

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

the

Crossroads

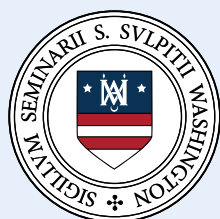
The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Spring 2021



RECTOR'S
INSTALLATION

FORMATION WEEK
REFLECTIONS

TC ALUMNUS 70TH
ANNIVERSARY



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. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Media & Promotions Managing Editor

Suzanne Tanzi

Contributing Writers

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S. • Katie Bahr, Catholic University • David Birkdale Vincent Castaldi • Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S. • Justin Damask • Joseph Heisey Michael Kieler • Luke Kirk • David LaPointe Cole McDowell • Justin Motes • Mary Nauman • Dylan Prentice • Daniel Roberts • Nathaniel Roberts • Jacob Romero • Benjamin Schrantz • Seth Seaman • Charles Silvas • Stephen Wong

Graphic Designer

Rebecca Sum

Photography

Vincent Castaldi • Cuong Lee
Patrick Ryan • Dave Scavone

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.

02



2020



2021

Theological College

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

CONTENTS

17TH RECTOR OF TC

Father Ciriaco's two Sulpician predecessors, Father Philip Brown, 15th rector, and Father Gerald McBrearity, 16th rector, joined the installation celebration in October.



04

03 \\\ FROM THE RECTOR

04 \\\ COMMUNITY NEWS

Installation of Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Candidacy at TC

New Artwork
Adorns Campus

08 \\\ SULPICIAN SPOTLIGHT

09 \\\ SEMINARY LIFE

"Sulpician Christmas"
Celebration

Formation Week Reflections

Vigil for Life

Pastoral Formation:
Parish Ministries

Portrait of a New
Seminarian

19 \\\ HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS

21 \\\ FACULTY AND STAFF

Rev. Michael Witczak

22 \\\ ALUMNI

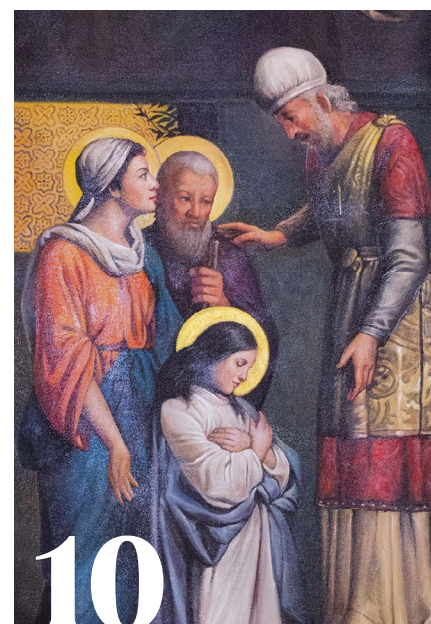
Distinguished Alumnus:
Rev. Edward Carroll '50

Class Notes

In Memoriam

Dr. Gerald Muller:
A Final Farewell

Facing Page: Created by an Italian artist named Pellegrini and installed next to the altar in the main chapel in 1926, this image was printed with a prayer by Father Jean-Jacques Olier for TC's Year of St. Joseph prayer card (see p. 2).



10

"SULPICIAN CHRISTMAS"

On the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation, a new painting was blessed and dedicated in honor of this Sulpician patronal feast day. The celebration marked the end of the semester as seminarians went home a month earlier than usual.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Ordained a priest 70 years ago, Father Edward Carroll shares his memories of TC and details of his fruitful and fascinating life of ministry.



22

Salutations to St. Joseph

Hail, Joseph, image of God the Father.

Hail, Joseph, father of God the Son.

Hail, Joseph, Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Hail, Joseph, beloved of the Holy Trinity.

Hail, Joseph, most faithful helper of the great council.

Hail, Joseph, guardian of holy Virgins.

Hail, Joseph, great lover of poverty.

Hail, Joseph, exemplar of meekness and patience.

Hail, Joseph, model of humility and obedience.

Blessed are you among men.

And blessed are your eyes which have seen the things you saw.

Blessed are your ears which have heard the things you heard.

And blessed are your hands which have fondled the Word made flesh.

And blessed are your arms which have carried Him who keeps all things in existence.

And blessed is your bosom on which the Son of God fondly rested.

And blessed is your heart aflame with the most ardent love.

And blessed is the Eternal Father who chose you.

And blessed is the Son who loved you.

And blessed is the Holy Spirit who sanctified you.

And blessed is Mary, your spouse, who loved you as her spouse and brother.

And blessed is the angel who guarded you.

And blessed be forever all who bless and love you.

— Father Jean-Jacques Olier



The Year of St. Joseph: Celebrating the Heart of the Father

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.
Rector

The “wonder worker of Montreal,” Saint André Bessette (1845–1937), the dreamer and builder of the magnificent church, St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal, Canada, urged the world, “Go to Joseph” (“*Ite Ad Joseph*”). Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has instructed us to do the same as he has proclaimed this the Year of St. Joseph. From December 8, 2020, extending to December 8, 2021, the Church reflects on the powerful example and patronage we have in the foster-father of Our Lord, St. Joseph. Pope Francis declared this on the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the universal Church. What a timely proclamation for us as the world still copes with the COVID-19 crisis, division and unrest in our country, and brokenness in family lives as well as in the lives of everyday people longing for hope and assurance of better things to come. St. Joseph provides that assurance for us in his life and in intercessory prayer. It is timely that during this spring semester we celebrate two great feasts of St. Joseph: March 19 and St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. It is timely, as many of our seminarians are preparing for diaconate and priesthood ordinations during this semester. They are following St. Joseph as an example of priestly life — living the promises of obedience, chastity, prayer, and simplicity of life. St. Joseph is the just man, obedient to God with a chaste heart that contemplates the power of God working in his life. He is the silent man of prayer and humility. He exemplifies many virtues that all the faithful, especially seminarians and priests, can imitate.

In his Apostolic Letter on St. Joseph, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis states, “With a father’s heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom

all four Gospels refer to as ‘the son of Joseph.’” Like Joseph, the heart of the priest loves the Son, Jesus, and his people that he is called to serve. Pope Francis further writes, “Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity.” St. Joseph models this gift of self, encouraging us in our vocation. St. Joseph is well represented here at Theological College with statues and other art forms honoring him. With the Holy Family, we are reminded of St. Joseph’s love for Jesus and Mary and of his faithfulness as a servant of God. I have a good sense that our seminarians possess a great love and devotion for the foster-father of Our Lord. During this Year of St. Joseph, we here at Theological College will honor St. Joseph in many ways. I hope and pray you join us in this adherence.

Our Sulpician founder, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, also had a great devotion to St. Joseph, as is evidenced in his prayer on the facing page. As you read this issue of *The Crossroads*, may you be inspired by all the good works and activities in which our seminarians are engaged, as they follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph. Your prayers and support are so important to us. Please be assured of our prayers for you.

Ite Ad Joseph!

May God be praised,

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Rector

COMMUNITY NEWS

Installation of New Rector: Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Justin Motes

First Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine

The installation of Father Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., as the 17th rector of Theological College, occurred on October 29, 2020, at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Cardinal-Elect Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, presiding. In attendance were Father Daniel Moore, P.S.S., acting provincial of the American Society of St. Sulpice; President John Garvey of The Catholic University of America; and Sulpician and diocesan priests, seminarians, and friends. The whole evening carried with it echoes of a timeless theme: wisdom.

The first echo of wisdom was found in Archbishop Wilton Gregory's homily at the installation Mass, which exalted the many virtues of our Blessed Mother as she followed this holy wisdom. We, the seminarians, were reminded and encouraged to ask for and follow that same wisdom given to Mary by the Holy Spirit, as a guide along our vocational journey. For even in Mary's simple, free, and humble *fiat*, her "yes," she was aided by the Spirit of Wisdom and proclaimed in Scripture to be the handmaid of the Lord, as she was led to do his will and to develop in her own faith. The same gift of wisdom is given to us in the many times

we are asked to respond "yes" to the Lord amid the challenges of seminary formation and eventual priestly ministry.

The second echo of wisdom was evidenced in our own Father Ciriaco. His life experience and priestly ministry resound with growth and continual humble submission to wisdom. This is especially witnessed by his own *fiat* in accepting this new role as the 17th rector of Theological College. Having spent many years in parish ministry before joining the Society of St. Sulpice, being involved in various aspects of seminary formation, and currently completing a doctoral program, Father Ciriaco certainly carries with him a wealth of experience. As we heard in Archbishop Gregory's homily: "Wisdom comes with experience." Father Ciriaco is tasked with carrying forward the mission of Theological College — but never alone: wisdom will be his guide.

The third and final echo of wisdom was found, without a doubt, under the ceaseless prayers and protection of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. As the seminary's patroness and guide, she models for all of us the perfect witness of holiness. Throughout the Mass, exhortations of her motherly protection were invoked. For Father Ciriaco, she remains a personal source of comfort and support in his new responsibilities, as is publicly witnessed by us, the seminarians, daily.

Throughout the reception and banquet that followed the installation, Our Lady remained exalted with the ever-needful Christ Child within her motherly care. As those before him have done, may Father Ciriaco go forward *auspice Maria*, under the help of Mary. ■

The Sulpician Fathers and TC faculty with Cardinal-Elect Wilton Gregory after the installation Mass.



Candidacy: One Step Forward

At Theological College on Monday, November 9, 2020, four first theologians for the Archdiocese of Washington were admitted by Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville to candidacy for the priesthood. This solemn ceremonial milestone had been delayed from its usual spring scheduling by pandemic concerns. When the ceremony for admission finally transpired, the candidates and the entire TC community participated with great joy.

My classmates and I spent two years of pre-theology learning to be disciples of Christ. While discerning priesthood, we were nonetheless mainly learning how to be good Catholic men and be close to Jesus. Now, with our beginning of major seminary and candidacy induction, I feel that we are taking a big step toward the particular vocation of priesthood. The ceremony gave me pause to reflect again on this calling, returning to the original attraction of the priesthood and refreshing me on this long six-year journey of formation. Putting into words my renewed resolve gave me feelings of strength and dedication that I pray will keep me going through the next several years until ordination.

— Joseph Heisey

On the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, I, along with three of my diocesan brother seminarians, received Admission to Candidacy for Ordination. In preparation to receive candidacy, our Lord revealed a key theme to me that represents this next step forward. As St. Paul says in his first letter to the Corinthians, we are each a "temple of the Holy Spirit" and "God's building" (1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17). I must allow the Holy Spirit, through my time in formation and growth in prayer, to make me into a suitable temple for God. As the bishop, on behalf of the Church, recognized this one more step forward to the priesthood, I, too,



The Archdiocese of Washington candidates with Father Ciriaco and Bishop Dorsonville, from left: Nathaniel Roberts, Joseph Heisey, Dylan Prentice, and Stephen Wong.

understand that it is the next phase of much-needed dependence on God, spiritual building upon my baptismal foundation, and being formed into the holy person and Christ-configured man that God wants me to be as his priest.

— Dylan Prentice

Receiving candidacy this semester was a big step in the discernment of my vocation. I was both nervous and excited leading up to it. In the Mass of Candidacy, not only do I publicly proclaim that I believe God is calling me to the priesthood, but the bishop proclaims that the Church believes God is calling me to the priesthood. I do believe that God is calling me to follow him as his priest and so I was excited to take this tangible step forward on the path.

— Nathaniel Roberts

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why me, Lord?" We all experience a deeper response to God's calling especially as we advance to the next step toward priestly life and giving of ourselves completely to Jesus Christ. In our petition to the archbishop, we write a declaration to dedicate our lives to the service of the Church for the Glory of God and the good of souls. When we surrender and permit Christ to work within us, not only can we do what seems impossible but, with him, we achieve a transcendent experience in living more fully, more honestly, more confidently, and more happily. Candidacy is a way to acknowledge our weaknesses in order to be formed in the humbleness of Christ. Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "I am powerless; it is then that I am strong" (2 Cor 12:10). The Holy Spirit uses candidacy to awaken and revive our vocation and commitment toward the priesthood. It brings us closer to serving the people of God. Candidacy renews in us the mystery of Christ living within us through the sacramental life: a life of prayer, faith, hope, and charity.

