

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

the **Crossroads**

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Fall 2022



**SULPICIAN
GOVERNANCE**

**ORDINATIONS
2022**

**CELEBRATING
PRIEST ALUMNI**



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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.



PRESIDENT KILPATRICK

Catholic University's new President, who was officially installed on November 11, 2022, introduced himself to the TC community in August.

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ORDINATIONS

TC celebrates its 25 priests and deacons who were ordained in 2022!



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ORIENTATION 2022

New seminarians were guided through all facets of life at the seminary and at The Catholic University of America through a carefully crafted orientation program, with a focus on spirituality.

TC ICONS

Iconographer Peter Pearson revisits an earlier work he did for TC, *The Three Teresas*, while delivering stunning new icons to grace the seminary facility.



Front Cover: On Sept. 6, two days after the beatification of Pope John Paul I in Rome, his portrait was installed at TC, completing the modern papal quadumvirate honored in the entry vestibule, which includes the saints Pope John XXIII, Pope Paul VI, and Pope John Paul II, all by Father Peter William Gray, P.S.S. TC is the first seminary to have such a memorial to Pope John Paul I. (See the Rector's letter, p. 2.) A few days later, the First Superior of the seminary, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, blessed all the portraits during his annual introductory visit to TC.

Inspiration at the Heart of Our Mission

On September 4, 2022, Pope Francis beatified Pope John Paul I (1912–1978), whom he praised for showing the world God’s goodness and for living the Gospel without compromise. John Paul I was pope for only 33 days, one of the shortest reigns in papal history. However, in that short time and in the four decades previously as Cardinal Albino Luciani, he impacted the Church and the world with his humility, pastoral style, and perpetual cheer. Known as the “smiling pope,” John Paul I communicated so well the joy of the Gospel that Pope Francis wrote about this gift in his encyclical of the same name. In his comments on John Paul I, Pope Francis said, “He embodied the poverty of the disciple, but also victory over the temptation to put oneself at the center, to seek one’s own glory.” In his homily in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis confirmed, “With a smile, Pope John Paul managed to communicate the goodness of the Lord. How beautiful is a Church with a happy, serene, and smiling face, a Church that never closes doors, never hardens hearts, never complains or harbors resentment, does not grow angry or impatient, does not look dour or suffer nostalgia for the past.” Pope Francis urged the faithful to pray to the “smiling pope” that we too may convey the joy of the Gospel in our words and deeds. Humility, joy, and a pastor’s heart are all central characteristics of a good parish priest that Blessed John Paul I models so well, especially for seminarians who are being formed to be priests after the heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

To honor the newly beatified pope, Theological College commissioned a portrait by Father Peter William Gray, P.S.S., for our entrance lobby at the seminary. It completes a series that Father Gray began back in 2010 of three other modern-day popes who have been canonized: St. John XXIII, St. Paul VI, and St. John Paul II. Together, they now grace the space where all who enter our seminary doors can encounter and be inspired by these saintly popes who challenge us to be authentic disciples of Jesus Christ.

In our growth in discipleship here at TC, we had a busy fall semester as the opening of the academic year began with a festive Mass and banquet, the Vianney Cup Soccer tournament, and the commemoration of Father Jim McKearney’s 25th anniversary of priesthood in September. In October, our Alumni Day celebration welcomed alumni and honored Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski (’84) of St. Louis. Our second annual observance of the Feast of Blessed Agnes of Jesus with the local



Dominican community as well as our annual Fall House Party and Sedes Cup Golf Tournament rounded out the month. November welcomed Cardinal Timothy Dolan for an *ars praedicandi* weekend preaching symposium and, a few days later, Archbishop Shelton Fabre of Louisville to preside over the rite of candidacy for TC seminarians. These were just some of the events that kept the seminary busy as we prepared for the end of the semester and the holidays.

Also during this fall semester, the formation faculty closely studied the sixth edition of the *Priestly Program for Formation* that will be implemented in August 2023. More information on this program will be featured in the spring 2023 edition of *The Crossroads*.

As our lobby’s saintly papal quadumvirate of portraits attests, we are proud that Theological College is known for its hospitality, its diversity, its concern for justice and peace, and its commitment to cultivating a contemplative awareness of God’s daily presence. In these pages, our seminarians reflect this reality. They possess an interior restlessness for service, for diocesan involvement, and for that day and time when they will be able to preside and preach, to absolve, and to be available to God’s people in times of joy and of uncertainty or grief. This interior restlessness is a sign not only of a vocation to the priesthood but also of the fact that the seminary’s program is effectively assisting seminarians to become deeply committed servants of God’s people.

The founder of the Society of St. Sulpice, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, once wrote, “Look to Jesus, unite yourself to Jesus, act in Jesus.” These words remind us all that Jesus is at the heart of our mission, purpose, and lives as each day we give ourselves more to him in all we do and say. These words are the motto of inspiration for us this year at Theological College. May we embody them in wisdom and faith.

Your prayers and support are so important to us. Please be assured of our prayers for you.

Our Lady Seat of Wisdom, pray for us!

Blessed John Paul I, pray for us!

May God be Praised,

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

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

COMMUNITY NEWS

Sulpician Governance

Jakob Pohlman

Third Basselin, Diocese of Worcester

This past spring, at the Provincial Assembly of the Society of St. Sulpice, Very Rev. Daniel Moore was elected the provincial of the North American Province, after two years serving as acting provincial. At the same assembly, Theological College's vice-rector Rev. Chris Arockiaraj and former faculty member Rev. Martin Burnham were appointed consultors for the Society. During its General Assembly in Paris in July, the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice elected a new superior general, Rev. Shayne Craig (page 4), from St. Joseph's Seminary in Edmonton, Canada. Father Craig, the first Canadian to serve the Society in this role, replaces Rev. Ronald Witherup, who served as superior general for 14 years.

The Sulpicians are a society of apostolic life whose roots date back to the seventeenth century to Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier and his "*petite compagnie*" of diocesan priests dedicated to forming the next generation of diocesan priests. In order to ensure continuity in their society, the priests of the community established common procedural structures, delineated in the Constitutions of the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice, last revised in 2003. Like other societies of apostolic life, their governance is divided into the general level, the provincial level, and the local level.

The first level is the local level, which occurs in each Sulpician community. Theological College's own local council meets on Thursday mornings. The head of Local Council is the superior of the community — in TC's case, the rector — and the voting members are the various members of the community.

The second level is that of the province, which is a larger, regional area generally comprising several communities. The main governing body at this level is the Provincial Assembly, which is moderated by the provincial superior and his four

consultors, who compose the Provincial Council. The Provincial Assembly is held every six years and makes decisions for the different communities that are contained in the province, such as houses of formation and administrative houses. The provincial superior and his four consultors are elected by the members of the Provincial Assembly. This is the level at which Father Moore was elected.

The final level is the general level. In many ways, this level is simply a macrocosm of the provincial level. The superior general is the head of General Council, and he is elected at the General Assembly, which occurs every six years (except in extraordinary circumstances). As at the provincial level, he is assisted in his role of governing by four consultors, also elected during the General Assembly. The general level, however, is not limited to a certain province or territory, but acts for the entire society. The General Assembly comprises not only the superior and his consultors, but also elected delegates from every province, as well as the society's general procurator at the Holy See. They make decisions about the most serious and wide-ranging issues that the society faces. These structures serve the Sulpicians as they continue to deliver the excellence in formation in which they have specialized for the last 300 years.

(continued on page 4)

Father Dan Moore leads Evening Prayer for the TC community at the outset of the formation year.



Very Rev. Shayne Craig, P.S.S., M.Div., S.T.L.

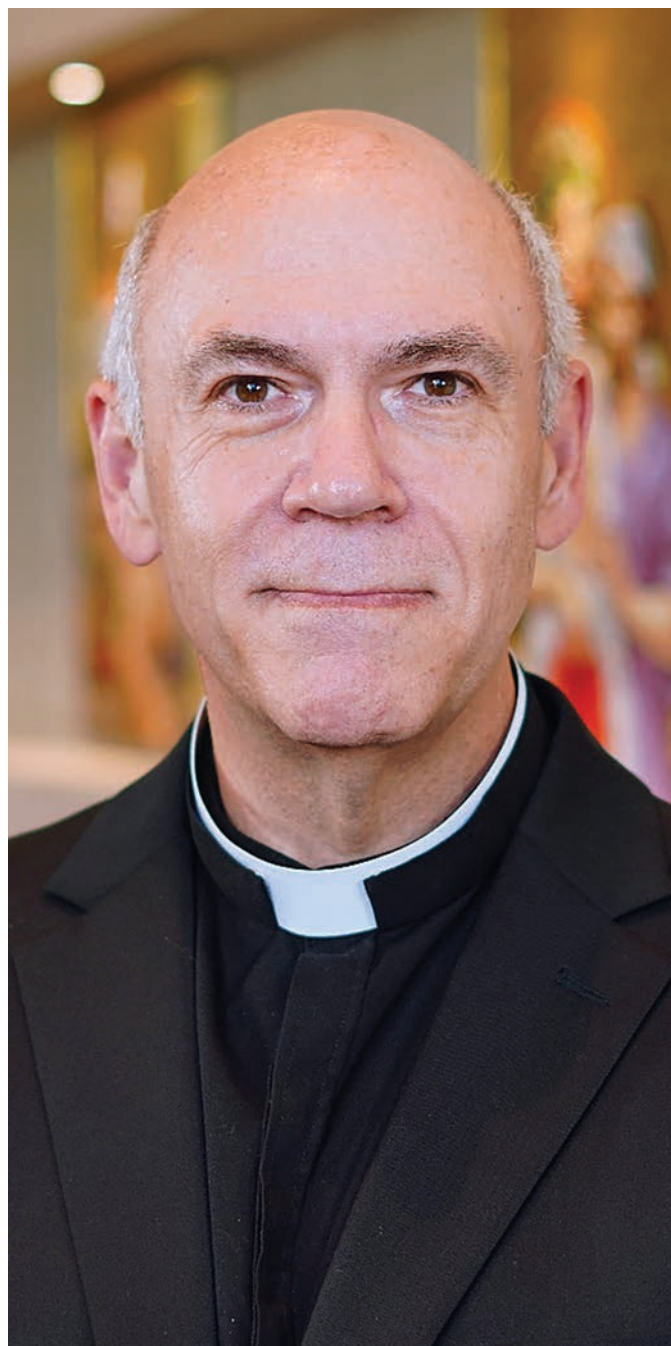
Father Shayne Craig was born on Vancouver Island, in the town of Campbell River, in 1964. He grew up in various places (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia), as his father was serving in the military in these locations. After completing a B.A. in history at the University of Victoria in 1986, he entered St. Joseph Seminary and Newman Theological College. He was ordained in 1992 for the Diocese of Victoria, and then served at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Victoria. After two years, he was called to serve on the formation team of St. Joseph's Seminary with Cardinal Marc Ouellet and Bishop Paul Terrio. His work there ended abruptly after one year when he was called home to Comox, British Columbia, to care for his gravely ill mother, while serving as pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Campbell River.

