

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

the **Crossroads**

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ORDINATIONS 2021

ALUMNI DAY

SEMINARIAN LIFE



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Theological College participates in the mission and responsibility of the bishops to provide for the people of God wise and holy priests close to the heart of Christ and consumed in his work of salvation. In affiliation with The Catholic University of America, Theological College assists seminarians in the task of vocational discernment and in the preparation for priestly life and ministry at the diocesan level, particularly as experienced in the United States.



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ORDINATIONS

Theological College celebrated 16 alumni with the ordinations of 10 new priests and six new deacons between April and June!

BLESSED AGNES OF LANGEAC

TC celebrated the Feast of Blessed Agnes with area Dominicans on October 19.



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Cover: Daniel Cardinal DiNardo was the main celebrant for the Alumni Day Mass, joined on the altar by Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, right, and Fr. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.



Sharing the Good News

“Good work begins with God’s Word.”
— Father Jean-Jacques Olier

This quote from our Sulpician founder, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, graces the TC community poster outside our chapel. Father Olier was speaking specifically to preachers, but this maxim can be applied to all who minister and labor in the Church. God’s Word gives life, meaning, and purpose to our own work as we contemplate it in our lives. What an appropriate inspiration for us while we go about this new year of seminary work and formation, being mindful of God’s Word leading us and strengthening us, as the Eucharist nourishes us. Reflection on the Word helps guide the seminarians during their time of prayer, in the course of their study, and in the important decisions they make in formation. Making good decisions requires time, prayer, study, and reflection with God’s Word facilitating growth in the rich lives of the seminarians. As I prepare to complete my doctoral thesis focusing on the interface between art and preaching, I hope to share with the seminarians, in greater depth, the importance of contemplative practice in homiletics. This meditation on God’s Word is certainly communicated when one preaches.

As we embark upon this new year of formation with a particular focus on the importance of the Word in our lives, we are mindful that the atmosphere of the house differs greatly from that of last year, when we grew in fraternal charity while learning to live with the continued challenges of COVID-19. Less protocols, more vaccines, and gratitude for the gifts of the Spirit have brought a

sense of security to the house. The mood has been upbeat and full of positive and prayerful energy to keep us focused on the tasks ahead.

As you read this issue of *The Crossroads*, you will see evidence of this palpable joy in our Alumni Day celebration in early October. A large number of alumni returned to TC to celebrate at the Mass and ensuing banquet, during which we acknowledged the contributions to the Church from Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston–Houston (B ’72), who received the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award. It was indeed a very special evening for all who attended.

On October 19, the seminary community celebrated the Feast of Blessed Agnes of Jesus, O.P., an important figure in our Sulpician history. (Read more about her in the Sulpician Spotlight on p. 8.) We invited several Dominicans from the area, members of Blessed Agnes’ spiritual family, to join us for that Mass and reception. Dominican priests, nuns, and seminarians joined in the festivities. With this event, as well as our Alumni Day gathering, we were delighted to begin to welcome back guests to Theological College after such a strict quarantine period.

As we move through this year of formation, returning to a sense of normalcy, I pray that we can continue to sustain our enthusiasm and gratitude for being able to share the Good News of God, TC’s mission, with more people. Please be assured of our prayers for you here at Theological College and please pray for us. We very much appreciate your support and interest in our seminary program.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

May God be Praised,

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Ordinations 2021

Five graduating deacons were ordained to the priesthood over the spring and summer: Jason Allan (Fort Worth), Michael Kieler (St. Augustine), Thomas Lawrence (Richmond), Brett Metzler (Fort Worth), and Wesbee Victor (New York). Also ordained to the priesthood was Samuel Maul (Fort Worth), a Basselin scholar from the Class of 2016 who completed his seminary studies at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio.

TC also celebrated the diaconate ordinations of ten of its own: Scott Bahrke (Memphis), Gabe Bouck (Memphis), Ryan Braam (Washington), John De Guzman (Raleigh), Carlos De La Rosa (Corpus Christi), David Schmidt (Pittsburgh), Charles Silvas (Corpus Christi), and Kyle Vance (Washington). From the Basselin Class of 2016, Harold Escarcega (Phoenix) was also ordained a deacon, as was Aaron Kelly (Rochester) from the Basselin Class of 2018. Deacon Harold is finishing his studies at St. John Vianney Seminary in Denver and Deacon Aaron is finishing his at the North American College in Rome.

Join us in offering congratulations and prayers of gratitude for our men who have said “yes” to Christ in their vocations of ministering to the people of these ten dioceses! ■



Top left: Brett Metzler, left, and Jason Allan, right, with vice-rector Father Chris Arockiaraj at their ordination on May 22.

Top right: Tom Lawrence distributes Communion during his ordination Mass on June 5.

Middle left: Wesbee Victor with Cardinal Timothy Dolan after ordination at St. Patrick’s Cathedral on May 29.

Middle right: Sam Maul makes the promise of obedience to Bishop Michael Olson (B ’89) during the Rite of Ordination on May 22.

Bottom: Michael Kieler, center, was joined at his ordination on May 15 by many supporters from the Theological College community.



Top left: Gabe Bouck, far left, and Scott Bahrke, far right, with Bishop David Talley at their diaconate ordination on May 22.

Top right: John De Guzman and brother seminarians at his ordination to the diaconate on April 10.

Middle left: Carlos De La Rosa, left, and Charles Silvas in Corpus Christi Cathedral after their diaconate ordination by Bishop Michael Mulvey on June 5.

Middle right: During the Mass for diaconate ordination on June 19, Ryan Braam accepts the chalice from Cardinal Wilton Gregory while fellow ordinand Kyle Vance, far right, awaits.

Bottom left: Aaron Kelley (B '18) with Bishop Salvatore Matano at his ordination for the Diocese of Rochester on August 21.

Above right: David Schmidt, left, with Father Levi Hartle ('15) at his diaconate ordination on June 12.

Bottom right: Harold Escarcega, right, is joined by his diocesan brother and former classmate Father Nathaniel Glenn (B '16) at his diaconate ordination on May 30.

Art News at TC



The National Life Monument

The *National Life Monument* by Tim Schmalz will be installed on the front lawn of Theological College and dedicated for the 49th Annual March for Life, Jan. 21, 2022.

Watch for the spring issue of *The Crossroads* for news of the monument's dedication.

Corita Kent Exhibit

A collection of artwork by Corita Kent (1918–1986), an American Catholic artist and educator, will be on exhibit at Theological College from February 3 to March 3, 2022. The spiritual director of Corita Kent was a Sulpician priest, Father Robert Giguere, who had a major influence on her work from 1965 to 1968. The many copies of her serigraphs that she gave to him were bequeathed to the American Sulpician Province upon his death in 2003. TC rector Father Dominic Ciriaco became familiar with her work while researching for his doctoral thesis on the interface between art and preaching, and was inspired to offer the exhibit for public viewing.

For information on touring the display, contact Suzanne Tanzi at tanzi@cua.edu or 202-756-4914.



Art students from Catholic University discuss curatorial ideas with the rector for the upcoming Corita Kent exhibit.



Sulpician History Montage

This collection, *Pere Olier: The Formation of a Society and a Soul, 1641–Present*, was created by Father Peter Wm. Gray, P.S.S., between 2012 and 2020, and was recently installed in the Olier Room at TC. In the central portrait of Father Jean-Jacques Olier, founder of the Society of St. Sulpice, the image of Our Lady of Loretto in the upper right corner refers to Olier's time as a seminarian when he went on pilgrimage to that shrine to request the healing of one of his eyes, and he was granted this healing. He is shown writing because he is known and revered for his hundreds of correspondences and the recording of his spiritual thoughts and meditations. At the upper left, Fr. Charles Condren was mentor and confessor to Olier. This influential priest instructed Olier on the need for Eucharistic Adoration and silence in the discipline of a disciple of Jesus. Condren was also one of the great leaders of the new seminaries in France in accordance with the reforms of the Council of Trent. Below that, St. Vincent de Paul, also advisor and confessor, prepared Olier for death and anointed him. Lower right, Fr. Jacques-André Emery, Superior General of the Society of St. Sulpice during the French Revolution, sent the first Sulpicians to America in July 1791 in response to an invitation from Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore. Emery himself had escaped the guillotine after being imprisoned during the Reign of Terror in which 18 Sulpicians were martyred and are now beatified (their feast day is September 2). Lastly, upper right, Father Constant Bouchaud was Superior General of the Society of St. Sulpice from 1972 to 1984. His vision, inspired by an intense spiritual life, stabilized the Sulpician communities during the turmoil and changes following Vatican II.

On the wall to the right of this impressive display is Fr. Gray's 2021 portrait of Blessed Agnes of Jesus (see Table of Contents), also known as Blessed Agnes of Langeac (1602-1634), a Dominican nun and prioress. In 1631, Mary appeared to Agnes and entrusted to her the mission of informing Fr. Jean-Jacques Olier of her request that he start a seminary. And thus the early seeds of the Sulpician Fathers were sown. Mother Agnes had a great love for the Crucified Christ and she bequeathed her crucifix to Pere Olier upon her death. ■

Pastoral Profile: Msgr. Ronald Jameson

Longtime Pastor and TC Mentor

Joseph McHenry
Second Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

If there are two ecclesial institutions that have played outsized roles in the life of Monsignor Ronald Jameson (TC '68), they are Theological College and the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC. It is no wonder, then, that these two places and this one priest have been engaged in a long relationship of reciprocal self-giving.

Monsignor Jameson has served 38 of his 53 years as a priest at St. Matthew's: first from 1973 to 1985 as a parochial vicar, while also serving as the first director of the Archdiocese of Washington's newly formed Office of Worship, and since 1995 as the Cathedral rector. His ministry among the parishioners at St. Matthew's has formed him as a priest, building upon the foundation he received during his formation at Theological College.

Known for his pastoral leadership, in an interview at his rectory in late September, Monsignor Jameson spoke to me about the importance of fostering the skill of pastoral accompaniment. "You have to be out there walking the journey with the people, as Pope Francis has said," he remarked.

That journeying has been a challenge during the pandemic, as much of the parish's ministries were moved to virtual settings. The rector said that coming out of the crisis and in light of the divisive culture in our society right now, it will be essential to reestablish "real contact with people. We need to be a part of their lives... we must get a pulse of what is going on and know where the people are at, what is the meaning of these things in their lives."

The wisdom he has received from his years of parish ministry he has graciously offered back to generations of TC seminarians, providing pastoral placements to several each year. One of those seminarians, Deacon Carlos De La Rosa, stated, "Monsignor Jameson is a very intentional mentor and a generous pastor." In this capacity, Monsignor Jameson has been a pivotal part of the Pastoral Formation Program at TC, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In these assignments, Monsignor Jameson notes that the seminarians get an opportunity to experience something they do not in the seminary or university setting: pastoral closeness. Calling

parish ministry a "third prong" of formation along with academic studies and the human and spiritual formation that takes place inside the walls of TC, he added, "The diversity of parishes in the priestly formation program at TC allows the seminarians to grow in that whole sense of meeting the people where they're at."