— Stephen C. Wong



New Artwork Adorns Campus: “Beauty Will Save the World”

Katie Bahr and Suzanne Tanzi

The plight of migrants and refugees is now represented on the Catholic University campus, thanks to a newly unveiled sculpture by Canadian artist Timothy Schmalz. The three-and-a-half-ton bronze sculpture made its campus debut on Sept. 26 during a small in-person ceremony, whose participants included University President John Garvey, Cardinal-Elect and University chancellor Wilton Gregory (who blessed the statue), and Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre.

Angels Unawares depicts more than 140 refugees tightly packed onto a 20-foot skiff. Some look back, but most look forward with hope toward the future and a new life. Parents hold children who clutch their pets and stuffed animals. A closer look reveals the Holy Family among these migrants from across history. And, in the center, a pair of angel wings rises from the crowd.

Schmalz, who gained global recognition with an earlier work,

Homeless Jesus, was commissioned by Pope Francis to call attention to the lives of migrants and refugees and their many contributions to society. Drawing inspiration from *Hebrews 13:2* — “Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares” — Schmalz worked long hours for more than a year to carve the first casting, which was installed in St. Peter’s Square on the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Sept. 29, 2019. Schmalz carved 140 different figures to echo the 140 saint statues on the colonnades of St. Peter’s Square. The end result, he says, is “a sculpture garden within one sculpture” that shares a powerful message about the human experience of migration. This second casting, which was gifted to the University by Schmalz and an anonymous patron, will be permanently installed between Father O’Connell and Gibbons halls next year, when it returns from the North American tour it is currently on.

Two days before the unveiling of this statue that gives tribute to migrants, artist Tim Schmalz met with TC’s rector, Father Dominic Ciriaco, to explore the possibility of another installation honoring the most vulnerable among us – this time on TC grounds. His new sculpture, titled *The National Life Monument*, is a moving depiction of mother and unborn child that Schmalz believes would find its perfect home on the seminary property at the corner of 4th Street and Michigan Avenue. It is fitting that

the double life-sized statue would be facing The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, as the Virgin Mary herself inspired the maternal depiction of this beautiful work.

Schmalz has always been deeply concerned with the drama surrounding the value of life, and the sculpture is the realization of a life-long dream. It was galvanized a few years ago at the dedication of one of his works at the Museum of the Bible in D.C. During that ceremony, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre quoted Dostoyevsky: “Beauty will save the world,” and the artist thought, “If that is true, beauty can save the smaller things of this world as well.” With that inspiration, he strove to create an image that would not only confirm the profound value of life, but also one that could persuade doubters, in a nonconfrontational way, to acknowledge this truth as well.

While this sculpture is an original, a miniature version was given to Carl Anderson, newly retired Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, as a Pro-Life Legacy Award from the March for Life Committee. Other miniatures will be gifted to each of the 50 states. At present, Tim explains, “the statue is raising money to fund the annual March for Life,” while he himself has been donating honorarium fees garnered from his speaking engagements to the same cause.

The Theological College Board of Trustees recently approved the placement of the statue at TC. It is hoped that the installation of *The National Life Monument*, funded by a donor (whose identity will later be revealed), will be blessed in a formal unveiling



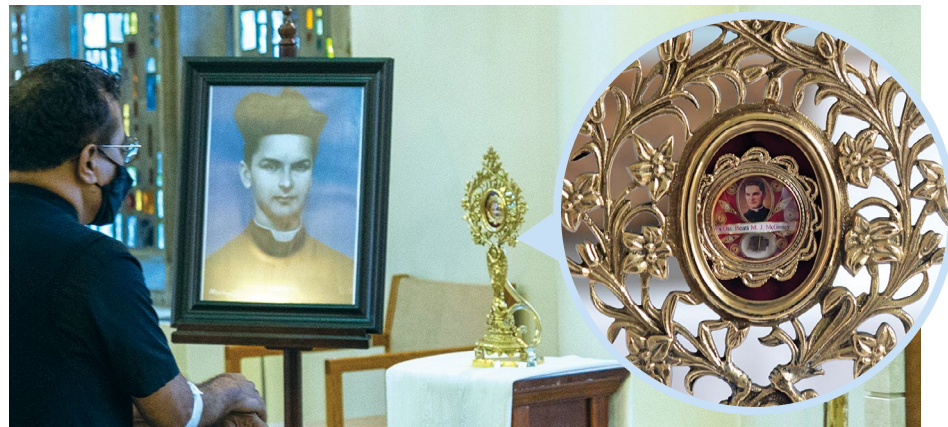
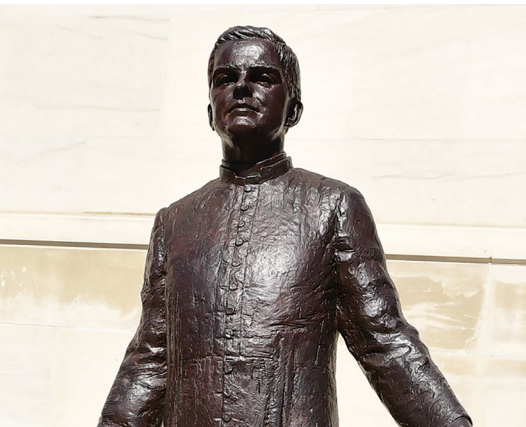
The statue’s proposed placement at the corner of Michigan Avenue and 4th Street.

ceremony at the outset of the March for Life in January 2022. Preceding its placement at TC, the sculpture will be on tour throughout America, raising awareness about the beauty and sacredness of every human being. ■

To learn more about this work, and the tour it will soon embark upon, go to www.nationallifemonument.com.

Tim Schmalz meets with Father Ciriaco for the first time to explain his work and hopes for the placement of *The National Life Monument* at TC.





Left: The Rev. Michael J. McGivney statue was installed in 2008 in front of the newly renamed McGivney Hall after a major renovation to the 50-year-old building was completed thanks to the financial generosity of the Knights of Columbus. **Right:** On November 2, seminarians and faculty had the opportunity to venerate Father Michael McGivney's relic in the TC chapel.

Blessed Michael McGivney (1852–1890)

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Rector

Michael McGivney was born on August 12, 1852, in Waterbury, Conn., into a devout Catholic family. He was the eldest of 13 children. From his family, he learned the importance of faith, family, and hard work. He worked for a brief period in a local spoon factory in Waterbury to help contribute to his family's needs. From a young age, McGivney felt called to the priesthood. He studied under Sulpician mentors at St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street in Baltimore. There he was a sacristan and was very much influenced by the French School of Spirituality, especially Father Jean-Jacques Olier. Michael McGivney was ordained a priest by Archbishop James Gibbons on December 22, 1877.

McGivney served as a parish priest at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Conn., in the shadow of Yale University. It was here in New Haven that his greatest work and contribution to the Church took place: he founded the Knights of Columbus. This

Catholic organization for laymen and clergy was created to foster Catholic solidarity and protection of the faith, safeguarding Christian family life (with a particular focus on widows and orphans), and promoting education and job security among the recent immigrants into this country. Father McGivney oversaw the expansion of the Knights, instilling in them spiritual nourishment that endures today. At the young age of 38, McGivney died ministering to his people with heroic love and charity during a pandemic that swept through New England in those years.

On October 31, 2020, Pope Francis declared Michael McGivney "Blessed," the final step before canonization. When canonized, he will be the first American born male to be honored with the title of "Saint." Blessed Michael McGivney is the third student of a Sulpician seminary to be honored for his sanctity by Holy Mother Church. The other two are St. John Baptist de La Salle and St. Louis de Montfort. One

of the academic buildings at The Catholic University of America is named McGivney Hall in his honor. A few days after his beatification, the Theological College community was blessed to receive a first-class relic (a bone of Blessed McGivney) for veneration in our chapel during Evening Prayer. The relic was loaned to the seminary by the St. John Paul II Shrine, which is owned and operated by the Knights of Columbus and is within walking distance of the seminary.

The Knights of Columbus are a great support to seminarians and priests and Blessed Michael McGivney is an excellent role model for our seminarians. He inspires those in formation to strive for holiness and to be encouraged in their vocation to the priesthood to love and serve God's people as he did. The Sulpicians are honored to have educated Blessed Michael McGivney for service to the Church here in the United States. ■



Student Government

The Community Life Committee has been meeting with faculty advisor, Father Andrew Szyblewski, above, with a particular focus this year on how to make annual events safe under current COVID-19 restrictions. Chairman David LaPointe (3-T, Fort Worth), left, participated in this meeting via Zoom due to added precautions he was observing.

During second semester, CLC events included the Super Bowl watch party, Mardi Gras party, Spring House Party, and the Iron Seminarian tournament, among smaller events. ■



In front of the new icon, *The Presentation of Mary in the Temple*, from left: Fathers Gray, Ciriaco, and Thayer with Mr. David Montgomery, patron.

“Sulpician Christmas” Ends the Semester

Suzanne Tanzi

This year, Theological College seminarians, faculty, and staff commemorated “Sulpician Christmas,” the Feast of the Presentation, on November 23, beginning with the celebration of the Eucharist in the main chapel, which is dedicated to the Presentation of the Mary in the Temple. The Mass was followed by a festive dinner and concluded with the annual “New Men Show,” during which the first-year seminarians poked fun at their formators and at the graduating classes (see right). This was the end-of-semester celebration since the seminarians would be departing by November 25. Due to pandemic precautions, the seminarians would not return until after their annual retreats on January 15 for a week of formation activities and semi-quarantine before classes resumed on January 25.

This occasion was made especially memorable by the unveiling of a new painting, *The Presentation of Mary in the Temple*, which was commissioned by TC patrons Esther and David Montgomery and created by Sulpician artist Father Peter Wm. Gray. David Montgomery was present for the blessing of the painting and its dedication to Father David Thayer, P.S.S., longtime friend of the Montgomerys, TC formator, and the evening’s Mass homilist.

Father Thayer highlighted the pivotal role of Mary in the lives of all present, as role model and Mother: “Throughout her life, she kept the Word and responded with a ‘yes.’”

The Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 21 is central to the identity of the Society of St. Sulpice. It recognizes the start of Mary’s consecrated service to the Lord, the “entry of the most holy Theotokos into the Temple.” The founder of the Sulpician order, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, entrusted the entire order to the protection of Mary — “*Auspice Maria*” — and specifically instructed that the Feast of the Presentation become their patronal feast day, as Mary provides an ideal model for priesthood. Her docility to God’s plan, her willingness to say “yes” to God’s mysterious message given to her at the Annunciation that she would bear a Son, and her great prayer of thanksgiving and praise, the *Magnificat*, are all emblematic of the ideal ministry of priests who are called to dedicate themselves entirely to the Lord’s service. Mary’s assent, “Let it be done to me according to your word,” is the perfect priestly response to the call to serve the Lord through the ministry of Word and Sacrament ■.

Seminarian Christmas Show 2020

Charles Silvas
Third Theology,
Diocese of Corpus Christi

To conclude the unprecedented fall 2020 semester, the Theological College community enjoyed the annual “New Men Christmas Show,” even while following coronavirus guidelines and procedures in place at the seminary. The Christmas show is a sketch comedy coordinated and performed by the first-year theologians, pre-theologians, and first-year Basselin classes. The performance is intended to parody the personalities, quirks, and talents of the outgoing

deacons in fourth theology, third Basselins, and at times incorporates warm-hearted ribbing of the formation staff, all of whom received their representations in good humor.

