

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

# *The* **Crossroads**

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Fall 2023

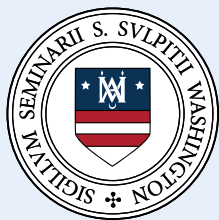


TC'S  
NEW RECTOR

ALUMNI DAY  
2023

DEACON PASTORAL  
MINISTRIES





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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.



**MEET THE RECTOR**

Father Bud Stevens introduces himself while welcoming the more than 30 guests who attended Alumni Day 2023 (see page 5).

**ORDINATIONS 2023**

Right, Deacon Nathaniel Roberts celebrated his first baptism, for his nephew, a few hours after his diaconate ordination. Theological College celebrated 30 diaconate and priestly ordinations this year.

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**INSPIRING THEOLOGIAN**

The rector inaugurates his new column, "Theologians for Our Times," with a tribute to Saint John Henry Newman. (This 1940 portrait of Newman currently hangs in one of the McMahon Hall offices on the Catholic University campus.)

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**DEACON MINISTRIES**

TC deacons reflect on their pastoral ministry assignments across three dioceses.

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**Front Cover:** Father Bud Stevens, P.S.S., prepares for the Profession of the Faith during his installation in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on August 27, 2023.



## The Work of a Theological College

**M**y few short months at Theological College have been some of the most blessed in my life. The faculty and staff are among the best with whom I have ever served, and the seminarians inspire me with their zeal for the faith and love for the Church. I anticipated that this would be a positive transition, but the reality has exceeded my expectations.

Prior to assuming the role of rector, I spent much time in prayer to prepare for this new ministry. One of the things I reflected upon was the very name of this institution, “Theological College.” It is rather an odd name for a seminary. Most such schools are named after saints (St. Mary’s, St. Joseph’s) or perhaps articles of faith (Sacred Heart, Immaculate Conception). By contrast, “Theological College” seems like a prosaic and functional designation. Perhaps, however, that is not the case. Indeed, as unprepossessing as it may first appear, “Theological College” may contain some deeper significance that could point to the core mission of the school.

Consider the first part of our name, “Theological.” What does it mean for something or someone to be theological? What, in fact, is theology? It can be considered a field of study dealing with issues of a religious nature or a branch of knowledge among others. I would suggest, however, that the term points to something more profound. When did theology begin? At what point in our long evolutionary journey did humans begin asking questions of a theological nature? I believe the correct answer is that we cannot talk about a specifically human history until there is something like theological consciousness. Pope Benedict XVI, of blessed memory, contends that until there are beings who have achieved awareness of living in the presence of a sacred mystery, we cannot speak of humanity in the full sense of the term. In fact, he, among many others, makes the claim that such awareness is the *sine qua non* of humanity. What makes us human is the capacity for awe before the numinous, a desire to worship the divine, to embody it in action and pose questions of a truly profound nature. One can make the case that to be a human is to be a theological animal.



The work of a theological college recognizes that our religious nature reflects our social nature as humans.

Now let us look at the second part of the seminary’s name, “College.” This comes from the Latin *collegium*. In the most general sense, it can be applied to any corporate group or association. In the context of education, a college is the joint exploration for the truth and a shared enterprise directed towards the transmission of knowledge. The work of a theological college recognizes that our religious nature reflects our social nature as humans. The search for and formation into divine truth cannot be carried out as a private quest but must instead be dialogical and communal if theology is to achieve its end.

It occurs to me that, in our day and age, the name “Theological College” is somewhat countercultural. A secular age, one in which the reality of the sacred is denied and thus the legitimacy of theology is called into radical doubt, presents certain dangers. If our humanity emerges from the awareness of the holy, then the abeyance of such awareness impoverishes and compromises us as a species. Our world is also becoming more fragmented, polarized, and individualized. In such an environment, the existence of any *collegium* becomes precarious and our quest for any truth impeded.

It is my deepest hope and prayer that, with your help and support, this venerable institution will continue to rise to the occasion to fulfill its mission and be what it is called to be, a truly Theological College.

*Fr. Gladstone Stevens, P.S.S.*

**Rev. Gladstone (Bud) Stevens, P.S.S.**  
Rector

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Welcoming the New Rector

Suzanne Tanzi

**A**t the Theological College opening Mass on Aug. 27, Father Gladstone “Bud” Stevens, S.T.L., Ph.D., was installed as the 18th rector. The Archbishop of Washington, Cardinal Wilton Gregory, presided over a Mass which was honored by 26 concelebrants, among whom were Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar-Ayala, of the Archdiocese of Washington; Monsignor Walter Rossi, Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception; Gregory Schnakenberg, O.P., Prior of the Dominican House of Studies; Monsignor John Paul Pedrera, representative of the Apostolic Nuncio; Rev. Carter Griffin, Rector of the Saint John Paul II Seminary; former TC rectors Rev. Lawrence Terrien, P.S.S., and Rev. Mel Blanchette, P.S.S., along with several other Sulpician Fathers. Rev. Ron Witherup, P.S.S., former Sulpician Superior General, offered gracious opening remarks and later introduced Father Stevens as an excellent, highly qualified candidate for rector to Cardinal Gregory, who confirmed the proceedings.

Cardinal Gregory’s homily on the apropos reading (*Romans* 11:33-36) was concluded by underlining the connection between the identity of Peter as the Rock of the Church to the identity of Father Stevens as new rector. Addressing him, the Cardinal supportively asserted, “You will have an opportunity to serve the Lord’s people, like the commission of Peter in today’s Gospel. Such responsibility will bring challenges and, occasionally, some anguish. Yet, when done with a generous spirit, it will also bring all the graces needed to fulfill your responsibilities and the joy and satisfaction of seeing the young men entrusted to your care advance in the ways of holiness in life. May your service as rector of TC help you and all under your care discover in faith the true identity of Christ, and hence to bring him to others with intense joy.”

After leading the congregation in the Profession of the Faith and pronouncing and signing the Oath of Fidelity as rector, Father Stevens offered some remarks inspired by a surprise gift he received that morning from his sisters, Pamela Stevens and Dr. Sandra Stevens, who were able to attend the installation. “Pelagianism is the most pernicious of all heresies precisely because it denies the absolute necessity for grace. The gift of a new *Liturgy of the Hours* from my sisters reminded me that everything in ministry must begin with, be sustained by, and



The Archdiocese of Washington’s Cardinal Wilton Gregory presided at the Installation Mass for the new rector.



Father Gladstone (Bud) Stevens, P.S.S., celebrated his installation as rector with seminarians from the Archdiocese of Louisville.



lead to ever deeper prayerful encounters with Christ. The work of priestly formation begins with Christ’s compassion upon the crowd who were like sheep without a shepherd. The whole work of the seminary must be an extension of the Lord’s compassion and his promise that he would send them shepherds.”

The close collaboration that Father Stevens has already begun to engage in with the University was evidenced by the supportive presence, among others, of President Peter Kilpatrick; Dr. Aaron Dominguez, Provost; Dean of the School of Philosophy and Theology, Dr. John McCarthy; and Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, Dr. Joseph Capizzi. All were invited to celebrate with Father Stevens’ family, close friends, and TC faculty, staff, and seminarians at a convivial reception in Olier Hall.

The entire Theological College–Catholic University community is filled with gratitude for the seminary’s new shepherd, and pray for a fruitful and joyful formation year ahead.

“The whole work of the seminary must be an extension of the Lord’s compassion and his promise that he would send them shepherds.

— Father Bud Stevens



Father Bud with Dr. Joe Capizzi, Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies (left) and Catholic University President Peter Kilpatrick.

**The Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, appointed Sulpician Father Bud Stevens as the rector of Theological College on July 1, 2023.**

This appointment received the requisite approvals of Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington; Peter Kilpatrick, Ph.D., President of The Catholic University of America; and The Very Rev. Shayne Craig, P.S.S., Superior General of the Society of St. Sulpice.

Father Stevens, a priest of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was ordained in 2000, and joined the Sulpicians in 2002. He is a member of the Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, and is the First Consultor. A native of Connecticut, he was raised in Nashville. He graduated from Quincy College, Ill., in 1989, and earned a doctorate in theology from Marquette University in 1997. His specialization is systematic theology, and he regularly teaches courses on the priesthood and the Eucharist.

Father Stevens has served on the formation and academic faculties of St. Mary’s Seminary & University in Baltimore, and as its academic dean, praeses (head of the Ecclesiastical Theological faculty), and vice-rector.

He also served on the formation and academic faculties of St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, Calif., and as academic dean, vice-rector, and rector there.

Father Stevens was a member of the committee that composed the Sixth Edition of *The Program for Priestly Formation* for the United States. He is a highly regarded retreat and convocation leader for priests. He also regularly assists in parishes, celebrating liturgies and giving conferences. He is a chaplain for the Order of Malta. ■



Bishop Michael Olson presided at the Alumni Day Mass before the award dinner in his honor.

**Alumni Day 2023**

**Deacon Daniel Kushner**  
*Fourth Theology, Diocese of Pittsburgh*

Alumni Day at Theological College is a time for priests and bishops to return to the place of their formation, to share their own stories of how that formation has been put into practice over the years, to reminisce with former classmates, and to enjoy some generous Sulpician hospitality. For seminarians, Alumni Day is a reminder that life does indeed exist outside of the classroom setting. It is a day for all to be challenged, encouraged, and inspired. The Alumni Day held on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, was no exception.

This was due in no small part to the number of alumni who returned — 28 in total. This made for an impressive entrance procession to the alumni Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The community was also blessed to host some special guests from Fort Worth as well as Catholic University President Peter Kilpatrick and his wife, Nancy.

Bishop Michael Olson, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, presided over the Mass on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, giving a captivating homily on creation, configuration, and poverty. He called us all to embrace our own poverty through “honest and regular prayer,” and so be configured with Christ who is “our inheritance.” For the post-Communion reflection, the TC Schola gave a stirring rendition of “Ô Jésus, vivant en Marie” — “O Jesus living in Mary” — that would have moved even Sulpician founder Father Jean-Jacques Olier to tears.