In 1998, he joined the Society of St. Sulpice, entering the formation program in Paris and Lyon, and then on to further studies in Rome. He completed his license in dogmatic theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, with a thesis titled *Mary Immaculate: Two Visions for the Church*, a study of Hans Urs von Balthasar's mariology and ecclesiology, and its critique.

In 2001, Father Craig was named vice-rector of St. Joseph Seminary. He served as rector from 2004 to 2012, and also also was named president of Newman Theological College from 2010 to 2012. After a sabbatical year, Father Craig returned to St. Joseph Seminary as a member of the formation team. While at the seminary, he was able to help in the care of his parents until they died, his mother following Alzheimer's and his father from cancer. After 28 years of service to St. Joseph's, as superior general he will now be based in Paris.

Father Craig's major theological mentor is Hans Urs von Balthasar, and he continues to follow the critical work on von Balthasar's thought. He is passionate about the study of Catholic history and culture, particularly early Church and medieval history, as well as the history of the French School of Spirituality, with a focus on the work of Cardinal Pierre de Bérulle and Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier. He has a great love of literature: Charles Péguy, Georges Bernanos, Paul Claudel, Julien Green, Flannery O'Connor, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and Shakespeare are among his favorites. Father Craig's preferred hobbies are icon painting and stained-glass craftsmanship.

When asked recently what interests him the most about his new position, he remarked, "I'm excited to see the Church across the world in all these different lands and cultures, some places where



it is struggling, some places where it is growing exponentially, such as in many African countries ... There are great lights and shadows and I'm eager to be a part of this incredible adventure and to see what the Lord is doing — and to grow in understanding of how to serve him!" ■

I have separated you from other people, that you should be Mine.

— Lev 20:26

2022 Ordinations

Theological College celebrated two dozen diaconate and priestly ordinations of its seminarians from April through September. Twelve priest alumni were ordained for eight different dioceses and one religious order, and 12 deacons for 10 different dioceses were also ordained.

In the adventure ahead, may God bless the deacons in their final year and the priests in their new ministries! ■

Priests

1 – At the Washington ordination on June 18, Rev. Kyle Vance is assisted in vesting by Rev. Rob Walsh, his former chaplain at the University of Maryland.

2 – Raleigh Bishop Luis Zarama kisses the hands of Rev. John De Guzman as a sign of reverence for his newly ordained status on June 4.

3 – From left, Rev. John of the Cross Costantino, F.H.S. (TC First Theology, 2015–2016), and Father Harold Escarcega (B '16), were ordained for the Diocese of Phoenix on June 4.

4 – Rev. Gabe Bouck (left) and Rev. Scott Bahrke with Bishop David Talley after their Memphis ordination on June 4 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

5 – Rev. Wade Trainor is joyfully congratulated by his parents after the Diocese of Paterson ordination on May 28.



COMMUNITY NEWS

6 – Rev. Aaron Kelly (B '18) assists Bishop Salvatore Matano at Rochester's ordination Mass on July 2.

7 – Rev. David Schmidt accepts the chalice from Bishop David Zubik, assisted by Daniel Roberts (3-T), at Pittsburgh's ordination in St. Paul Cathedral on June 25.

8 – Rev. Charles Silvas (left) and Rev. Carlos De La Rosa with Bishop Michael Mulvey at the Corpus Christi Cathedral after their ordination on June 18.

9 – Cardinal Wilton Gregory anoints the hands of Rev. Ryan Braam during the Archdiocese of Washington's ordination Mass on June 18.





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Deacons

1 – Deacons Armando Herrera-Dos Reis (left) and William Buckley with Bishop Barry Knestout at Richmond's Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on May 21.

2 – Deacon Peter Bui is congratulated by Worcester Bishop Robert McManus at ordination on May 28.

3 – Deacon Nicolas Rapkoch assists Bishop Luis Zarama at ordination for the Diocese of Raleigh on April 23.

4 – Deacon Jacob Gruber with Auxiliary Bishop Mark Eckman, center, and Bishop David Zubik at the Pittsburgh ordination on June 4.

5 – Very Rev. James Hart, chancellor and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Fort Worth, congratulates Deacon Austin Hoodenpyle after his May 21 ordination.

6 – Deacons Reed Bellingham (left) and Michael Vidrine, both from the Basselin Class of 2019, with Bishop Douglas Deshotel after the Diocese of Lafayette ordination on May 21.

7 – During the ordination rite on June 24 at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, Bishop Oscar Solis of Salt Lake City hands Deacon André Sicard the Book of the Gospels, signifying the new deacon's duty to preach.

8 – Deacon Vincent Vu joyfully accepts the embrace of Cardinal Wilton Gregory after his ordination on June 11 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, D.C.

9 – Jacob (Daniel) Sessions was ordained for the Diocese of Birmingham on Sept. 29 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

10 – Deacon James Buttner with his parents and Bishop Douglas Lucia after ordination on May 14 in Syracuse.



Catholic University's New President

Dr. Peter K. Kilpatrick was appointed President of The Catholic University of America in March 2022 and took office on July 1, 2022.

He had been provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Illinois Institute of Technology since 2018 and previously served as professor and McCloskey Dean of Engineering at the University of Notre Dame from 2008 to 2018.

At Illinois Tech, he developed the university's five-year strategic plan, put in place new leadership, and drove development of an online Master of Applied Science degree.

During Dr. Kilpatrick's tenure as dean at Notre Dame, the number of faculty at the College of Engineering grew by more than 60% and enrollment by nearly 70%. External research funding more than doubled to over \$50 million per year. He also launched Notre Dame's first joint Ph.D. program with the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, later expanding to programs with universities in Brazil and Hungary.

Dr. Kilpatrick was a faculty member of North Carolina State University in chemical engineering for 24 years, from 1983 to 2007, the last eight-plus years as the department head. Dr. Kilpatrick also served as the founding director of the North Carolina Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center, a

unique good manufacturing practice (GMP) facility that was designed to train the next generation of biopharmaceutical professionals and biotechnology industry professionals.

He is the author of more than 100 refereed journal articles in the areas of colloid and interfacial science, emulsion science, and molecular self assembly, particularly as they apply to energy and to bioseparations. According to Google Scholar, his work has been cited more than 5,300 times, largely in the areas of emulsions and interfacial and colloidal phenomena. He holds or shares 12 patents and has been actively engaged in two startups.

Dr. Kilpatrick is the recipient of numerous teaching and research awards, including the ASEE Regional Teaching Award. He holds an honorary doctorate from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University (Budapest, Hungary), the oldest university in that country. He is past chairperson of the Global Engineering Deans Council and serves as the chairperson of the Clover 2030 International Advisory Board, an initiative focused on reinventing engineering education in Chile.

He received his A.B. in chemistry from Occidental College (*summa cum laude*) in 1978 and his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1983. He and his wife Nancy are the parents of four adult children.

At the Theological College opening banquet on August 28, President Kilpatrick addressed questions from faculty and seminarians.

President Kilpatrick, what is your vision for the School of Philosophy, which some think needs more support from University leadership?

I believe that studying philosophy provides a tremendous foundation for thinkers in all fields, and for those who want to make an impact on the world. Working with Dean John McCarthy, we plan to build (and rebuild) the school to ensure that it remains one of this university's true crown jewels, with one of the most important ecclesiastical faculties in the world. This year alone, we hired two new faculty members, and we plan to hire six to ten more over the next few years.

Could you share with us your vision for Catholic University?

My vision is for this University to take its rightful place as *The Catholic University of America*. We can only attract more students by becoming more authentically ourselves, deeply rooted in our Catholic identity. How will we do that? By making sure our leadership is completely aligned with this identity. My primary responsibility as University President is to guarantee that we, as a team, are clear about who we are, what we represent, and where we want to go.

What do you bring from your ten years of experience at Notre Dame?

I learned a lot about academic camaraderie at Notre Dame, and I value the inspiration of my many remaining friends at that university — not only in the Engineering College where I worked but especially among the Holy Cross Fathers and others on the theological faculty. But at Notre Dame I did not have the opportunity to learn, in depth, how to run a university. Not so at Illinois Tech, which was struggling with enrollment and finances. There I learned how to address these and other issues and help turn things around. The challenges that Catholic University is facing are not new to me. In every position I have occupied, including at Notre Dame, I have learned how to contribute. I hope my experience and knowledge will serve this University well. I draw great inspiration for our mission from Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, who was strongly influenced by the French School of Spirituality during his formation at the Seminary of St. Sulpice. He said, "Education is the art of bringing young people to completion."

How can the TC faculty help you to realize this mission?

The entire faculty here is already helping me, with your sincere and supportive friendship. For academics like us, intellectual friendship is very important. It is what animates and vivifies our imagination when thinking about the world of ideas. When you share it with someone who has the same values, the same belief system, it is magical. I feel a true affection for this place, a real sense of belonging. So, I ask faculty and seminarians alike to please pray for me. Community is about supporting and loving each other. I am grateful for your role in the Catholic University community, and I thank you! ■



The rector explains Corita Kent's *Shalom* artwork to President Kilpatrick during his first visit in August.