Among the several themes that were highlighted throughout the show was the end of the semester and readiness for parish ministry, in which the deacons were “put to the test” by various means. Scenes that portrayed the end of the semester centered on the Basselins as they near the end of writing their theses. While the actors were in the process of trying to understand the reasoning for their given tasks, scenes included an uplifting and engaging music rehearsal, the exaggeration of seminary rules and guidelines, and the constant reminder of the 50th anniversary of pastoral excellence with a

commemorative TC mug. These vignettes inspired the high humor that the community anticipates year after year, as the distinctive characteristics of the outgoing classes take center stage.

The performance had a choreographed musical ending, compliments of the diverse and creative “new men” of TC’s 2020-2021 formation year. This Christmas show took on a special significance in light of the unique challenges (and gifts) of the fall 2020 semester. This end-of-semester gala is one of the events that the seminarians look forward to most. It is a witness of our deep sense of fraternity and celebrates the accomplishments of the concluding semester. ■



Formation Week Reflections

A first-ever “Formation Week” was held at Theological College January 18-23 for all seminarians, who were required to return to the house more than a week ahead of the start of classes to be in semi-quarantine together. Faculty invited a total of seven speakers who addressed timely topics with human, spiritual, and pastoral import. The seminarian voices below illuminate this uniquely enriching week.

Monday, January 18, 2021 “A Day of Racial Justice”

**Rev. Patrick Smith, Pastor,
St. Augustine Catholic Church, Washington, D.C.**

Father Patrick Smith is the longtime pastor of Saint Augustine Catholic Church, which is heralded as the “Mother Church of Black Catholics in the nation’s capital.” Father Smith spoke to the seminary community about ministry to the African American community and offered a pastoral perspective, giving tools for ministry. He challenged each of us to first look at the larger history of African Americans in the United States. Underlying this point was his call for all of us to honestly get informed: “If you don’t know the history, you fill in the blanks.” Furthermore, he exhorted each of us to look into our own history and see what notions and prejudices we might be carrying. This practice of looking back so as to effectively minister in the present is the model Father Smith suggests for ministry: to be a shepherd who listens to the personal histories of others.

Father Smith’s talk was a strong reminder to each of us that there is a larger history and reality in America that must be acknowledged, but there is also a personal experience of that reality unique to each person. Father Smith admitted that this might be challenging for us, especially when faced with the atrocities committed against individuals, which is a reality for many of the African American people in the United States. However challenging it might be, Christ calls each of us to work in this vineyard. Not a perfect world, but a world filled with people who have suffered and need the balm that only Christ can provide. Father Smith’s talk was honest and real. While his call to action might be intimidating, we as a seminary community were reminded of its necessity: “Sometimes the truth hurts but somewhere I heard it does something else — it sets you free.”

— **David LaPointe**
(3-T, Diocese of Fort Worth)

**Rev. Robert Boxie, Catholic Chaplain,
Howard University**

In the USCCB letter “Open Wide Our Hearts” we found that racism is rooted in the lie that personal dignity depends on race. Standing upon this lie, false claims of racial superiority and inferiority have been used to unjustly “justify” exclusion and abuse. As Catholics, we know these are all lies because Holy Mother Church has always taught that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and thus has intrinsic and undeniable dignity. Unfortunately, in the United States, the lies of racial superiority and inferiority have many times explicitly and implicitly been used to justify the abuse of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One thing Father Boxie and Father Smith helped us to see is that, while these lies and the abuses they “justify” are absolutely inconsistent with the very life and witness of Christ, which we share in as Catholics, nonetheless clergy and laity here in the United States

Father Robert Boxie (Pre-T ‘12), Catholic Chaplain, Howard University, speaks to seminarians about racial justice.



were and are guilty of allowing these prejudices to spread in their communities. Further, what is hard to recognize and admit is that racism has left many people lying wounded on the roadsides of our society. In the face of this reality, we as Catholic Americans are called to be like the Good Samaritan, recognizing those who are wounded to bring them to Christ, our Wounded Healer.

If we want people to embrace their identity as children of Holy Mother Church, we must convince them by acts of true charity that racism is inconsistent with our Catholic identity. We must beg our Lord to give us hearts like his Sacred Heart which can lovingly embrace all of humanity, and then we must use them to overcome and eradicate the sin of racism and all its effects in our Church and society.

— **Justin Damask**
(3-B, Diocese of Charleston)

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 “A Day of Pastoral Reflection”

**Rev. William Foley, Pastor, Shrine of the Blessed
Sacrament, Washington, D.C.**

A longtime friend of Theological College, Father Bill Foley, pastor of the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament Parish in the Archdiocese of Washington, is a mentor for TC seminarians who do parish ministry with him and his staff. In the past, he has served as extern spiritual director as well. He spoke candidly to the house about his 47 years of experience as a parish priest. He shared some helpful tips on how to maintain a balanced life as a cleric, emphasizing the importance of having hobbies, key friendships, people to confide in, and taking a day off to recuperate. Father Foley’s rich experience and peaceful disposition demonstrated to us the significance of finding ways to be nurtured as a parish priest, inspiring us to find ways that we, too, can be nurtured to live healthy and enriching lives as priests.

— **Vincent Castaldi**
(2-T, Archdiocese of New York)



Father Chris Arockiaraj, Coordinator of Pastoral Formation, with Mr. Tex Phelps, Director of Youth Ministry, Archdiocese of Washington, and Mrs. Molly Herrera, Campus Minister, George Washington University.

**Mr. Tex Phelps, Director of Youth Ministry,
Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Molly
Herrera, Campus Minister, George Washington
University**

In the conference on youth and young adult ministry, both Mrs. Herrera and Mr. Phelps spoke on the importance of incorporating the youth and young adult programs into the larger Church community. While youth ministry and young adult ministry should contain fun and exciting elements, the larger goal should always be to circle back to the very life of the Church. When a ministry focuses only on the “attractive” aspects, the faith component, which develops in tandem, can be superficial and disappear when the individual is out of that environment.

This is why both speakers stressed the importance of community and long-term goals. By having the children and young adults take active roles within the larger Church community, the faith and life of the Church can become a very tangible part of their lives. It is through this connection with the community that a broader sense of one’s faith life can develop. At one point, Mrs. Herrera asked us to think about the various people who have positively impacted our faith journey during the course of our life. She ended the exercise by saying that we will be that person for someone down the road. By encouraging the members of the youth and young adult groups to become actively engaged in parish life, and by encouraging the larger Church community to reach out and support these groups, connections will be made that will have long and lasting impacts on their faith journeys.

— **Benjamin Schrantz**
(2-T, Diocese of Syracuse)

Thursday, January 21, 2021
“A Day of Ecumenical Reflection”

Rev. Walter Kedjierski, Executive Director of the USCCB's Secretariate for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Father Walter Kedjierski was welcomed to Theological College. Father Kedjierski worked to guide our community into a deeper appreciation for that to which God calls each of us — namely, to abide. As he unpacked *John* 15:1-17, Jesus’ call to abide and remain with him was made clear. The Church cannot exist without this abiding action. Although Jesus clearly indicates that one is to abide with him, the act of abiding with Jesus is to be accompanied by the bearing of fruit in the world; specifically, to love one another as Jesus has loved us (*Jn* 15:12). Father Kedjierski emphasized that we cannot dismiss the latter, regardless of the effort that it may take. To love as Jesus empowers us to love means that we do not give up. This is the missionary work that the Lord calls us to perform today. We are to speak of the saving graces of the Lord and his Church, while also possessing open ears and open hearts as we engage with the communities of the world, including its various ecclesial communities.

Pope Saint John Paul II, in his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint*, calls for a grand ecumenical project. In this, we are all invited to dialogue with one another. John Paul II encouraged all to talk, even those who disagreed with him, so that everyone’s voice may be heard. If we are to be faithful in this challenge to dialogue, we must remain faithful to Jesus’ longing to abide with him. As Father Kedjierski said, without the Lord Jesus, there is no dialogue because we are incapable of doing it on our own. The heart of ecumenism is a matter of the heart. Ecumenism is not just religious diplomacy. Those engaged in it are people of faith. The central focus of ecumenism, and the central focus of all of our lives, is in Jesus.

After his presentation, Father Kedjierski led the TC community in prayer for Christian unity, whose theme was: “Abide in my love and you will bear much fruit” (*Jn* 15:5). reminding us that if Jesus really occupies the center of the Church, we will abide with him, and love as he loves until we are all one.

— **Seth Seaman**
(2-T, Diocese of Richmond)



Father Walter Kedjierski, Executive Director of the USCCB's Secretariate for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, during the Prayer for Christian Unity.

Friday, January 22, 2021
“Reflections on the French School of Spirituality”

Rev. Peter Wm. Gray, P.S.S.

“You’ve got to know who your family is.” Taking his lead from St. Paul in *Galatians* 6:10, Father Peter Gray gave us a glimpse into the real lives of those whose boldness and sanctity paved the way for our formation at Theological College. From the more familiar figures of Father Jean-Jacques Olier and St. Vincent de Paul, to the less familiar figures of Mother Agnes of Jesus and Father Charles de Condren, Father Gray used his art to illuminate the story of the Sulpician family and how we fit into that story today.

Father Gray’s reflections inspire in me and my brother seminarians the boldness and sanctity evidenced by so great a cloud of witnesses, who surely are praying while we act — as Mother Agnes’ promised Fr. Olier: “While you act, I will pray.” In our time of prayer, fraternity, study, and pastoral service, God is calling us to become the saints he has made us to be and help expand the family of faith in the communities we will one day serve. “So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.” (*Gal* 6:10)

— **Luke Kirk**
(3-B, Diocese of Lafayette)

The Vigil for Life

Luke Kirk
Third Basselin, Diocese of Lafayette

As I walked into the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the March for Life Vigil Mass on the brisk evening of January 28, the difference was immediately apparent: the throngs of thousands were missing, my temperature was carefully taken, and the names of us five representatives of Theological College were checked off a detailed list. Back at TC, the seminary was beginning its in-house Eucharistic Adoration to pray for the dignity of every life in our country. The stark differences between this year and years past, however, served to sharpen a sense of urgency and purposefulness in prayer. United in heart and mind with viewers across the country, we prayed a rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet led by women religious, we participated in Mass, and we drew close to the heart of our Eucharistic Lord in a holy hour with him.

Our time throughout was enriched by speakers who had concretely experienced the Gospel of Life in their own lives: Archbishop Naumann spoke powerfully about his mother, who

chose life for him during the early months of her pregnancy, despite the murder of her husband, and Archbishop Broglio shared how his life was changed by accompanying a Roman couple whose preborn child was diagnosed with Down’s Syndrome. Though the events were virtual for most, the message was clear: real steps are needed to stand up for and support the concrete lives and dignity of our beloved brothers and sisters. The archbishops mourned the loss of more than 62 million American lives due to abortion, as well as the plight of those impacted by the evil of racism, displacement from one’s homeland, and dehumanizing poverty. They emphasized that, without violence or disrespect, we are all called to bring the healing power of Jesus Christ to those scarred by the culture of death in all its forms, particularly through prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. (In fact, on the following day, TC seminarians observed a lunch-time fast and rosary offered for pro-life intentions.) These priestly mentors exhorted us to act with firm resolve and compassionate love. In the end, Archbishop Naumann reminded us that though our love may need to be purified through adversity, “Jesus, who is Life itself, has already won the victory over sin and death. We know, therefore, with complete and utter confidence that Life will be victorious.” ■

Left: Jacob Romero (2-T, Santa Fe) joins faculty and seminarians praying for the unborn in the TC chapel. **Right:** TC seminarians who participated in the Vigil Mass for Life, from left, Kyle Vance (3-T, Washington), Stephen Wong (1-T, Washington), Luke Kirk (3-B, Lafayette), and Justin Damask (3-B, Charleston). Vincent Castaldi (2-T, New York), not shown (but taking the photo), was included in the TC cohort at the Vigil.