Following the celebration of the sacred mysteries, the festivities continued at Theological College. After the beef tenderloin and salmon stuffed with crab had been appreciated and the wine had been passed around, it was time to present the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award to Bishop Olson, Basselin Class of 1989,

“in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding priestly service as an educator, formator, rector, and champion of ecumenical dialogue and health care ethics.”

Upon receiving his award, he began his remarks by saying, “This is my third time here [at TC] in six weeks.” He joked, “I think that now qualifies for the vocational synthesis stage.” He said that when a Bishop travels, “people can start to complain that you are away from the diocese too much. So, this time, I brought the diocese with me!” With this comment, he recognized the four Fort Worth alumni who were in attendance, as well as Father Jonathan Wallis, vicar general and director of seminarian formation, and diocesan supporters Mr. Clint Walker and Mr. Steve Brecht. He thanked them all for their supportive spirit and dedication to the presbyterate.

When reflecting on what he learned at Theological College, the first point the bishop shared was this: “You are the agent of your own formation. Christ is the chief formator, but you’re second. Only you can respond to him; nobody else can do that for you.” Secondly, he expressed, “I’m very grateful for the Basselin Scholars Program. You’ll meet crazy Basselins, you’ll meet Basselins that are hardworking and dedicated, but you will never meet a lazy Basselin...because we were given a gift...”

Bishop Olson went on to describe the circumstances that would lead to his knowledge of and his acceptance into the Basselin Program. It was entirely due to the discovery of an informational flyer found in a wastebasket in Chicago, by “chance.” In true Basselin form, the bishop stated, “Aristotle tells us that chance is the least perfect form of causality because it lacks unity and it lacks purpose. But God even uses that. So don’t overlook chance in your life and don’t overlook God talking to you through that mystery.” After singing the *Salve Regina*, the Theological College alumni and students returned to their ministries and their studies a little more challenged, encouraged, and inspired. May God bless us in our ministries, wherever they take us. In the meantime, we hope to see you next year! ■

Seminarians and alumni priests from the Diocese of Fort Worth with their bishop.





# New Advent Sculpture

“Beauty will save the world.”  
— Fyodor Dostoyevsky

In spring 2023, Theological College welcomed the new National Life Monument, titled *Advent*, created by acclaimed Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz. The magnificent statue is situated in the Bleichner Sculpture Garden on TC grounds at the intersection of 4th St. and Michigan Ave. The garden was a gift from the Sulpician Fathers — dedicated to recently deceased former TC rector (1991–2002), Rev. Howard Bleichner, P.S.S. — in honor of their confrères, colleagues, and alumni. The monument itself was a gift from patrons Michael and Carole Ritchie, in thanksgiving for mothers and the gift of life. According to the sculptor, the statue is meant to celebrate beauty and new life, erected to be a bold pro-life assertion in the nation’s capital. As a Catholic, he believes that the work of Catholic artists is about creating “visible ambassadors” of the faith to witness “in a culture that’s trying to remove Christianity.”

Father Daniel Moore, provincial superior of the U.S. Society of St. Sulpice, who hosted the dedication ceremony, explained that he hopes Schmalz’s statue will help people realize the sacredness of life and the obligation to help pregnant women, mothers, and those in need. “*Advent* conveys an immediate understanding of joy, hope, expectancy, and promise, liturgically, theologically, and humanly,” he said. “It moves us beyond the immediate — the present — to the past and to our future, grace-filled realities and possibilities.”

Cardinal Wilton Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington presided over the blessing of the statue. In his address, he said, “*Advent*, as a pregnant Madonna, transcends bronze, revealing a deeper significance, deeper truths of God and of us, and his love for each of us, graced as we are in his image and likeness.” Also present were Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Canada; Monsignor Walter Rossi, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the



At the unveiling and dedication of *Advent*, whose installation was sponsored by the Sulpician Province, led by Father Dan Moore (right), Tim Schmalz explains his inspiration for the work.

Immaculate Conception, which the statue intentionally faces; Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, P.S.S., outgoing Theological College rector; and Rev. Bud Stevens, P.S.S., incoming rector.

*Advent* is 10 feet high and 8 feet wide, weighing around 3,700 pounds. It is solid bronze on a stainless-steel base, with a reflective stainless-steel womb that forms a halo around the unborn child, about which the mother’s gown swirls, emphasizing the focal point of her embrace, Jesus, the center of all human life. Schmalz explains, “The mirror, holding the source of humanity, stretches and condenses the world around it.” It mirrors the street in front of it, bustling with daily life; Mary’s Shrine across Michigan Ave.; and the faces of people who draw near to admire the work. The statue is one of three local Schmalz works that inspire support for the needy and voiceless, with the other two depicting immigrants (*Angels Unawares* on the Catholic University campus) and homeless persons (*Homecoming* at the National Shrine). A fourth large-scale statue to be installed in the near future on campus (next to the Shrine), *Let the Oppressed Go Free*, depicts St. Josephine Bakhita liberating victims of human exploitation.

Schmalz commented that the installation of his piece on Theological College grounds is important because it is the busiest intersection in this area, placed prominently to harken to the hundreds of cars and pedestrians passing by. He asserts, “In a time during which the family is increasingly unsupported, this statue says, ‘We have to celebrate human life!’” It also makes a powerful statement about what is being taught inside the seminary and in the classrooms of The Catholic University of America. Facing the Basilica is important too, as it bridges Michigan Ave., sharing the message and mission of Mary’s Shrine in the nation’s capital and carrying it out to the whole world.

## Meet Tim Schmalz

Timothy P. Schmalz is a figurative artist whose sculptures have been installed around the world. He has completed hundreds of large-scale works over the course of three decades, the most well-known of which is his *Homeless Jesus*, which can be found in over 150 cities across the globe. Tim lives in Ontario with his wife and two teenage children.

### How and when did your artistic life begin?

As a child, I always enjoyed art. When I was 16, I created my first sculpture, and that was when I made the decision to pursue it as a life path. I was admitted to the Ontario College of Art, the most prestigious art school in Canada at the time. While the program there was highly celebrated, the approach was art for art’s sake. Whatever artwork had the greatest shock effect was touted as a success. This modernist bent toward technical innovation seemed to be “all sizzle and no steak” — the outcomes devoid of meaning. I wanted to create functional artwork that had a purpose.

### What did you do?

After three months, I left the school and took a job at a fabric factory, working on my art at night. One day, after three months at the factory, while cutting fabric, I looked out the window and pondered, “Will I be here for life, like many of my coworkers?” In answer to this question to myself, I left that job to immediately open my first studio. It was only 500 square feet, and I slept on a board!

### Where do you work now?

I used to have a studio next to my home, but now I work out of a larger facility to accommodate my much more industrial-scale creations that involve working with chemicals, concrete molds, and more. When I went to assess this workspace, a former factory, with my realtor, I was stunned to realize that it used to be the clothing factory where I worked after quitting the art college and where I had the realization that it was time to open my first studio. My sculpture worktables are the very same ones on which I used to cut fabric. God sure does have a sense of humor!

### Why do you prefer the medium of sculpture?

Sculpture is situated outdoors, amid daily life. It is not relegated to a museum, visible only to intentional visitors. Sculpture has the greatest capacity to carry a message to every passerby. I don’t want to just preach to the choir; I want to reach everyone with hope-filled Christian messages and stories from the Bible. My best complement would be a non-Christian person looking at my depiction of Christ, for example, and saying, “This is amazing!” Ideally, my sculpture should be very thin,

almost transparent — meaning, I want viewers to experience that they are looking and feeling the subject itself. Like they are having an encounter with Christ himself, beyond the art.

### When did you acquire such a powerful faith-informed approach?

When I came to the conclusion that artwork has to be functional, that it has to serve something to be legitimate, I started to think of art that moved me, like *The Creation of Adam* and *The Last Supper*. I then decided to do art focused on such epic stories as these! As I started to do Christian art, I felt very much at peace. Previously, I knew that I often forgot about God in my day — unless there was some challenge or emergency to pray about. It was like I was being invited repeatedly to dinner at someone’s house, but I never reciprocated in inviting that person to my house. I realized that if I did something with my everyday life that celebrated my relationship with God, I was inviting him in, I was inviting him to dine at my house, so to speak. In this, I was understanding who I was in a radical way — radical because, in being more myself by making Christian art, I was working absolutely contrary to modern creative trends, which seek only to be shocking.

### Yet your pieces actually are shocking...

They are shocking only in as much as the Gospels are shocking. Christianity, presented authentically, is one of the most shocking and radical proposals in the history of the world.

“The sculpture is already complete within the marble block, before I start my work. It is already there, I just have to chisel away the superfluous material.”

— Michelangelo Buonarroti





Advent by Timothy Schmalz, positioned at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> St. and Michigan Ave.

**What is your creative process, conceptually and technically?**

I listen to the Bible while I work. When ideas come to me, their realization in sculpture can happen quickly, or can take many years. Thanks to the internet, I can research the entire history of artistic images of whatever I am pondering, without leaving my studio. From 30 years of sculpting, I have a library of ideas and of sketches, including about shape and movement. For example, the statue of Mary at TC has a shape similar to some pieces I did in my 20s, where the form wraps around the child — like my Holy Family statue in Bethlehem titled, *A Quiet Moment*. The physical method I use for casting bronze is called the lost wax method.

**Can you explain this?**

This method has been around since the third millennium BC. It is virtually unchanged since ancient times, other than the fact that we have easier access to fuel to heat the bronze and we have advanced welding techniques. The process entails making a wax sculpture

or a clay sculpture coated in wax and burying it in cement. When you melt the wax, what remains is a cement mold for the molten bronze which has been heated to almost 2,000 degrees. When the bronze hardens, the cement is chiseled off, and the polishing stage perfects the work before a patina is applied.

**What are your hopes for the Advent statue here at TC?**

As I mentioned, I believe art has a grander purpose than optical illusion. This purpose is twofold: celebration and provocation. My interpretation of Mary with the Christ Child invites people to celebrate not only the divine mother-son relationship, but to celebrate all life. I want it to provoke people to think about the sacredness of life in a new way. Depictions in art of pregnant women and mothers are increasingly rare — such images are not “hip.” People, especially young people, are so concerned about their careers and becoming financially successful that the family has taken a back burner. I hope this statue brings the beauty and hopefulness of Mary’s motherhood — and all motherhood — into focus again.