This encounter with people at St. Matthew's for seminarians takes place in a variety of ministries. Of these, Monsignor Jameson emphasizes the importance of the experience he gives each third and fourth theologian of preparing a young couple for marriage. This ministry of presence, accompaniment, and catechesis is one that is a routine ministry of every parochial vicar. Experience in this ministry for seminarians can occur nowhere other than in a parish assignment. As a result, Monsignor Jameson finds offering this opportunity to his seminarians to be extremely rewarding. "I see the growth in our seminarians coming from that experience," he said.

Another seminarian serving at the Cathedral, André Sicard, remarked, "Monsignor Jameson makes a point to be personally invested in how our experiences within the parish community are forming us and in being available to meet with us."

In recognition of his impact, Theological College has twice in recent years honored Monsignor Jameson. In 2007, he was presented with the seminary's Alumnus Lifetime Service Award. Then, on the occasion of his 50th anniversary of graduating from TC, he returned in 2018 to receive the Rev. Gerald S. Brown Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry. Monsignor Jameson's life and ministry are a wonderful testament to the pastoral formation available at Theological College as well as to the fruit that comes from giving back in support of future generations of priests. ■

Monsignor Jameson with his pastoral mentees, from left, Deacon Carlos De La Rosa (4-T, Corpus Christi), Deacon Scott Bahrke (4-T, Memphis), and André Sicard (3-T, Salt Lake City), at Alumni Day in October (see p. 9).



Catholic University President John Garvey to Step Down in June

President John Garvey, 72, who has led The Catholic University of America through an extensive period of campus transformation that has lifted up nearly every aspect of the University, will step down from his leadership role on June 30, 2022. "I became President of The Catholic University of America in 2010 hoping I could contribute something to building up the institution. I did not foresee how much I would fall in love with it," he wrote in a letter to the University community. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of this University."

As the third lay president in the University's 134-year history, Garvey maintained a firm commitment to its Catholic mission and identity. He delivered on the promise made at his inaugural address to promote a "serious Catholic intellectual culture" by hiring deans, faculty, and staff committed to the vision of Catholic higher education articulated in *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* and *Veritatis Gaudium*.

He prioritized the student experience and worked to transform student life. One of his first projects was to install a basketball court near the dorms. He went on to make improvements to residence halls, the athletic program (including new fields, facilities, sports programs, and coaches), the counseling center, the Center for Cultural Engagement, and the Center for Academic and Career Success. Through these efforts, retention increased from 79% to 88%. In his letter to the community, he stated that Catholic University is "the best place in the world for a young person to attend college," and that "we have the best students."

Garvey led the most successful era of fundraising in University history, raising over \$500 million in gifts and grants, and growing the University's assets to nearly \$1 billion. He has led efforts to advance Catholic University on the path to becoming a top-tier research institution. Last year the University raised \$112 million in research grants. President Garvey was also instrumental in restructuring the university's Board of Trustees from a primarily clergy-led organization to one that also features significant lay leadership.

He led expansive revitalization projects outlined in a 15-year Master Plan approved by the District of Columbia. These included the Monroe Street Market mixed-use development that benefited the University and the surrounding community. A new dining hall is currently under construction, and groundbreaking is not



President John Garvey chats with seminarians after Mass at the outset of the academic and formation year.

far off for a nursing and science building for the newly endowed Conway School of Nursing. He recently established new programs in Alexandria, Va., which serves adult learners, and in Tucson, Ariz., which brings affordable Catholic higher education to a region that is largely Latino.

Garvey also led the University through the nearly two-year crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have overcome the medical and financial challenges it presented through the intelligence, hard work, and charity of our people. I am thankful I had the opportunity to lead Catholic University through this period, because it gave me the chance to see close up what makes the school so special," he wrote.

Victor P. Smith, chairman of the Board, wrote a letter to the University community in which he thanked President Garvey "for his leadership and for leading Catholic University forward as a truly Catholic global research university." He said a presidential search has been launched to hire a new president by July 1, 2022. Smith will lead the search committee. The University has hired the search firm Russell Reynolds Associates to lead the process. ■

Article courtesy of The Catholic University of America.

SULPICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Feature ALUMNI DAY 2021

Blessed Agnes of Jesus (1602–1634)

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

God, who are all good and Almighty, You gave Blessed Agnes of Jesus great compassion for the poor and concern for the training of priests. Grant us, through her intercession, to welcome Christ Crucified with a living faith and to make Him known for the salvation of all. We ask all this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

In the French School of Spirituality, there are several women who are prominent and influential because of their contributions to the Church and to 17th-century religious practices. One luminary figure who had a significant impact on the establishment of the Society of St. Sulpice is Blessed Agnes of Jesus.

Agnes Galant was born and raised in southern France in the village of Puy-En-Velay, near the city of Lyon. At the age of 21 she entered the newly founded Dominican convent at Langeac. Within a short period of time, she was elected prioress. In 1631, Mother Agnes began to experience a series of visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In one of the visions, Mary instructed her to “pray to my Son for the Abbe de Pebrac.” This priest that Mother Agnes was to pray for was Jean-Jacques Olier. Thus, Agnes contributed to the vocation and mission of Father Olier. She appeared to him twice in Paris in 1634 although he had never met her and did not know who she was. Divine Providence would arrange for Father Olier to visit the Dominican monastery in Langeac where he met Mother Agnes and recognized her as the one who had appeared to him. Olier’s visits with Mother Agnes prepared him to open a seminary and laid the foundation for the establishment of the Society of St. Sulpice. A spiritual friendship blossomed between the two until Mother Agnes’s death on October 19, 1634. She was thirty-two years old. Upon her death, Mother Agnes left her nuns with a special vocation to pray for priests. She is often called the “Spiritual Mother” of the French seminaries and the “Spiritual Mother” for the Society of St. Sulpice. Saint John Paul II beatified her on November 20, 1994.

Mother Agnes is a reminder to all of us of the important contributions and influences women have and continue to have on the life of the Church. Collaboration between men and women on the parish level is essential for the flourishing of any parish in which the priest ministers. The Theological College community celebrates the feast of Blessed Agnes of Jesus annually on October 19. The parlor that is adjacent to Olier Hall has been named the “Blessed Agnes of Langeac Parlor,” while a painting of her by Sulpician artist, Father Peter Wm. Gray, hangs prominently in Olier Hall. May Mother Agnes of Jesus continue to intercede for us and watch over the seminary as we pray for her canonization in the near future.



Dominican guests with Theological College's Sulpician Fathers.

TC Honors Blessed Agnes with Dominican Sisters and Friars

To celebrate the October 19 feast day of Blessed Agnes of Jesus, TC rector Father Dominic Ciriaco hosted a Mass and reception to which Dominican religious in the area were invited. With the Dominican order itself celebrating 800 years since the death of St. Dominic, the TC community was excited to welcome sisters from three Washington convents: the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist, the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, and the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation. They were joined by the prior of the Priory of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies, Very Rev. Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P., accompanied by Brother Gregory Santi, O.P. (Basselin Class of 2017) and Brother Bertrand Maria Hebert, O.P. (Basselin Class of 2018). The beautiful Mass and ensuing reception (featuring French cuisine) celebrated the profound friendship with and in Jesus as exemplified by Mother Agnes and Father Jean-Jacques Olier, bringing into focus their contributions to the life of the Church that continue to bear fruit today. ■

Suzanne Tanzi

Hosting 38 guests from 20 dioceses across the country, the atmosphere at this year's Alumni Day on October 6 was filled with a palpable exuberance, after a year and a half of quarantining and isolation. For many seminarians, this was their first Alumni Day reunion experience, and generous efforts were in full swing in the days previous to make this a beautiful fraternal gathering for all. The reunion began at 2:00 p.m. with the Annual Alumni Lecture by Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, D. Min., Ph. D. (Class of 1984), titled, “Priestly Wellness and Happiness in a Time of Crisis.” Msgr. Rossetti presented his latest research of over 1,900 priests from across the USA on the health and happiness of priests in the wake of the child abuse crisis and the pandemic. The results of this study reveal that priestly happiness in the USA has been steadily rising for a few decades, and that priests “like doing what they do,” although around 9% to 14% suffer some form of depression, and many were traumatized by the recent pandemic. However, the higher-than-average happiness quotient seems to be bolstered by the fact that, overall, priests have a strong commitment to their spiritual life. A lively Q & A among alumni and Rossetti further delved into the indications of his study while bringing to the fore personal experiences and candid concerns.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, metropolitan archbishop of Galveston-Houston (Basselin Class of 1972), was the principal celebrant at the 5:15 p.m. Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. TC's Schola accompanied the celebration of the Eucharist with great finesse under the music direction of Father James McKearney, P.S.S., with the Cardinal intoning many of the Mass prayers himself. In his homily, the Cardinal, in recognizing this Mass of “Jesus Christ Eternal and Sovereign Priest,” emphasized the silent witness of St. Joseph in “these challenging and sometimes screeching times.” The Cardinal highlighted that our confidence comes from Jesus. It is his flesh that has sanctified us by his death on the Cross, and we don't have to be afraid. With Jesus, the opaque barrier, the veil, has become transparent, and we are invited to join the procession through that veil. He called for a renewal of asceticism in the Church — a self-discipline and a joyful emptying of self. Conforming to Christ in our priesthood, which flows forth from the heart of Jesus, can renew the Church by the power of the Spirit, which is the fire that priests protect as “Guardians of the Epiclesis.” He ended, “May God bless us, may Mary pray for us, and may Jesus lead us in procession to the Father, as we beg for the Holy Spirit to come.”



Fr. Eduard Guilloux (B '15, Arlington) visits with his former School of Philosophy mentors, Msgr. John Wippel (B '56; TC '60), left, and Msgr. Robert Sokolowski (B '57).

The ensuing reception and banquet celebrated the joy of these powerful words and prayers, as all gathered at TC with a collegial spirit to enjoy the reminiscences of the alumni and to share the hopes and plans of the seminarians and faculty for a fruitful year ahead. Cardinal DiNardo received the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from Father Ciriaco, “in recognition of his lifetime of outstanding priestly service as a pastor, exemplary leader in the community and Church, theologian, and advocate for justice and equality in the tradition of the priests of St. Sulpice.” The Cardinal, who was also celebrating his 24th anniversary of episcopal ordination, was pleased and honored that so many from his time at TC were present, including Father McBrearity, former rector, who was a first theologian when Cardinal DiNardo was a first Basselin; Father Blanchette, who joined the formation faculty when he was a second Basselin; and Monsignors Wippel and Sokolowski, who were among his “superb” teachers at Catholic University. The Cardinal praised the formation he received that, in the spirit of Father Jean-Jacques Olier, promoted the development of humility and candor. He affirmed that the most important focus of formation at TC was and is “learning to understand the heart of Jesus, which is extremely important for a parish priest.” ■



His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, S.T.L., D.D.

Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
Basselin Class of 1972

Cardinal DiNardo, this year, Theological College is proud to be celebrating the 50th anniversary of its pastoral formation program. Do you recall your pastoral placements? What do you think were the major lessons you learned from pastoral ministry?