Pastoral Formation: Parish Ministries

St. Bartholomew Parish

Deacon Michael Kieler
Fourth Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine

The fall 2020 edition of *The Crossroads* noted that Rev. Mark Knestout received the Rev. Gerald Brown, P.S.S., Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry Supervision for the 2019–2020 academic year. I have had the privilege of working under Father Knestout over the past two years at St. Bartholomew Parish in Bethesda, Md. It is clear to me that he deserved the award. On my arrival at the parish, Father Knestout had no demanding expectations for my involvement there. Instead, he expressed openness

to my own ministerial preferences and interests. When I told him that I was interested in youth and Hispanic ministry, he readily agreed to help me get involved.

During my first several months, the members of the Spanish Bible Study and Youth Group quickly became a big part of my life. In the Bible Study, I accompanied people as they deepened their knowledge and appreciation of Scripture. Similarly, I got to know the kids in the Youth Group through their various activities and formation sessions. If I was able to contribute anything to these ministries — whether by offering insights or by simply being present — they gave me far more. The parishioners and clergy welcomed me with their kindness and taught me with their unique zeal for the Catholic faith.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in March of last year, opportunities to interact with the parishioners at St. Bart’s were limited. With all the isolation and loneliness that accompanied the initial “quarantine” period, many of us gained

a deeper appreciation for the value of availability and community. For me, this meant doing my best to stay connected with the Youth Group and Spanish Bible Study in their virtual meetings. I wish that I could have done more during this time to be available to the parishioners; yet, even small attempts to remain in touch had a tremendous impact. In the absence of normal forms of human interaction, it was clear that these parishioners deeply appreciated the time to come together, meditate on the Word of God, and talk about their faith and struggles.

Through his example, Father Knestout taught me the importance of openness to the needs of others. Ministers cannot simply impose their preconceived notions of what ministry should look like. I never expected Zoom meetings to have such an important role in spreading of the Gospel, and yet that was how God’s providence arranged things. All of this was just one instance of pastoral formation during my time in seminary. I am grateful to my for-

mators and supervisors for equipping me for parish ministry. Most of all, I am grateful to the Lord, who is the true Formator working for and through his people to transform us into his ministers. ■

St. Peter’s Parish

Cole McDowell
First Theology, Archdiocese of Louisville

For the past year and a half, my pastoral assignment has been catechetical ministry at St. Peter’s Church on Capitol Hill here in Washington, D.C. Because of the parish’s proximity to numerous firms, think tanks, political organizations, and “the Hill” itself, St. Peter’s enjoys a robust population of young adults who often hold internships or entry-level positions at these various institutions. For me, these circumstances allow for a particularly helpful setting for catechetical ministry because I am often responding



Cole McDowell conducting his RCIA class via Zoom.

to queries or concerns about the faith that are specific to my own generation.

The two parish groups that I assist the most are the young adult reading group and RCIA. For the past few months, our text for the reading group has been Bishop Barron’s edited collection of the works of Flannery O’Connor, which I highly recommend to anyone who has an interest in her writing, especially its Catholic character. Her stories often present piercing — if subtle — “moments of grace” that illustrate the beauty of faith in the modern world. They resonate significantly with our young adults, who often find themselves

struggling to live an authentic Catholic life in the midst of this increasingly secular culture.

A similar struggle can be found in our RCIA group, though here it generally concerns understanding and accepting basic Church teaching. The challenge for me, then, is to articulate the tenets of our faith in a way that shows how they are aimed at healing our world, rather than constricting it. Needless to say, this parish assignment, under the caring and attentive mentorship of the pastor, Father Gary Studniewski, has been incredibly helpful for my pastoral formation. ■

Deacon Michael, center, back row, with his Spanish Bible Study group in February 2020.



Portrait of a New Seminarian

Daniel J. Roberts
First Theology, Diocese of Pittsburgh

I arrived in Los Angeles on Oct. 4, 2007, the feast of St. Francis (my confirmation patron, a detail that escaped me at the time). I was tired and full of anticipation after my five-day drive across the country in my Chevy Cavalier, packed to the brim with everything I needed to start a new adventure.

I had loved acting since sixth grade and spent countless hours in the theater. But until my late 20s, I hadn’t dreamed of moving to L.A., so far from my childhood home of Pittsburgh. In 2007,

though, I had just completed a master’s program for acting and, for the first time in my life, I had a strong sense that God was calling me to pursue my dreams on a grander scale. So I took the leap and began the nearly 11-year chapter of my life in L.A. I never could have guessed that at the end of more than a decade I would be driving back East — this time to enter the priestly formation program for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

I was raised Catholic and I had taken faith seriously throughout my adult life. In fact, I saw acting as part of that, as a way I could minister to others through the art of telling stories on stage and screen. While in L.A., I auditioned for whatever I could. I joined Actors Co-op, a Christian theater company that nourished my creativity and spirituality. I performed in numerous plays and smaller film projects, and I had two bigger breaks — one as a salesman in a Honda commercial and another as a museum tour



Daniel Roberts, right, flexes his acting skills on stage with Michael Marincel (1-B, Fort Worth) during the New Men Show in November.

guide on the TV show *Sleepy Hollow*. Like many actors, I took other jobs too — first as a Starbucks barista, then as an adjunct theater professor at a nearby university.

I didn't get too connected with the L.A. Catholic community at first. For several years, I attended a nondenominational Christian church and took part in small prayer groups. These connections helped to keep me grounded in faith and growing in my relationship with the Lord. Another thing that helped during that time was adversity — long dry spells between auditions and the increasing awareness that if I was to have a chance of persevering, my identity had to be rooted in something deeper than where or whenever my next opportunity would come. Throughout my years in L.A., my spiritual life deepened and, whether I was going on auditions or not, I did pray.

One such prayer that I prayed more than once went something like this: "God, I think you called me to L.A., and I think you called me to pursue acting. But if you're calling me to do something else ... I'll do it. You just have to show me what it is." This prayer came well into my time in L.A., and it wasn't born of desperation. I was enjoying my work as a professor and I had gotten somewhat used to the slow progress that is the reality of most actors' careers. But I also sensed that something was missing.

Around this same time, I was gradually being drawn back to my Catholic roots. While visiting family in Pennsylvania, I attended Mass and was reminded of the beauty of Catholic liturgy. Then, back in LA, a friend invited me to a Catholic parish, St. Dominic's. My first Sunday there, I felt like I was coming home.

The Mass, the preaching of the Dominican priests there, and the warmth of the parishioners stirred my heart and kept me coming back for more. At St. Dominic's, I came to a new understanding of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and confession, and I got involved in the community — way faster than I expected. I helped lead a young adult ministry and a film discussion group, I started lecturing, and I spent time in Eucharistic Adoration.

As I interacted with my priests, a thought appeared in my mind, something completely new: Could I be built to do what they're doing? This thought surprised and scared me at first. Now in my late 30s and considering a major life change, I was either crazy ... or this was God's answer to my prayer. It took some time to sort through, but with a lot more prayer, research, and guidance from some wonderful priests and mentors, the message became impossible to ignore.

In 2007, I felt God was calling me to L.A. Since discerning priesthood, I have experienced a deeper call, a flame from within that has brought new focus to my years in L.A. and beyond. I had my dream, and it was grand enough — but it couldn't compare to God's vision for my life. I'm now in my third year of seminary, a first theologian at Theological College, and I've received many more graces along the way. It hasn't been without its challenges, but what once seemed crazy to me looks increasingly like the adventure God intended from the start. ■

This witness was first published on November 3, 2020, for National Vocations Awareness Week, by the Catholic News Service: "My Surprise L.A. Conversion Story," edited by Anna Capizzi.

HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS



From Bouncing Back to Flourishing during and after the Pandemic



Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., M.S., S.T.B., Ph.L., Ph.D., D. Min.
Vice-Rector and Coordinator of Pastoral Formation

The global and local impact of the COVID-19 outbreak has been dead-ly, tough on the meaning and quality of life, and mentally and emotionally grueling due to the virus's sustainability in disguise. Thus, the pandemic era has caused fear and uncertainty about our safety, control over life, employment, finance, relationships, autonomy, physical and mental health, and more.

Bouncing Back

It is observed that despite the impact, millions of people managed to navigate these circumstances, often under life-threatening conditions as they continued to develop minimum to significant

levels of resilience at various levels. The resilient people not only survived and recovered from the virus but also flourished by building the following four characteristics:

1. Social competence: Ability to create positive impressions in others and thus to establish healthy relationships with peers and associates.
2. Problem-solving skills: Ability to ask for help from others and to plan activities responsibly and productively.
3. Autonomy: Ability to be confident about his/her own identity, to behave independently, and to control his/her environment.
4. Setting goals and looking toward the future: Ability to set goals and educational expectations with a sense of hope in a bright future.¹

One of the most important of these characteristics of resilience is autonomy. In the quarantine and lockdown/shelter-in-place situation, people were deprived of their autonomy in various

8th Annual Sedes Cup Golf Classic and Luncheon

Monday, October 25, 2021

Registration and breakfast: 7:30 a.m.

Shotgun start: 9:00 a.m.

Turf Valley Resort
Ellicott City, Md.

For questions or more details, visit theologicalcollege.org
or contact Mary Nauman: nauman@cua.edu; (202) 756-4905.



ways. The churches were closed, and people were forced to attend Mass virtually. Catholics not only missed in-person Mass on Sundays but also on important days such as those of Holy Week and Christmas. They missed human interaction, socialization, and pastoral engagement. The members of pious organizations, groups, and ministries of the parish missed face-to-face collaborative activities. Remote work situations caused people to be separated from their professional environments and interactions with colleagues. The remote learning environment deprived students of their classroom interactions, thus affecting their emotional and social wellbeing. The restrictions on the size of family gatherings led to social isolation and virtual celebrations of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, birthdays, and even weddings.

Despite these frustrating situations, resilient people are not only thriving in this “new normal” but they have become more confident in their own identities, growing in independence and the ability to establish control over their environment. This is true in spite of the fact that empirical research shows that when one lacks autonomy, especially concerning access to nature and interpersonal relationships, such deprivations can damage the flourishing of wellbeing, particularly among urban residents.²

Flourishing

Global economists predict that during the post-pandemic era, the economy will not only bounce back but will also flourish in different ways, more than it did in pre-pandemic times.³ Such predictions can be applied to families and communities of faith, when the autonomy of free movement is restored and social institutions such as schools and churches are reopened, and

parish activities resume. Thus it can be hoped that the pain of the pandemic and impact of the COVID-19 era will not go to waste but will provide opportunities to restore and even improve spiritual and emotional wellbeing.

The Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University identifies four pathways for flourishing after a serious crisis: family, work, education, and religious community.⁴ Engaging in religious communities through parish activities and attending religious services is likely to improve the level of flourishing significantly. There is evidence from longitudinal studies that attending religious services in person is associated with better health, longer lifespan, lower incidence of depression, lower suicide rates, and better survival from cancer. More broadly, the empirical research shows an association with high levels of happiness, life satisfaction, and greater meaning in life.

Consequently, the reopening of faith/religious communities during the post-COVID-19 era is likely to contribute to greater flourishing in parishes among pastors and the people of God. Pastors may consider slowly restarting parish activities and various ministries within the parish that create a positive environment for interpersonal relationships, support systems, fraternity, and community engagements. Pastors will also want to consider resuming various outreach programs that promote spiritual, material, and emotional support for the poor and the needy. Also, parishioners may be more generous in financially supporting outreach programs. Empirical research shows that such altruistic behavior increases one's happiness and wellbeing. Active involvement in outreach programs also augments the sense of belonging, gratitude, and transcendence. ■

^[1] M. L. Krovetz, *Fostering Resilience: Expecting All Students to Use Their Minds and Hearts Well* (California: Corwin Press, Inc., Sage Publications, 1999).

^[2] Paul B. Tchounwou, “The Relationship between Nature Deprivation and Individual Wellbeing across Urban Gradients under COVID-19,” *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 18, no. 4 (2021); <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18041511>.

^[3] Christian Ulbrich, “Why Global Cities Will Flourish in a Post-COVID Future,” *World Economic Forum* (August 26, 2020); <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/08/future-of-cities-covid-19>.