**What are you working on now?**

I have been working for over two years on the biggest project I have ever undertaken: the Gospel Garden, to be installed on the grounds of the Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Universe, in Orlando, Fla. These 12-foot by 11-foot sculptures will depict each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross, Christ’s passion, and will be situated next to Disney World, in the center of a place that desperately needs a spiritual Catholic oasis. For the 50 million people who visit Disney every year, my hope is that this garden will be a powerful evangelization tool.

**And what are your hopes for future projects?**

I believe that Scripture and Catholicism contains the purest of gems that, if brought down to earth from the heavenly sphere so that people can see them, the world would be changed. My life’s campaign will continue to be to find those Scripture stories that need to be represented and to bring them down to earth so people can see them, to celebrate what they depict, and to be challenged by them. I want my figurative artwork to be an invitation to think more deeply and to see elements of our faith in a new way. ■

— Suzanne Tanzi

# Dominican Sisters at TC

**Deacon Joseph McHenry**  
*Fourth Theology, Archdiocese of Washington*

If you have visited Theological College in the past two years and have joined the community for prayer in the chapel or for dinner in the refectory, you might have noticed the conspicuous presence of two Dominicans: Sisters John Mary Corbett, O.P., and Hyacinth Hayward, O.P.

These women, members of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, based in Ann Arbor, Mich., are not guests. Rather, they are residents, living in TC’s Providence Hall while they complete further studies. Sister John Mary is working on a licentiate in Canon Law at The Catholic University of America, while Sister Hyacinth completed a master’s in Thomistic Studies from The Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies and is currently taking non-degree courses.

The sisters’ residence at TC came about as a result of discussions between their superior and the Society of St. Sulpice. Since the sisters do not have a convent in Washington, D.C., they were searching for an abode near their academic institutions. It was thought that their presence in TC’s community would be a fruitful addition.

And it has proved to be so. The sisters bring a combined 40 years of experience as religious, including various assignments teaching in high schools. While they periodically join the seminarians and faculty at communal prayers and meals throughout the week, their residence also has a separate chapel, where they pray morning prayer together every day.

For their part, the sisters have enjoyed their time at TC. “We have been struck by the real community feel here at TC and have felt welcomed into it,” Sister John Mary shared. Sister Hyacinth added, “It has been a blessing and an encouragement to encounter seminarians and priests who are earnest about their vocations.” Both mentioned what a gift it is to have the opportunity to pray for and with the seminary community.

For both Sister John Mary and Sister Hyacinth, priests and seminarians played an important role in their growth in Christian discipleship and vocational discernment. When asked about the traits they feel are important for seminarians to develop, the sisters pointed to authenticity, the capacity to be present to the community in

chapel, where they pray morning prayer which they serve, and the reverent celebration of the Mass. Sister Hyacinth noted that through the inspirational witness of the spiritual fatherhood of her college chaplain, four students eventually joined religious life.

For the sisters, one of the most encouraging experiences of their time at TC has been observing the commitment of the seminarians to prayer, especially before the Blessed Sacrament. In this time of Eucharistic revival in our nation, the sisters remarked upon the beautiful witness of priests and future priests praying before the Lord. They exhorted seminarians to recognize the great gift the Lord is offering to them as priests, to be the mediator of God’s gracious presence to his people.

By all accounts, the residence of the sisters at TC has been a tremendous mutual blessing and yet another distinguishing feature of the formation experience at TC! ■

Sisters Hyacinth and John Mary joined the pilgrimage to Sulpician sites in Baltimore when they first arrived at TC.



“We have been struck by the real community feel here at TC and have felt welcomed into it.”





“Almighty Father, grant, we pray, to these servants of yours the dignity of the priesthood. Renew deep within them the Spirit of holiness. May they safeguard this office... which they receive from you, O God, and by their manner of life may they be examples of right conduct.”



# 2023 Ordinations

This year, Theological College celebrated 30 diaconate and priestly ordinations of its seminarians from 16 different dioceses. Twelve priest alumni and 18 deacons were ordained across the country from April through June.

*Prayer-filled congratulations to all!*

## Priests

- 1** – Far left, Father Austin Hoodenpyle at his ordination for the diocese of Ft. Worth on May 20.
- 2** – From the Basselin Class of 2019, Father Michael Vidrine (left) and Father Reed Bellingham were ordained for the Diocese of Lafayette on June 3.
- 3** – At the Diocese of Richmond ordination on June 3, Father William Buckley celebrates the moment immediately after vesting with his mentor and friend, Monsignor William Carr.
- 4** – Ordained for the Diocese of Syracuse on June 3, Father James Buttner accepts the offertory gifts from his parents at his first Mass, assisted by his brother John, a seminarian for the Diocese of Syracuse.
- 5** – Father Peter Bui after his ordination for the Diocese of Worcester on June 3, with TC vice-rector Father Chris Arockiaraj and Bishop Robert McManus.
- 6** – Father Cesar Garcia offers blessings for family and friends after his ordination for the Diocese of Dallas on May 20.

- 7** – Father Jacob Gruber with Auxiliary Bishop William Waltersheid after the Diocese of Pittsburgh ordination on June 24.
- 8** – Father Nicolas Rapkoch is vested by TC’s Father Jaime Robledo at the June 3 Diocese of Raleigh ordination.
- 9** – Ordained for the Diocese of Birmingham on June 24, Father Daniel Sessions (B ’19) was celebrated by former TC classmates Father Aaron Kelly (B ’18), left, and Father Carlos Limongi (’18).
- 10** – TC faculty member, Father Jim Froehlich, bestows a blessing on newly ordained Father André Sicard at the Diocese of Salt Lake City ordination on June 30.
- 11** – Cardinal Wilton Gregory places the chalice in the hands of Vincent Vu during the Archdiocese of Washington ordination Mass on June 17.





Deacons

**1** – Several TC men were ordained transitional deacons for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 10: from left, Deacons John Winslow (B’ 20), Nathaniel Roberts, Dylan Prentice, and Joseph McHenry. Second to the right of Cardinal Wilton Gregory, Deacons Joseph Gonzalez (Pre-T ’20) and Joseph Heisey and, far right, Deacon Stephen Wong.

**2** – From left, Deacon Daniel Kushner, Deacon John Kist, and Bishop Mark Eckman at the Diocese of Pittsburgh diaconate ordination on June 3.

**3** – From left, Deacon Paul Kucharski, Deacon David Birkdale, Auxiliary Bishop Edmund Whalen, and Deacon Vincent Castaldi at the Archdiocese of New York diaconate ordination on June 3.

**4** – Deacon William Mobley distributes Communion at his ordination for the Diocese of Dallas on April 29.

**5** – During the Ft. Worth diaconate ordination on March 25, Deacon Benjamin Grothouse places his hands into those of Bishop Michael Olson.

**6** – Deacon Kenneth Nauert and the Archdiocese of Louisville’s Archbishop Shelton Fabre at the ordination on March 25.

**7** – Deacon Seth Seaman accepts the Book of the Gospels from the Diocese of Richmond’s Bishop Barry Knestout during the ordination on May 20.

**8** – Deacon Jacob Romero, right, with diocesan brother Michael Villavicencio (3-T) after the Archdiocese of Santa Fe ordination on May 20.

**9** – Deacon Benjamin Schrantz was joined by TC’s Joe McHenry, left, and Father André Sicard (’23) for his ordination for the Diocese of Syracuse on May 20.



“Send forth upon them, Lord, we pray, the Holy Spirit, that they may be strengthened by the gift of your sevenfold grace for the faithful carrying out of the work of the ministry.”



Deacon Ben Schrantz (Syracuse) with his bishop, His Excellency Douglas Lucia.



Pittsburgh’s Antonio Constantino (1-T, right) and Deacon Daniel Kushner with their bishop, His Excellency David Zubik.

Dinner with the Bishops

Deacon Daniel Kushner  
Diocese of Pittsburgh

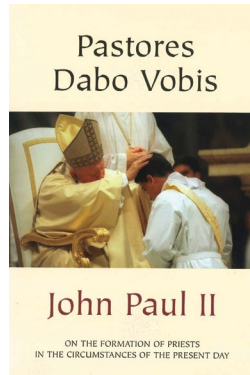
On Nov. 13, during the USCCB’s Fall Plenary Assembly, Theological College co-sponsored a dinner at Cinghiale Restaurant in Baltimore for invited bishops, Sulpician formators, leaders at St. Luke’s Institute and St. Mary’s Seminary, trustees, and some seminarians. This gathering was characterized by an air of gratitude. The rectors of both Theological College and St. Mary’s Seminary, Fathers Bud Stevens and Phillip Brown, were in attendance. At the dinner, Father Brown expressed his gratitude for the Saint Luke Institute, particularly for its collaboration with St. Mary’s evaluation process for seminary admissions. Father Brown lauded the Institute for its high standards and council that has, in the past six to seven years, “immensely improved” the evaluation process of seminarians at St. Mary’s Seminary.

Father Bud Stevens also had words of gratitude for the distinguished guests of the evening. He spoke of his time transitioning

into the position of rector of Theological College. Father Bud recognized TC’s reputation for intellectual excellence, reminding the guests that one of the names that Jesus accepted was “teacher.” He also highlighted how TC is truly a house of prayer in which the men are encouraged, first and foremost, in building a deep and profound relationship with the Lord. Finally, Father Bud expressed that the TC house is “one of the strongest communities I have ever been a part of.”