When I was a freshman and sophomore Basselin, the pastoral placements were being implemented as the pastoral program was being born. There are two assignments I do recall which I enjoyed. I was placed in Oxon Hill, Maryland, in my first year, teaching religious education to sixth graders. Then, in my second year, I was assigned to The Washington Home for Incurables that involved a lot of visitations that were done on Sundays.

Working with people who were badly disabled was a different and interesting experience. There is one formative moment at The Washington Home for Incurables that I can recall. I was twenty-one or twenty-two at the time. They were very delighted when you came, but if there was the slightest interruption to the

normal part of the day, they could get very upset. This stuck with me a lot when I started working with persons with disabilities when I was in Pittsburgh and then as the National Advisor for the Coalition for People with Disabilities. Those things are kept in mind because you have great experiences, and I've held them with me all this time.

Before your appointment as USCCB President, you served as Episcopal Moderator for the National Catholic Partnership for People with Disabilities. Based on any personal and pastoral experience, what suggestions do you have to foster inclusivity in the Church regarding those who live with impairments and disabilities?

The first thing we say is that if you are disabled, it just means you are differently-abled. People who are disabled have many contributions to make. Many people want to be kind and understanding, but they can — and they don't mean to — become

patronizing. People who are disabled do not want to be patronized. To the extent they can, they want to be included, and they can be included in many ways.

One way we have done this is by making sure the parish is physically adaptable. You don't build a new building today without putting in the kind of walkways that help the disabled do the readings. I keep thinking of having electric lecterns that move up and down for people who are disabled relative to size. When I was in that office, I can recall the importance for those who were mentally disabled to be asked [to read at Mass], and they will accept. They can be trained to be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. People who are disabled need to be included, and they want to be included. I think we are finding more and more today that they not only ask, and they can ask kindly, but occasionally they will demand, and when they do that, they are right.

Drawing from your extensive ministry background, what are some of the main challenges that pastors face in the parish today, and how can seminaries prepare their students to address them?

Pastors face incredible difficulties because people are all being established as groups. It's as though you have your identity by being a member of a group. We are members of groups, but we are, more importantly, members of the Body of Christ: baptized, confirmed, and recipients of the Holy Eucharist. I think priests have to keep emphasizing — notwithstanding that you pay attention to anyone in any special need — but you pay attention to the fact that we are one body in Christ. We have to be particularly intense about that as priests today because you are being torn to prefer one or the other, this group or that group. I say emphasize our commonality in Christ.

I always remember my first meeting I ever had with St. John Paul II when I was a new bishop. You are in the room by yourself, and you go into the pope's study. Oh my goodness. I went in, and he was over a map trying to find Sioux City, Iowa. I was the bishop of Sioux City. I told him, 'there it is, Holy Father,' and then he found Des Moines. Then he said, "Oh yes, very rural!" We had a marvelous conversation. At the end of it all, he told me, if you don't remember anything else, "just remember, it's about the human person." That has stuck with me since March of 1998. That's a very important dimension of our faith. Remember, it's all about the human person.

You chose as your episcopal motto "Ave Crux Spes Unica" ("Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope"). How do we maintain hope in Christ's victory amidst the problems and divisions in the world and within the Church?

The cross is our only hope because Christ seems to be tied to it, not able to do anything, and yet, it's from there where everything is accomplished. His cross shows him with open arms. When we think of Jesus hanging from the cross, you think of him looking at the good thief, his words to his mother and beloved disciple, and his great confidence in entrusting all to his Father. That's why the cross is the center of the world and the center of the universe. From there, all generosity is flowing out. When they pierced Jesus' side with a lance, blood and water flowed out. An eastern father says, if you look through the wounded side of Christ, you see the broken heart of the Father because he loves human beings. Perfect. That's the cross.

In what ways did your advanced philosophy studies as a Basselin Scholar at TC affect your future ministry as a priest and then bishop?

The studies were absolutely magnificent here. I had some of the great ones. Some of them are still around: Monsignor Sokolowski and Monsignor Wippel. There were marvelous thinkers. They were able to lead you into an ability to think, not always what to think, but they showed you what it is you were doing. The comprehensive character, anything from Pre-Socratics to Derrida, all of them, somehow, fit in. They were good at accepting questions. They were very good at being — in the best sense — critical of what you did. I found it the most perfect preparation for theology there could ever be.

Charles Silvas
 (4-T, Corpus Christi)



Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, D.Min., Ph.D.

Class of 1984

Monsignor Stephen Rossetti, of the Diocese of Syracuse, is Research Associate Professor of Practice at The Catholic University of America and founder and president of the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal. For Alumni Day 2021, he offered the lecture titled, "Priestly Wellness and Happiness in a Time of Crisis."

John Paul II explained that of all of the pillars, human formation was the "necessary foundation" of the formation of priests ... Grace builds on nature.

Monsignor Rossetti, what events or experiences from your time at TC stand out nearly four decades later?

One thing I would say about the Sulpicians during my seminary days was I thought they were ahead of their time regarding human formation. What I am particularly grateful for from Theological College is its dedication to human formation, which kept me in good stead in the days ahead. Later, in the wake of the John Jay Report and the abuse crisis, one of their clear findings was that those seminaries that had a strong human formation program had fewer problems with their graduates and priests. John Paul II explained in *Pastores Dabo Vobis* that of all the pillars, human formation was the "necessary foundation" of the formation of priests. I remember my formators, and I am grateful for them as they challenged us to look at our human responses and our human integration.



Monsignor Rossetti discusses the results of his priestly wellness surveys during the Alumni Day lecture.

At the same time, there was not the best spiritual formation in that era of seminary formation around the country; we are all familiar with the missteps of those days. This shortcoming could be found in seminaries around the country and overseas as well. In my work later, with priests overcoming issues, there is sometimes a tendency for them to over-spiritualize their problems and not face the human aspect. They will retreat and misuse their spirituality to avoid facing the real human challenges they are having. They will rationalize and intellectualize.

So, I think John Paul II was correct in saying that you have to start with a solid and basic human formation. Grace builds on nature. Today, TC and the seminaries around the country are strong and they continue to develop and grow in the formation of priests.

This year, Theological College is celebrating 50 years of excellence in pastoral formation. Do you recall your pastoral placements? What do you think were the major lessons you learned from pastoral ministry as a TC seminarian?

There are two I remember. I was assigned to the soup kitchen SOME (So Others May Eat). That was a very grounding experience. We see Pope Francis emphasizing this aspect of our ministry, which I think will always be a reflection of the ministry of Jesus. This is also critical for the identity of the Catholic Church and seeing ourselves as humble and poor human beings among the poor to whom we serve and minister.

The second assignment I remember was at the University of Maryland, where I was in the chaplaincy office. I did my Doctor of Ministry project there, working with the young college students in applying the spirituality of Taizé and Catholic Christian meditations. They responded very positively. It showed me that our young people have a real thirst for an experience of God in their lives; people don't want a stale religion. They want a dynamic encounter with God and Jesus. This is what they long for, whether they know it or not. When you can help them in prayer and in their spiritual journey to encounter God in some direct way, it is very exciting for them, and they respond. When you go to universities, you find a core of students who are on fire with the faith and have come to know the Lord in their lives. I find college campuses, Newman Centers, and FOCUS groups to be encouraging and exciting.

Drawing from your extensive ministry background, what are some of the main challenges that pastors face in this post-modern era?

There are at least three major challenges. Challenge number one is diversity. In the Church in the U.S., you see cultural, theological, and ecclesiological diversity. You see so much diversity in parishes. You have the left and the right. There are a number of cultures and ethnic backgrounds: Hispanics, Vietnamese, Koreans, and African Americans. The pastors of today are challenged to build a community of many different people. The pastor will have his own theological perspectives, but he needs to be the shepherd of all. To welcome diversity and build a community of faith with many different colors of faces, languages, and theological perspectives is not easy.

The second challenge is secularism. The Church today is very different from when I was first ordained. This society is becoming very secular. When I was at my first parish, people were very supportive of priests. We had a great community, and the priest was a positive figure in the community. People had some Christian Catholic background. Today, because of the failures of my generation, many, many young people have no theological training. They have no idea what the Good News is, what the Church teaches about who Jesus is. They have not read the Bible. They really have nothing. That's why many of them practice witchcraft, Buddhism, and all sorts of pagan non-Christian religions and spiritualities because they have no grounding in the Christian faith. They are starting from scratch. Now, you are back to the

basics of evangelization. The seminarians and young priests are basically going into a pagan culture and trying to evangelize. The good news is that it works! The Holy Spirit is alive today. You see people turning to the faith in very dynamic ways. So, we should not be discouraged. The Spirit is very much alive. I am encouraged. Even though I am surrounded by a secular culture, when you start talking to people, there are a number of people whose lives have been touched by the Lord. They are on fire with the faith.

The third challenge is anti-Catholicism. The American bishops of the USCCB said that there had been 95 attacks on Catholic Churches in the past year. When I was growing up, people didn't burn down churches, desecrate sanctuaries, or destroy statues, but it's happening today. I think that's almost predictable, in a way. There are only two stances: you are either for Christ or you are against him. There is no middle ground. People say, "I'm just not into it," but if you don't choose life, goodness, and faith in Jesus, eventually you end up in the darkness. That darkness fosters anger and hatred toward all that is truly good and holy, which, of course, is Jesus and his Church. This anti-Catholicism and violence is ultimately the mark of the evil one. We should be very clear about that. Satan is out to destroy the Church. He hates the Church and he hates priests. We need to be strong in faith and also wise as serpents. One of the things I emphasize with priests is that they need to be careful about what they do. They need to have good boundaries with people and be aware that there will be some people who will not be out for their welfare.

For many years, you have worked with priests and have written extensively on the topic of psychological and spiritual well-being. What advice would you give to seminarians and newly ordained priests on how to prepare for and face these challenges?

I don't mean to make this sound trite. But we need holy priests. That is a real self-sacrificing love and immersion into the life of Christ. For example, I love the writings of the newly beatified Blessed "Conchita" from Mexico. She talks about our mystical transformation into Christ. The priest has to be that; he has to allow the Holy Spirit into his life to be transformed into Jesus. This might sound like some vague spirituality, but it's not. We need to foster, very clearly, holiness of life, which means, at times, making sacrifices.

When we live our life with integrity and live the life the way it is supposed to be lived, we will be happier and more fulfilled priests.

I work a lot with young priests. Most of them are doing great, but some have lost their way because of various problems — passions, sexuality, alcohol, strange spiritual or theological wanderings. What I tell seminarians first of all is: stay in the barque of Peter! If you are more Catholic than the Church, then you've got a problem. If you are thinking too far left or too far right from the Church and not in the barque, you got a problem. Stay in the barque of Peter and do so with humility. One of the dangers of seminarians and priests is that they think they know best, and the Church does not, which is wrong. I am just one small person, and I trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding the Church, so I am going to be obedient and humble and serve. When I was teaching seminarians in Rome, I'd hear some criticizing the Holy Father. I'd say, "Let me get this straight. You've been a seminarian for six months, you've had six months of theology, you've had no pastoral experience, and you are criticizing the Vicar of Christ?" Think about that for five seconds.