Dr. Kilpatrick and his wife Nancy received a warm welcome from all, including TC's resident Dominican sisters, at the opening Mass and banquet.



Vice-Rector Rev. Chris Arockiaraj expressed his collaborative enthusiasm to the new President.

“Theological College recognizes Archbishop Rozanski’s lifetime of outstanding priestly service as a humble and beloved pastor, Christian conciliator, mentor of the lay faithful, champion of the poor and vulnerable, and joyful witness to the Word of Jesus Christ in the tradition of the priests of St. Sulpice.

Alumni Day Celebration

Joseph McHenry

Third Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, Theological College celebrated its annual Alumni Day. TC alumni, faculty, and seminarians gathered in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for a Mass in thanksgiving for time spent in formation at the seminary as well as to remember those alumni who have died during recent years.

The celebrant of the liturgy was Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis and a graduate of the Class of 1984. In his homily, the archbishop spoke about the firm foundation for priestly ministry that he and his classmates were provided by the Sulpician Fathers as they tried to implement the vision of priestly formation that was articulated during the Second Vatican Council. He described it as a time of transition from Christendom to the “apostolic age.” Young priests would be asked to take on greater responsibilities sooner than in times past. Looking back over his 38 years in the priesthood, he expressed his gratitude for the formation at TC and Catholic University, which

prepared him and his fellow seminarians to meet the challenges of the rapidly changing social and cultural environment.

After the Mass, the alumni joined the faculty and seminarians of Theological College for a reception and banquet. At the end of dinner, the rector, Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., presented Archbishop Rozanski with the seminary’s Alumnus Lifetime Service Award. In his brief remarks upon accepting the award, Archbishop Rozanski said that he can trace the love he has always felt for parish ministry back to TC’s emphasis on a high standard of pastoral formation.

As a current TC seminarian, it is always a great joy and inspiration when our alumni return to celebrate Mass or simply to visit the seminary. To be able to converse and honor so many alumni each year on the occasion of our Alumni Day is a tremendous blessing. It is a testament to the solid program at Theological College that these men return to recall their formative years spent walking the halls of this seminary. I look forward to the day when my classmates and I can reconvene and reflect on our own years of formation with a similar sense of joy and gratitude.



The Archdiocese of Washington’s Monsignor Ronald Jameson (’68) and Rev. Andrew Wakefield (’17) catch up on TC news with Deacon Ed McCormack (center).



Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski

Archdiocese of St. Louis

Class of 1984, Alumnus Lifetime Service Award Recipient

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski has served as the 10th Archbishop of St. Louis since Aug. 25, 2020. He previously served as the Bishop of Springfield (Mass.) from Aug. 12, 2014, until his installation in St. Louis.

Archbishop Rozanski was born in Baltimore, Md., on Aug. 6, 1958, the first of three sons born to Alfred and Jean Rozanski. The family lived in Fells Point, Md., where they belonged to Holy Rosary Parish. When he was eight years old, the family moved to Dundalk and the parish of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Graceland Park, Md., where he attended the parish elementary school. After graduating from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel High School, he received his undergraduate degree from The Catholic University of America before entering Theological College, where he received seminary training.

He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen on Nov. 24, 1984. He served for 20 years in several parishes in the archdiocese until 2004.

On July 3, 2004, Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore. He was ordained a bishop on Aug. 24, 2004, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. At the time, he was the youngest bishop in the United States.

Pope Francis appointed him as Bishop of Springfield on June 19, 2014. He was installed on Aug. 12, 2014, by Cardinal Sean O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Boston.

Archbishop Rozanski serves on the board of Cross Catholic Outreach and is the Roman Catholic co-chair of the Polish National Catholic–Roman Catholic Dialogue, a position he's held since November 2017. He also serves on the Advisory Council of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs, and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability.

Archbishop Rozanski has served on the National Committee for the Protection of Youth and Young People, the National Advisory Council of the USCCB, and the Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs Committee of the USCCB. He is a fourth-degree member of the Knights of Columbus; a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Northeast Lieutenantcy; and episcopal moderator of the National Association of Holy Name Societies.

As this year's Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient, Theological College recognizes Archbishop Rozanski's lifetime of outstanding priestly service as a humble and beloved pastor, Christian conciliator, mentor of the lay faithful, champion of the poor and vulnerable, and joyful witness to the Word of Jesus Christ in the tradition of the priests of St. Sulpice. ■

Archbishop Rozanski, can you offer some advice or encouragement for the seminarians of Theological College and all those in the process of discernment?

While the world has changed so much over these past 40 years in its approach to faith, there is still that same human longing for God. Our priests need to be solidly grounded in our Catholic faith to give voice to human longing and to be ready to point the way for those who are seeking the presence of God in their lives. I often reflect on the story of a young Joseph Ratzinger, who as a boy was asked by a Nazi soldier what he wanted to be when he grew up. He replied, "A priest." The soldier told him that in the new Germany priests would not be needed. But even at that age, the future Pope Benedict XVI knew that it was the time when priests would be most needed. The same is true for our age today. Our Church and society need the example, guidance, and witness of men who are committed to living out the priesthood today, more than ever!

SULPICIAN SPOTLIGHT

Paca Street

Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S.

Rector

It has become an introductory tradition over the years for all new Theological College seminarians to participate in a pilgrimage to learn about the rich heritage of the Sulpicians in the United States. That pilgrimage begins on Paca Street in Baltimore, Md. Why do we go to Paca Street? Most importantly, it is the location of the first seminary built in the United States, St. Mary's, which was established by the Society of St. Sulpice in 1791. The original seminary building is no longer there — and the current seminary is now located in the Roland Park section of Baltimore — but what remains is the magnificent chapel built by the famous French architect Maximilian Godefroy (1765–1840). Paca Street is also where Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Servant of God Mother Mary Lange, and Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin all professed their religious vows.

In 1791, Bishop John Carroll invited the Sulpician Fathers from Paris to come to Baltimore and begin a seminary. At the time, they were also escaping the French Revolution. The Sulpician Superior General, Rev. Jacques André Emery, P.S.S., sent Rev. Francois Nagot, P.S.S., and several companions to cross the Atlantic to take up the challenge of establishing the seminary system in the United States. They began the seminary in what was a former tavern on Paca Street. From these humble beginnings, a massive building and chapel emerged. This seminary, from which Theological College

sprang forth in 1917, helped form many luminaries of American Catholic history: Simon Bruté, P.S.S., first bishop of Vincennes, Ind.; Benedict Flaget, P.S.S., first bishop of Bardstown, Ky.; John Joseph Chanche, P.S.S., first bishop of Natchez, Miss.; Louis DuBourg, P.S.S., first bishop of New Orleans; Native American missionaries Stephen Badin and Demetrius Gallitzin; Thomas Price, co-founder of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America (the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers); and Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus.

At the invitation of Father Dubourg, Elizabeth Ann Seton, a widow and new Catholic, took up residence with her five children in a house on the grounds and began a school there. She professed her first vows as a religious sister in her new order, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph, in the Chapelle Basse (Lower Chapel) of the seminary. Seton would spend one year at Paca Street before moving her growing community and school to Emmitsburg, Md. In the same chapel, Mother Mary Lange and Mother Theresa Maxis Duchemin would profess their vows as Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first religious order for women of color. Eventually, Theresa Maxis Duchemin would leave this order to co-found another religious community of women: Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Hence, three influential religious communities of women began on this holy site on Paca Street.

Theological College's history began with Paca Street's Catholic roots. Indeed, it is such a fruitful history and a fitting place for seminarians to come and pray at the outset of their formation journeys. May this blessed site and pilgrimage continue to inspire our seminarians in their faith and vocational discernment!



Rev. Ciriaco celebrated Mass for TC seminarians at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, America's first cathedral, during the pilgrimage to Baltimore Sulpician sites after orientation week.

FEATURE

Distinguished Alumnus

Rev. Robert Randall, M.A., S.T.L., Ph.D.

Diocese of Providence

Class of 1951

Father Randall, what inspired you to consider a vocation to the priesthood?

I think there was a higher power working in all this since before I was born! My father, a man of deep faith and tremendous charity, had considered entering the seminary himself after he left the Army in 1923. He had only completed eight years of education, and his pastor said, "Robert, by the time you have finished a priest's education, you would be too old to be of use to the diocese. Why don't you get married, and you will then have two sons as priests." This conversation was unknown to me until it was revealed at my father's wake. In fact, this came to pass. One of my sisters also entered religious life as a Sister of St. Joseph, and two others married and had many children and grandchildren. While my father heavily encouraged us to attain the education he was not able to access, he would never have guessed that I would go on to be awarded some five graduate degrees!

In my youth, I was also inspired by our wonderful curate at St. Mary's Church in Newport, Father Anthony Sarsfield Cotter. He taught us the rosary and consecrated our family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He trained me and my younger brother John for altar serving and choir, as well as boxing, baseball, football, and camping. When we moved to St. Augustine's parish, Father Joe Coleman insisted that we attend his Bible study classes every Sunday afternoon. Our family was also close to the Sisters of Mercy and the Sisters of St. Joseph. Because of all of these influences and the strong encouragement of Father Coleman, in 1943 I joined my brother John at Our Lady of Providence minor seminary. Summers were spent at Newport Country Club where I was caddie master and later golf professional. My students included Lee and Jackie Bouvier (later Kennedy). I finished my philosophy studies at St. Mary's in Baltimore before coming to TC.

"Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be."

Ps 139:16



Father Randall, second from left, with his family in 1953.

What do you remember about your time at Theological College?

There are so many special memories, particularly concerning the people I met. When I came to TC in 1947, almost half of my classmates were war veterans — talented and disciplined men.

With my roommate Tom Phelan, a former Navy lieutenant from Albany, every two weeks we published a journal called *Renovabis Faciem Terrae*. *Renovabis* focused on Catholic social teaching, and it was meant to promote liturgical reform and hopes for a better Church and world.