These were certainly welcome sentiments for the bishops and archbishops in attendance, especially Bishop Zubik (Pittsburgh) and Bishop Lucia (Syracuse), whose seminarians are formed by the Sulpicians. It was an evening of hope and positivity. There is much work to be done in the Church, in our dioceses, and in our seminaries. The word at the Fall Plenary Assembly dinner seemed to be that we are moving in the right direction. ■





## ***Pastores Dabo Vobis:*** **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Part 1** *Theological College’s vice-rector offers an exploration of the influence of Pastores Dabo Vobis on the new Program of Priestly Formation in Sulpician Tradition.*

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

In his letter to the Superior General of the Society of Saint Sulpice on July 6, 1973, Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the unique contribution of Sulpicians toward the initial and ongoing formation of priests and wrote, “Our confidence in the charism of the Society of Saint Sulpice is great: may it be energized and strengthened and thus contribute to the good and progress of the Church.” For over 350 years, the Society of St. Sulpice has been contributing enormously to formation work, especially in implementing and integrating Church teachings and documents into its pedagogy of priestly formation. After Vatican II, the most important document issued on the Roman Catholic priesthood was *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (PDV), *I Shall Give You Shepherds*, a post-synodal apostolic exhortation of St. John Paul II in 1992. PDV is an interpretation, extension, and contextualization of the Council’s 1968 Decree on Priestly Training, *Optatam Totius* (*Desired Renewal of the Whole [Church]*).

The new *Ratio Fundamental Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (RFIS), *The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, was approved and released by Pope Francis 25 years after the publication of PDV. Subsequently, this current year marks the 30-year anniversary of PDV and the beginning of the implementation of the new *Program for Priestly Formation* (PPF), now in its sixth edition. Hence, the current PPF is informed by the PDV and the new RFIS.

The following are the main themes and language of PDV reflected in RFIS and PPF 6 and in the Sulpician pedagogy of priestly formation.

- **The seminarian is a man of communion; formation happens in community.**

According to St. John Paul II, “the seminary is called to be, in its own way, a continuation in the Church of the apostolic community gathered about Jesus, listening to his word, proceeding toward the Easter experience, awaiting the gift of the spirit for the mission”

(PDV 60). Father Jean-Jacques Olier (the founder of Society of St. Sulpice) envisaged seminary in the seventeenth century as an upper room where the apostles gathered as a community and waited for coming of the Holy Spirit to begin the mission of Christ. “[T]he priest is a man of communion, in his relations with all people he must be a man of mission and dialogue” (PDV 18).

Every baptized person is called to journey within a Christian community toward holiness to become another Christ. But ministerial priests are specially called to become the visible Christ on earth and to minister the sacraments ‘*in persona Christi*’ (PDV 20). “The priest *par excellence* is Jesus Christ, and every priesthood in the New Covenant is derived from his priesthood” (PDV 13). Sulpician meditation introduced by Father Olier helps seminarians to imitate Christ by contemplating the Word of God and transforming it into the person of Jesus, to live in the seminarians, just as Jesus lived in Mary. Within the formation community, a seminarian progresses through four developmental stages: the propaedeutic stage, discipleship stage, configuration stage, and the vocational synthesis stage to eventually become a good shepherd after God’s own heart (*Jer* 3:15). Such a formational journey happens both in communion with the Holy Trinity and through participation in the life of the seminary community, also known as the formation community, ecclesial community, or apostolic community (PDV 60). In Sulpician tradition, the formational community is called, “*communitate educatrice*.” “Priestly identity, which is defined entirely in relation to Christ, draws its origin from the Trinity...” A seminary community is “decisive for understanding the identity of the priest, his essential dignity, and his vocation and mission among the People of God and in the world” (PDV 12).

The seminary community later includes the people of God in the diocese and in pastoral placements wherever one serves. “The relation of the priest to Jesus Christ, and in him to his Church, is

“In its deepest identity the seminary is called to be, in its own way, a continuation in the Church of the apostolic community gathered about Jesus, listening to his word, proceeding toward the Easter experience, awaiting the gift of the Spirit for the mission.

— St. John Paul II, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, #60

found in the very being of the priest by virtue of his sacramental consecration/anointing and in his activity, that is in his mission or ministry. In particular, the priest as minister is the servant of Christ present in the Church as mystery, communion, and mission. In virtue of his participation in the ‘anointing’ and ‘mission’ of Christ, the priest can continue Christ’s prayer, word, sacrifice, and salvific action in the Church” (PDV 16).

- **The seminarian is a man being configured to Christ.**

Jesus wanted his disciples to be configured to him or abide with him just as the vine and the branches (*Jn* 15). Prior to Holy Orders, every seminarian is encouraged to develop an intimacy with Jesus and be configured to him. “The Spirit, by consecrating the priest and configuring him to Jesus Christ, Head and Shepherd, creates a bond which, located in the priest’s very being, demands to be assimilated and lived out in a personal, free, and conscious way through an ever-richer communion of life and love and an ever broader and more radical sharing in the feelings and attitudes of Jesus Christ.” (PDV 72). Through the four dimensions of formation, a seminarian attempts to become the perfect image of Christ, the shepherd, head servant, and spouse (PDV 24–26), as witnessed through a life of pastoral charity. “The internal principle, the force which animates and guides the spiritual life of the priest inasmuch as he is configured to Christ the Head and Shepherd, is pastoral charity, as a participation in Jesus Christ’s own pastoral charity, a gift freely bestowed by the Holy Spirit and likewise a task and a call which demand a free and committed response on the priest” (PDV 23).

- **The seminarian is a missionary disciple.**

The new focus of pastoral formation is to become a missionary disciple. According to St. John Paul II, a seminarian should understand the Church as a “missionary” communion, “...for the priesthood to love and live the essential missionary dimension

of the Church and her different pastoral activities. He should be open and available to all the possibilities offered today for the proclamation of the Gospel, not forgetting the valuable service which can and should be given by the media. He should prepare himself for a ministry which may mean in practice that his readiness to follow the indications of the Holy Spirit and of his bishop will lead him to be sent to preach the Gospel even beyond the frontiers of his own country” (PDV 59). The world in which we live is always changing. Therefore, the future pastor/shepherd/head/servant/spouse is exhorted to accompany and guide the People of God in this rapidly changing world, using creativity and modern technology for the new evangelization. “Today, in particular, the pressing pastoral task of the new evangelization, that involves all the People of God and requires new fervour, new methods, and a new expression for the proclaiming and witnessing of the Gospel, needs priests who are deeply and fully immersed in the mystery of Christ and capable of embodying a new style of pastoral life” (PDV 11). Father Olier started the first diocesan seminary community in his parish at the Church of St. Sulpice in Paris, France. He believed that formation happens in mission and theological learning should have a direct connection with pastoral care and ministry. Following the model of Father Olier, the Sulpicians have safeguarded the practice of integrating all dimensions of formation and making sure that, before ordination, each seminarian acquires a variety of pastoral skills, a method of reflective practice, and a commitment to learn from supervisory evaluations in diverse ministerial settings (PDV 57).

**Stay tuned for the spring 2024 issue of The Crossroads, in which Father Chris Arockiaraj concludes his tribute to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastores Dabo Vobis. ■**



# Deacon Pastoral Ministries

Founded in 1971, Theological College’s renowned pastoral formation program is one of the oldest in the history of American Catholic seminaries. Our students are in pastoral placements in three dioceses that include assignments at 25 suburban and city parishes, two universities, and two hospitals. During the configuration stage of formation, this variety of assignments gives the men diverse opportunities to grow in self-knowledge, self-gift, and in their capability to respond to the needs of the people of God. Immersion in parish life – especially in the sacramental, evangelization, and administrative aspects of ministry – is particularly important for our 15 deacons, who attempt to integrate the vocational synthesis stage within their seminary formation program. A few of these deacons offer reflections on the value of their pastoral experiences.

## St. Ambrose Catholic Church Cheverly, Maryland



As part of my pastoral formation here at Theological College, I have been fortunate to minister at St. Ambrose Catholic Church. St. Ambrose is a wonderful parish community, vibrant and alive. It is a bilingual parish — with about 80% of the parishioners being Hispanic, and the remaining 20% being

English-speaking. Though predominantly Hispanic, there is a strong effort by the parishioners to support each of the cultures represented in the parish (rather than assimilating one into the other). It has been a profound educational experience for me. I have been learning about Hispanic ministry and the religious and cultural nuances among the different Hispanic communities represented in the parish. I have also been able to practice my Spanish skills in reading, writing, and conversation with the parishioners. It has been a privilege to better understand what it means to be a minister of God’s holy people, one who is capable of reaching out to serve them where they are at and in their own tongue.

I began my pastoral work in the parish in my third year of theology as a lay person — serving the different Masses, assisting at the parish’s sacraments, and teaching Confirmation-level catechism classes. This year, as a deacon, I have been able to immerse myself more fully in the life of the parish. Each week-end, I serve the Masses as a deacon, proclaiming the Gospel, preaching the homily at one of the Sunday liturgies (either in English or Spanish), and assisting the pastor in conferences and bilingual talks for parents of children in the catechism program. For me, being able to serve in this capacity is life-giving. Having

the opportunity to share my own love for Christ Jesus, to teach others about the love of God, and to serve at the altar of sacrifice means more to me than words can express. I have never been more fulfilled than when I am practicing my ministry as a deacon, and I look forward to the day when I will minister as a priest of Jesus Christ, the High Priest.

— Deacon Kenneth Nauert Jr., Archdiocese of Louisville

## The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Washington, D.C.



The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is a unique ministry experience. It is one of the few placements that is not strictly a parish, but a shrine, a place of pilgrimage. My work at the Shrine involves altar serving and functioning as a Master of Ceremonies for Sunday Masses, pilgrimages, ordinations, and even a couple funerals, as rare as they are at the Basilica. This year, I have the tremendous privilege of serving as a deacon at the Sunday Masses. Some Sundays I’ve been able to serve as a deacon for a visiting bishop, and for our Spanish Sunday Mass in addition to the various Sunday Masses. I look forward to serving as a deacon during Holy Week.

Besides serving at the liturgies, my assignment last year included RCIA sessions with a Shrine staff member, giving me an occasion to practice an aspect of parish ministry at the Shrine. In addition, I’ve worked in the spiritual direction office, a service I’m continuing this year. Both ministries have been fruitful and

beneficial. These have been opportunities Monsignor Rossi, the rector of the Shrine, desired for us to experience to ensure we have a breadth of pastoral practice leading up to ordination to the priesthood. While there have been certain challenges, I am blessed to be a part of the staff at the Shrine, which itself is similar to a parish community. Serving at the Basilica has been a blessing not only in maturing through diverse ministry responsibilities, but also in helping people to pray and experience the beauty of America’s largest Catholic Church.

