the Sulpician mission in Africa. He also maintained an active relationship with his home diocese through his frequent visits, keeping in touch with close friends and classmates from the seminary, and serving on the diocesan seminary board.

As Provincial, among his many accomplishments, including facilitating the administration of Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Tex. (2017), and the U.S. Province's acceptance of responsibility for St. Anthony's Seminary in Kachebere, Malawi (2018), Father Kemper was deeply interested in nurturing the vibrancy of Theological College. He was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for TC and in that role organized effective outreach projects and oversaw the renovation of Providence Hall, the residence for those alumni returning to TC to complete their S.T.L. or J.C.L. degrees. He made major contributions to the Office of Advancement for TC, most recently by spearheading fundraising for the John C. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy.

His close friend, TC's former rector Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., commented, "He evidenced time and time again his support for the unique mission of Theological College as the seminary of The Catholic University of America. I ask that you keep Father Kemper's mother, his three sisters, and their families in your prayers at this very difficult time. May he rest in peace, as he is received by an embrace of love beyond imagining."

*For Father Kemper's full obituary, detailing his biographical background and myriad accomplishments, go to [sulpicians.org](https://sulpicians.org).*

"According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds on it." (1 Cor 3:10)





**Dr. Francis P. McQuade, B'42**, died on July 4, 2018, at the age of 98. Dr. McQuade was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Paterson on May 6, 1995, by the late Bishop Frank J. Rodimer (TC '51), serving at St. Patrick Church in

Chatham and later was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Newark on December 6, 2006, where he served at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange. He was a member of the Newark Archdiocese Ecumenical Commission and served as a legal advisor to The Holy See Mission in the United Nations for many years. In addition to his dedicated service to the Church, he earned seven academic degrees, including a doctorate in philosophy from The Catholic University of America, a doctorate in law from Fordham University, an L.L.M. in law from New York University, and a Master of Arts degree in theology from Seton Hall University. He was admitted to the practice of law in New York and New Jersey. Among his many accomplishments, Dr. McQuade was a graduate of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, professor emeritus of Seton Hall School of Law, founding chairman of the Red Mass, and former adjunct professor of Immaculate Conception Seminary. In 2007, he was the recipient of the Many Are One Alumni Service Award for his commitment to Seton Hall University School of Law and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology and Seton Hall University. Additionally, he received the Bishop J. McQuaid Medal for Distinguished Service to Seton Hall University, the University's highest faculty award by then Archbishop Peter L. Gerety. Dr. McQuade is survived by his beloved wife, Theresa Ellen Natale McQuade, and many other family members. Mass of Christian burial was offered on July 9, 2018, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in South Orange, with interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Hanover. Memorial donations may be sent to Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University, 400 South Orange Ave., South Orange, NJ 07079.



**Monsignor Francis A. Galles, B'49**, died on September 7, 2019, at the age of 92. Monsignor Galles was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Winona on

December 20, 1952, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome after completing his studies there at the Gregorian University. He began his dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned more than five decades, serving initially as a parochial vicar at St. John Nepomucene in Winona and St. Pius X in Rochester. Later, he served as pastor at five parishes throughout his diocese: St. Francis Xavier, Windom; St. Augustine, Jeffers; St. Columban, Preston; St. Lawrence, Fountain; and St. Patrick in Lanesboro. Additional assignments included working as assistant editor of *The Courier*, spiritual director for Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona and the North American College in Rome, advocate and notary for the tribunal, chaplain for the Sisters of St. Francis Motherhouse in Rochester, and as parochial administrator for seven parishes within the Winona diocese. In 1962, he was named Papal Chamberlain by Pope St. John XXIII, and in 1968, was named Domestic Prelate. On July 1, 1997, Monsignor Galles joined the rank of senior priests of the diocese. After his retirement from active ministry in 1998, he bought a home near St. Columban's in Preston, dubbed "The Hermitage," and continued to offer weekday masses at St. Columban's, substituting regularly at many other parishes as well. Even after moving into an assisted living facility in 2015, Monsignor Galles stayed active in many local organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, the arts council, and the local historical society. Finally, at age 92, he retired from offering weekday masses (due to his inability to drive in the snow). Most Reverend John Quinn, Bishop of Winona-Rochester, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Monsignor Galles on September 11, 2019, at St. Columban Church, Preston, with interment in the Galles family plot at St. Columba Cemetery, Iona.