I had the good fortune to be able to study music theory and piano, thanks to the director of liturgical music at Catholic University at the time, Father Russell Woolen. Before ordination, he resided for several summers with the Von Trapp family as a performer and teacher to the children. I remember once, when the family was visiting, our rector, Father McCormick, invited Maria Von Trapp to give a spiritual conference on the interior life, a presentation he normally would have given himself.

Father Woolen introduced me to my weekly tutor, concert pianist Elizabeth Bareham, a convert to the faith and former student of the famous musician Ignacy Paderewski. Over the years, I was organist for the TC choir at the Sunday Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In my final year, I conducted our choir in Britten's "Ceremony of Carols" and I wrote a Mass in the style of Paul Hindemith for Father Woolen.

Our time under Rector McCormick was most enjoyable and enriching; my years at TC were perhaps the happiest of my life. The

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!"

11 Rom 33

class of 1951 was an impressive one. Two of my (now deceased) classmates later became bishops — Bishop Frank Rodimer of New Jersey and Bishop Joseph Ferrario of Honolulu, a Sulpician. I appreciated our Sulpician mentors very much. In fact, in my deacon year, I requested my bishop's permission to join the Society of St. Sulpice. While he did not approve my request, he did not forget about my appeal to work in the seminary, as I found out later.

Tell us about your first assignments after ordination in 1951.

I was a curate at the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence, where I assisted with hospital ministry, music (including training the boys choir), school chaplaincy, and other pastoral duties. Two years later, the bishop assigned me to teach at the college seminary. My brother, Father John, also joined the faculty as its spiritual director. I have had many adventures since then. I have always been turning over new leaves — finishing one thing and starting another. This is probably why my 70-plus years as a priest have gone by in a snap.

What did you teach?

I taught Latin and English at the seminary. During this time, I also earned an M.A. in American literature from Brown University, and then I was awarded a Fulbright scholarship at Oxford. I sailed over to London on the Queen Mary in 1960. At Oxford, I studied Renaissance poetry under the famous scholar and literary critic Dame Helen Gardner.

What other "adventures" did you have during those busy years?

In the summers I served in local parishes. In 1953, while ministering in Narragansett, I was asked to be "golf chaplain" for the Point Judith Country Club — a position I still hold today! I also wrote a Broadway musical comedy with a former student of mine on Joseph Kennedy and his family's ambitions. All was arranged to have Hal Prince in New York direct and open the show in March

1964. But with the death of President Kennedy a few months earlier, it was cancelled. Two years later, during my assignment as curate at St. Peter's Church (Warwick), I composed the first Mass sung in English in Rhode Island.

When did you become the seminary rector, and how was that experience?

Bishop McViney appointed me rector of the seminary in 1970. That was surprising not only because I was not among the six priests who applied for the job, but also because I hadn't realized how much the bishop valued me. This was due to the fact that he had vetoed some of my most precious desires and plans six times over 20 years: *no* to my request to join the Sulpicians, *no* to my hope to remain as curate at the Cathedral, *no* to my wish to continue competitive golf, *no* to the invitation I had to accept a second Fulbright, *no* (more) to my editorial contributions to local papers, and *no* to my petition to continue residing at the college seminary in 1961. Yet, after all, by the time Bishop McViney died in 1971, he had become my best friend.

As rector, I had to contend with the unrest of the 1960s, when everyone was in "revolution" mode. The bishop was concerned about the fact that, among seminarians, even spiritual practices had become optional. So, I began a difficult year of making the seminary a training ground, not one of personal options. Bishop McViney accompanied me closely in this challenging task, with his stern guiding hand and loving heart. After this, with the new formation program, the number of seminarians declined. In the fall of 1975, I took the remaining 42 seminarians to Providence College to complete their education. I remained, teaching literature and theology there for the next 25 years.

Besides the summers, did you continue in parish ministry while teaching?

I participated in parish ministry all my life except for the nine months at Oxford and five years as rector. Starting in 1975, in addition to my teaching, for 13 years I was pastor of St. Andrew's on Block Island, where my great-grandmother was born. I volunteered to take on this ministry because not one of our 350 priests was willing to go, owing to the condition of the island at the time. Although at first the parish was scheduled to close, I was eventually able to have a new parish center completed. I introduced book clubs, poetry readings, current events discussions, and other cultural forums to bring the parish back to life. The fact that I had island blood in me was surely to my advantage with the islanders. During the following years, the whole island was reborn, with



Father Randall, second from right, with his siblings in 1988.

roads being paved, hotels renovated, sanitation and electricity improved, and social divisions overcome.

In 1988, I became pastor of St. Sebastian Church in Providence, which was also scheduled to close. There, I catalyzed a ministry to the homeless, a first-class music program, night courses in theology, spiritual reading groups, and other initiatives. The congregation actively participated and grew as the parish was renewed. During this time, I was also serving as Chair of the English Department at Providence College. I retired in 1997.

What have you been doing since then?

Until 2005, I continued teaching at Providence College during the fall semesters. In fact, in 2002, I established their first endowed chair, the Rev. Robert Randall Distinguished Professorship Chair in Christian Culture. And in 2018, I helped Theological College establish the Rev. John C. Selner, P.S.S., Endowed Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy at the conclusion of its centennial celebration year.

Since my retirement, from June through December, I live in Rhode Island and, from January through May, I live in Florida. Up to this day, I have served as utility priest at parishes in both places, celebrating three or four Masses per week and remaining engaged with baptisms, weddings, funerals, and hospital visits.

I continue to play golf regularly, though my handicap has gone from a 2 to an 8 or 12! And, as always, I enjoy travelling, writing religious music (Masses and psalms), and reading. I have been

"Not that of ourselves we are qualified to take credit for anything as coming from us; rather, our qualification comes from God, who has indeed qualified us as ministers of a new covenant."

2 Cor 3:5-6

running the St. Joan of Arc Book Club in Boca Raton for the past 22 years.

Who are your favorite authors?

In the genre of spiritual writing, I appreciate the work of Father Louis Boyer; Cardinal Yves Congar, O.P.; Father Karl Rahner, S.J.; Father Thomas (Louis) Merton, O.C.S.O.; Father Henri Nouwen; and Father Richard Rohr, O.F.M. My favorite novelists are François Mauriac, Walker Percy, and Colum McCann. My preferred poets are William Shakespeare, John Donne, T.S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, and Emily Dickinson.

After more than seven decades as a priest, what advice would you give to today's seminarians?

I would pass on much of what the Sulpicians gave me: the primacy of daily prayer and study, the necessity of having a spiritual director, the importance of priestly friendships. I would also greatly emphasize the "ministry of presence." What I did most of my life in ministry was to attend religious services with my parishioners. When I finally left St. Sebastian Church I was told by my parishioners that the thing they appreciated most was my worship with them. If I was not the celebrant, I would worship with them in the sanctuary. Parishioners knew I would be there for them and that fortified their spirit!

Looking back on the rich trajectory of your life, are these the experiences you value the most?

Yes, my pastoral work has been the most treasured of all — St. Peter's in Warwick, St. Andrew's on Block Island, St. Sebastian's in Providence... I have been blessed with titles and honors, but my love is still with being a priest for the people. In sharing all that I have received to feed his flock daily, I showed my love for the Lord Jesus.

I've had many sins and failures, but the Lord has had his way with me and brought forth the hundredfold fruit. He works his will and redemption in unbelievable ways. I realize that I am what I am because of God's mercy and love. I call to mind Gerard Manley Hopkins' words:

*There lives the dearest freshness deep down things ...
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.
("God's Grandeur") ■*

— Suzanne Tanzi

SEMINARY LIFE

Orientation 2022

On Aug. 23, several seminarians from seven different dioceses were joyfully greeted by an energetic orientation team led by Elias Hazkial (3-T, Maronite Eparchy of Los Angeles) and Dylan Prentice (3-T, Washington). In an atmosphere of supportive welcome, their introduction to seminary life was thoughtfully organized. The first priority of the team and their Sulpician formators was a profound focus on the primacy of spiritual commitment in the life of a seminarian. Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, and moments of reflection were offered throughout the week. In tandem with this, the first-years were counseled, with the support of faculty from the Schools of Philosophy and Theology and Religious Studies, in navigating academics at The Catholic University of America, either in the Basselin Scholars Program or in the theology trajectory of studies. In addition, TC's Deacon Ed McCormack, coordinator of intellectual formation, guided each seminarian in individualized advising sessions.

These spiritual and academic priorities must be supported by a commitment to community life. The men came to appreciate this through sharing meals together, small group discussions, shopping and D.C. scavenger hunt excursions, campus tours, evening socials and movie nights, and invitations to participate in activities proposed by the Student Government Association (see page 17). Dylan Prentice reflected on the orientation week they shared: "The positive, compassionate attitude and joyful, upbeat spirit of the orientation team was truly a work of the Holy Spirit and our fervent prayers as we approached orientation week. We wanted our brothers' first impression of TC to be warm, inviting, and a 'Welcome Home!' In the truest spirit of the word, 'fraternity' means brothers united for a common cause. As the orientation team welcomed the new men, the community here truly became a fraternal one — a seminary of brothers conjoined by our common vocational call and discernment, desiring to know, love, and respond to the Lord's call for each of us more fervently and firmly." ■



New seminarians familiarized themselves with Washington, D.C., by way of a scavenger hunt that was crafted to be an enjoyable outing around the city.



Students new to TC were introduced to the department heads during their orientation week. Here, Trent Barton (1-T, Fort Worth), meets the dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, Very Rev. Mark Morozowich, S.E.O.D.



First Impressions

Stephen Parker

First Theology, St. Augustine

Prior to arriving at Theological College, I did not know exactly what to expect. Aside from a few conversations with faculty and a former graduate, I did not know much about Theological College. As I approached the doors of the college for the first time, I was greeted by ten seminarians who were all eager to help me move in and get settled. This overwhelming show of hospitality was indicative of what was to come the rest of orientation week. These men led me, along with the other new seminarians, through the spiritual, academic, and community aspects of seminarian life at Theological College, all centered around the Eucharist and prayer. Having a formation entirely directed and grounded in these characteristics completely orients the seminarian to work through the vehicles God has given to us to access him, so that we may achieve and lead others to fullness of life in Christ through our vocation. After this introductory week, I could not help but feel excited for the place we would all come to call *home* for the next four years.