So, my advice would be to enter the priesthood with a sense of service and humility, saying, "I don't have all the answers. I will be a faithful priest that stays in the barque of Peter and is obedient."

Based on your latest research of almost 2,000 priests on their health and happiness, the topic of your Alumni Day 2021 lecture, what would you say are the main take-aways?

I have 1,962 priests in this survey from over 25 dioceses in the United States. The first to note is that the priesthood in the United States is strong, very strong. Mark Twain, upon hearing of a newspaper that printed his obituary, once quipped, "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Rumors that the priesthood is falling apart, demoralized, and unhappy are just not true. The numbers consistently show that over 90% of priests are strong in their faith, they are happy as priests, they find a lot of meaning and satisfaction in their lives. A strong finding in this survey is that the priesthood in the United States is alive and well.

Of course, it's not perfect. About 10% of priests are depressed or unhappy, and I think we need to reach out to our brothers and do our very best to help them. One of my ministries right now is working with young priests who are struggling. It's amazing how they respond; they really do get better and turn their lives around.

I noticed in the numbers that the rate of depression among priests in 2009 was about 7%, which is slightly better than the general population. However, in the midst of the pandemic, the rate of depression among priests in the U.S. went up to 14%. This figure is much higher in the secular population, which has doubled or tripled. So, this whole pandemic affected everyone, and priests are not immune to that. Again, we need to take care of our priests and help them because they cannot help people if they themselves are discouraged and depressed.

Another takeaway from the survey found that the commitment to the celibate life, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, going to confession, doing all those Catholic practices, is actually rising among priests. The level of happiness among priests has been increasing in the last 20 years and they are becoming happier. It's interesting that, in the wake of secular culture, the commitment to the celibate life is stronger, not weaker. The level of happiness is stronger, not weaker. The commitment to praying the Liturgy of the Hours and going to confession is also stronger and not weaker.

The young priests we are getting today are solid in their faith and are being directed by the Holy Spirit. I've been around the country visiting our seminaries and giving lectures. I am impressed with the quality of our seminaries, and I think its fruits are showing with young priests. They are what the Church needs today in the midst of a very challenging time.

One thing the survey shows, again and again, is the importance of living a priestly life with integrity. When you live the life the way it's supposed to be lived, you will be a much happier, fulfilled, and holier priest. When you start cutting corners, that's when you start having problems. There are all sorts of ways guys do this. For examples, they stop praying the Liturgy of the Hours, stop going to confession, start using online pornography, or start having inappropriate relationships with people. When the spiritual life goes, and the emotional life is not taken care of, that's when we start to have problems. But when we live our life with integrity and live the life the way it's supposed to be lived, we will be happier and more fulfilled priests. ■

Charles Silvas
(4-T, Corpus Christi)

SEMINARY LIFE

Seminarian Summer Experiences

North American Martyrs Parish

Jakob Pohlman
Second Basselin, Diocese of Worcester

I am come to cast fire on the earth; and what do I will, but that it be kindled?

Lk 12:49



This summer, I undertook my first summer assignment in my time as a seminarian. I was assigned to North American Martyrs Parish in Auburn, Mass., under the direction of the pastor, Father Fredrick Fraini. Through my ministry at the altar, in the nursing home, to the homebound, and in writing for the bulletin, I was able to see how my studies at Theological College converge on and guide me to the ministerial and sacramental priesthood of Jesus Christ. I was able to work with and for the people of God in my ministry at the altar as a cantor, lector, and acolyte.

Through visiting the nursing home, I was able to bring Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, our Greatest Friend, to those who were often abandoned by family and friends. When I visited the homebound, I was powerfully moved by the faithfulness of husband and wives to each other and the strength that they drew from the sacraments. One woman, whose husband was diagnosed with ALS, gave a powerful testimony to the strength of Christian marriage by her steadfast care of her husband — 24/7 and 365 days a year. The other remarkable new experience I had at North American Martyrs was preparing reflections for the weekly bulletin. Through this, I honed skills in presenting the truths of the faith to the people of the parish, and I often learned from them in their feedback and comments.

What I realized through my ministry was the great openness and generosity of the people of God toward even a young, inexperienced man such as myself. I was deeply humbled by the trust and sincerity with which they engaged me, and I hope that I may give due recompense for that trust by living a life of testimony to the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church

Michael Villavicencio
First Theology, Archdiocese of Santa Fe



This past summer, I had the honor of serving at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Even though my time there was only two months, I learned a lot about the life of a priest that extends beyond the boundaries of the church property. Priestly ministry goes out into the community and brings people into a deeper relationship with Christ.

One of my most memorable experiences of this was going for a particular house blessing. While many of us might think that this is just another chore in the life of a priest, this instance was one of a kind. A tragedy had taken place in the home, and so before the family entered for the first time since then, they asked if they could have it blessed. Father Rob, the pastor who I was with at the parish, invited me to accompany him. In an instant, I became frightened, mainly because of my knowledge about the tragedy, but also because I was concerned about how I would handle such a situation with a heavily grieving family. But I knew this was an opportunity for growth and discernment, and I went along with Father Rob.

At the home, we immediately got the sense that something was "off," a type of heavy burden in our hearts. Father proceeded with prayers, one of which was the rite of exorcism. I was deeply drawn to the priestly power of Christ and the Church through the prayers from Father Rob. After the prayers, he sprinkled holy water in every room of the house and upon every door to dispel Satan from our midst and never allow him back in. Watching Father sprinkle holy water around the house was a moment of relief for myself and the family. This act of blessing inspired in me an even greater desire to do what he was doing: blessing the house, dispelling evil from within the family's hearts, and, most importantly, praying for the family as they endure this tragic moment in their lives. After we finished the rite, the family's relief was palpable. They no longer felt the burden of evil, but only the faith and hope in Christ's loving embrace.

Through this experience, my heart was moved in a deeper way by the desire to become a priest. This is because Father Rob touched people's hearts that day simply through his presence,

blessing, and prayers. I pray to be that priest, the one who is always present for those in their time of trial and despair, in order to “lighten the load” on their hearts and bring them closer to faith in the love of Christ and the Church. In my own heart, I knew that every sprinkle of holy water threw Satan further out the door, allowing Christ’s love to take over the room and the hearts of all those present!

The Rome Experience

Nathaniel Roberts
Second Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

This past summer, I had the opportunity to spend two months in Italy while on “The Rome Experience,” a summer program for diocesan seminarians. The Rome Experience was started in 2007 by a group of bishops who desired to give their seminarians a tangible connection to Rome and the papacy. With this end in mind, this program takes about 20–25 seminarians, from all over the U.S., to Rome to live, pray, and study in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Throughout my time in Rome, I had a lot of amazing experiences and moments of grace, but I do not think I will ever forget my visit to the Sistine Chapel. Usually, the Sistine Chapel is one of the exhibits on the Vatican Museum tour and, as such, is always crowded with people trying to take in all the beautiful art on the walls and the ceilings of this magnificent chapel. However, due to the COVID pandemic and the size of our group, our tour guide, Sr. Emanuela, a Sister of Divine Revelation, was able to convince the museum to let us in for a private tour after hours. I was exceedingly excited, as I had seen the Sistine Chapel about six years ago when I first visited Rome, but I had not been able to really appreciate the space or take the time to pray there.

Thus, we showed up to the entrance of the Vatican Museum shortly after closing time, giddy for the opportunity we were being offered. Sr. Emanuela led us through the museum, directly to the Sistine Chapel. She then spent the next half hour explaining the history of the Sistine Chapel and the creation and connection of all the various frescoes on the walls and ceiling depicting God’s creation of the world, the fall of man, and many other scenes from the Bible. As she did this, we were able to wander around the space freely to find the best view of whatever she was currently talking about.

If a private tour of the Sistine Chapel was not already an incredible grace, what soon followed was an even more incredi-

ble experience: one of the priests that was leading the program stopped Sr. Emanuela as she was wrapping up and preparing to move on to the papal apartments to ask if we could pray Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours in the Sistine Chapel. Sr. Emanuela said that in all the time she had been giving tours, no one had ever asked to pray the Liturgy of the Hours in the Sistine Chapel. However, she was happy to not only accommodate our request but also to join us as we praised God at the end of our day.

We began as we often do with a hymn and, as 20 seminarians, two priests, and one religious sister began singing, I marveled at the immeasurable grace that God had bestowed on me not only at this particular moment but throughout my time in Rome. When I had begun this journey a few weeks before, I had no idea of the possibility to be able to pray one of the liturgies of the Catholic Church in the Pope’s chapel or of any of the other blessings that God would give me. However, through my wonderful experiences in Rome, God showered me with his grace, drawing me closer to himself and continuing to affirm my vocation to the priesthood.

Nathaniel Roberts in front of St. Peter’s Basilica.



Calvary Hospital

Paul Kucharski
Second Theology, Archdiocese of New York

Last summer, my diocesan brother David Birkdale (now on pastoral year) and I were assigned to Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Calvary is the only hospital in the country exclusively devoted to palliative care. Working with the dying was not easy, but it was a privilege to minister to people in their final days and certainly an important ministry for future priests to experience. Moreover, it was remarkable to see how open the patients were to grace as they approached death.

Calvary’s mission is to help people live their final days with as much comfort and dignity as possible, and this was certainly my experience of the place. All employees — from doctors to nurses to the pastors of the various faith traditions to the staff and volunteers — are fully committed to the mission. The first patient I visited spoke very little English, and I speak very little Spanish, so we had difficulty communicating. What he did communicate, however, and quite clearly, was that he was ready to meet God whenever God called him and that he was very grateful for the



Paul Kucharski, left, and David Birkdale with their summer supervisor, Father Chux Okochi, the Director of Mission Services at Calvary Hospital.

care that he received at Calvary. The hardest suffering I witnessed was not the physical pain but the emotional suffering of patients, especially loneliness. Some of them had no visitors, no family or friends to comfort them in their time of need. In such cases, the Calvary staff became their family and friends.

My time at Calvary confirmed the Church’s teaching that ignoring a human being’s spiritual needs, especially as one approaches death, is to ignore that which is most distinctively human about him or her. I witnessed firsthand how much dying patients need and want spiritual resources to address their questions of meaning and purpose, and for reconciling themselves with God and others before passing away. I pray that more hospitals will imitate Calvary in providing such resources. It is a place where there is true dignity and hope in dying, both for the sick and for their caregivers. ■



Guest Celebrants at TC

- Top left:** Fr. Luke Ballman, Executive Director for the USCCB’s Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.
- Top center:** The School of Theology and Religious Studies’ Fr. Michael Witczak, left, and Fr. Mark Morozowich, right.
- Top right:** Fr. Carter Griffin, Rector, St. John Paul II Seminary, center, with Archdiocese of Washington seminarians.
- Center left:** Fort Worth’s Bishop Michael Olson (B ’89).
- Center right:** Fr. Ronald Witherup, P.S.S., Superior General of the Society of St. Sulpice.
- Bottom:** Fr. Daniel Moore, P.S.S., Acting Provincial of the Society of St. Sulpice.