— Deacon Jacob Romero, Archdiocese of Santa Fe

## St. Ambrose Catholic Church Annandale, Virginia



St. Ambrose Catholic Church, located on the border of Arlington and Fairfax counties no more than a mile and a half from Interstate 495, is a medium-sized parish in the Diocese of Arlington. It serves a suburban population of around 900 families and is a grounded faith community. My first

assignment there last year, as a third theologian, was to instruct the seventh grade in their religious education program and to assist in serving at Sunday Mass. I have returned to St. Ambrose this year as a transitional deacon to be more involved in the Sunday liturgy, to preach, and to be a part of an adult faith formation program.

St. Ambrose and the Diocese of Arlington offered me, and continues to offer seminarians from Theological College, three essential aids to formation: a vibrant and mentoring presbyterate; the support of a parish family; and an invigorating liturgical experience. Ever since being assigned to St. Ambrose, I have felt the support of the pastor and his associate priests and from them I have been privileged to absorb a wealth of experiences and insights into living a holy priesthood. I have also been connected to a community of parishioners who are supportive, welcoming, and immensely faith filled. This community inspires me, challenges me, and supports me through the ups and downs of seminary formation. These elements all join together in the liturgical life of the parish where I have the privilege to assist the priests in carrying out the most important work at the parish, the worship of God and the celebration of his mysteries. The liturgy is the beating heart of St. Ambrose parish and to assist and participate in this celebration draws me to a deeper understanding of my

own vocation and its fundamental direction toward the service of the Church and God’s people.

While the drive from Theological College to St. Ambrose (especially during rush hour) can sometimes be a trying experience, the formation I have received from this parish has unmistakably inspired and cultivated my vocation to the priesthood.

— Deacon John Kist, Diocese of Pittsburgh

## Sacred Heart Church Bowie, Maryland



In a chapel on a Maryland hilltop, I took the monstrance in my veiled hands and turned to bless the congregation. Thirty or so faces looked intently back at me — not me, really, so much as the monstrance in my hands, and not so much the monstrance as the precious cargo behind its little glass window. Just an

hour before, those faces had been much more animated; it was another weekly high school community night, and there was usually some time for loosely organized games before Adoration. As they ran around the field by the chapel, their faces alternated between joy at a point scored for their team, determination when the other side had the upper hand, and laughter at the antics of one of their peers.

But now, even the eyes of the most energetic of the group had come to rest on the little Host with a devotion that surprised me, even frightened me with its intensity at first. Raising the monstrance into the air to begin the cruciform Benediction, I thought about how little I was contributing to this moment. It was not my role to preach at that juncture, and the covering over my hands emphasized how little I contributed to the blessing. As Father Michael Russo heard Confessions in the back of the chapel, he would perhaps supplement that sacrament with counsel and encouragement. All I could do was follow the rite with devotion and be thankful that I could help those teens come closer to Christ through my uselessness.

— Deacon David Birkdale, Archdiocese of New York

Watch for the spring issue of *The Crossroads* for more pastoral ministry reflections! ■





## Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) energizes, challenges, and supports the TC community in its human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation. Its committees offer stewardship and charitable outreach opportunities, educational presentations, spiritual inspiration, and light-hearted fraternal moments of sport and celebration. The 2023–2024 SGA president, Elias Hazkial (4-T, Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles), commented, “I hope that this year the SGA will foster collegiality among each other and with the faculty, which will lead to sincere affinity for our current school and our future alma mater — all this by living charitably through TC and for TC.”

The SGA got off to a great start this year with the Community Life Committee’s organization of the “Oktoberfest” Fall House party. On this occasion, the Social Justice Committee (SJC) took up a charitable collection (as is done every semester), this time to benefit the Northwest Center, a D.C. crisis pregnancy center and maternity home serving about 60 families a month. Last year alone, the Center donated over 48,000 diapers, 900 packages of wipes, 300 cans of formula, and 27,000 baby and maternity items. All their resources are free, including pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, options counseling, parenting education, and up to 18 months in transitional housing.

Exceeding the committee’s goal by far, the SJC raised a record \$5,200, which broke the previous year’s fundraising record of \$3,355! In his speech introducing the charity,

Patrick Sweeney (3-B, Washington), chairman of the SJC, spoke about the important work that the Northwest Center is engaged in and how even a small donation from seminarians goes a long way toward helping local mothers and children in need. Patrick also shared

the story of Chris, an immigrant mother in need who found the Northwest Center through St. Ann’s Catholic Church on Wisconsin Ave. With the help of the Northwest Center, Chris was able to get the help she needed to carry her child to term. Since receiving help from the Northwest Center, Chris has gone on to earn a master’s degree from Georgetown University, and her daughter Hailey just turned eight years old last spring. Seminarians are called to see Jesus in the poor and vulnerable members of society. Through supporting organizations like the Northwest Center, the seminarians at TC were able to reach out with the loving hand of the Church and offer both prayers and material support.

**To learn more about the Center, go to [northwestcenter.org](http://northwestcenter.org).** ■



Father Bud kicks off the Fall House Party organized by Community Life Committee Chair, Deacon Joe McHenry, left.

Top Photo: The 2023-24 Student Government Association. Back row, from left: Dcn. Dylan Prentice (4-T, Washington), Secretary; Dcn David Birkdale (4-T, New York), Fourth Theology Class Representative; Cuong Lee (1-PT, Louisville), Pre-Theology and First Theology Class Representative; Elias Hazkial (4-T Maronite Eparchy OLL of LA), President; Samuel Ray (2-B), Basselin College Representative; Stephen Parker (2-T, St. Augustine), Second Theology Class Representative. Second row, from left: Dcn. Joseph McHenry (4-T, Washington), Community Life Committee Chairman; Patrick Sweeney (3-B, Washington), Social Justice Committee Chairman; Dcn. William Mobley (4-T, Dallas), Treasurer; Johnni Do Bonfin Silva, C.O. (3-T, Rock Hill Oratory), Hispanic Affairs Committee Chairman; Michael Villavicencio (3-T, Santa Fe), Prayer and Worship Committee Chairman. Inset: Isaac McCracken (3-T, Ft. Worth), Third Theology Class Representative.



Michael Villavicencio, left, ran into classmate Deacon Ben Schrantz (Syracuse) on the streets of Lisbon during WYD.



Deacon William Mobley at the WYD Mass.

## SEMINARY LIFE

## World Youth Day 2023

**Michael Villavicencio**

*Third Theology, Archdiocese of Santa Fe*

On Thursday, August 3, Pope Francis was scheduled to make his arrival at the Lisbon World Youth Day (WYD) in front of more than a million people. A dozen of us from my pastoral-year parish in Albuquerque, N.M., went to the park about four hours early to get a good spot. For WYD, a good spot is anywhere within a quarter mile of the stage. While waiting in the baking sun, two of us in our group went to get lunch for the rest. By the time we were returning, security had tightened. We were blocked by volunteers and police, who said that we were not allowed to cross the small road in front of us. We could actually see our group, and the pope would not arrive for another three hours. I argued with them to let us through, to no avail, losing my temper in the process. Finally, the pope arrived. I had a good view of the main road he was riding on, about 200 feet away. Then, the popemobile took an unexpected turn, and it came up that small road I was unable to cross. Because I was at the front area (of the previous confrontation!), I was about 10 feet away, and was even able to see the pope’s face! I, and all the new pilgrims I met, were filled with an abundance of joy!

I learned from this experience that sometimes when we receive good things, they come with an initial suffering — in this case, losing my patience. But if we trust in God, he will stay with us in our trials and reveal his glory! I absolutely enjoyed my WYD experience because of all the amazing opportunities to see different historical sites, beautiful churches, all the other pilgrims from around the world, and the pope! There were difficult days, but this particular instance showed me how great God is in his love and how he reveals himself to us through both the challenges and the joy-filled moments of life!

**Deacon William Mobley**

*Diocese of Dallas*

On August 6, I gathered in a park on the edge of the River Tagus in Lisbon, Portugal, with around 1.5 million young Catholics

from around the world for the closing Mass of World Youth Day, presided over by Pope Francis.

World Youth Day is an opportunity for young people from around the world to gather every two to three years to encounter others from around the world, to receive catechesis from bishops, to have recourse to the sacraments of reconciliation and daily Mass, and to spend time in prayer with the pope.

While in Lisbon, I experienced the vibrancy of the youth in the Church today. Anyone who says that the Church is no longer relevant to young people has clearly never talked to any of the young men and women I spent time with that week.

In preparation for the closing Mass on Sunday morning, we packed up our belongings on Saturday and walked six miles to the park on the outskirts of Lisbon where Mass would be held the next day. Some pilgrims walked ten miles or even more to get to this park. We set up camp on the grassy areas planted in preparation for over a million people to spend the night under the stars. Pope Francis joined us for a prayer vigil later Saturday night and then some of us drifted off to sleep while others stayed up chatting the night away, sharing the impressions of the week thus far.

I woke up early the next morning surrounded by a field of sleeping pilgrims to make my way to the clergy section close to the altar for the celebration of the Mass. The Mass was a beautiful experience of the universal nature of the Catholic Church. The five priests nearest to me were from Italy, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, and Germany. It was beautiful to witness the way they were all able to concelebrate the Mass with Pope Francis despite the language barriers that existed between each of them and our Holy Father.

I was surrounded not by a collection of groups from different places who all believed something similar but by a true community of clergy who recognized each other as real brothers united in one faith that no political boundaries can divide. Looking out from the clergy towards the youth, I saw the same unity reflected in them as well.

I went to World Youth Day expecting to accompany a group of young adults from Dallas and spend time in prayer with Pope Francis. I ended up becoming part of a new community of young adults from my diocese, united in prayer and shared experiences, profoundly privileged to have spent time in prayer with a community of believers from around the world. ■





Sam McPeak receives his CHBOLC diploma from CH (Col.) Louis Deltufo, the commandant of the US Army Institute for Religious Leadership, after having earned his Chaplain Corps Distinctive Branch Insignia Pin.