^[4] Tyler J. VanderWeele (Editor: Kenneth W. Wachter), “On the Promotion of Human Flourishing,” *PNAS* (June 16, 2017); <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/114/31/8148.full.pdf>.

FACULTY AND STAFF



Guest celebrant for a Monday Mass at TC, Father Michael Witczak is shown here in the sacristy with, from left, David LaPointe (3-T, Ft. Worth), Deacon Jason Allan (4-T, Ft. Worth), and Justin Motes (1-T, St. Augustine).

Rev. Michael Witczak, S.L.D. Associate Dean for Graduate Ministerial Studies

Father Michael Witczak was recently appointed Associate Dean for Graduate Ministerial Studies for the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, a position previously held by Monsignor Michael Clay. He specializes in the history and theology of Eucharistic celebration, sacramental liturgy, history of liturgy, and liturgical celebration of the saints. Father Witczak works with students striving to earn the S.T.B., M.Div., M.Cat., and D.Min., helping with issues of admission, course advising, and degree completion and graduation. His responsibilities also include involvement in curriculum development and working with the various colleges and seminar-

ies whose students are enrolled in the School of Theology and Religious Studies.

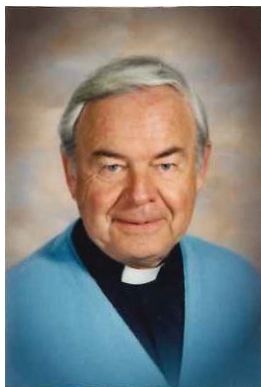
Father Witczak studied at the diocesan seminary, St. Francis de Sales Seminary in Saint Francis, Wis., and was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee in 1977. He was assigned to a parish for three years. In 1980, he was asked to study liturgy and earned his licentiate and doctorate at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute in Rome. At Saint Francis de Sales Seminary he served as a professor of liturgical studies, vice-rector, and then rector until 2007.

In 2007, he was given permission to take a position on the faculty at Catholic University, teaching courses in liturgical studies and sacramental theology in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. He became an academic advisor and spiritual director for TC students and other seminarians then and has been doing it ever since. Deacon Ed McCormack, TC's

Coordinator of Intellectual Formation, remarked, “Father Witczak has been accompanying our seminarians for years as a mentor and as a professor of sacramental theology. His new appointment as Associate Dean certainly bodes well for the intellectual formation program at Theological College.”

When asked about his goals as he takes up this new role, Father Witczak responded, “I’ve been involved in seminary formation since 1980 and my hopes and dreams remain the same: to provide a context in which those discerning a life of service in the Church receive the formation, both sustaining and challenging, to respond to the call of the Lord to be ‘fishers’ of people. By teaching, doing spiritual direction, faculty advising, and working with seminary formators and students in more social ways, I hope to contribute my own little bit to the growth of the Kingdom.” ■

ALUMNI



Distinguished Alumnus Profile

Rev. Edward Carroll, B '46; TC '50

Rev. Edward Carroll of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is possibly the last surviving

member of Theological College's Class of 1950. He has faithfully kept in touch with TC over the years, most recently calling to inform the seminary of the passing of his classmate and diocesan brother, Rev. Eugene Winkler (see p. 30). In this interview, Father Carroll offers historical insights and inspiration from his lifetime of fruitful ministry, which was catalyzed by his formation and studies at TC and The Catholic University of America.

Father Carroll, when did you enter formation at TC?

I arrived at the seminary in 1944, six days after the invasion of Normandy. I remember that, a few weeks later on July 4, I and two fellow seminarians rented bikes and rode to Mount Vernon on a patriotic outing.

What was it like to begin your seminary studies in the nation's capital during that dramatic historic time?

The war was still on and the North American College in Rome was closed so TC was jammed, and we all went to classes through the summers. The seminary received news by sharing one copy of the *New York Times*, which was posted to the bulletin board in the prayer hall. It was not even the whole paper — only the most prominent news. The war ended in May in Europe and in August in Japan. I remember I was playing handball in the handball court with three other guys when the definitive end came on August 6, 1945. When the bell rang everyone dropped everything they were doing to meet in the chapel, where we heard the great news. We sang the *Te Deum* together in thanksgiving.

I was at TC when the Archdiocese of Washington was sepa-

rated, by papal bull from Pope Pius XII, from the Archdiocese of Baltimore, and five Maryland and Virginia counties were added to its territory. This was after Archbishop Curly died, and Archbishop O'Boyle was made head of the newly created archdiocese.

What was daily life like at TC then?

I was in room 209. There were two of us from Milwaukee and two from Hartford, occupying two bunkbeds. Only deacons had single rooms.

I started out in a Basselin class of 16 students under then-rector Father McDonald, six months after the death of Father Viéban. Father McCormack took over in 1949. We went to school year-round, so we completed three years of Philosophy in two years. Wearing cassocks in the D.C. summer heat without air conditioning was a challenging sacrifice!

We would wake up at 5:30 a.m. for morning prayer. The deacons would sit in front and the Basselins would sit in the back of the prayer hall. Our days were extremely structured. I had a wonderful spiritual director, a Sulpician named Father Carleton Sage, who lived at another TC house dubbed “the Casa,” on the corner of 7th Street and Kearney Street. As seminarians, we never had any formal retreats until just before our ordination in our home dioceses, so our spiritual advisors were very important.

There was always strict silence observed on the floors and in the stairwells, except for when we sent off the deacons going home for ordinations at the end of the semester. As the deacons left, we would sing the *Ecce Quam Bonum* hymn in the five-floor stairwell, which was an echo chamber. It was quite beautiful.

In the beginning, I was second tenor in the choir. In my final year as a Basselin, Deacon Leo Coady was choir director for TC. After ordination, he went to work for Catholic Charities. [He was director of Catholic Charities in D.C. from 1960 to 1975, and also president of their national council in the late 1960s. He was made monsignor in 1958 and lived to the age of 75, when he passed away right down the street from TC, at the Little Sisters of the Poor residence.]

For two years while a theologian, I wrote the TC column for the seminarian publication *The Voice*. At the time, TC did not have its own publication but, as a sister seminary of St. Mary's in Baltimore, we did have a column in the publication that was generated there.

Academics was a big focus, and included courses in physics, chemistry, biology... At that time, Father Ignatius Smith, O.P., from the Dominican House of Studies, was Dean of the School of Philosophy. One of the purposes of the Basselin Program was

(and is) to improve preaching, so it was obligatory to take speech and English in addition to philosophy. Monsignor Patrick Joseph O'Connor served as the speech director. He was from Savannah, Georgia. [He later became the director of the National Shrine from 1950-56.]

Wednesday and Saturday afternoons were free. For recreation, there used to be fields and courts behind TC [land that was later sold to the USCCB for its headquarters]. When we went into D.C., we had to wear black suits, ties, and black hats. On certain holidays, we went out to the Shenandoah Valley for one-day excursions. I also recall visiting Doughoregan Manor outside of Baltimore, the family home and grave site of Founding Father Charles Carroll of Carrollton, who was the longest-lived signatory of the Declaration of Independence, and the sole Catholic signer.

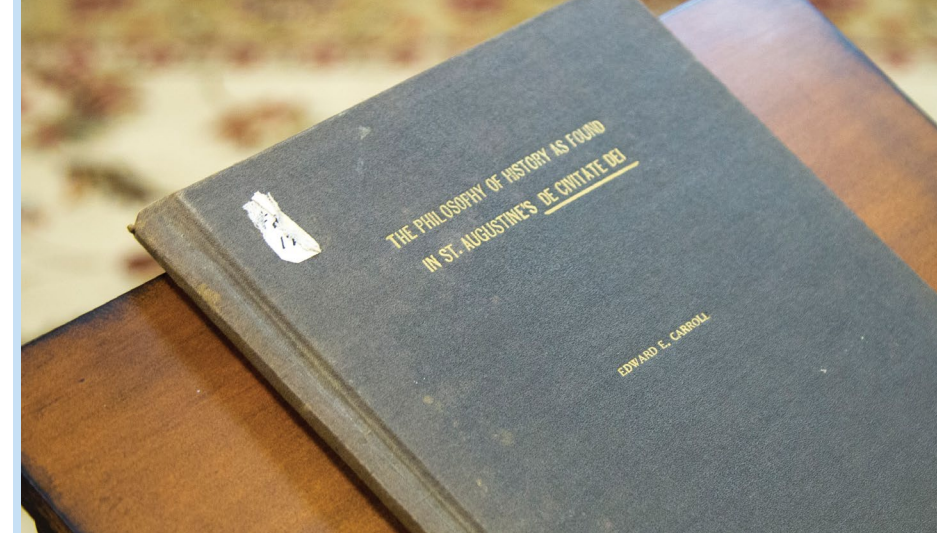
Did you meet any noteworthy public personalities during these years?

Well, a few years behind me in the Basselin Program was Raymond Brown, a brilliant student who later became a Sulpician Father and one of America's renowned Catholic biblical scholars.

There was a memorable Christmas visit from the Von Trapp family, who performed for us, with the youngest son playing the drummer boy. The following day, Baroness Maria Von Trapp gave us a spiritual talk. It was highly unusual at the time not only for a woman to speak to us, but even for a lay person to give an address to seminarians. In 1951, I went to visit the Von Trapp Vermont home with Father Robert Novotny from Milwaukee, a TC alum and a classmate of mine from the class of 1950. He died on May 5, 2013.

Each year in October, we attended the Red Mass at St. Matthew's Cathedral. This was always a memorable event. The year that Salt Lake City's Bishop Duane Hunt gave the homily was the most impressive for me. A convert, he was a radio personality for the weekly *Catholic Hour* show and was an outstanding preacher and apologist. President Harry Truman was present at that same Red Mass. Years later, as a gift, my nephew obtained a copy of that homily for me from the archivist for the Diocese of Salt Lake City.

And of course, my philosophy of history professor at Catholic University, Monsignor Fulton Sheen, was a magnetizing character.



Father Carroll's Basselin thesis is available for reference in the 2nd-floor Basselin Library.

Did he influence the choice of your Basselin thesis topic, "The Philosophy of History in St. Augustine's De Civitate Dei"?

Yes, when I asked Monsignor Sheen to be my thesis director, he suggested the subject. His class was on Friday in room 112 of McMahon Hall. It was always packed. In those years, he too was known for his presentations on *The Catholic Hour* radio show. As my director, he encouraged me to think not only about St. Augustine but also other philosophers who had written on that topic, in order to fully understand the philosophy of history. When I graduated, Monsignor Sheen autographed for me a copy of one of his books with the words, “To my fellow student... Fulton J. Sheen.”

Years later, I used to travel to New York for work because I was a member of the board of the Child Welfare League of America (headquartered there), on a committee in charge of accreditation of child welfare agencies. In December 1979, on my way to a Broadway theater, I tried to pay my respects at Archbishop Sheen's wake in St. Patrick's Cathedral. I walked up the steps of the Cathedral and was only able to peer in, as it was too crowded for me to enter.

When Archbishop Dolan took over as prelate of Milwaukee, I knew he had a great love of Fulton Sheen so I gave him that book inscribed to me by Monsignor Sheen.

What was your first ministry assignment?

I was associate pastor at St. Robert Catholic Parish in Shorewood, Wis. When I was preparing to leave this ministry after five years, there were only two Milwaukee area churches offering the Good Friday “*Tre Ore*” service from 12–3 p.m. This service is centered around the last words of our Lord from the Cross on Good Friday. There were seven homilies for the seven last words, as well as seven hymns. I was honored and moved to be able to end my tenure there by giving this three-hour service!

St. Robert's was a big church designed by architects McGinnis and Walsh [who were responsible for the original 1917 design of

the TC building, which was modified later by other architects]. The design and acoustics of this church, filled with more than 700 congregants, made the recollection of this *Tre Ore* service indelible. After this, I went back to Catholic University for a social work degree, which I received in 1957.