Stephen Parker is the newest member of The Crossroads student editorial board. In past years, he was the editor-in-chief of The Disciple for the St. John Vianney Seminary in Miami.



The 2022–2023 Student Government Association, from left: James Buttner (4-T, Syracuse), Community Life Chair; Jacob Romero (3-T, Santa Fe), Hispanic Affairs Chair; Michael Marincel (3-B, Fort Worth), Social Justice Chair; Peter Bui (4-T, Worcester), Prayer and Worship Chair; Michael Anctil (2-PT, Richmond), Secretary; Patrick Sweeney (2-B, Albany), Basselin College Representative; David Schettini (4-T, Dallas), Treasurer; and Jacob Gruber (4-T, Pittsburgh), President. Not pictured: Dylan Prentice (Washington), Vice President and Third Theology Representative; Nicolas Rapkoch (Raleigh), Fourth Theology; Blake Thompson (Fort Worth), Second Theology; Lam Vo (Portland, Maine), First Theology; and Robert Paradiso (Rockville Centre), Pre-Theology.

Student Government Association

Every year, a new fraternal cohort of committed, energetic, and creative stewards is elected to serve the TC seminarian community. Herewith, this year's president and chairmen offer some words regarding their hopes for the direction of the SGA in the 2022–2023 academic and formation year.

The vision for this year's **Student Government Association** (SGA) is to renew a sense of ownership and pride in Theological College. Through a redoubled commitment to TC's core values and a special focus on prayer and evangelization, we aim to help all seminarians to become good shepherds and men after God's own heart.

— Deacon Jacob Gruber (4-T, Pittsburgh), SGA President

It is my hope that the **Community Life Committee** will help each member of our house to experience our community as a source of support, encouragement, joy, and inspiration! Certainly, that has consistently been my experience in my past five years here. My goal this year is to discern the particular gifts of this unique community (every year is different...) and ensure that the committee uses its resources to cultivate and manifest those gifts.

— Deacon James Buttner (4-T, Syracuse), CLC Chairman

The **Prayer and Worship Committee** strives to help men discover the endless treasures of Mother Church and experience God's love through faithful and fervent prayer.

— Deacon Peter Bui (4-T, Worcester), PWC Chairman

The **Hispanic Affairs Committee** this year hopes that through prayer in Spanish and eating ethnic food together each week we may build fraternity and learn about different Hispanic cultures. All of this will assist us in our future ministries with the Hispanic communities in our dioceses.

— Jacob Romero (3-T, Santa Fe), HAC Chairman

The mission of the **Social Justice Committee** is to serve those who are most vulnerable and marginalized in our society, especially in our local D.C. community. By ministering to our neighbors in need, we learn to see the face of Christ in his poor ones — in whom he is especially present — and to love him there with all our hearts.

— Michael Marincel (3-B, Fort Worth), SJC Chairman

Hispanic Affairs Hosted Bonfire

The Hispanic Affairs Committee hosted a bonfire on the eve of the feast day for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, beginning with Spanish Night Prayer, followed by an explanation by Elias Hazkial (3-T, Maronite Eparchy of Los Angeles) of the history of bonfires being held on the eve of this great feast.

Fall House Party

On Oct. 21, the TC Community Life Committee hosted a space-themed Fall House Party, a relaxed and light-hearted fraternal evening at the hectic outset of the first semester. There is always a serious note to the evening, as well: the House Party fundraiser, which this year supported Thrive For Life, a ministry within the Archdiocese of New York run by Jesuit Father Zachariah Presutti.

Thrive For Life supports those who have been caught up in the prison system and it leads them to grow in their relationships with God and their neighbors, to complete a higher education, and to turn their lives around. Father Zach and Thrive For Life minister to individuals behind and beyond prison walls. One of the key ministries of Thrive For Life is the Ignacio House of Studies, which is a place where men who are no longer incarcerated can stay and live in community as they joyfully renew and strengthen their relationship with God and their neighbors in society and build toward a better future through higher education.

Funds raised will go to the Thrive For Life initiative in the Washington, D.C., area. Father Zach came to the seminary on Nov. 17 to 18 to speak to seminarians about experience working in prison ministry, and to offer Mass for the community. For more information about the work, or to contribute, go to thriveforlife.org. ■

Iconographer Peter Pearson

Joseph McHenry

Third Theology, Archdiocese of Washington

Peter Pearson is a world-famous iconographer, teacher of icon painting, speaker, and author. He has been studying and painting icons for over five decades and brings a practical, systematic, and grounded approach to this ancient art form that is both contemporary and traditional. Over the course of his ministry as an iconographer, he has studied with a dozen masters and has shared his experience and knowledge with his students at retreats and workshops throughout the United States. Peter has studied theology extensively and holds a Master of Divinity from St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Penn., and a doctorate in theology from Providence Theological School. In his works, Peter focuses on an integrated understanding of this art form, which includes history, technique, theology, and prayer. He has created numerous icons for Theological College, including the Rublev-inspired Trinity in the seminary's Reservation Chapel and TC's four newest icons that depict the Old Testament priestly figures Melchizedek, Aaron, Abel, and Abraham.

Peter, you have been writing icons from an early age. What was the initial impetus and where has it carried you?

I didn't grow up in the Byzantine Church. When I was 12 years old, one of my elementary teachers invited me over for lunch. In the house, there was a small icon on the wall. I was drawn to that icon, finding it exotic, beautiful, and captivating. I asked my teacher questions about this piece of art, then went to the local library looking for books on iconography. I found only one or two. In the 1960s, there was not much interest in icons. For a long time, I more or less had to make up what I was doing. I did not come from a wealthy family so I had to improvise with materials. For instance, I used scrap lumber that my dad brought home from the mill. I worked with whatever I could find.

While I was studying theology in college in Pennsylvania, I was not far from a Russian Orthodox monastery where I could learn more about iconography. After graduate school, I worked in D.C., where I found a 95-year-old Orthodox woman who agreed to be my teacher. This was significant, as up until then it was unheard of for a non-Orthodox person to be taught by one. She was a



In July, Peter Pearson delivered his icons and discussed with the rector their placement on floating shelves in the main chapel gathering space (instead of hanging, to avoid damaging the artwork).

remarkable woman, having fought in the Russian Revolution, and she taught me a tremendous amount. After 10 years in D.C., I entered a Benedictine abbey in Western Pennsylvania. In the novitiate there, I had a lot of time to paint. After the novitiate, I was permitted to drive 20 minutes away to where there was a school of icon painting. It was there I took classes at the studio.

Since 1990, I have had about a dozen teachers. It is important to keep studying. I've been blessed in 53 years to have taught thousands of people through workshops and three published books on iconography.

Can you describe your creative process?

I begin by researching other images of the person I am representing. In iconography, you don't just invent, but you work from prototypes. Nowadays, all I need to do is search for images on Google. Photographs of contemporary saints are a challenge because you need to make them look like they did historically, to some degree. However, you are also representing people that are already transfigured. You need to speak to their saintly existence while also saying something about their lives.

What has your experience with icons taught you about yourself and your relationship with God in prayer?

Personally, I don't pray with icons. My painting of them is the prayer. The words of the prayer are the brushstrokes I make.

Currently, my deepest prayer is in silence. When I paint, the words and my “I” go away, and just the brushstrokes remain.

Practically, I’ve learned a few other things along the way. First, I focus on doing my best and then letting go. In my youth, I was constantly trying to fix things. That was my ego. Second, I try not to mess with things that aren’t broken. Third, I have tried to simplify. Now, I just use seven colors. Not just my painting, but my whole life has been simplified. I think my spiritual journey has been more about subtraction than addition. I now try to paint simply with clear, strong lines and harmonious colors. Over time, my palate of colors has become brighter and more playful, which I think is representative of my spiritual journey.

What can you tell us about your history with TC?

My relationship with the seminary goes back a long time. I had friends in seminary at TC. I became friends with faculty members. In the middle of the 1990s, TC reached out with a desire for a new processional cross. Later, TC liked and acquired a copy of Rublev’s Trinity icon that I had painted for someone else but it did not

end up getting used. The seminary placed it in their Eucharistic reservation chapel. I also painted a series to honor those alumni who have gone on to become Cardinals, depicting their patron saints as well as their coats of arms. Finally, TC commissioned me to paint the three Carmelite saints named Teresa [St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross]. That project was a challenge, because their monochrome habits could have made the icon very boring. I worked hard on the background colors and decided to combine all three into a single panel.

Finally, could you comment on your most recent work for TC: four icons depicting the Old Testament priestly figures of Melchizedek, Aaron, Abel, and Abraham?

Yes, I am very proud of those icons. They were designed from scratch, beginning with a sketch of each figure. I enjoyed working on the project because they were a coherent thematic set. These four icons stretched me and made me learn more, which I think is part of the enjoyment. ■

The New Icons

Righteous Melchizedek and Prophet Aaron are both priests who prefigure the priesthood of Jesus Christ as high priest. Melchizedek is the king and priest of Salem found in the Book of Genesis who took bread and wine and blessed Abraham. The *Letter to the Hebrews* in the New Testament identifies Jesus Christ as high priest in the order of Melchizedek. Prophet Aaron was high priest and elder brother of Moses. His function as high priest is mentioned throughout the Book of Exodus and referenced in the New Testament. ***Melchizedek and Aaron remind the seminarian that his call to the priesthood is rooted in the Old Testament and culminates in the priesthood of Jesus Christ to which they are aspiring.***

Righteous Abel and Patriarch Abraham represent sacrifice. Abel, the son of Adam and Eve and brother of Cain, offers a

sacrifice to God that demonstrates his humble nature, hard work, and fidelity to God. His sacrifice was more pleasing to God than his brother Cain’s offering and, out of jealousy, Cain kills Abel. Just as Abel proffered his lamb to God, so too his own life was forfeited and he became the first in the “great cloud of witnesses,” further underlining the primacy of sacrifice in relationship with the Father. Patriarch Abraham, out of his love for and devotion to God, is willing to sacrifice his son Isaac as an offering. God tested Abraham, who follows through with this test of loyalty. However, an angel halts the sacrifice and commends Abraham for his steadfastness and deep piety. Abraham becomes the patriarch of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. ***Abel and Abraham remind the seminarian of the profound importance of sacrifice. This is exemplified in the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the Cross and the sacrifice of bread and wine changed into the Body***



and Blood of Christ. This Sacrifice is the center of our worship each time we gather in the chapel around the altar of the Lord.