**Rev. Richard Wozniak, '52**, died on September 6, 2019, at the age of 92. Being drawn to a life of service after hearing a presentation by a Claretian missionary, he made his first profession of vows on July

16, 1944, and continued his studies at Dominguez Seminary in Compton. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University in Los Angeles and then joined other Claretians from across the United States to complete his theological studies at The Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the

priesthood at San Gabriel Mission in California on September 20, 1952. Father Wozniak's dedicated priestly ministry spanned more than six decades and included service as associate pastor, teacher, and mentor of local youth in the inner city and college campuses. He received his Master of Arts degree in sociology from Notre Dame University in Indiana and he pursued advanced studies at Graduate Theological Union in Berkley, California, St. Jude College, and Washington Theological Union. Mass of Christian burial was offered for Father Wozniak on September 12, 2019, at the Dominquez Seminary in Rancho Dominguez, Cal., with interment in San Gabriel Mission Cemetery, Rancho Dominguez.



**Rev. Harry P. Jewison, '54**, died on July 15, 2019, at the age of 93. Father Jewison was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Winona by Bishop Edward A. Fitzgerald in 1954, the largest class in the history of the diocese. He was appointed to serve as associate pastor during the

first years of his priesthood at five different parishes. During those years, he was also an instructor at Cotter High School in Winona and St. Mary's High School in Owatonna and each of the parishes' grade schools as well. His dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned over six decades, also included service as pastor at the following parishes: Holy Cross, Dakota; Precious Blood, Lamoille; St. Columban's, Iona; St. John Vianney, Fairmont; St. Mary's, Lake City; St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester; and Sacred Heart in Owatonna. Additionally, Father Jewison served as area director (dean) in the Fairmont, Lake City, and Rochester areas, as a member of the presbyterial council of the diocese and of the college of consultors to the bishop, and as a longtime member of the Knights of Columbus, which he joined in 1944. After his retirement from active ministry in 1994, he lived in Rochester and continued to assist many parishes throughout the diocese where his help was needed. Most Reverend John M. Quinn,

bishop of Winona-Rochester, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Jewison on July 19, 2019, at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, with interment in Calvary Cemetery, Rochester.



**Rev. Peter F. Lennon, '55**, died on August 18, 2015, at the age of 86. Father Lennon was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1955, by the late Archbishop Thomas A. Boland for the Archdiocese of Newark. Father Lennon's faithful priestly ministry,

spanning six decades, is remembered especially for his notable service and accomplishments as an educator and devoted member of the Seton Hall University community. In his first assignment, Father Lennon taught at Seton Hall Prep from 1955 to 1960. During 1960 to 1965, he became an instructor in theology at Seton Hall University while obtaining a master's degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame. In 1965, Father Lennon began to teach psychology as an assistant professor. In 1969, he received his doctorate in psychology from Duquesne University, after which he rose to associate professor of psychology. Father Lennon was honored with the Bishop J. Bernard McQuaid Medal for Distinguished Service, Seton Hall University's most distinguished faculty award, in 1995. He retired from teaching in 1998. Although no longer serving in the classroom, Father Lennon continued to serve Seton Hall, as well as numerous parishes throughout the archdiocese where his priestly ministry was needed, until 2011, when, because of his declining health, he took up residence at Saint Catherine's Infirmary at Mount St. Dominic in Caldwell, N.J. Mass of Christian burial for Father Lennon was offered on August 24, 2015, at Immaculate Conception Chapel at Seton Hall University in South Orange, with interment at Holy Name Cemetery, Jersey City. Memorial donations may be made to Saint Catherine's Infirmary in Caldwell.





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

THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA 



## *Join us for the annual Theological College Alumni Day Celebration!*

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

**Bishop Robert Barron**  
*Alumnus Lifetime Service Award Recipient*

**Monsignor Stephen Rossetti**  
*Guest Lecturer*

Register today at **[theologicalcollege.org](https://theologicalcollege.org)**  
under the Alumni tab!