How did this return to the University come about?

The director of Catholic Charities for my archdiocese, Monsignor Joseph Springob, called me in and asked if I would like to join his staff. This idea was approved by the bishop so I went back for my degree in social work. I used to say morning Mass in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine and, from where I lived on campus — Albert Hall, which has since been torn down — I was able to witness the Upper Church of the Basilica going up. [Even though Cardinal Gibbons laid the first stone in 1921, building was delayed by a lack of funds during the Great Depression in the 1930s and the onset of World War II. The Basilica was finally dedicated in 1959.]

I used to return to campus every five years for TC’s Alumni Day reunion. My last visit was in 1995, so I have not seen the new Trinity Dome at the Shrine, or other changes that have been made at TC since then.

How did you choose your social work focus in the area of community organization?

It was a little serendipitous. I did many months of field work in marriage and family counseling in Rochester, N.Y. However, in my second year of field work in D.C., I found out that I would have to remove my Roman collar because it was a nonsectarian service agency. Although I understood the reason for this, I preferred to wear my collar, so I changed my concentration. My field work in D.C. in the fall of 1958 was to help raise millions of dollars for the United Way. My dissertation was on the Christmas Bureau, an annual holiday assistance program that provides for the needs (and desires) of thousands of low-income individuals and families at Christmastime.

An interesting historical sidenote is that Catholic Charities was founded in 1910 on the campus of Catholic University! At the time, it was called the National Conference of Catholic Charities (NCCC). The NCCC’s founder and first secretary was Monsignor John O’Grady, a Catholic University professor who was appointed in 1920. He was quite a character; I remember he spoke with an Irish brogue. [O’Grady helped to found the Catholic University

School of Social Work in the 1930s and served as its first dean.]

Can you tell us about your subsequent work with Catholic Charities (for 28 years)?

I was appointed to be the assistant director of Catholic Charities, working in their downtown Milwaukee office. I also worked for a short time as chaplain at a psychiatric hospital for women. A little later, I was appointed administrator and chaplain of the St. Charles Boys Home, run by the brothers of the Congregation of the Holy Cross. We achieved many ambitious development goals during my time there, from 1963 to 1969, including the construction of an on-site school (for boys in residence there), a clinical services building, and a transition home where the boys would live with house parents and go out to schools in the community. While working in this capacity, I was still the assistant director at Catholic Charities, and also chaplain to the Milwaukee County Children’s Home. And I was chaplain of the Christ Child Society during my entire 28-year tenure at Catholic Charities. In 1980, I assumed the role of director of Catholic Charities and held that position until 1983. My main assignment for Catholic Charities during those three decades was to establish branch offices to decentralize the organization, which was based in Milwaukee but present in 10 counties in the Wisconsin archdiocese. We needed the support of the United Way for all of this, so I had to set up lay advisory boards to achieve this goal.

Why did you leave this dynamic ministry in 1984?

I left because I wanted to become a pastor for the first time! Before that, though, I took a sabbatical for some months in California with the Sulpicians at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park. I very much appreciated the beautiful chapel there. I had the wonderful surprise of meeting my friend Bishop Joseph Ferrario (TC Class of 1951), who was visiting there. By then, he was the Bishop of Honolulu. I was then assigned as pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church in Genesee Depot, Wis., where I ministered for five years before my retirement.

How has your 30-year retirement been going?

When I retired in 1989, I travelled to Ireland and England. I had been to Latin America before, and to Australia in 1973 for the International Eucharistic Congress (also attended by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla), but this was my first time in Europe outside of

a trip to Rome (and the Holy Land) in 1979. I returned to Europe in 1995 and 1997. These travels were incredibly interesting and have left me with beautiful memories: Avila, Madrid, Seville, Paris, Lourdes, Fatima, Avignon, Milan, Genoa, Venice, Vienna, Salsburg, Berlin, Munich, Lisbon, Gibraltar...

From 1989 to 2008, I helped out at various parishes in my diocese until I returned to my hometown of Kenosha and moved into St. Joseph’s Villa, adjacent to the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus and the St. Joseph’s Home and Rehabilitation Center, which the sisters run. While I am now 97 years old, I am only the fourth oldest priest in our diocese — there are still two who are 99 or 100 and one who is 98!

How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your daily life there?

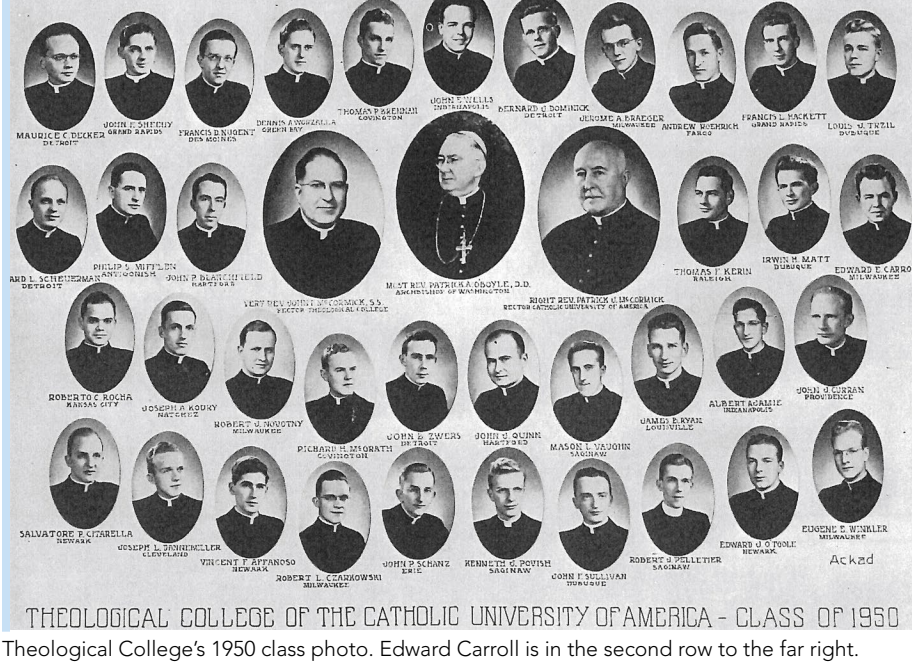
I have been unable to attend Mass with or visit the Carmelite nuns or the nursing home. But since I am still driving, I go to Adoration every Wednesday at the country church where my parents and grandparents and other family members are buried. This is a great comfort. I recall that, when I was a boy, we would plant petunias and geraniums on the graves. Today, the gravestone of my great grandfather, who came over from Ireland and died when he was only 50, is illegible because it was carved so long ago.

I have been doing a lot of praying, including saying Mass alone in my apartment here at the Villa. I read quite a bit. Currently I am reading a book I bought in 1946 that contains St. Augustine’s commentaries on the Psalms and homilies from when he was a bishop in Hippo, North Africa. I just finished reading Romano Guardini’s 600-page book, *The Lord*, which I highly recommend.

Do you have any high points to share, reflecting upon your years as a priest?

Yes, it all goes back to the Sulpician priest who was my spiritual director for seven years, Father Sage. His influence was of a contemplative nature and he interested me in the Carmelite life. I still have in front of me on my bookshelf a wonderful typewritten synopsis by Father Sage on “The Dark Night of the Soul” as reflected upon by St. John of the Cross in his famous poem.

I am not a Carmelite, but nonetheless Father Sage’s inspiration has had the most profound influence on my personal life and on



my life of prayer for over 70 years. I was very moved to learn that Catholic University recently inaugurated an Endowed Chair in Carmelite Spirituality!

What advice would you give to seminarians studying for the priesthood today?

I believe psychological evaluations need to be taken seriously by all parties. And I think the “four dimensions” formation model — addressing human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral needs and concerns — is a very good model to follow. Seminarians should take full advantage of this approach that includes both the internal and external forum.

With TC celebrating 50 years of expertise in pastoral formation, I would like to point out that the significance of supervised pastoral placements throughout formation cannot be underestimated. It wasn’t until I began field work for my social work degree in the late 1950s that my horizons and awareness as a servant of the people were really expanded. And, as Father Sage cautioned, remember that while good works are important, they must be grounded in faith in the Lord, as is emphasized in the biblical Epistle of St. James.

For my golden jubilee in 2000 and again in 2010 (The Year of the Priest), when I was 60 years ordained, I spoke about these priorities, many of which were not in place when I was a seminarian and student.

Above all, though, I would emphasize the importance of prayer — both personal and devotional. This is absolutely essential in the years of discernment and formation and should remain a life-long commitment for every priest. Fulton Sheen always promoted the practice of making a holy hour every day. May all of us brothers pray for each other as we strive for holiness!

— Suzanne Tanzi

CLASS NOTES

60s

Mr. Frank J. Butler, TC '66-'68, who completed first Theology at Theological College in the mid-1960s, recently completed his new book titled *Belonging: One Catholic's Journey* (Orbis Press). Mr. Butler served for over 30 years as president of FADICA, an association of Catholic grant makers, and held responsibilities for one of the largest grassroots consultations on Catholicism ever undertaken by Church leaders in the United States: the Catholic bishops' Call to Action Program. He holds degrees from the University of San Francisco and The Catholic University of America. A founding board member of Support Our Aging Religious (SOAR!), he currently serves on the board of the *National Catholic Reporter*.

Rev. Gerald J. Thury, '67, of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, retired from active ministry in 2011 and has since been offering weekly Masses at the parish of Saints Peter and Paul where he resides in Dimock, S.D. Before the pandemic started, Father Thury served as a cruise ship chaplain for the Holland American Line. He shared that he has "fine memories of Theological College," especially of his excellent professors and classes at The Catholic University of America, recalling that he attended seminary during the transitional time of Vatican II and the inclusion of the vernacular for the liturgy, among other changes. Father Thury celebrated his 50-year anniversary of priestly ordination in 2017, and does keep in contact with some fellow alumni from his class.

70s

Mr. Carey Landry, '70, internationally renowned liturgical singer and songwriter, recently shared a reflection of his time at Theological College, which began 50 years ago when he led the music at liturgies under the guidance of his beloved mentor, Father Eugene Walsh, P.S.S. Mr. Landry, author of such popular liturgical hymns as "Hail Mary: Gentle Woman" and "Only a Shadow," has retired as a Certified Catholic Chaplain after having served in this ministry for over 26 years in the Ascension St. Vincent Hospital System. He continues to record newly written hymns and songs. A generous supporter of TC through the years, Mr. Landry concluded his letter with the following: "May TC continue to bring to the Church priests who are 'compassionate and kind, faithful, loving, and wise.'"

Rev. D. Stephen Smith, '73 (B '69), of the Diocese of Madison, retired from active ministry on December 10, 2020, at the age of 75. In his previous assignment, Father Smith served for 18 years as the beloved pastor of Christ the King Parish in McFarland, Wisc. Because of the pandemic, his former parish has delayed celebrating its own 2020 50th anniversary milestone along with Father Smith's retirement until COVID restrictions have lessened. As noted by a former parishioner, Father Smith was "a very good servant and a well-loved pastor" and the parish is eager to thank him publicly for his many years of faithful service at Christ the King. Presently, Father Smith resides at All Saints Senior Retirement Center in Madison where he keeps active by walking many miles each month as well as by continuing to serve various ministerial needs of churches throughout the diocese.

80s

Monsignor Michael Clay, '80, of the Diocese of Raleigh, has been appointed by Cardinal Koch, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, to serve as a member of the international Catholic team for the sixth phase of ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

00s

Rev. Matthew Kauth, '00, S.T.D, of the Diocese of Charlotte, has been made rector of the new seminary in his diocese, St. Joseph College Seminary, which was formally opened in 2016 under Bishop Peter J. Jugis. In 2012, Father Kauth, assigned in residence at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Charlotte, was serving as chaplain of Charlotte Catholic High School and as an instructor at Belmont Abbey College, when he initiated a small commission to consider starting a new seminary to meet the needs of the ever-growing Catholic population in his diocese. When St. Joseph's opened its doors in 2016, eight seminarians were in the first class. Each year, the seminary population has continued to grow, and more housing was purchased to accommodate the expansion. The students and faculty eagerly awaited the building of the current seminary structure now located in Mt. Holly. Nine students have graduated from St. Joseph's who are now in major seminary formation while 27 make up the current population. The motto of the new seminary, "*Noli Timere*" ("Do not be afraid") reflects well its trust in God, as we enter this year dedicated to St. Joseph's fatherly intercession and protection.