Most Reverend Roy Campbell, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, celebrated Mass for new and returning seminarians at the conclusion of orientation week.

Orientation 2021

Twelve new seminarians were welcomed to Theological College on August 24 by an enthusiastic orientation team that hosted the week's introduction to seminary life and academics at Catholic University. This year's dynamic and creative team leaders were second theologians Stephen Wong and Nathaniel Roberts of Washington and Andrew Clark of Richmond. After the first day's move-in, room blessings, and meetings with the rector and faculty, the rest of the days were focused on different aspects of the upcoming life of recollection, community, and study. The men were afforded daily recreation opportunities as well, such as an evening social, a shopping excursion, a DC scavenger hunt, a barbeque with all returning seminarians, and the annual opening dinner banquet. Daily Liturgy, Eucharistic Adoration, and Morning and Night Prayer informed their work and relaxation led by TC's formation faculty. Bishop Roy Campbell also participated in this prayerful welcome to campus by celebrating Mass for the community. ■

Above: Seminarians new to TC enjoyed getting familiar with Washington, D.C., during a scavenger hunt planned by the orientation committee.
Below: On the "Day of Recollection" during orientation week, all-night Eucharistic Adoration was offered.



Michael Marincel discusses the week's title, "St. Joseph: A Tender and Loving Father," with Jack Kristensen (2-B, New York).

Student Government

Concluding the Year of St. Joseph in Prayer

Honoring the the Year of St. Joseph, the St. Joseph Devotion Committee (ad hoc under the SGA's Prayer and Worship Committee) drew the TC community further into prayer and contemplation over the course of this year, closing with a special initiative. Under the direction of Michael Marincel (2-B, Fort Worth), the committee hung new posters of St. Joseph every week, with one of the seven titles given to St. Joseph by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, along with a quote from the Holy Father explaining that title. Michael comments, "Pope Francis gave us this Year of St. Joseph to help us deepen our relationship with this universal Protector of the Holy Church. One way we did this, over the final two months, was to ponder the meditations he provided for us."

Fall House Party

All enjoyed the Community Life Committee's French-themed Fall House Party (below), which included French cuisine and pétanque competitions. The Social Justice Committee collected for a donation to Julia Greeley Home, a Catholic group home that serves women who may have been living on the streets, in abusive relationships, or in other damaging situations. Life at the Home fosters discovery of the residents' human and spiritual dignity in their efforts to start life anew. (*For more information, go to juliagreeleyhome.org.*)



SGA Stewardship

2021–22 SGA Officers: President: Deacon David Schmidt (4-T, Pittsburgh), Secretary: Deacon Gabe Bouck (4-T, Memphis), Treasurer: Dylan Prentice (2-T, Washington)

Chairmen: Prayer and Worship Committee: Daniel Roberts (2-T, Pittsburgh), Community Life Committee: Patrick O'Brien (1-T, Rockville Ctr.), Social Justice Committee: Jack Kristensen (2-B, New York), Hispanic Affairs Committee: Cesar Garcia (3-T, Dallas)

Class Representatives: 4th Theology: John De Guzman (Raleigh), 3rd Theology: Jacob Gruber (Pittsburgh), 2nd Theology: Cole McDowell (Louisville), 1st Theology: Blake Thompson (Ft. Worth), Pre-Theology: Lam Vo (Portland), Basselin Scholars: Joseph Krug (Rockville Centre) ■



Our Lady of La Leche and Buen Parto

Justin Motes
Second Theology, Diocese of St. Augustine

The coronation of a new image of the Blessed Virgin Mary will truly become one of the greatest moments of the yearly celebrations occurring since the erection of the diocese.

In a Letter of Pope Francis to Cardinal Carlos Sierra of Madrid, naming him as Papal Legate with the mandate to crown the image of Our Lady of La Leche and Buen Parto in St. Augustine, Florida.

Being present and serving at the Mass of Coronation of Our Lady of La Leche and Buen Parto was an honor of a lifetime! For those who may not know, Our Lady of La Leche and Buen Parto ("Our Lady of the Milk and Good Delivery") is the first Marian devotion to arrive on this continent, brought over by Spanish explorers in 1565 to La Florida. The image depicts the Christ Child nursing at the breast of his mother, completely reliant upon her motherly care and concern at such a tender age. Devotion and piety to this particular image of Mary have been present in Florida since the initial explorers beached on the shores of St. Augustine, and



Cardinal Sierra crowns Our Lady of La Leche during the ceremony.

the first shrine was built on the site of their arrival in 1609. "In the following centuries Marian devotion arose [there], and the faithful devotedly poured forth their prayers to God before the image of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God," says Pope Francis in his letter. Recently, the Diocese of St. Augustine celebrated its 150th anniversary since its establishment. Bishop Felipe Estevez, realizing the role that Our Lady of La Leche and Buen Parto has already played in the vast 450-year history of Catholicism in Florida, requested of Pope Francis that a statue of our diocesan Patroness thus be solemnly crowned and raised in status to that of The Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Holy Father agreed.

The Mass of Coronation itself had been a work in progress on the part of many leaders within the Diocese of St. Augustine, and it all came together this year because of their efforts and planning. Cardinal Sierra delivered a beautiful homily touching on the importance of Marian devotion, Spanish tradition in Florida, and the need to always invoke Mary's aid, being reliant upon her motherly care and concern too. This Mass was a milestone in the history of the diocese, and I am blessed and grateful to have played a small part in it myself. ■

Cardinal Carlos Osoro Sierra, Archbishop of Madrid and papal legate for the canonical coronation, with St. Augustine diocesan brothers (from left) Jacob Daul (1-T), Justin Motes (2-T), and Father Michael Kieler ('21, resident priest at TC).



Cardinal Gregory Visits Theological College

In every Sulpician seminary, the Local Ordinary is the Local Superior. On November 4, 2021, Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, patron of seminaries, Father Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., and the Theological College community were elated to welcome our Local Ordinary, His Eminence, Wilton Cardinal Gregory of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington for the celebration of Mass.

Before the Mass, the Cardinal blessed two newly renovated rooms on the lower terrace level: the Cardinal Bernardin Room and the St. Sulpice Conference Room. Cardinal Gregory prayed, "May all who come here know the presence of Christ, experience his friendship, and grow in his love." At the Liturgy, Father Ciriaco presented the Cardinal with a gift of gratitude for his support of our mission, a portrait of Cardinal Joseph Bernardin (TC Class of 1952) of Chicago, who was instrumental in the priestly formation of Cardinal Gregory, and who received the TC Alumnus Lifetime Service Award in 1997. ■



Above: Cardinal Gregory blessing the new rooms at TC.

Bottom: Father Ciriaco presents the Cardinal with a portrait of his former Chicago mentor, Cardinal Bernardin.

Veteran's Day Reflection

Deacon Scott Bahrke
Fourth Theology, Diocese of Memphis



On Veteran's Day, November 11, we once again reflected upon the sacrifices of the men and women who have served our nation in military uniforms. Some have given their lives while others bear visible or invisible scars from their service, but all veterans are changed by their experience of war. These veterans have learned lessons that will remain with them for the rest of their lives, and many of these lessons would be helpful for future priests.

One such lesson is the absolute importance of mission accomplishment. When given a mission by one's superiors in the military, he or she is expected to exercise persistence, creativity,

sheer determination, and whatever skill is necessary to accomplish the task. When encountering an obstacle, he or she is expected to go over it, under it, around it, or through it. Excuses are not an option. A common saying among military folks is that "it is better to beg forgiveness than to ask permission" when it comes to completing the mission.

Jesus gives all Christians, but especially men and women in religious life, a very clear mission in *Matthew 28:19-20*: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." He has also given us the grace we need to undertake this mission. How seriously we take this mission is completely up to us, but like a good commander in the Army, I pray God will sustain us with his grace.

Deacon Scott Bahrke served as an officer in the Army. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, having served in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. He also served in Germany for four years. ■

HEALTHY LIVING FOR PRIESTS

Developing Affective Maturity for Shepherding the People of God

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

“In order that his ministry may be humanly as credible and acceptable as possible, it is important that the priest should mould his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity.

Pastores Dabo Vobis (no. 43)



his life enriched by them; this might be especially evidenced in his ability to live well with authority and in his ability to take direction from another, and to exercise authority well among his peers, as well as an ability to deal productively with conflict and stress.” (no. 76)

Affective maturity is a behavioural expression of integral assimilation of both emotional intelligence, also known as emotional intelligence quotient (EQ), and intelligence quotient (IQ). Although the progress of the intellectual quotient slowly deteriorates over one's lifespan, emotional intelligence develops and evolves throughout one's lifetime. In addition, emotional intelligence's development, modification, and reframing could be augmented by leadership training and experience. Pastors working in the parish are especially blessed with diverse pastoring oppor-

tunities that help shape their emotional intelligence, resulting in an admirable affective maturity. Studies show that outstanding affective maturity in a pastoral minister could contribute to 90% of the success of a parish.

Carolyn Saarni's *The Development of Emotional Competence* outlines the theory of emotional competence with the following eight skills:

- Awareness of one's own emotions
- Ability to discern and understand others' emotions
- Ability to use the vocabulary of emotion and expression
- Capacity for empathic involvement
- Ability to differentiate subjective emotional experience from external emotional expression
- Adaptive coping with aversive emotions and distressing circumstances
- Awareness of emotional communication within relationships
- Capacity for emotional self-efficacy

All the above eight skills can be learned, acquired, developed, and enhanced by pastoral leadership training, engagement, and pastoring opportunities. Thus the people skills — skills for developing friendship, collaborative skills, and interpersonal relational skills — that are acquired in the parish context (or any pastoral environment) are the salient ingredients for affective maturity.

Through the process of priestly formation, especially the human and spiritual dimensions of formation, a seminary, just like a parish, provides an environment to foster in seminarians the signs of affective maturity, such as “prudence, vigilance over body and spirit, compassion and care for others, ability to express and acknowledge emotions, and a capacity to esteem and respect interpersonal relationships between men and women.” (PPF, no. 92) ■

^[1] Saarni, Carolyn, *The Development of Emotional Competence* (The Guilford Press, 1999).

FACULTY AND STAFF

**Rev. Martin Burnham,
P.S.S., S.T.B., M.Div, Ph.D.**
Formation Faculty and Assistant to Pastoral Formation

Father Martin Burnham was awarded the Catholic Psychotherapy Association's 2021 **Pope John Paul II Research and Academic Excellence Award** for a recent article titled, “Development and Psychometric Evaluation of the Clericalism Observer Rating Scale” in *Spirituality in Clinical Practice Special Issue: Addressing Catholic Clergy Issues in Psychological Research and Practice*, 7(4), pp. 310–325. (Other contributors: Anthony Isacco, Ph.D.; Thomas Plante, Ph.D.; Kathleen Musselwhite, J.D., Psy.D.; Gerard McClone, S.J., Ph.D.)



from the Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Care Department of Loyola University Maryland in May 2019. His dissertation was titled, “Conceptualizing and Measuring Clericalism in Roman Catholic Priests.”