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

Vianney Cup: “LET’S GO TC!”

Deacon James Buttner

Fourth Theology, Diocese of Syracuse

Sept. 24 marked the return to the annual tradition of the Vianney Cup in the fall semester (it was moved to the spring last year, resulting in the interesting case of having two “2022 Vianney Cup” games!). The Vianney Cup is a soccer tournament among four regional major seminaries: Theological College, St. Mary’s Seminary in Roland Park, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, and Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg. The purpose of the tournament is to strengthen fellowship and camaraderie by bringing together seminarians for a day of sporting competition, prayer, and fellowship. Each year, one of the participating seminaries takes a turn hosting the tournament, and this year the tournament took place in Emmitsburg. Tournament play consists of two rounds of 80-minute games on a full-sized pitch with unlimited substitutions.

This year, our house demonstrated a renewed interest and enthusiasm for the tournament, which was further galvanized by the traditional Pep Rally the evening before the tournament. At the rally, the team was introduced, motivational words were delivered by SGA President Rev. Mr. Jacob Gruber, and the house showed its support for the team. The following morning, supported by our formators, Vice-Rector Rev. Chris Arockiaraj and Rector Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, we traveled to Emmitsburg to play against last year’s winning team from the same seminary. Our team had grown in strength and number, thanks especially to the presence of our new seminarians. After gathering for Mass in the chapel with all the players, we headed out to the pitch,



Scoring offensive player John Kist (3-T, Pittsburgh), drives the ball downfield against formidable opponents.



Theological College's 2022 soccer team.

determined to play hard and seek the glory of victory over the dynasty of Mount St. Mary’s. From the start of the game, it was clear that it would be a tough battle and, in the first half, the Mount scored on a well-placed corner kick to take the lead 1–0. But our offense launched a counterattack, led by the agility of Michael Marincel (3-B, Ft. Worth) and after a scramble in front of the goal, TC scored with a masterful header by John Kist (3-T, Pittsburgh). The score was tied!

Spurred on by the enthusiasm of our few but enthusiastic fans, our team continued the effort and, almost out of nowhere, Lam Vo (1-T, Portland, Maine) launched an arching left-footer from just inside the box which sailed across the face of the goal and found the side-netting. TC scored again to take the lead! Our team was ecstatic and crowded around Lam at centerfield to celebrate. The home fans became quiet.

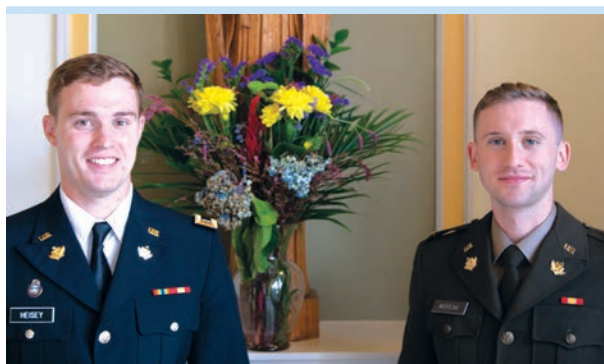
Now in the lead, TC sought to maintain it. The defense fought valiantly, but a swift counterattack by the Mount resulted in a smart goal which tied the game 2–2, with only 10 minutes remaining. TC looked to fire back, with forward John Kist again making a bid and beating their goalie but coming up short in a scramble for the ball with the defenders right in front of the goal. A few minutes later, our goalie (Jackson Nichols, 1-B, Little Rock) was penalized in a controversial call while making a brilliant save. After some uncertainty, the Mount was awarded a penalty kick, and took the lead, 3–2. The game concluded with a final score of 4–2. It was a difficult defeat, but our team was proud of upholding a high standard of play, and of having held a lead against the reigning leading team for the first time since TC’s momentous victory at the Spring 2016 Vianney Cup competition.

After a break for lunch, we played against our fellow Sulpician seminary of St. Mary’s. Our team played well but, ultimately, we were unable to secure a victory. Yet our fans remained dedicated and faithful, supporting the team even through a difficult loss. The day concluded with Vespers and dinner, offering an important moment of relaxed and convivial fraternity and fellowship among the seminaries. The Vianney Cup is a great tradition, providing an opportunity for athleticism, community, and bonding among our own team in the midst of a challenging day of sports. I am extremely grateful for the dedication and effort of the players, our fans who traveled to the tournament, and for the six years that I have been privileged to participate in this enjoyable event. Go TC! ■

Veterans Day

The Archdiocese for the Military in the House

A number of Theological College seminarians and alumni have served — or their parents have served — in the United States Armed Forces. During all-night Adoration that began in the evening of Nov. 11, many prayed for our service men and women, veterans, and their families, and for armed conflicts across the globe. ■



Joe Heisey (3-T, Washington), left, and Sam McPeak (1-PT, Richmond) attended the Memorial Mass for Servant of God Rev. Vincent Capodanno, M.M., on Sept. 6 in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Archdiocese for Military Services requested that those seminarians who are being co-sponsored by the AMS might be permitted to attend this Mass, in uniform, on the 55th anniversary of Father Capodanno's death.



In anticipation of Veteran's Day, Rev. Nicholas Reid (TC '11), a priest for the Diocese of Jefferson City, joined the house for morning Mass on Sept. 2. Father Reid is on active duty as an Air Force chaplain recently assigned to recruiting, and he took the time to share his experience with seminarians and answer their questions about the Archdiocese for Military Services.

First Semester Visiting Bishops



In September, New York seminarian Jack Kristensen (3-B), and third theologians David Birkdale, Paul Kucharski, and Vincent Castaldi enjoyed a visit from their bishop Cardinal Timothy Dolan. Cardinal Dolan returned to TC in mid-November to conduct a preaching-themed *ars praedicandi* weekend of recollection for the house.



Bishop Michael Olson was able to reconnect with Fort Worth seminarians, from left, Trent Barton (1-T), Michael Marincel (3-B), Benjamin Grothouse (3-T), Austin Hoodenpyle (4-T), and Blake Thompson (2-T).



Rockville Centre's Bishop John Barres with his seminarians Robert Paradiso (2-PT), Joseph Krug (3-B), August Horner (3-B), and Rev. Walter Kedjierski, executive director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the USCCB and also a priest of Rockville Centre.

FACULTY AND STAFF



During his time of studies in Rome, Father Cro (right) enjoyed the company of former TC seminarians living at the Pontifical North American College.

Rev. Robert Cro, P.S.S., M.A., S.T.B., M.Div., H.E.L.

Dean of Men
Coordinator of Human Formation

Rev. Robert J. Cro, P.S.S., returned to the formation faculty at Theological College in 2022, assuming the roles of Dean of Men and Coordinator of Human Formation. He served at TC previously as a Sulpician candidate from 2015 to 2017, after which he earned a Licentiate in Church History (H.E.L.) from the Gregorian University in Rome and then was appointed assistant professor of Church history at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Md.

A native of New York, Father Cro attended archdiocesan schools before earning a B.A. with a dual major in classics and physics from Williams College, followed by an M.A. in classical archaeology from Princeton University. Prior to entering the seminary, he also taught overseas in Japan and worked as an educational technology specialist for a large university.

After receiving his S.T.B. and M. Div. from St. Mary's in Baltimore, Father Cro was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Trenton in 2012. He served as a parochial vicar there for three years before entering the Society of St. Sulpice in 2015.

Rev. John McNerney, M.Litt., S.T.B., Ph.D.

Director of Basselin Scholars

Rev. John McNerney joined the Theological College community in 2022 as a member of the formation faculty and director of Basselin Scholars, after serving at The Catholic University of America as a visiting research scholar in the department of politics. At Catholic University, he was a fellow and the Michael J. Novak Distinguished Scholar at the Art and Carlyse Ciocca Center for Principled Entrepreneurship and accompanying scholar for the Röpke-Wojtyła Fellowship, as well as a faculty scholar at the Institute for Human Ecology.

His expertise and research areas are in the development of a philosophy of the human person and its consequences for business life and in Catholic social thought. He is author of *Wealth of Persons: Economics with a Human Face* (2016) and *John Paul II: Poet and Philosopher* (2004). His next books, due to be published in 2023, are titled *Crossing the Threshold: Philosophical-Esthetic Elucidations on the Human Person* and *Myself as Another: Reflections on Who I Am*. He has authored numerous essays and articles illuminating the interplay between community and business, entrepreneurship and human fulfillment, fraternity and multifaith collaboration, art and truth, grace and humanity, and other profound themes. An acclaimed speaker, he has been a presenter at engagements on campuses and venues around the world, including several universities in China.

A native of Ireland, Father McNerney earned his B.A., M.Litt., and Ph.D. (philosophy) degrees at University College Dublin. He earned his S.T.B. at the Gregorian University in Rome. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Dublin in 1989, his first ministry was as a high school religion and theology teacher, then as chaplain and student advisor, and later the head of the chaplaincy department at University College Dublin. There he was also lecturer in business ethics and philosophy, organizing major international conferences and events exploring religious, esthetical, and philosophical topics.

Right: Father McNerney celebrated Mass during orientation week, when he first met the seminarians community.



Milestone Anniversaries

Twenty-Five Years of Priestly Ministry

Rev. Jim McKearney, P.S.S.

*Director of Music and John C. Selner Endowed Chair
for Sacred Music and Liturgy*



Forty-Five Years of Hospitality

Ms. Paulette Fullard

Sodexo Assistant Manager



Vice-Rector Rev. Chris Arockiaraj Leads Focus on New P.P.F.