Rev. John A. Rossi, S.T.L., '09, of the Diocese of Camden, has been transferred from his ministry as Director of Catholic Identity at Paul VI High School in Haddonfield, N.J., to serve as pastor at St. Bridget University Parish and Catholic chaplain at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ.

10s

Rev. Vincent Guest, '12, of the Diocese of Camden, was transferred in July 2020 from his ministry as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Lindenwold to serve as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in inner-city Camden. Father Guest is also serving as moderator of the Black Catholic Apostolate and coordinator of the Racial Justice Commission.

Rev. Stephen Wyble, B'12, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been named pastor of Holy Angels Parish in Avenue, Md., and Sacred Heart Parish in Bushwood, after serving as administrator of these parishes.

Rev. Dustin Dought, '13, of the Diocese of Lafayette, was named by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as associate director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship on February 8, 2021. Father Dought, who has been serving as pastor of St. Leo the Great Church in Lafayette since 2017, shared the following: "I am humbled to receive this invitation to serve the bishops of the United States and their respective dioceses. I look forward to supporting them in their mission of liturgical formation and celebration."

Rev. Charles (Chip) Luckett, '14, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was transferred in December 2020 from his min-



TC seminarians continue their Friday lunch fasting, increased to a weekly event during Lent, to provide lunches for the needy whom they find at the Catholic Charities outreach in Washington, DC. From left, Auguste Horner (Pre-T-1, Rockville Centre), Jack Kristensen (1-B, New York), Jacob Romero (2-T, Santa Fe), and Dylan Prentice (1-T, Washington).

istry as parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Upper Marlboro, Md., to serve as administrator of Our Lady of the Wayside Parish in Chaptico.

Rev. Leo Song, Pre-T '14, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, was transferred in July 2020 from his ministry as associate pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Massapequa to serve as associate pastor of three parishes: Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Point Lookout; St. Mary of the Isle, Long Beach; and St. Ignatius Martyr, Long Beach. These churches make up the larger parish grouping called Beach Catholic Community. Father Leo resides at St. Ignatius Martyr in Long Beach.

Rev. William (Alex) Nevitt, Pre-T '15, of the Diocese of Paterson, ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli on May 11, 2019, is serving as parochial vicar of Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church in Cedar Knolls, N.J. Father Nevitt recently shared that he was grateful to have completed his pre-theology studies at Theological College since he received "great formation" here.

Rev. William Wuenschel, '15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was transferred in December 2020 from his ministry as senior parochial vicar of St. Aidan Parish in Wexford to serve as pastor of St. Aidan Parish (St. Alphonsus and St. Alexis Churches) in Wexford.

Rev. Ryan Pineda, '16, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was transferred in January 2021 from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Peter Parish in Waldorf to serve as administrator of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Leonardtown.

Rev. Andrew Wakefield, '17, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was transferred in January 2021 from his ministry as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Beltsville to serve as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Mingwei Li, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was transferred in January 2021 from his ministry as parochial vicar of Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, Crescent; Saint Joseph Parish, Coraopolis; and Saint Margaret Mary Parish, Moon Township, to parochial vicar of the newly established Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Coraopolis/ Crescent/Moon.

What's missing here?
You are! Send us a ministry or retirement update to share!

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Gerald Muller, D.M.A.

July 25, 1932 – Dec. 7, 2020

Dr. Gerry Muller, TC's Music Director Emeritus, died on Monday, December 7, 2020, at the age of 88. Dr. Muller began working at Theological College in 1999 after having served as the music director at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., for 18 years as well as having served on the faculty of the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music at The Catholic University of America. As a lifelong musician who studied at The Julliard School in New York City, he conducted and directed over 200 operas and musical theater productions and served as director of music in several parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. Acknowledging this impressive professional repertoire, which included a history of directing music in a seminary from his own time in formation with the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Father David Thayer, P.S.S., hired Dr. Muller for the position of music director at TC. Dr. Muller was a much-loved TC staff member and liturgical music mentor to hundreds of seminarians over almost two decades. After his retirement from TC, he continued to work as principal organist at Saint Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church in Greenbelt, Md., where his daughter, Jennifer Muller Goltz, is the director of music.

In 2017, upon his retirement from the seminary, Dr. Muller shared in an interview with *The Crossroads* the following insight regarding the role of music in liturgy: "Singing in the liturgy is above all prayer. John says in his Gospel, 'The Word was with God and the Word was God.' In liturgical music, we are using the Word to pray and communicate God's thoughts in what we



Top: Dr. Muller with the TC Schola at an annual Alumni Day Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. **Bottom:** TC's new organ was dedicated to Dr. Muller on April 4, 2017, by then-rector Father Gerald McBrearity, for his years of fruitful service to the seminary music program.

do. All of the instructions say that liturgy should be beautiful and the primary way the Church says this is done is by singing the parts of the Mass." Dr. Muller further stated that his goal was "to teach and help all of the seminarians so that they can become singing priests."

A beloved husband, father, grandfather, and musical mentor, Dr. Muller's legacy and accomplishments will be cherished at TC for years to come. Father Dominic Ciriaco expressed well the sentiment of the seminary at his passing in December: "In April of 2017, the seminary's new Rodgers organ was dedicated to Dr. Muller. He led the seminary's music program for nearly 20 years and shared his wealth of knowledge and extensive training with our seminarians. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. He will be greatly missed!" ■

For all who have been touched by Dr. Muller's work and legacy at Theological College, a gift in his memory can be made to the Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy Fund.

Go to TC's website, theologicalcollege.org, using the "Support TC" tab for a link to the Fund, or send your gift to:

Theological College
c/o Development Office
401 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20017



In Memoriam



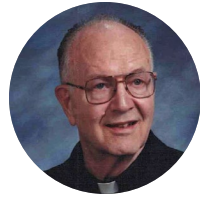
Rev. Alfred A. Lamanna, S.J. B '42, died on July 10, 2020, at the age of 98. Father Lamanna was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Albany by Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons on June 11, 1949, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany.

In his first assignment, Father Lamanna served as assistant pastor at the Cathedral where he was ordained. Following this summer assignment, he continued to serve over the next 16 years as assistant pastor at several parishes throughout his diocese. His first pastorate began in 1967, when he was appointed to serve as pastor of St. Catherine's Church in Middleburgh and St. Joseph's in Schoharie. Then, in 1969, he was appointed as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Frankfort where he served faithfully for the next 25 years until his semi-retirement in 1994; he continued to be a thriving presence in this community for years to come. His dedicated priestly ministry, spanning over seven decades, included service as chaplain of several Knights of Columbus councils throughout his diocese. As chaplain, he participated in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., and, in 1997, blessed a monument to unborn children at Calvary Cemetery in Herkimer. From 1952 to 1958, Father Lamanna served as the local Boy Scout chaplain, organizing retreats to various campgrounds, and was honored as the National Boy Scout Chaplain at Valley Forge. He also served as the CYO director of both Fulton and Montgomery counties in the 1950s and in 1953 received the Albany diocesan "Priest of the Year" award for his dedication to area youth. In 1965, Father Lamanna received a citation for his "zealous work" on behalf of

the American Committee on Italian Migration where he served as director, for his tireless work in helping to move forward legislation for the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965. Later, during the 1990s, he spearheaded the project for a new bridge connecting the Village of Frankfort to Route 5; subsequently, the state of New York and Herkimer county name the bridge the "Rev. Alfred A. Lamanna Bridge" in his honor. In 1999, Father Lamanna received another award presented to him by Bishop James M. Moynihan of Syracuse in recognition of his outstanding service and devotion to the Church called the "Bishop David F. Cunningham Award."

After retiring from active ministry, Father Lamanna assisted various parishes throughout his diocese and was the spiritual director of the St. Padre Pio Prayer Group of Central New York. Additionally, he promoted various causes, including the canonizations of St. Padre Pio, Cardinal Cooke, and Father Michael J. McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus who was beatified on October 31, 2020. On June 11, 2019, Father Lamanna celebrated his 70th anniversary of the priesthood with a Mass of thanksgiving offered at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church in Frankfort, surrounded by the love of family and friends, where he was recognized for his fidelity, generosity, and steadfast witness to the Gospel.

Most Reverend Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Lamanna on July 14, 2020, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church in Frankfort, with interment in the Lamanna family plot at St. Michael's Cemetery in Amsterdam.



Rev. Eugene D. Winkler, '50, died on June 8, 2020, at the age of 94. Father Winkler began his priestly formation at St. Francis de Sales Seminary in the Milwaukee suburb of St. Francis, Wisc., from 1945 to 1947 and completed his formation for the priesthood at Theological College from 1948 to 1950. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Bishop Moses E. Kiley on May 27, 1950, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Milwaukee.

His dedicated priestly ministry, spanning seven decades, began at St. Agnes Parish in Milwaukee where he served as an assistant. Following this, Father Winkler served as an assistant at Holy Ghost Parish in Milwaukee from 1953 to 1959, and then as an assistant at St. Joseph Parish in Waukesha. After appointments serving as curate at two additional parishes, St. Dominic Parish in Brookfield in 1964 and St. Aloysius Parish in West Allis, beginning in 1965, Father Winkler was named pastor of St. George Parish in St. George, and its mission church, St. Rose of Lima, on September 9, 1969. He faithfully served these two Catholic communities for almost 32 years until his retirement from active ministry on June 30, 2001. One former parishioner noted on Father Winkler's memorial page: "Father Winkler was a very significant part of my growing up in the church community at Saint George Parish in Sheboygan Falls. He filled all of our hearts with fond memories from his strong, calm, protective demeanor to our church picnics, corn roasts, baseball games, and trips to the Brewers...he left a sense of warmth, safety, and belonging in our hearts every day. My family, friends, and I are so blessed for his presence all those years in our life."

Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI, Archbishop of Milwaukee, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Winkler on June 12, 2020, at St. Mary Catholic Faith Community in Hales Corners, with interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in Milwaukee. Memorial donations may be made to St. Francis de Sales Seminary, 3257 S. Lake Drive, Saint Francis, WI 53235.



Rev. William C. Cahill, * '61, died on November 15, 2020, at the age of 85. After completing studies at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Universities in Rochester, Father Cahill began studies at Theological College and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Syracuse on May 20, 1961. Father Cahill's dedicated priestly ministry of almost six decades included service

as a teacher at Bishop Ludden Jr./Sr. High School in Syracuse and at several parishes including those in Skaneateles, Syracuse, Fayetteville, Utica, Canastota, and Rome. Additionally, he obtained a graduate counseling degree from Syracuse University. In 1978, he was named pastor of St. Mary's Church in Hamilton and faithfully served there for the next 10 years. He was also appointed chaplain for the Oneida Correctional Facility where he ministered for 25 years until his retirement in 2007. One of his former parishioners shared on his memorial page the following: "My husband and I were lucky to have Father Cahill marry us on his last day at St. Mary's in Hamilton before he went to work in the prison. I was able to assist him with a Christmas project several years later for the inmates and their families. He was so pleasant and helpful." And a former student noted: "He was one of my favorite teachers at Bishop Ludden. He always had a kind and encouraging word. He and all of the dedicated priests and nuns at Bishop Ludden provided the foundation of my faith and inspired my career. He will be in my prayers."

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Cahill on November 20, 2020, at St. Mary's Church in Hamilton, with interment at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Hamilton.