Veteran’s Day Profile

Samuel McPeak
Second Pre-Theology, Diocese of Richmond

Every drop of blood in me is green and I am immensely proud of it. I grew up as a child of dual-career army officers — my parents spent a combined 58 years as ordnance officers. There has never been a moment of my life when I did not want to serve in the army.
The military connection extends to my sacraments as well. I was baptized at Fort Lee, Va., in the post chapel and, after an itinerant family life and ultimately ending up back at Fort Lee, I received my Confirmation in the same chapel, officiated by Bishop Higgins of the Archdiocese for the Military Services. Up to then, the only thing on my mind was going to West Point, getting married, and serving a long career in the army, as had my parents. But on the day of my Confirmation, the Lord saw fit to show me the first of two major signs that changed my life goals. During Bishop Higgin’s homily, he recounted the story of his own Confirmation in Ireland. He told us that, during the bishop’s homily at his own Confirmation, the bishop singled him out and asked him, “Have you ever considered becoming a priest?” He said he responded, almost in disgust, “Why would I ever want to be that?” Of course, with the graces that flowed from his Confirmation, the rest is history. I thought, “What a nice story,” until he pointed at me and asked me that very question. I responded much like the bishop did at his own Confirmation. But it was there, in that army chapel at Fort Lee, that the seeds of my vocation were planted. After a few months, the graces received began to take root. The idea of the priesthood became very attractive and even more so, that of being a chaplain in the army.
The second sign was during my time as a cadet. With thoughts of the priesthood on the backburner and after four years of hard

work and much sacrifice, I achieved my dream of earning an appointment to West Point. Upon arrival at the academy, each cadet is assigned a sponsor from the West Point community, something like a surrogate family, as cadets go home only for Christmas and spring break. By providence, I was assigned to the command chaplain on post — a Catholic priest, Chaplain (Colonel) Matt Pawlikowski. When I met him, I knew immediately that I wanted to be just like him. He exuded holiness, masculinity, and the highest competency as an officer and soldier. Furthermore, Father Matt helped me through some of my darkest moments during my plebe (freshman) year and offered all of the consolation and encouragement I desperately needed. I wanted to help soldiers as Father Matt had helped me. After the dust settled, I was convinced my vocation was to be a priest and a chaplain in the United States Army.
Currently, as a co-sponsored seminarian, I serve as a 2nd lieutenant (chaplain candidate) in the army reserve. However, every chaplain candidate must complete the Chaplain Basic Officer Leaders Course (CHBOLC) before entering service as a fully qualified chaplain. The official mission of CHBOLC is to train students to become religious leaders. Such leaders must demonstrate the core competencies of nurturing the living, caring for the wounded, and honoring the fallen, while advising commanders and providing religious support to the Army family. I took the course this summer. It was the longest three months of my life, with a 4:30 am rising, much course work, prayer and liturgy, and rigorous physical training. Course topics included pastoral counseling to convoy operations, handling funeral and memorial services, and providing care during mass casualties, to name a few.
At the end of the grueling 108-hour capstone field exercise which concluded the program, I received the Chaplain Corps Distinctive Branch Insignia Pin. On graduation day a week later, I was the proudest I’ve been in a long time. I was renewed in my vocation to the priesthood and a major step in my dream of becoming a chaplain was accomplished. Pro Deo et Patria! ■

Vianney Cup Training Underway

In October, Theological College (red team) and St. Mary’s Seminary enjoyed a fraternal meeting on the soccer field, in preparation for the Vianney Cup match scheduled for the spring.



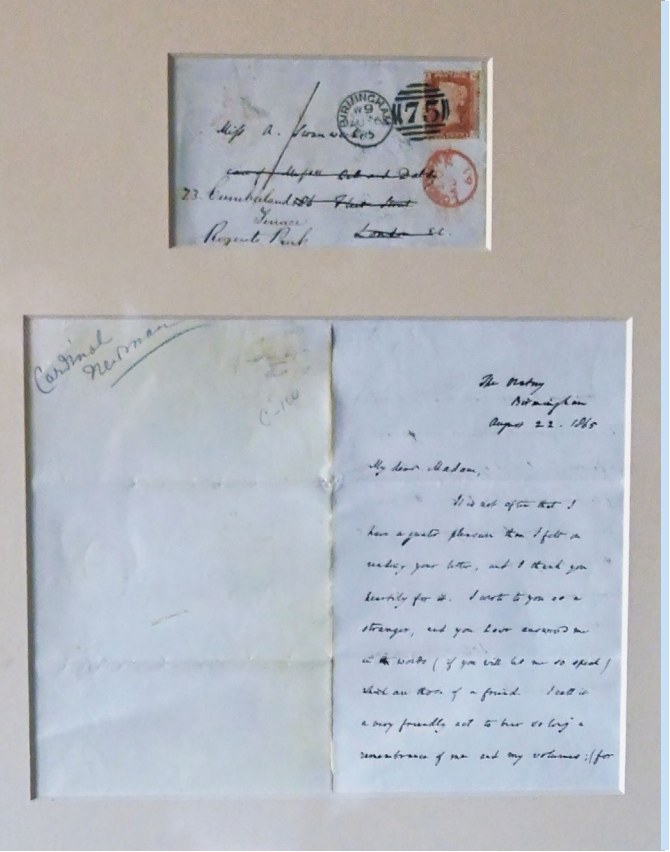
THEOLOGIAN FOR OUR TIMES

Saint John Henry Newman (1801–1890)

Rev. Gladstone Stevens, P.S.S.
Rector

From the very beginning of her history, the Catholic Church has been blessed with the gift of holy men and women not only notable for their outstanding sanctity, but for their penetrating theological insight. It is my intention to use this section of The Crossroads to draw attention to certain modern and contemporary thinkers who not only made significant contributions to Theology, but who also offer a vision of the priesthood. Specifically, I want to focus on those theologians who continue to inspire me in my ministry.
It would be impossible to overstate the impact Saint John Henry Newman (1801–1890) had on Catholic thought. His treatments of topics such as conscience, the development of doctrine, and the nature of religious assent have shaped magisterial teaching on these themes and will remain part of his enduring legacy to human thought. What deserves further exploration, however, is his conception of the priesthood. While it is true that his explicit expositions of the subject are relatively few, it is equally true that everything he wrote relates to the priesthood. His writings are never purely academic in nature, and he never aspired to a dispassionate scholarly viewpoint; rather, all his works, all his preaching are expressions of his priestly vocation.

In his little-read sermon titled, “The Salvation of the Hearer the Motive of the Preacher,” Newman offers us a glimpse into his priestly heart. He writes, “My dear brethren, if we are sure that the Most Holy Redeemer has shed his blood for all men, is it not a very plain and simple consequence that we, his servants, his brethren, his priests, should be unwilling to see that blood shed in vain?” In my mind, this is the clearest statement possible of what should be the animating principle for all preachers and teachers of the faith. What Newman wants us to grasp is that real proclamation is not about salvation; rather, an authentic exercise of the ministry of the word is itself a prolongation of the ministry of Christ and thus a moment in the drama of redemption. If one grasps the words of Christ as truly Good News, then a burning desire to communicate it perforce must follow. Newman goes on to say, “Such a zeal, poor and feeble though it may be in us, has been the very life of the Church, and the breath of her preachers and missionaries in all ages. It was a fire such as this which brough



This second-class relic, a personal letter to a friend from Saint John Henry Newman, dated August 22, 1865, hangs in the rector’s office.

our Lord from heaven and which he desired...to communicate to us.”
Thus, we learn from Newman that the grace given in priestly ordination to be capable of acting in persona Christi must entail configuration to our Lord’s desire and a commitment to cultivate that daily. It is from this sacred desire that real Theology and truly efficacious preaching proceed. Let us pray through the intercession of St. John Henry Newman that this becomes ever more true of all of us entrusted with the mission of Theological College.
St. John Henry Newman, ora pro nobis. ■



## A Sponsorship Trip to Central Africa

The American Province of the Society of St. Sulpice assists Sulpician seminaries and the bishops in the southern African nations of Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, and South Africa. The Provincial Superior, Father Dan Moore, P.S.S., and TC vice-rector, Father Chris Arockiaraj, visited these seminaries in October. In Malawi, Father Chris was able to witness the progress on the well-building and irrigation project he generously sponsored through a fundraising effort on the occasion of his 25<sup>th</sup> priestly anniversary in 2020. ■



Clockwise: Father Chris Arockiaraj saying Mass in Zambia; Father Dan Moore, U.S. Sulpician Provincial, and Father Chris in front of the St. Anthony Seminary; Father Chris visits the seminary gardens with one of the students (seminarians work the farm as part of their *ora et labora* formation program).

## Former TC Rector Receives Papal Award

Rev. Melvin (Mel) C. Blanchette, P.S.S., longtime formator and rector at Theological College from 2007 to 2011, was awarded the *Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* on September 23, 2023, by Archbishop William Lori at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. Described as a deeply dedicated and thoughtful priest and effective leader of remarkable accomplishments, Father Blanchette has led a distinguished career rooted in his devotion to our Lord and Savior.

His Holiness Pope Francis extended this highly distinguished recognition in gratitude for the positive impact he has had on the formation of countless priests and religious throughout America and Canada.

First issued in 1888 by Pope Leo XIII, the medal features a gold Greek cross with the images of apostles Peter and Paul and the name of the reigning pope in Latin. Father Mel commented, “When Archbishop Lori called me with the news, I was deeply honored and humbled to learn that I was chosen by the Holy Father to receive this award. It is such a wonderful feeling to receive this recognition for serving the Holy Father and the Church.” ■



## Faculty Enrichment

Theological College’s bi-annual faculty enrichment continues under the tenure of Father Bud Stevens, with this semester’s guest speakers, Father Frederick Cwiekowski, P.S.S., and the Archdiocese of Washington’s Father Robert Boxie (Pre-T ’12). In support of the faculty’s mission of seminary formation, the topic presented for discussion was “Priestly Formation for a Synodal Church,” drawing inspiration from the writings of Pope Benedict XVI. ■



TC faculty at their bi-annual enrichment retreat with guest speakers Father Robert Boxie (Pre-T ’12), center right, and Father Frederick Cwiekowski, P.S.S., center left.