The annual meeting of The National Association of Catholic Theological Schools (NACTS) was held on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 in Schaumburg, Ill. The 70 participants from various seminaries all over the country were mainly rectors, vice-rectors, academic deans, and coordinators of pastoral formation. This year, the sessions and presentations focused on the implementation of the sixth edition of the *Program for Priestly Formation*. The conference was moderated by Lansing Bishop Earl Boyea, who serves on the sub-committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations for the USCCB. Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, vice-rector and coordinator of pastoral formation, represented Theological College at the conference, and was able to share its outcomes with TC's formation faculty.

Class Notes

50s

Rev. Robert Randall, '51, of the Diocese of Providence, offered an interview for this issue of *The Crossroads*! See page 13 to celebrate his memories of a blessed and fruitful life, and news of his current activities and ministries in retirement.

60s

Rev. Peter Graziano, '63, of the Diocese of Fall River, shared that he is 87 years old and now living in his hometown of Winthrop, Mass., in his family home, and assisting at his home parish.

Rev. John Sarge, B '68, of the Diocese of Saginaw, let us know that he is enjoying retirement as he serves as a sacramental minister at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Bay City, Mich.

80s

Monsignor Michael Clay, '80, Class Representative and 2019 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient, of the Diocese of Raleigh, presented an academic paper titled, "The Ministry of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3): Laying Foundations," at the first session of the sixth phase of international ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in June 2022. The focus of this phase of dialogue is on the Holy Spirit. Monsignor Clay's paper addressed the Catholic Church's understanding of the word "ministry" and the role the Holy Spirit plays in the various ministries that exist in the Church.

Rev. Frank Murray, '81, 2018 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been

named the temporary administrator of St. Michael Parish (St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Augusta; St. Augustine Church, Augusta; St. Michael School, Augusta; St. Joseph Church, Gardiner; Sacred Heart Church, Hallowell; St. Denis Church, Whitefield; St. Francis Xavier Church, Winthrop), effective Aug. 31, after the unexpected death of Father John Skehan, '86, former pastor of St. Michael Parish.

Very Rev. Martin A. Linebach, V.G., K.H.S., '87, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed interim vocation director for the Archdiocese of Louisville while continuing to serve as rector of the Cathedral of the Assumption and vicar general.

Rev. Anthony L. Chandler, '89, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed interim president and CEO of Catholic Charities in Fort Worth, Tex., after having served as vocation director for the archdiocese since 2019. He will minister in this role until 2023.

00s

Rev. Robert M. Kinnally, '05, Class Representative, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish in New Canaan, and vice chancellor of the Diocese of Bridgeport since 2014, has been appointed vicar general of the diocese by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano, effective July 1. Father Kinnally will continue to serve as pastor of St. Aloysius.

10s

Rev. Aaron M. Qureshi, '10, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Hilltop and St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Port Tobacco to serve as parochial vicar

of All Saints Catholic Newman Center at Arizona State University in Tempe, Ariz., effective July 6, 2022.

Rev. Nicholas Reid, '11, a priest of the Diocese of Jefferson City, is serving as an Air Force chaplain based at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Father Reid visited Theological College on Sept. 2 (see p. 21), to provide information on behalf of the Archdiocese of Military Services regarding chaplaincy in the armed forces. He remarked that his time at TC was especially memorable, recalling his excellent Sulpician formators, along with the advantage of taking classes at The Catholic University of America, situated in the nation's capital.

Rev. Daniel B. Carson, '12, Class Representative, has been transferred from his ministry as moderator of the curia and vicar general for the Archdiocese of Washington, to serve as pastor of St. Peter's Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., effective July 6, 2022.

Rev. Scott S. Holmer, '13, Class Representative, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as pastor of St. Edward Catholic Church in Bowie to serve as parochial vicar of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Rockville, effective July 6, 2022.

Rev. Jeremy J. Mohler, '15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Braddock/Churchill/Forest Hills/Swissvale/Wilmerding to serve as hospital chaplain to the Catholic patients at UPMC East and Forbes Regional Hospitals and part-time parochial vicar of Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish, Monroeville/Penn Hills, effective July 1, 2022.

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2012, Class of 1997, and Class of 1972, who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, and 50th anniversaries of ordination to the priesthood this year!

CLASS NOTES

Rev. William D. Wuenschel, '15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was installed as pastor of Saint Aidan Parish by Bishop David A. Zubik on Oct. 30. He had been serving there as senior parochial vicar since July 2020.

Rev. Keith T. Burney, '16, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda to serve as administrator of St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Hilltop and St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Port Tobacco, effective July 6, 2022.

Rev. Harold Escarcega, B '16, ordained by Bishop Thomas Olmsted on June 4 for the Diocese of Phoenix, is serving as parochial vicar of Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix.

Rev. Daniel R. Waruszewski, '17, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of All Saints Parish, Butler/Center/Lyndora/Meridian to serve as parochial vicar of St. Aidan Parish, Wexford, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. Andrew C. Clyne, '18, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Parish in College Park to serve as parochial vicar of St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish in Bethesda, effective July 6, 2022.

Rev. Aaron Kelly, B '18, ordained by Bishop Salvatore Matano on July 2 for the Diocese of Rochester, served his summer ministry at Peace of Christ Parish in Rochester and the diocesan tribunal before returning to Rome to complete his final two years of studies.

Rev. Maurice Moon, '18, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed director

of seminarians for the diocese, effective June 1, 2022. Father Moon will continue to serve as chaplain of Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

Rev. Matthew Browne, '19, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of the Parish of St. Dominic in Oyster Bay to serve as associate director of Evangelization and Catechesis and the bishop's delegate to the Department of Education, with residence at the Parish of Saint Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.

Rev. Brendan H. Dawson, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar in New Castle of the churches of Holy Spirit, St. Anthony, St. Camillus de Lellis, St. James the Apostle, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Mary, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Vitus to serve as pastor of St. Jude Parish in Pittsburgh, which also includes St. Raphael (Morningside) and Sacred Heart (Shadyside), effective Sept. 12, 2022.

Rev. Timothy X. Deely, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Bellevue), Sacred Heart (Emsworth), St. John Neumann (Franklin Park), to serve as pastor of the newly established Regina Coeli Parish, Bellevue/Emsworth/Franklin Park, for a term of six years, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. David J. Egan, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Ferdinand (Cranberry), Holy Redeemer (Ellwood City), and St. Gregory (Zelienople) to serve as parochial vicar of the newly established Divine Grace Parish, Cranberry/Ellwood City/Zelienople, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. Christopher Masla, '19, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of Church of the Incarnation in Charlottesville and Our Lady of the Rosary in Crozet to serve as parochial vicar of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Roanoke, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. Cassidy Stinson, '19, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg to serve as administrator of St. Jude Catholic Church in Christiansburg, and as chaplain of the Catholic Campus Ministry serving Radford University, effective July 1, 2022.

20s

Rev. Anthony Ferguson, '20, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar of St. Andrew Catholic Church in Roanoke to serve as parochial vicar of St. Bede Catholic Church in Williamsburg, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. Thomas Lawrence, '21, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been named parochial vicar of St. Vincent de Paul in Newport News in addition to continuing to serve as parochial vicar of St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Fort Monroe and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Hampton, effective July 1, 2022.

Rev. Brett Metzler, '21, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, after completing his studies at The Catholic University of America for his S.T.L. degree in systematic theology, has been appointed director of vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective June 1, 2022.

Rev. Scott Bahrke, '22, ordained by Bishop David P. Talley on June 4 for the

CLASS NOTES

Diocese of Memphis, is serving as parochial vicar of Church of the Incarnation in Collierville.

Rev. Gabe Bouck, '22, ordained by Bishop David P. Talley on June 4 for the Diocese of Memphis, is serving as parochial vicar of St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church in Memphis.

Rev. Ryan Braam, '22, ordained by Cardinal Wilton Gregory on June 18 for the Archdiocese of Washington, is serving as parochial vicar of St. John Francis Regis Parish in Hollywood.

Rev. John De Guzman, '22, Class Representative, ordained by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama on June 4 for the Diocese of Raleigh, is serving as parochial vicar of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Cary.

Rev. Carlos Del La Rosa, '22, ordained by Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey on June 18 for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, is serving as parochial vicar of St. Pius X Church in Corpus Christi.

Rev. David Schmidt, '22, ordained by Bishop David Zubik on June 25 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, served over the summer as parochial vicar of Regina Coeli Parish, Bellevue/Emsworth/Franklin Park. Father Schmidt returned as a resident priest to Theological College this fall to pursue an S.T.L. degree in Marriage and Family at the Saint John Paul II Institute of Marriage and Family.

Rev. Charles Silvas, '22, ordained by Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey on June 18 for the Diocese of Corpus Christi, is serving as

parochial vicar of Ss. Cyril and Methodius Church as well as chaplain of two diocesan schools: John Paul II High School and Bishop Garriga Middle Preparatory School in Corpus Christi.

Rev. Wade Trainor, '22, ordained by Bishop Kevin J. Sweeney on May 28 for the Diocese of Paterson, is serving as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Boonton. Father Trainor will continue summer classes at The Catholic University of America while residing at TC as he pursues a degree in canon law over the next few summers.

Rev. Kyle Vance, '22, ordained by Cardinal Wilton Gregory on June 18 for the Archdiocese of Washington, is serving as parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Parish in Kensington, Md. ■



At the end of September, Rev. Ryan Braam ('22, Washington) celebrated the Eucharist with his former TC brothers.



Rev. Kyle Vance ('22, Washington) celebrated Mass for the community in October, followed by first blessings.

In Memoriam



Rev. Jerome A. Dixon, J.C.L., '57, died on Oct. 17, 2021, at the age of 91 of natural causes. Father Dixon attended St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Penn., earning a B.A. degree before entering St. Vincent's seminary. Later, he attended Theological College and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Pittsburgh by Bishop John Dearden on May 25, 1957, at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. A year after his ordination, he received his canon law degree from The Catholic University of America.