In July 2011, Father Burnham began his Sulpician ministry as a member of the formation team at Theological College. He was a spiritual director, formation advisor, and director of the Pastoral Formation Program. In addition to his formation responsibilities at Theological College, he taught in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America. After three years of teaching and formation work at Theological College, Father Burnham left for graduate studies at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore.

A native of Baltimore, Father Burnham is a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has been both an associate pastor and pastor of parishes throughout the archdiocese. Prior to his seminary formation at St. Mary's Seminary and University, he received his master's degree in counseling psychology from Loyola

University Maryland. He worked for six years in the Child and Family Psychiatry Department of Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. Father Burnham is currently a licensed professional counselor in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia and serves in leadership roles in the American Counseling Association and the Catholic Psychotherapy Association.

Father Burnham returned to Theological College to join the formation faculty here in July 2021. He is working as a formator, spiritual director, and assistant to the pastoral formation program's service to the poor component, while continuing to see clients in his private practice. ■

**Deacon Edward
McCormack, M.A., Ph.D.**
Coordinator of Intellectual Formation



Deacon Ed McCormack, Theological College's Coordinator of Intellectual Formation, recently published, “Finding God in Our Secular Age: Ignatian Insights” in *Homiletic and Pastoral Review*, June 3, 2021, and “Finding God Actively Relating

to Us in Our Secular Age,” in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction*, 27(3), Sept. 2021, pp. 18–28.

The article “Finding God in Our Secular Age: Ignatian Insights” was addressed to all who preach and minister in our secular age where God seems distant, often absent, and even irrelevant. The second article, “Finding God Actively Relating to Us in Our Secular Age,” was addressed to spiritual directors who find directees often suffer from a blindness to God that our secular age produces. Deacon Ed elaborates: “In the first article, I tell stories that convey what it feels like to minister in our secular age and then provide three prayer practices drawing on The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola to open people to an experience of the Triune mystery relating to us in our secular age. In the second article, I draw on the work of Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor to explain how the West went from ‘God is found everywhere’ to ‘God seems hard to find, if we even care.’ I rely on the work of Yale theologian David Kelsey to help people reimagine how the Triune Mystery constantly relates to us and all things. ■

ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumnus: Rev. Mason Wiggins



Father Mason Wiggins, of the Basselin Class of 1980 was ordained to the priesthood on June 20, 2020, by Bishop Felipe Estévez for the Diocese of St. Augustine, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Previous to his entry into the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary (Weston, Mass.), Father Wiggins was a lawyer who served in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate. He is now a parochial vicar at Holy Family Catholic Church, Jacksonville. Fla.

“Your vocation is your calling, not someone else’s. While striving to answer God’s call, if you know yourself, your character, your strengths, and your limitations, and accept them in full, you will be a good priest. Strive always to be holy through prayer and discipline; be kind, listen, and do the work you are called to do.

Rev. Mason Wiggins

Father Wiggins, tell us a little about yourself and what led you to discern a vocation in your youth?

I grew up in what I thought was a fairly typical Catholic family. My mother made sure we went to Mass every Sunday and on holy days, that we attended CCD, that we didn’t eat meat on Fridays, etc. It was only later that I discovered that my father was Protestant. My dad was very involved with us; usually going to Mass, helping with our catechism lessons, always leading grace before meals. We

relished the idea that, through our mother, we were an American Catholic family of Irish descent. I was curious as a child and the Latin Mass (yes, I’m that old) was copied by me at home many times — I would set up my own rendition of a makeshift altar and my three sisters were my congregation. We were also an Air Force family. We moved often and, as my parents enjoyed travel and new places, we enjoyed travel and new places. They always presented these moves to us in a positive light as an educational opportunity.

I have always been interested in the Church. I wanted to be a priest at an early age, but as time went on and I became a teenager, other interests vied for my attention. It was during my first year of college, at the University of Florida in Gainesville, that I began to seriously rethink what I wanted to do in life. It was the first time I was away from my safe, warm, and loving family cocoon and choices about my future had to be made. My involvement in the Newman Club helped me a great deal and I discerned that God was calling me to priesthood.

I contacted a priest I knew and he introduced me to the vocation director in Tallahassee, who arranged my meeting with the bishop, and before I knew it I was a seminarian. I was sent to St. Meinrad College in Indiana for my sophomore year and I loved it.

When did you enter the Basselin Scholars Program and how was that experience for you?

My bishop asked me to apply for the Basselin scholarship at Theological College and I entered in the fall of 1977. It was a wonderful class of 10 student seminarians. I remember liking everyone from the very first time we gathered. We spent the first week in an orientation of sorts and after that classes began full speed ahead, with lots of philosophy. I enjoyed my time as a Basselin. We were a good, congenial class. I did have some adjustment issues with Theological College, but as I look back I realize that a lot of that had to do with me growing up and maturing. I was only 19 years old when I began!

How was a typical day in the life of a Basselin in the late ‘70s?

Wake up, get dressed, say your prayers, eat breakfast, and head across the street for class. Going to seminary means a lot of structure and this eventually translates as routine. I enjoyed the structure of the day and most of our classes were actually very interesting. We also interacted with the other guys at TC — mostly theologians and at that time there were a number of law students living in the house. This kept us grounded in many ways; we were not living in



The Basselin Class of 1980. (Now) Father Mason Wiggins is at lower left. (Photo courtesy of Mary Barbera.)

a bubble. And, as we took many of our classes with other Catholic University students, we made friends outside the house. Again, this gave us invaluable real-life perspective.

In-house, we had spiritual direction, Mass at 5:15 p.m., right before dinner, and some of us met for evening or night prayer several nights a week. However, much of our time was spent on academics; I wrote more papers in those three years than I had in my entire life before that. But we also spent time exploring Washington, D.C. — the museums, monuments, and points of interest (of course, that was all before metal detectors).

Where did you go for your theologate studies?

At the end of my three years at TC, my bishop sent me to study at the Collegium Canisianum in Innsbruck, Austria, which proved to be yet another wonderful experience. It was during my time in Innsbruck that I engaged in a serious reflection of my life and I decided that I needed a break. Upon my return from Austria, however, my bishop asked me to stay one more year in the seminary, just to be sure. He sent me to St. Vincent de Paul in Boynton Beach and though it was a positive experience both mentally and spiritually, I knew I still needed that break. This break lasted 34 years!

What did you do then?

When I chose to leave the seminary, I decided to move back to Washington, D.C. I spent my first year working for Youth for Understanding, a high school student exchange program. I was then accepted at the Catholic University Law School. After graduation in 1986, following the lead of my sister, who had also gone

to law school at the same time, we both entered an LLM program at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and graduated in 1987. She went on to work for the FBI and I found a job in a law firm in Washington, D.C.

Washington’s political environment attracted me, and I eventually ended up with a job on Capitol Hill. Little did I know that I would spend 25 years there. I worked about 10 years in the House of Representatives and then 15 years in the U.S. Senate. My duties and responsibilities through those years were diverse and wide ranging, resulting in an extremely rewarding career.

What made you return to seminary after all these years?

While working on Capitol Hill was very rewarding, it also made me realize that there was something missing in my life. When I was about 50 years old, I had a conversion of life. At that time, I was living a very comfortable existence; I had a good job, good money, good friends, a good house, etc. However, I knew I was not taking my faith as seriously as I needed. I never left the Church, but I certainly took my Catholicism for granted. I knew I had to do something; I wanted to be a better man, I wanted to be a better Catholic man. I contacted Father Mel Blanchette, P.S.S., at TC. He had been my spiritual advisor when I was a Basselin. Though we had kept in touch, it was not on a regular basis. Father Mel immediately agreed to be my spiritual guide. We began with a few meetings and we talked about what direction I wanted my life to be going in. Father Mel was patient with me for the first few years as he listened to my cares, concerns, doubts, and interests. But

then he brought up the idea that I return to seminary. My first reaction was to tell him no, that’s not what I wanted, and that I was too old. He suggested I take some mini-retreats (long weekends). So, after a few of these, I began to discern that my vocation had been dormant inside me for a long time. Father Mel saw this in me before I ever did. With his encouragement, I applied to the Diocese of St. Augustine (my home diocese) and, to my great joy, I was accepted and entered Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, Mass. This is a seminary focused on older vocations. So, after two stints and ten years in five seminaries, I was ordained on June 20, 2020.

Are there other notable role models or figures from your time at TC that still influence you in your priesthood?

I had several figures that have influenced my priesthood from TC and Catholic University. Father Mel stands out because he was the first to see that my vocation was still there as an ember, it just needed a little oxygen. He also accompanied me on my journey, and I shall be forever grateful. I also remember the kindness of Father Al Giaquinto, P.S.S. He was holy and practical, while at the same

time great fun. For instance, when someone had done something that they shouldn’t have done, he was first to say, “You fathead!” — but always with a smile. I was also fortunate to have known and been taught by Father Ronald Lawlor, O.F.M. Cap. Knowing him was the closest I have come to knowing a living saint; his was a beautiful soul. I would be remiss if I didn’t also mention Msgr. Robert Sokolowski, Msgr. John Wippel, and Dr. Thomas Prufer, all of whom pointed me in the direction of the truth.

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

As a Basselin, I would say, “Know thyself.” Your vocation is your calling, not someone else’s. While striving to answer God’s call, if you know yourself, your character, your strengths, and your limitations, and accept them in full, you will be a good priest. Strive always to be holy through prayer and discipline; be kind, listen, and do the work you are called to do. ■

Justin Notes
(2-T, St. Augustine)



Sedes Cup Annual Golf Outing 2021

On Oct. 25, a gorgeous warm fall day, 46 golfers hit the green at Turf Valley for the Eighth Annual Sedes Cup Golf Tournament and Awards Luncheon, hosted by Theological College. Joyful camaraderie animated the spirit of the day, in celebration of being able to once again partake in this fundraising tradition after over a year in quarantine. The entire Theological College community is thankful for the gracious participation of 12 teams and numerous sponsors who support the seminary’s mission of forming priest after the heart of Jesus Christ. ■

CLASS NOTES

50s

Rev. James Harrison, ’53 (B ’52), of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, shared recently that he continues to offer Mass daily “for deceased priests in the Ordo that I knew or heard about in *The Crossroads*, most recently for Fr. John F. Smolko.” Many thanks, Father Harrison, for your continued prayers and support!

70s

Msgr. J. Kenneth Rush, ’71, of the Diocese of Richmond, pastor of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lynchburg since 1992, retired from active ministry on July 5, 2021. Congratulations to Monsignor Rush on celebrating his 50th golden anniversary of priestly ordination this year!

Rev. Raymond Fecteau, ’72, of the Archdiocese of Washington, pastor of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Darnestown, Md., retired from active ministry on July 7, 2021, while remaining chaplain to the Boy Scouts of America, Montgomery County Police, Maryland State Police, and the United States Secret Service.

Father Mel Ayala (’11, Washington), the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception’s new Director of Liturgy, recently celebrated Mass with the TC community.