# ALUMNI

## Distinguished Alumnus: Monsignor Paul Cook

### Class of 1959

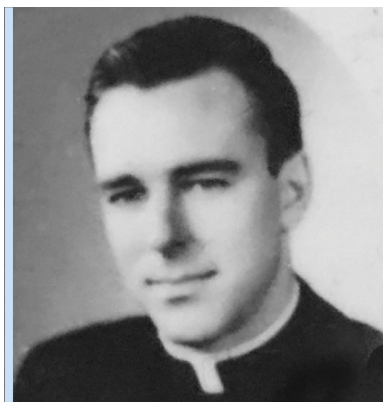
I recently had the pleasure of interviewing Monsignor Paul Cook, Class of 1959, about his time at Theological College and how it informed his priesthood. In his time, Monsignor Cook was one of 130 Basselin scholars. When asked about his favorite memories at Theological College, he most fondly remembers “the relationships and the people.” He also enjoyed, “leaving the seminary and going to another campus for philosophy and theology.” A true Basselin, he was overjoyed by the intense academic setting. He recalled, “The seminarians, the faculty at Theological College, and the faculty at Catholic University were just outstanding... These were top people in the fields of Scripture and Theology.”

Monsignor Cook’s love for learning would later translate into a love for teaching. He served in the Department of Education for the Archdiocese of Baltimore and became a consistent and reliable mentor for seminarians. After all, it was the parish priests of his youth who had inspired him to enter seminary. He remembers, “Mother and Dad always had relationships with the priests of the parish; they would take a meal to them once in a while. My parents had a great respect for priests and that rubbed off.” Inspired by priests, he would continue to inspire, mentoring an estimated 50 seminarians in the span of 40 years.

He remembers, “They were all good men and, while at TC, we had lots of interactions that all had to do with the local Church and the local parishes.” Monsignor was quick to note that this was only possible because TC “had a great staff and wonderful parish involvement; it was an excellent training ground for seminarians, as well as a great learning opportunity for the staff.”

Monsignor Cook has enjoyed a rich and full ministry as a priest for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Looking back on what he learned in seminary, he says, “Everything I learned at Theological College I’ve used in my ministry.” With the wisdom he has gained in his years, his advice for seminarians is: “Trust the seminary; they know what they’re doing.” For his closing remarks Monsignor said, “I just have to trust that the spirit has brought the Church this far and the spirit is in the Church now. So we pray, we trust, we wait to see what God’s doing.” ■

— **Deacon Daniel Kushner**  
Diocese of Pittsburgh



Monsignor Clay meets Pope Francis in Rome.

## Class Notes

### 60s

**Rev. John Hynes**, ’65, of the Diocese of Wilmington, retired in July as pastor of St. Catherine of Siena in Wilmington, Del. He shared with *The Crossroads*, “After 58 years of priesthood, I am in good health, and I send my greetings!” He now resides at Holy Cross Parish in Dover.

### 70s

**Rev. Edward Hendricks**, ’77, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, has recently retired, after serving for the past seven years as the founding pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, which formed in 2016 when St. Michael in Frostburg, St. Ann in Grantsville, St. Joseph in Midland, and St. Peter in Westernport came together as a single faith community. Father Hendricks said he has a deep love for the people of Western Maryland and the natural beauty of the mountains. He intends to spend his retirement in the area and will continue to assist with Masses at Divine Mercy.

**Rev. John Kleinwachter**, ’77, of the Diocese of Crookston, has retired from serving as pastor of three parishes in the Roseau, Minn., area. In his semi-retirement, Father John will be a senior associate priest at St. Philip Church in Bemidji. He plans to live with his brother priests while, in February, he will begin a two-year course on spiritual mentoring at Holy Family School of Faith Institute in Kansas.

### 80s

**Monsignor Michael Clay**, ’80, Class Representative and a member of the International Commission for Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Disciples of Christ Church, was among commission members received into audience with Pope Francis during their June 2023 meeting in Rome.

**Rev. Leo Connolly**, ’81, of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, was appointed in July as administrator of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Columbus, while continuing to serve as pastor of

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (since 2021), following a number of other parish assignments. For over three decades, Father Leo has also been volunteer-chaplain for the Franklin County Sheriff’s Department, ministering to many families and sheriff’s deputies during times of trial.

**Rev. Frank Murray**, ’81, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), 2018 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient, is enjoying his retirement from active ministry while, at the same time, “helping out, covering different ministerial assignments quite often” and each year spending the months of March and April in “sunny Florida.”

**Very Rev. Martin A. Linebach**, ’87, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed vicar for vocations and director of the vocation office for the archdiocese. He had been serving as interim director of the vocation office, vicar general of the archdiocese, and rector of the Cathedral of the Assumption. Father Linebach will be in residence at St. Ignatius Martyr Church in Louisville.



The Catholic University of America announced the election of two Theological College alumni to its Board of Trustees: **Bishop John Barres**, '89, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will serve as a bishop fellow while **Bishop Robert Barron**, B '82, of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, will serve as a trustee.

**Monsignor Chris Walsh**, '87, of the Diocese of Bridgeport, has retired as pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Bridgeport and shares that he is now enjoying helping with Masses in English and Spanish parishes in the area.

**Very Rev. Michael J. Knipe**, '88, of the Diocese of Tulsa, pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Tulsa and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Tulsa and Eastern Oklahoma, successfully passed his defense at the Pontifical University of Salamanca, Spain, to earn a doctorate in canon law with the dissertation titled, "A Canonical Historical Study of Chapter Two of the Reform of Marriage at the Council of Trent."

**Very Rev. Anthony L. Chandler**, '89, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed vicar for priests for the archdiocese, effective July 1, 2023. Additionally, Father Chandler will serve as rector of the Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville.

90s

**Bishop Thomas R. Zinkula**, '90, of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, was installed as Archbishop of Dubuque on Oct. 18, 2023, after having served as the Bishop of Davenport since 2017.

**Rev. Christopher Pollard**, B '95, of the Diocese of Arlington and pastor of St. John the Beloved Church in McLean, celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood this year and was among nine other jubilarians from his diocese honored by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge at a celebratory luncheon at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington on May 10, 2023. Congratulations on your anniversary, Father Pollard, and to all of our alumni celebrating their silver jubilee!

00s

**Very Rev. Adrian Porras**, '01, of the Diocese of Charlotte, is pastor of St. Barnabas Church in Arden, N.C., and vicar forane for the Asheville vicariate for the diocese.

**Very Rev. William G. Coffas**, '04, of the Diocese of Rochester, a member of the Priesthood Vocations Awareness Team, has been appointed vocations director while continuing as pastor of Holy Cross in Rochester and Mother of Sorrows in Greece and dean of the Central Monroe deanery.

**Rev. Jeffrey P. Shooner**, '04, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, has been appointed vicar general of the archdiocese while continuing to serve as the pastor of St. Patrick and St. Boniface churches in Louisville, effective July 1, 2023.

10s

**Rev. Mark L. Thomas**, '10, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed senior parochial vicar at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Coraopolis/Crescent/Moon, after having served as senior parochial vicar at Divine Grace Parish, Cranberry/ Ellwood City/Zelienople.

**Rev. Michael Roche**, '11, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Saints Martha and Mary Parish, Hampton/Richland, after having served as parochial vicar at Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish, Ambridge/Baden/Conway/Franklin Park.

**Rev. Evan Ponton**, B '12, has been appointed associate pastor, Pastorate of St. Anthony-Most Precious Blood, Gardenville, and St. Dominic, Hamilton, and the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi, Mayfield, and Shrine of the Little Flower, Belair-Edison. He had previously served as associate pastor, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Severna Park, and chaplain, Archbishop Spalding High School, Severn.

**Rev. Stephen Wyble**, B '12, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed pastoral administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Garrett Park, Md., after having served as pastor of Holy Angels in Avenue, Md., and pastor of Sacred Heart in Bushwood, Md.

**Rev. Thomas M. Yehl**, YA, '12, of the Diocese of Arlington, has been transferred from his ministry of parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Alexandria to service in the Diocese of Richmond as the Catholic chaplain at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg. Father Yehl is active in the Youth Apostles (YA) ministry.



**Rev. Scott Holmer**, '13, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been made pastor of Holy Face Parish in Great Mills, Md., after having served as parochial vicar of Saint Patrick Parish in Rockville, Md. Father Holmer continues to serve as an adjunct spiritual director at the St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C.

**Rev. Christopher Seibt**, '13 (B '08), of the Diocese of Syracuse, has been appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Cicero, N.Y., and vice chancellor of the diocese. He will continue to serve as pastor of Divine Mercy Parish in Central Square and St. Bernadette Mission in Constantia. As vice chancellor, Father Seibt will be responsible for the parish canonical processes and will continue to serve as the episcopal master of ceremonies. He will no longer serve as the diocesan director of liturgy and R.C.I.A.

**Rev. Daniel Ulishney**, '13, of the Diocese of Greensburg, Pa., has been made pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Irwin, after having served as pastor at the partner parishes of St. John Baptist de La Salle (Delmont) and St. Mary Our Lady of Lourdes (Export).

**Rev. David Gaines**, '14, of the Diocese of Spokane, has been assigned as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes in Spokane, after having served as parochial vicar at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Patrick, and St. Francis parishes in Walla Walla.

**Rev. Ryan Lerner**, '14, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, is the new Blessed Michael McGivney seven-parish cluster's moderator. He has been serving as pastor of St. Mary's Parish, which includes St. Mary and St. Joseph churches, and St. Stanislaus Parish, two of the parishes in the cluster. St. Mary is the oldest Catholic parish in New Haven and site of Father McGivney's tomb. He will continue to serve as chaplain at Yale University's St. Thomas More Center and Chapel.

**Rev. Kenneth Marlovits**, '14, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed part-time chaplain to the students and staff at Bishop Canevin High School. Father Marlovits will continue to serve as director of vocations for the diocese.