Father Dixon's priestly ministry, which spanned over six decades, was varied and fruitful. He served as both a tribunal secretary and judge for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and as a chaplain for the following groups and institutions: the Sisters of St. Francis, the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, Mercy Hospital, Passavant Hospital, and the Little Sisters of the Poor. An amateur pilot, he also served as chaplain of the U.S. Air Force Reserves for 23 years. Additionally, he served as parochial vicar at both St. Maurice and St. Sylvester parishes and as pastor at St. Ursula Church, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and St. Athanasius before becoming the administrator at the Dearden Center for retired priests. In July 2000, he retired to the Little Sisters of the Poor where he had been serving as chaplain. There, he continued to serve the sick and offered Mass daily until just weeks before his death.

Fondly remembered by many at his passing, especially by those he served as chaplain, Father Dixon was described as "a gentle presence readily available to address the spiritual and sacramental needs of our sisters," while another shared the following heartfelt tribute: "Remembering Fr. Dixon when he was chaplain at Mt. Assisi Academy in my senior year. He taught religion classes, counseled students, served Mass, and gave beautiful sermons directed to the students' lives. Father also handed me my high school diploma in 1960 and I was pleased to meet him again at Little Sisters of the Poor where he served and lived, when I was a volunteer. He was the example that should be followed by every priest ... dedicated to God and God's people."

Most Reverend David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, presided

at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Dixon on Oct. 22, 2021, at the Little Sisters of the Poor Chapel in Pittsburgh with interment following at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Pittsburgh. Memorial donations may be sent to The Little Sisters of the Poor, 1028 Benton Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15212, or The Martha Fund.



Rev. Pasquale "Pat" Jude Apuzzo, '76, died on Oct. 11, 2020, at the age of 71. A native of New Haven, Conn., Father Apuzzo attended St. Thomas Seminary in Hartford and later earned a B.A. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Richmond by Bishop Walter Sullivan on Nov. 27, 1976, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond.

Father Apuzzo initially served at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart from 1976 through 1979, then at Sacred Heart Church in Richmond from 1980 to 1982. In 1982, he received his first pastorate, St. Patrick in Church Hill, where he served until 1994. That year, he was assigned to minister at St. Olaf in Williamsburg and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Quinton, serving both parishes until 1997. During that time, he was also assigned to St. Elizabeth in Richmond — an assignment that overlapped with his being pastor of Holy Rosary in Richmond from 2000 to 2001. Father Apuzzo was named administrator of St. Gabriel in Chesterfield in 2001, and pastor in 2003. He was also pastor of Good Samaritan in Chesterfield, beginning in 2010. He concluded both pastorates in 2013.

While ministering in parishes, Father Apuzzo also served the diocese. From 1979 until 1985, he worked as director of the Office of Worship and, from 1984 until 1987, he served as director of the Office of Stewardship. From 1994 until 2004, he was secretary to Bishop Walter F. Sullivan. Additionally, he wrote commentaries for *The Catholic Virginian* in the final year before his death.

Many fond remembrances were noted by friends and former parishioners upon Father Apuzzo's passing. One family shared the following tribute: "Father Pat brought the unconditional love of Christ to everyone he met. We always looked forward to his

IN MEMORIAM

celebrating Mass at St. Timothy's in Tappahannock. My husband, two grandsons, and I have all been touched and affirmed by his love for Christ and all humanity."

Because Father Apuzzo passed during the pandemic, a celebration of his life was livestreamed at Bliley's Funeral Home on Augusta Avenue in Richmond on Oct. 23, 2020; his burial was private. Later, Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout presided at a Memorial Mass for Father Apuzzo on Nov. 19, 2020, at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Midlothian where he had served as pastor for many years.



Rev. Michael L. Stewart, '76, died on July 10, 2022, at the age of 84. Before Father Stewart pursued his vocation as a priest, he was employed with the Illinois Central Railroad. Additionally, he served in the United States Army Reserve Medical Corps as a Sergeant First Class from 1960 to 1966.

In September 1968, Father Stewart entered the seminary at St. Bernard Benedictine College in Cullman, Ala., and completed his B.A. degree at St. Mary's Seminary College in Baltimore, Md. He also received an M.A. degree in theology from Catholic University while at Theological College.

Father Stewart was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Memphis on January 11, 1975, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He initially served as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Memphis. He continued to serve as associate pastor of four parishes for the next several years as well as serving as chaplain and teacher at Bishop Byrne High School and later at St. Agnes Academy and Memphis Catholic High School. His first pastorate assignment was at Immaculate Conception in Union City. In July 1986, he became pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, where he designed and built the new church with seating for over 800 parishioners. Father Stewart then founded and established St. Brigid Catholic Church as a new parish in Southeast Memphis, where he also designed, built, and dedicated the new church on Sept. 8, 2003.

Father Stewart retired from active ministry in July 2006, though

he continued to celebrate Masses for various parishes. Additionally, he served as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

Known as "Uncle Mickey" by his family, friends, and most of Memphis, Father Stewart "touched the lives of many during his faithful life, administering many holy sacraments to family, friends, and parishioners," as noted by his family's tribute at his passing.

Monsignor J. Edwin Creary presided at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Stewart with Most Reverend David P. Talley, Bishop of Memphis, in attendance, on July 15, 2022, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Germantown with interment following at Calvary Cemetery in Memphis. Memorial donations may be sent to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 8151 Poplar Ave., Germantown, TN 38138, or St. Brigid Catholic Church, 7801 Lowrance Rd., Memphis, TN 38125.



Rev. John A. Abe, '84, Class Representative, died on July 24, 2022, at the age of 65, under hospice care after a prolonged struggle with early-onset dementia. Born in Washington, D.C., Father Abe attended Catholic schools in Arlington before enrolling in Virginia Tech, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and finance. While pursuing his degree at Virginia Tech, Father Abe was strongly influenced by the Catholic campus ministry of Father Jerry Przywara and thus began his discernment to become a priest. He entered into seminary studies at Theological College in 1979, earning a master's degree in theology in 1984. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Richmond by Bishop William Sullivan on May 12, 1984, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Richmond.

After ordination, Father Abe served his first three pastoral assignments as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Hampton from 1984 to 1986; St. Mark Catholic Church in Virginia Beach from 1986 to 1988; and St. Andrew Catholic Church in Roanoke from 1988 to 1989. His first pastorate was at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Staunton from 1989 to 2005. Subsequent pastorates included St. Bede Catholic Church

in Williamsburg from 2005 to 2010, and St. Matthew Catholic Church in Virginia Beach from 2010 to 2017. Additionally, Father Abe served as associate state chaplain of the Virginia Knights of Columbus and was an active member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

Father Abe's dedicated priestly ministry, spanning over three decades, revealed his love of the priesthood by his devotion to the communities he served with compassion, administrative skill, and a great sense of humor. He was a true shepherd to the people he served as he advocated for the sacraments, Catholic education, and the right to life. Additionally, Father Abe was an accomplished speaker and community builder. He strove to help his parishes and schools grow to reach their highest potential. He loved to travel, leading numerous international trips abroad, including pilgrimages to Rome, Ireland, and the Holy Land.

Many heartfelt tributes at his passing from former parishioners, family, and friends expressed the immense love and appreciation for Father Abe, as noted in the following: "I just heard of Father's passing. I have no doubt that he now looks upon the Face of God. He baptized my husband after we had been married 25 years. Father played a huge role in his conversion. I worked under Father at St. Francis of Assisi, and it was the best job I ever had. Our love to Father's family. He loved his mom and dad so much. He was one of the good ones and I have no doubt that he is praying for more good priests to answer the call."

A Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Father Abe on Monday, Aug. 1, 2022, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Richmond with interment following at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Richmond. Memorial donations may be made to Saint Francis Home, 65 W. Clopton St., Richmond, VA 23225, or to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America.



Rev. John R. Skehan, '86, died unexpectedly on Aug. 31, 2022, at the age of 66. Before entering the seminary, Father Skehan followed in his father's footsteps and became an educator. He was the educational coordinator for "Up with People" and a junior high

science teacher in Oakland, Maine. In addition to his teaching duties, he was involved in coaching various sports.

Father Skehan completed his formation and studies at Theological College and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Edward C. O'Leary on May 24, 1986, at St. Matthew's Church in Hampden. His first assignment was as parochial vicar at Notre Dame Parish in Waterville, including campus ministry at Colby College and Unity College. In the late 1980s, Father John was appointed chaplain of Maine Medical Center in Portland, where he would serve until being named pastor of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish in Houlton. Following his time in Houlton, he was appointed as the director of the Office of Parish Planning for the Diocese of Portland. In the mid-2000s, he was named pastor of St. Michael Parish in South Berwick and Our Lady of Peace Parish in Berwick. In addition to his duties in South Berwick and Berwick, Father Skehan was appointed pastor of St. Christopher Parish in York and St. Raphael Parish in Kittery. He also volunteered as the chaplain for the Berwick Fire Department.

After leaving York County, Father Skehan was named pastor of the Parish of the Transfiguration of the Lord, Stella Maris Parish, and St. Joseph Parish in Hancock County. In 2018, he was named pastor of St. Michael Parish in Augusta, which also serves the communities of Winthrop, Gardiner, Hallowell, and Whitefield.

Father Skehan served the Catholic communities of Maine with kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, and, above all, with an innate desire to be of service to God and others. As noted in the heartfelt homily offered by Monsignor Paul Stefanko (TC '76), Father Skehan's confrere and good friend, during his Mass of Christian Burial, "He was always giving back. He was one who recognized that giving and sharing never diminishes one but paradoxically enriches one and others. He was a truly humble and self-effacing man. ... That is how Father John lived his life as a person and that is how he lived out his priestly ministry. He was always doing for others, including times he would drop everything to serve those entrusted to his care. What an example and a challenge he provides for us all."

A concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial was offered on Sept. 5, 2022, at St. Augustine Church, with Most Reverend Robert P. Deeley as the principal celebrant. Interment immediately followed at St. Mary's Cemetery in Manchester. Memorial donations may be made to St. Michael School, 56 Sewall St., Augusta, ME 04330. ■



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