Rev. Michael J. Orchik, ’73, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, pastor of The Shrine of the Little Flower in Baltimore since 1992, retired from active ministry on June 28, 2021, while pursuing new chaplaincy service to The Little Sisters of the Poor in Baltimore.

80s

Rev. James C. Griffin, ’82, of the Diocese of Richmond, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Church in Richmond, retired from active ministry on July 5, 2021.

Very Rev. Anthony Chandler, K.H.S., ’89, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been named pastor of The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi, while continuing to serve as vocation director and president of the Presbyteral Council for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

00s

Rev. Timothy Cusick, ’00, of the Diocese of St. Augustine, was appointed academic dean of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Fla., in October of 2020.

Rev. Jeffrey Tunnicliff, ’02, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Geneseo to serve as parochial administrator of St. Mary’s of the Lake in Watkins Glen and St. Benedict’s Parish in Odessa.

Rev. Kenneth Shuping, ’03, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Salem and St. Gerard in Roanoke to serve as pastor of St. Bridget Catholic Church in Richmond.

Very Rev. William G. Coffas, ’04, of the Diocese of Rochester, was named chair of the Presbyteral Council for the Diocese of Rochester in April 2021. He serves as dean of Monroe Central Deanery and continues to serve as pastor of Mother of Sorrows and Holy Cross parishes in Rochester.

Very Rev. Stephen Vrazel, V.F., B ’07, of the Archdiocese of Mobile, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Mobile (where he served for seven years) to serve as pastor of two parishes, St. Mary’s Parish and St. Joan of Arc Parish, both in Mobile.

10s

Rev. Sean Prince, ’12, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as priest secretary and director of the Office of Worship in the Pastoral Center, to serve as pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Norfolk.

Rev. Lawrence Adams, ’13, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as moderator of Team Ministry at Christ the Divine Shepherd

CLASS NOTES

Parish in Monroeville, to serve as associate general secretary for the diocese with residence at St. Philip Parish in Crafton/Ingram.

Rev. Peter Mottola, '13, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport to serve as pastor of Peace of Christ Parish in Rochester, while continuing his canonical service for the diocese.

Rev. Gino Rossi, '13, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Patrick Catholic Church and St. Peter Pro-Cathedral, both in Richmond, and St. John Catholic Church in Highland Springs, to serve as pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Petersburg.

Rev. Michael Ackerman, '14, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as director of the Office for Priestly Vocations, chaplain for scouting, chaplain to the Serra Club of Pittsburgh, and chaplain to the students of Central Catholic and Oakland Catholic high schools, to serve as senior parochial vicar of St. Kilian Parish, Adams/Cranberry and Holy Sepulcher Parish, Glade Mills.

Rev. Kenneth Marlovits, '14, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as assistant vocations director to director of the Office for Priestly Vocations, chaplain for scouting, and chaplain to the Serra Club of Pittsburgh. Father Marlovits maintains his residence at St. Paul Seminary as well as his responsibilities as a member of the seminary faculty.

Rev. Matthew Fish, '15, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as administrator of Holy Family Parish in Hillcrest Heights, Md., to serve as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Charlotte Hall, Md.

Rev. Matthew Kiehl, '15, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been named pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Virginia Beach after serving there as administrator since August of 2020.

Rev. Daniel Ruiz-Serra, '15, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Groton to serve as pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in Rochester.

Rev. Samuel Maul, B '16, ordained by Bishop Michael F. Olson on May 22 for the Diocese of Fort Worth, is serving as parochial vicar at St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills.

Rev. Justin Miller, '16, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Church in Auburn to serve as parochial administrator of St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport.

Rev. Anthony Sciarappa, '16, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, New Castle, to serve as parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Dormont/Mount Lebanon/Scott, and part-time chaplain to the students at Seton LaSalle Catholic High School.

Rev. Anthony Amato, '17, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St.

Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Ontario, N.Y., to serve as parochial administrator of St. Peter's Parish in Clifton Springs.

Rev. Benjamin Barr, '17 (B '05), of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Dormont/Mount Lebanon/Scott, to serve as parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish, New Castle.

Rev. Benjamin Garcia, '17, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Our Lady Help of Christians Parish in Waldorf, Md., to serve as parochial vicar of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Silver Spring, Md.

Rev. Daniel Waruszewski, '17, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Center Township; St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen Parish, Lyndora/Meridian; St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Butler; St. Paul Parish, Butler; and St. Peter Parish, Butler, to serve as parochial vicar of the newly established All Saints Parish, Butler/Center/Lyndora/Meridian.

Rev. Jonathan Demma, '18, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been named pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wichita Falls after having served as pastoral administrator since February of 2019.

Rev. Carlos Limongi, '18, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Church of the Assumption Parish in Peekskill, to serve as parochial vicar of the Parish of St. Joseph and St. Mary Immaculate in Staten Island.



On a recent visit to TC, Fr. Matt Browne ('19, Rockville Centre) celebrated Mass for seminarians from his diocese.

Rev. Nicholas Redmond, '18, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as campus minister at the College of William & Mary and promoter of vocations to serve as parochial vicar of St. Patrick Catholic Church and St. Peter's Pro-Cathedral, both in Richmond, and St. John Catholic Church in Highland Springs.

Rev. Rhett Williams, '18, of the Diocese of Charleston, was named pastor of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Columbia in July, after having served as administrator there since July 2020. Additionally, Father Williams will serve as director of vocations for the Diocese of Charleston and will continue to serve as Catholic chaplain to the University of South Carolina and chaplain to Cardinal Newman School in Columbia.

Rev. Timothy Deely, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been named administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Bellevue; Sacred Heart Parish, Emsworth; and St. John Neumann Parish, Franklin Park, where he has served as parochial vicar since July of 2019.

Rev. Stefan Megyery, '19, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Parish in Rockville,

Md., to serve as administrator of Epiphany Parish in Washington, D.C., and campus chaplain at George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Rev. Michael Russo, '19, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Bernadette's Catholic Church in Silver Spring to serve as parochial vicar of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bowie, Md.

20s

Rev. Garrett Bockman, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been assigned as parochial vicar of All Saints Parish in Dallas after completing his coursework for his S.T.L. degree in Systematic Theology.

Rev. Jaime Maldonado-Avilés, '20, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. James Parish, Manchester, in addition to duties as parochial vicar of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish. Father Maldonado-Avilés will reside at St. James Parish.

Rev. Jason Allan, '21, ordained by Bishop Michael F. Olson on May 22 for the Diocese of Fort Worth, is serving as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Denton.

Rev. Michael Kieler, '21, ordained by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez on May 15 for the Diocese of St. Augustine, began his fifth year of study at Theological College to obtain his S.T.L. degree in Systematic Theology, after assisting at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Orange Park during his summer assignment.

Rev. Thomas Lawrence, '21, ordained by Bishop Barry C. Knestout on June 5 for the Diocese of Richmond, is serving as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hampton, St. Mary Star of the Sea in Fort Monroe, and St. Vincent de Paul in Newport News.

Rev. Brett Metzler, '21, ordained by Bishop Michael F. Olson on May 22 for the Diocese of Fort Worth, began his fifth year of study at Theological College to obtain his S.T.L. degree in Systematic Theology, after assisting at the Catholic Center in Fort Worth and various parishes during the summer.

Rev. Wesbee Victor, '21, ordained by Cardinal Timothy Dolan on May 29 for the Archdiocese of New York, began his fifth year of study at Theological College to obtain his S.T.L. degree in Moral Theology/Bio-Ethics, after assisting at Holy Name of Jesus-St. Gregory the Great Parish in New York during his summer assignment. ■

In Memoriam



Rev. Richard S. Sturtz, '56, died on May 19, 2021, at the age of 90, on his 65th anniversary of ordination. Father Sturtz began his seminary studies at Wadhams Hall in Ogdensburg in 1949. After graduation, he continued his formation at Theological

College and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Ogdensburg by Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg on May 19, 1956, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg. Father Sturtz continued graduate studies at The Catholic University of America, earning a master's degree in library science. In his first summer after ordination, he served as parochial assistant at Immaculate Conception Church in Brownville and the following summer at St. Andrew's Church in Sackets Harbor.

In September 1957, Father Sturtz returned to Wadhams Hall diocesan seminary where he initially served as librarian and instructor in religious studies and English, marking the beginning of a lengthy and distinguished period of service there. While the high school seminary program existed, he taught Latin. Supporting the effort to have Wadhams Hall accredited to award degrees, he built the library from 3,000 to 50,000 volumes. He later taught philosophy and served as assistant spiritual director and spiritual director for the seminary. He oversaw two expansions of the library, growing the collection to nearly 100,000. Resigning as librarian, he taught Latin and Greek. In 1996, the library was named in his honor.

Father Sturtz returned to parish life in 1983 to serve as pastor of Holy Name Church in Au Sable Forks and St. Matthew's Church in Black Brook. Until his retirement from active ministry in 2014, he served as pastor at six additional parishes throughout his diocese.

After retiring, Father Sturtz returned to Ogdensburg, living at the rectory at Notre Dame and later St. Mary's Cathedral. Throughout retirement, he served as chaplain to the residents and staff of St. Joseph's Home and was greatly saddened that he was unable to minister through the COVID-19 lockdown of nursing homes.

"A great mentor and friend" were common remarks attributed to Father Sturtz on his memorial page after his passing. Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, presided at his Mass of Christian Burial on May 25, 2021, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Ogdensburg, with interment in the family plot at Lowville Rural Cemetery in Lowville, N.Y. Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph's Home in Ogdensburg.



Rev. Robert Maher, '57, died on August 14, 2020, at the age of 89. Father Maher began his seminary studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Winona, Minn., in 1949 and then completed his formation at Theological College and The Catholic

University of America from 1953 until 1957, when he was awarded his master's degree in theology. Father Maher was ordained for the priesthood for the Diocese of Winona on May 30, 1957, at St. Anthony's Church in Lismore.

Father Maher's dedicated priestly ministry, spanning more than six decades, began with service as a parochial vicar at St. Augustine's Church in Austin for two years before moving to Rochester where he served faithfully as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital for more than a decade.

In 1969, Father Maher joined the U.S. Air Force and was commissioned as an officer in the Chaplain Corps. He served as chaplain at several locations throughout the United States as well as in Germany. Additionally, he served during the end of the Vietnam War, and later ministered to those servicemen who experienced the hardships of the Gulf War. Through the years, he was awarded multiple honors and citations as he attained the rank of colonel. He served as U.S.A.F. Inspector General of Chaplains for several years as well.

Father Maher retired from active duty in 1994 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., after having served his country for 25 years.

Father Maher then moved to Camarillo, Calif., for the next five years, and lastly to Las Vegas where he lived until his death. Monsignor Richard Colletti presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Maher on August 28, 2020, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Lismore, Minn., with interment following at St. Anthony West Cemetery in Minneapolis.



Rev. Thomas J. Peterman, '57 and class representative, died on August 3, 2021, at the age of 90. Father Peterman was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Wilmington by Bishop Hubert J. Cartwright in 1957 at St. John the Apostle

Catholic Church in Milford. His fruitful priestly ministry, which spanned over six decades, included service as pastor at five parishes as well as work as an educator, historian, and author.