Rev. Nicholas J. Landsberger, '61, died on May 26, 2020, at the age of 84. Father Landsberger began his seminary studies at St. John's Seminary in Collegeville, Minn., and finished his formation at Theological College. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of St. Cloud by Bishop Peter W. Bartholome on June 3, 1961, at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud.

In his first assignment, Father Landsberger served as associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Pierz from 1961 to 1966, followed by a teaching assignment for one year at Cathedral High School in St. Cloud. He was then named pastor of St. John Nepomuk in Lastrup, ministering there for the next 12 years until he was named pastor of St. Mary's in Little Falls in 1979. Following these two pastorate assignments, Father Landsberger was then named rector of St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud where he faithfully served until July of 1995. His dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned almost six decades, included serving as pastor again at St. Mary's in Little Falls from 1995 until June 2014 while also serving as pastor at Holy Family Parish in Belle Prairie from July 2001 until June 2012. Additionally, Father Landsberger served on the

Tribunal for the Diocese of St. Cloud from 1969 through 2020, including six years beyond his retirement from active ministry on July 1, 2014.

In 2016, the Diocese of St. Cloud awarded Father Landsberger its *Humanae Vitae* Award — an honor given to a person "who exhibits extraordinary courage in promoting the teachings of the encyclical *Humanae Vitae*." The encyclical letter written by St. Pope Paul VI, released in 1968, provides beautiful and clear teaching about God's plan for married love, responsible parenthood, and the transmission of life. "Father Nick does this in a most beautiful way," said Sheila Reineke, who nominated him for the award in 2016. "He seems to simply trust that God's plan is good and expects that others do the same. ... His love of the Eucharist and understanding of God's design for marriage allows him to gently guide couples toward self-giving love."

Most Reverend Donald J. Kettler, Bishop of St. Cloud, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Landsberger on June 2, 2020, at St. Mary's Cathedral in St. Cloud, with interment at Assumption Cemetery in St. Cloud.



Rev. Edward R. Wieczorek Jr., * B '62, died on November 16, 2019, at the age of 80. Father Wieczorek began his seminary studies at St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati. He continued his studies for the priesthood at Theological College in Washington, where he earned his master's degree in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. From TC, Father Wieczorek traveled to Rome to complete his seminary formation at the Pontifical Gregorian University (North American College), obtaining a licentiate degree in sacred theology, and later completing graduate work in theology as well. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Youngstown by Bishop Francis Reh on December 18, 1965, in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

In his first assignment, Father Wieczorek served as associate pastor of St. Columba Cathedral in Youngstown for three years. In 1969, he returned to the Gregorian to complete graduate studies and then, in 1971, he joined the faculty of Mount St. Mary of the West Seminary in Cincinnati. In 1975, he served as associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Canton. Four years later, he was appointed to serve as the first pastor of the new Holy Spirit Parish in Uniontown in 1979. After 12 years of dedicated service at this new church, Father Wieczorek was appointed pastor of St. Jude Parish in Columbiana in 1991. Following this, in 1995,

he was named pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Mogadore. During this time, he took a sabbatical for several months to study at the University of Notre Dame and then returned to St. Joseph's until he retired from active ministry in 2012.

Father Wieczorek's priestly ministry, which spanned over five decades, included service on the Synod '76 Social Justice and Responsibility Committee and as an elected representative to the Priests Senate. He also served as chaplain to the Mahoning County Boy Scouts. In 1985, he served on the Diocesan Board of Education and was president of the Lake Area Clergy Association. In 1996, he co-founded, along with the Reverend Charles McNatt of the Methodist Church, the S.W. Portage County Ministerial Association. He was an advocate for the diocesan tribunal, a part-time teacher at Ursuline High School, and a visiting professor at St. Mary Seminary in Cleveland and Mount St. Joseph College in Cincinnati. In addition, Father Wieczorek was an active member of Unbound (formerly the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging), an international non-profit organization founded by lay Catholics to provide food, education, clothing, and access to medical care to poor children and elderly around the world. He traveled across Ohio and the country promoting the work of Unbound.

Most Reverend George V. Murry, S.J., presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Wieczorek on November 23, 2019, at Blessed Sacrament Church in Warren with interment at All Souls Cemetery in Courtland. Memorial donations may be made to Unbound Mission, 1 Elmwood Ave., Kansas City, KA 66103, or St. Joseph School, 2634 Waterloo Rd., Mogadore, Ohio 44260.



Rev. Joseph J. Bonadio, P.S.S., director of worship and homiletics at Theological College in the late 1970s, died on January 20, 2021, at the age of 83. Father Bonadio, a native of Baltimore, began studies for the priesthood in 1955 at St. Charles College in Catonsville and completed his bachelor's degree at St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street, followed by his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Baltimore on May 16, 1964, and then immediately joined the Society of St. Sulpice, inspired by his former rector and mentor, Father James Laubaucher, P.S.S.

His dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned over five decades, was full and varied, marked especially by his pastoral care and loving Gospel witness for all he encountered — seminarians, parishioners, family, and friends. In his first assignment,

Father Bonadio served on the faculty of St. Thomas Seminary in Louisville from 1964 to 1966. While studying for his master's degree over the next several summers, he served on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary & University from 1966 to 1973, where he taught liturgy and preaching and was Master of Ceremonies for the seminary. During this time, in 1970, he completed his M.R. Ed. degree from Loyola University in Chicago and was admitted to the Sulpicians that same year.

For the next five years, from 1973 to 1978, Father Bonadio served as rector of St. Patrick's Seminary in San Francisco. He then returned to the East in 1978 to serve as the director of worship and homiletics at Theological College until 1983. Over the next year, he worked at St. Mary's in Roland Park before being named director of St. Mary's Spiritual Center on Paca Street in 1984, where he remained until 1989. Upon completing a year's sabbatical in 1989, he participated over the next several years until his retirement in works of pastoral ministry, including serving as an assistant pastor at his home parish, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Baltimore from 1990 to 2001; serving as chaplain to Notre Dame University of Maryland in Baltimore from 1990 to 1995, followed by chaplaincy service at the Oak Crest Retirement Community in Baltimore from 1995 to 2012. Additionally, he served as superior of what was then named St. Charles Villa, now Villa Olier, the Sulpician retirement community in Catonsville, Md., from 2001 to 2007. He officially retired in 2012 and remained in residence at the Villa.

At his request, Father Bonadio's Mass of Christian burial was held at his home parish, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Baltimore, where he had assisted for many years, on January 25, 2021, with the acting provincial, Father Daniel Moore, P.S.S., presiding, and the pastor, Monsignor William Burke, as the homilist. Interment followed at the Sulpician cemetery in Catonsville.



of that same year; he was ordained to the priesthood on May 19, 1979.

In his first priestly assignment, Father Colgan served as a campus minister at Clemson University in South Carolina until 1983. He then served a one-year posting at McGill University in Canada.

Rev. Richard Colgan, C.S.P., B '75, died on May 25, 2020, at the age of 68, in Washington, D.C., of complications from Covid-19. After completing studies as a Basselin scholar at Theological College in May of 1975, Father Colgan made his first promises to the Paulist Fathers in August

From 1984 to 1987, he served as the Paulist Fathers associate director of novices, based then at Mt. Paul in Oak Ridge, N.J.

During Father Colgan's dedicated priestly ministry with the Paulists, which spanned over four decades, he continued to serve in a variety of places and roles as associate pastor of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City; associate director of St. Lawrence Parish and Newman Center in Minneapolis, Minn.; associate director of the Paulist Center in Boston; pastor of St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore.; and as pastor of St. Peter's Church in Toronto.

Since 2011, Father Colgan served as the Paulist Fathers director of novices, accompanying men in their first year lived at the seminary, St. Paul's College, in Washington, D.C. He was also assistant director of formation, helping to guide all the seminarians.

The Mass of Christian burial was offered for Father Colgan by the Paulist Fathers community on June 6, 2020, at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City with interment at St. Thomas the Apostle Cemetery in Oak Ridge, N.J.



Rev. Robert P. Perron, B '76, died August 1, 2020, at the age of 67. Father Perron began his seminary studies at Our Lady of Providence Seminary in Warwick, R.I., before being selected to participate in the Basselin Scholars Program at Theological College. After earning his master's de-

gree in philosophy, he completed his seminary training at St. Bernard Seminary in Rochester, N.Y., where he received two degrees: Master of Divinity and Master of Systematic Theology. Father Perron was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Providence by Bishop Louis E. Gelineau on June 6, 1981, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in West Warwick.

Father Perron's first assignment in 1981 was to serve as assistant pastor at St. Lucy Parish in Middletown. During his service in Middletown, he received a Master of Education degree specializing in counseling and guidance from Providence College. He also co-founded Lucy's Hearth, a temporary shelter for women and children. In 1986, he was assigned as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in East Greenwich until 1988, and then as a Team Ministry member at St. Michael Parish in Providence from 1988 to 1992. In July of 1992, he was appointed pastor of Notre Dame Parish in Central Falls, serving there until 1997. For the next 19 years, Father Perron served as pastor at four additional parishes as well as administrator to three other parishes in his diocese. At the time of his death, he was serving as pastor of St. Michael

Parish in Providence, where he had been assigned since 2016.

Father Perron's dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned almost four decades, included service as Dean/Vicar Forane for Deanery VII from 1990 to 1992; Deanery XII from 2003 to 2007; and Deanery I from 2013 to 2014. From 2014 until the time of his death, he served as diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Many former parishioners and friends expressed their sadness and condolences at the sudden death of Father Perron on his memorial page, extoling his ministry as a beloved pastor and friend to many: "I am so sad to learn of the untimely passing of Fr. Bob. He was a wonderful priest, so dedicated and hard working. He was a man of prayer and a great example to everyone who met him. He is a big loss to the Catholic Church and his community. My sympathy to all his loved ones and may Fr. Bob rest in peace!"

Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Perron on August 7, 2020, at Holy Spirit Parish in Central Falls with interment at Notre Dame Cemetery in Pawtucket. Memorial donations may be made to the Providence Haiti Outreach, 125 Scituate Ave, Cranston, RI, 02921.



Rev. William F. Verrilli, '79, TC class representative, died July 24, 2020, at the age of 68. Father Verrilli was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Bridgeport by Bishop Walter W. Curtis on May 5, 1979, at St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport.

Father Verrilli's dedicated priestly ministry, spanning 41 years, included service as parochial vicar of St. Andrew Parish in Bridgeport in 1979, his first assignment, as well as many years of service in Catholic education. In 1980, Father Verrilli began teaching at St. Joseph High School in Trumbull where he remained as an instructor for several years before he was appointed spiritual director at Trinity Catholic School in Stamford. He then served as a faculty member of Notre Dame High School in Fairfield. In 1999, after 19 years of service as an educator, Father Verrilli began pursuing a licentiate degree in canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of this degree in 2001, he then served many years as a judge in the tribunal of the Diocese of Bridgeport before his retirement from active ministry.

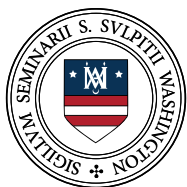
On the tribute page marking his passing, a former student shared the following: "I fondly remember Fr. Verrilli from St. Joe's HS; and then from officiating my first marriage. Fr. Verrilli

was such a kind person who always took the time to be there for you — he will be sorely missed."

Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport, presided at the Mass of Christian burial for Father Verrilli on July 31, 2020, at St. Andrew Church in Bridgeport with interment at St. Michael's Cemetery in Stratford.



*The Theological College community prayerfully recognizes with gratitude the generous bequests of **Rev. Alfred A. Lamanna, B '42**, **Rev. William C. Cahill, '61**, and **Rev. Edward R. Wiczorek Jr., B '62**, who acknowledged the lifelong impact of TC's formation program on their ministries as priests formed after the heart of Christ.



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

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Alumni Day 2021

SAVE
— the —
DATE

10.06.21

2:00 p.m.

Alumni Lecture

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti ('84)

5:15 p.m.

Alumni Mass

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (B '72),
celebrant and recipient of the
Alumnus Lifetime Service Award