After his ordination, Father Peterman was assigned to parishes with schools where he served as an instructor at Corpus Christi High School in Elsmere, and then as principal of Holy Cross High School in Dover, followed by service as principal of St. Elizabeth High School in Wilmington. Having studied piano at Peabody Preparatory School while a seminarian, he used his musical abilities over the years to conduct choirs and glee clubs and he produced several high school musicals.

At the time of the Wilmington Diocesan Centennial in 1968, Father Peterman completed and published his first book, titled, *Priest of a Century*, comprised of pictures and biographical sketches of each deceased diocesan priest up to that time. Later, he published *Catholics in Colonial Delmarva*, and, in total, authored nine books throughout his lifetime.

During his service as pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Church in Sharply in the mid-seventies, Father Peterman earned a doctorate degree in United States History from The Catholic University of America. His dissertation was written on the founding of the observance of the U.S. Bicentennial program of "Liberty and Justice for All." As part of that program, he contributed a series of historical articles for publication in *The Dialog*, the diocesan newspaper. He continued writing that series for several years.

In 1994, he was named pastor of St. Dennis Church in Galena, Md., where he completed and published three more volumes on diocesan history. At the age of 75, he retired from active ministry from this parish after faithfully serving there for 12 years. Upon retirement, however, he continued to minister regularly in Delaware and Maryland until his death.

Most Reverend William E. Koenig, Bishop of Wilmington, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Peterman on August 10, 2021, at Holy Cross Church in Dover, with interment following at Holy Cross Cemetery in Dover. Memorial donations may be made to the Diocesan Priest Retirement Fund in care of the Chancery Office, P.O. Box 2030, Wilmington, DE 19899.



Rev. Ronald E. Brassard, '72, died on August 6, 2021, at the age of 74. An accomplished musician and nationally known liturgist, composer, and director, Father Brassard was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Providence by Bishop

Louis E. Gelineau on April 21, 1974, at St. John the Baptist Church in Pawtucket.

Father Brassard's rich and fruitful priestly ministry, which spanned more than four decades, began with service in numerous

parochial assignments, and later incorporated work as chaplain for the Apostolate for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired, assistant chancellor, diocesan dean for Deanery VI, chairman of the Diocesan Music Commission, founder of the Diocesan Office for Worship and Liturgy, and initiator of the annual Diocesan Music Festival.

From 1983 to 1988, Father Brassard served as director of liturgy for the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Ill. He was an elected member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, serving as president of the clergy section. Additionally, he served as chairperson of the Regional Convention: "Sundays and Seasons" in 1982 and served on the faculty of the N.P.M. Cantor and Choir schools throughout the United States. He was appointed by Governor Lincoln Almond to the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts and served from 1998 to 2001.

A strong supporter of Catholic education, Father Brassard served as a member of the Board of Advisors for Saint Raphael Academy in Pawtucket for many years. In 1994, he was named pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Cranston, where he founded and built Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School, the first Catholic parochial school to open in the Diocese of Providence in 40 years.

In 2017, he retired as pastor of St. Mark's Parish in Jamestown and was named pastor emeritus of Immaculate Conception Parish that same year.

Most Reverend Thomas J. Tobin, Bishop of Providence, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Brassard on August 14, 2021, at Immaculate Conception Church in Cranston, with interment following at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in East Providence. Memorial donations may be made to Immaculate Conception Catholic Regional School, 237 Garden Hills Drive, Cranston, RI 02920, or to St. Raphael's Academy, 123 Walcott Street, Pawtucket, RI, 02860.

Msgr. Paul Langsfeld, B'72, died on July 9, 2021, at the age of 71, following a long and courageous battle against Multiple System Atrophy. Monsignor Langsfeld, former pastor of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill, was TC's 2014 recipient of the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award.

Monsignor Langsfeld's dedicated and varied priestly ministry, spanning more than 40 years, was catalyzed in the Basselin Scholars Program at Theological College in the early 1970s. As Monsignor Langsfeld himself noted in a 2017 interview which marked the 40th anniversary of his priesthood, "It was a great experience" since he was studying in community alongside seminarians from across the United States "at an exciting time of the

Church” during the implementation of the changes that ensued from the Second Vatican Council.

Monsignor Langsfeld was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Washington by Cardinal William Baum in 1977 at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in Washington, D.C. In his first assignment, he served as parochial vicar at St. Mary of the Mills Parish in Laurel, followed by service as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Washington, D.C., while teaching in the diaconate formation program for the archdiocese.

His academic pursuits included earning a licentiate in Philosophy from the American College at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, a licentiate in Sacred Theology from The Catholic University of America, and a doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he had studied at the North American College.

From 1985 to 1991, he worked as an official in the Vatican’s Congregation for the Clergy, serving to facilitate the relationship between the Roman Curia and American bishops and priests during the papacy of St. John Paul II, under whom Monsignor Langsfeld felt privileged to serve.

When he returned to the United States in 1991, he was called to serve as theology professor and vice-rector at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmittsburg until 2003, followed by serving as the rector of Pontifical College Josephinum, a seminary in Columbus, Ohio, for the next six years.

At his request to return home to the Archdiocese of Washington, Monsignor Langsfeld felt called to practice the pastoral work he had been teaching seminarians for the past 25 years. From 2010 to 2012, he served as pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Parish in Washington, D.C., followed by service as pastor for the next two years at St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg, and, lastly, from 2014 to 2016 as pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish on Capitol Hill.

After his service as pastor at St. Joseph’s, Monsignor Langsfeld retired due to illness and lived in Washington, D.C., at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, which is staffed by The Little Sisters of the Poor. Taped on the wall in his room was the sign, “Jesus, I trust in You,” which characterized Monsignor Langsfeld’s great confidence in God’s providential care.

Cardinal Wilton Gregory presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Langsfeld on August 21, 2021, at St. Joseph Church on Capitol Hill, with interment following at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring. Memorial donations may be made to the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio, or Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, Emmittsburg, Md., or the Jeanne Jugan Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor, Washington, D.C.



In 2014, Msgr. Langsfeld received the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from then-rector, Fr. Phillip Brown, P.S.S.



Msgr. Joseph A. Carroll, ’74, died on July 11, 2021, at the age of 80, after years of declining health, which saw the amputations of both feet due to complications from diabetes. “Father Joe,” as he was fondly called, was a San Diego icon, known as a

tireless advocate for its poor and homeless. He was the president emeritus and namesake of San Diego’s largest homeless services provider, Fr. Joe’s Villages. This organization has assisted thousands of homeless residents in finding shelter, medical assistance, childcare, housing, and other resources since Father Joe took over nearly 40 years ago.

Father Joe was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of San Diego by Bishop Leo T. Maher on June 28, 1974, at St. Joseph’s Church in Carpinteria, Calif. During his early years of priestly ministry, he served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Grace in El Cajon; St. Pius X in Chula Vista; and St. Rita in San Diego.

In 1982, Bishop Maher appointed him director of the St. Vincent de Paul Center, which had already been in existence about 25 years before Father Joe was ordained. In his early years as director, he served peanut butter sandwiches to the homeless daily. During this time, he traveled the country to learn about what social services were available to the poor and homeless. Under his care and industry, the center would grow into the present-day Father Joe’s Villages, which has a four-block campus in East Village and programs across the county that house about 2,000 nightly.

In 1987, Father Joe’s Villages opened a \$12 million facility known as the Joan Kroc Center, named for the McDonald’s heiress. The facility included housing for families and single adults, a

medical clinic, childcare, meals, and job training. It was followed by the Bishop Maher Center in 1989 and the Paul Mirabile Center in 1994.

Father Joe served as president and CEO of Father Joe’s Villages until his 70th birthday on April 12, 2011, at which time he became president emeritus. He retired from active ministry that November.

Father Joe once said his greatest accomplishment was helping others to see that the homeless are just “neighbors who need our help.” In June 2012, at a celebration of his life and work, he told the 800 people who had gathered to honor his legacy, “When you take the name ‘homeless’ out of it...it seems to take the fear out of working with our neighbors in need.”

In addition to his work with the homeless, Father Joe supported the Boy Scouts of America, serving as their diocesan chaplain from March 1975 through July 2014, and the Knights of Columbus, serving as chaplain for the California State Council in the early 1990s.

“Father Joe Carroll was a priest who made Christ’s message of compassion and mercy real in a world where we so often look the other way rather than embrace those who are suffering in our midst,” said Most Reverend Robert McElroy, Bishop of San Diego. “Given the task of rejuvenating our diocesan outreach to the homeless four decades ago, he completely recreated that outreach and gave to San Diego an incredible network of programs for those without shelter that radiate a profound and unrelenting humanity and hope.”

In 2019, San Diego State University awarded Father Joe an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in recognition of his lifelong dedication to the underserved communities of San Diego.

Most Reverend Robert W. McElroy, Bishop of San Diego, presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Carroll on July 20, 2021, at St. Rita’s Parish in San Diego, with interment following at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in San Diego.



Rev. Anthony F. Krisak, ’75, former faculty member of Theological College, died on June 3, 2021, at the age of 71. Father Krisak was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Trenton in 1975 at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Trenton.

Father Krisak’s dedicated priestly ministry, which spanned more than four decades, began with service as an associate pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Willingboro, where he served until 1979. He then began studies to obtain his Master of Theology, Spirituality, and Worship degree in 1980 at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkley, Calif. Next, he returned to The Catholic University of America, where he earned his Doctorate in Sacred Liturgy in 1989.

During and after his studies at Catholic University, Father Krisak served as a counseling associate and advisor to seminarians, director of Basselin Scholars, and lecturer in Pastoral Theology to ordained deacons and priests. He also served the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions in Washington, D.C., as administrative assistant from 1986 to 1988. From 1993 to 1999, he served as executive director of the Missionary Vehicle Association in Washington, D.C., an organization that serves Catholic missions overseas and supports the fight against poverty and under development. From 1999 to 2002, he served as an associate to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Between 1987 and 2013, he taught a variety of theology courses at Loyola University Maryland in Columbia. From 2003 to 2012, he was the director of Training and Online Services for the Paulist Evangelization Ministries in Washington, D.C. He also served the community at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, Md., as a pastoral associate for the last 30 years.

A beloved priest, mentor, and friend, Father Krisak was fondly remembered by many at his passing. A fellow classmate from his high school seminary days at Mother of the Savior Seminary in Blackwood, N.J., Father Albert Harshaw, shared the following: “My condolences and prayers for the repose of Father Tony Krisak and his family. He was certainly a true follower of Christ and a teacher of faith to others. His personality exemplified the very Person of Christ in his life, ministry, and service. May the Lord receive him into eternal life and bless his family.”

His longtime friend, Reverend Melvin C. Blanchette, P.S.S., Ph.D., S.T.B., celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Krisak on June 18, 2021, at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, Md., with interment in the family plot at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Trenton, N.J., later. Memorial donations may be made to St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 11701 Clopper Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878. ■



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