In October, former Basselin scholars had a surprise meeting at the Annual Convention of the Canon Law Society of America. From left: Father Daniel Session (B '19), Diocese of Birmingham; Father Ruben Villarreal (B '11), Diocese of Lake Charles; and Father Chris Seibt (B '08; TC '13), Diocese of Syracuse.

**Rev. Joseph de Orbegoza**, B '14, of the Diocese of Little Rock, has been appointed rector of the Cathedral of St. Andrew in Little Rock, for which he had previously served as pastoral administrator. He remains a part-time instructor at the House of Formation in Little Rock.

**Rev. Leo Song**, Pre-T '14, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed pastor of St. Raphael's Parish in East Meadow, having previously served as associate pastor for the Beach Catholic community at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, St. Mary of the Sea, and St. Ignatius Martyr Parish.

**Rev. Levi Hartle**, '15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish, Oakmont/Plum/Verona, after having served as parochial vicar at Blessed Trinity Parish, Brentwood /Hays/South. Father Hartle will continue in his assignment as consultant to the Department of Worship.



**Rev. Keith Hathaway**, '15, J.C.L., has been assigned as pastoral administrator of St. Rita Parish in Ft. Worth.

**Rev. Matt Kiehl**, '15, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed vocations director, after having served as pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Virginia Beach.

**Rev. Jeremy Mohler**, '15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from Nov. 19 to Dec. 8, 2023. Father Mohler is part-time parochial vicar at Christ the Divine Shepherd Parish and hospital chaplain to the Catholic patients at UPMC East and Forbes Regional Hospitals.

**Rev. Kyle Ratuiste**, '15, of the Diocese of Spokane, was appointed in April 2022 as Vice Rector and Dean of Men at Bishop White Seminary in Spokane, while remaining director of vocations for the diocese.

**Rev. Samuel Maul**, B '16, of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, has been appointed pastoral administrator at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington, after having served as parochial vicar at St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland.

**Rev. Charles C. Pavlick**, Pre-T '16, of the Diocese of Arlington, was transferred from his ministry as parochial vicar at Saint Timothy Parish in Chantilly to serve as parochial vicar at Saint James Parish in Falls Church.

**Rev. Ryan Pineda**, '16, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed pastor of St. Philip the Apostle in Camp Springs, Md., after having served as pastoral administrator of St. Francis Xavier in Leonardtown.

**Rev. Anthony Amato**, '17, of the Diocese of Syracuse, was appointed pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Clifton Springs, N.Y., which includes the St. Dominic, St. Felix, and St. Francis Churches, after having been parochial administrator.

**Rev. Michael Baynham**, '17, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been relieved of his duties as parochial vicar of St. Rita Parish in Dallas in order to pursue further graduate studies, but will remain there as a priest in residence.

**Rev. Joseph MacNeill**, Pre-T '17, ordained for the Archdiocese of Hartford in 2021, has been appointed parochial vicar of Blessed McGivney Parish, a cluster of seven parishes based in New Haven.

**Rev. Michael Hoyer**, Pre-T '17, ordained for the Diocese of Worcester, has been appointed pastor of St. Mary Parish in Uxbridge, after having earned his S.T.L. degree at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

**Rev. Andrew Wakefield**, '17, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Silver Spring, after having served as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Washington, D.C.

**Rev. Jeffrey Chichester**, '18, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been appointed parochial vicar for the cluster parish of St. Joseph the Worker in Rochester.

**Rev. Andrew Clyne**, '18, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed pastoral administrator of St. Edward the Confessor in Bowie, Md., after having served as parochial vicar of St. Jane Francis de Chantal in Bethesda, Md.

**Rev. Carlos Limongi**, '18, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed pastor of St. Joseph and St. Mary Immaculate Parish on Staten Island, after having served as administrator there. He continues to serve as NYPD department chaplain and vocations promoter for the archdiocese.

**Rev. Maurice Moon**, '18, of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, has joined the formation faculty of St. Joseph College Seminary in St. Benedict, La., while continuing to serve as director of collegial seminarians for the diocese.

**Rev. Matthew Browne**, '19, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, was recently honored at a fund raiser for St. Dominic Schools and Church (Oyster Bay) for his past service there as parochial vicar, high school chaplain, and theology teacher, as well as for his current ministry as the director of evangelization and catechesis and episcopal delegate to Catholic education.

**Rev. D.J. Egan**, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, will lead a 100K "Camino Frances" pilgrimage April 17–24, 2024, from Sarria to Santiago. Father Egan is parochial vicar at Divine Grace Parish, a three-church cluster parish centered in Cranberry.

**Rev. Anthony J. Federico III**, '19, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, has been appointed director of vocations for the archdiocese, after having served as parochial vicar of Saint Mary and St. Joseph parishes in New Haven.

**Rev. Mingwei Li**, '19, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish, Oakmont/Plum/Verona, after having served as parochial vicar at Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Coraopolis/ Crescent/Moon.

**Rev. Reed Bellingham**, B '19, of the Diocese of Lafayette, was ordained on June 3 and has been appointed associate pastor of St. Bernard Church in Breaux Bridge, La.

**Rev. Patrick Mullan**, '19, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed assistant chaplain of Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and St. Francis of Assisi Deaf Catholic Community and Center for Deaf Ministries in Landover Hills, Md. He was previously serving as parochial vicar at St. Joseph in Largo, Md.

**Rev. Ricardo (RJ) Regalado**, '19, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Jude Parish in Allen, after serving as parochial vicar of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Plano.

**Rev. Daniel Sessions**, B '19, of the Diocese of Birmingham, was ordained on June 24, and has been appointed parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish in Huntsville.

**Rev. Michael Vidrine**, B '19, of the Diocese of Lafayette, was ordained on June 3 and has been appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church in Church Point, La.

20s

**Rev. Mark Garrett**, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed director of vocations for the diocese after having served as parochial vicar of the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas. Father Garrett will continue to serve as chaplain of Bishop Lynch High School.

**Rev. Elmer Herrera-Guzmán**, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed pastoral administrator of Holy Cross Parish in Dallas, after having served as parochial vicar there. He is also spiritual director for Sagrado Corazon Radio and continues to visit the sick at Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

**Rev. Ryan Hiaeshutter**, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Dallas, after having served as parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish in Dallas.

**Rev. Jaime Maldonado**, '20, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, continues to serve as parochial vicar and leader of pastoral care at St. Teresa of Calcutta cluster

parish in Manchester, as well as serving as associate vocations director for the Office of Seminarians and Vocations.

**Rev. Jason Allan**, '21, of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, has been appointed pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Pilot Point, after having served as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton.

**Rev. David Schmidt**, '22, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed parochial vicar at the newly formed Saint Mark the Evangelist Parish, Adams/Cranberry Township/Glade Mills, and part-time chaplain to North Catholic High School, after having earned his S.T.L. at the John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family while living at TC (Providence Hall) during the 2022–23 academic year. During that time, he had also served as pro-tem parochial vicar at Regina Coeli Parish, Bellevue/Emsworth/Franklin Park.

On a recent visit to TC, Father David Schmidt ('22, Pittsburgh) celebrated Mass for the community.



Alumni from the Class of 2018 reunited for their fifth anniversary (see page 5).



**Rev. William Buckley**, '23, of the Diocese of Richmond, was ordained on June 3, and will serve as parochial vicar of St. Andrew parish in Roanoke.

**Rev. Peter Bui**, '23, of the Diocese of Worcester, was ordained on June 3 and has been assigned as associate pastor of St. John Paul II Parish in Southbridge, Mass.

**Rev. James Buttner**, '23, of the Diocese of Syracuse, class representative, was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, and has been appointed parochial vicar of Spirit of Hope Catholic Community, which comprises the churches of St. Agatha Church, Canastota; St. Joseph Church, Oneida; St. Patrick Church, Oneida; St. Helena Church, Sherill; St. Mary of the Lake Mission, Verona Beach; and Holy Family Church, Vernon.

**Rev. César Garcia**, '23, of the Diocese of Dallas, was ordained on May 20 and has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Parish in Richardson.

**Rev. Jacob Gruber**, '23, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was ordained on June 24 and has returned to TC for graduate studies toward an S.T.L. degree, after having spent the summer as parochial vicar (pro tem) for Saint James Parish (Washington, Claysville) and Saint Katharine Drexel Parish (Bentleyville, Richeyville). Father Jacob, the twelfth in a family of 14 children, is the third sibling to be ordained a priest in his family.

**Rev. Austin Hoodenpyle**, '23, of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, was ordained on May 20 and has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Keller.



Father Jacob Gruber ('23), celebrated Mass for the TC community during his first semester as resident priest.

**Deacon Paul Kucharski**, '23, of the Archdiocese of New York, is serving as deacon at St. Gregory the Great Parish in Harrison, N.Y., and teaching a philosophy course to the Sisters of Life novices, while taking some additional theology classes at St. Joseph's Seminary and College.

**Rev. Nicolas Rapkoch**, '23, of the Diocese of Raleigh, was ordained on June 3 and has been assigned parochial vicar of St. Thomas More in Chapel Hill, N.C.

**Rev. André Sicard**, '23, was ordained June 30 for the Diocese of Salt Lake City and returned to TC for further studies at Catholic University to earn a J.C.L. degree.

**Rev. Vincent Vu**, '23, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 17 and has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, Md. Two of Father Vincent's uncles, Father John Nguyen and Father Paul Nguyen, both ordained in 2007, are also priests of the archdiocese. ■

Prayers of gratitude for all who remembered TC on Giving Tuesday! Your generosity contributes to our important mission of forming priests after the Heart of Jesus Christ!

# In Memoriam



**Rev. William Amann**, B '50, of the Diocese of Rochester, died Aug. 3, 2023, at Rochester General Hospital. He was 95 years old.

Father Amann studied at St. Bernard's Seminary after receiving his master's in philosophy at TC and The Catholic University of America. He was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 5, 1954, and served as assistant pastor at St. Andrew, Rochester (1954–58), and Holy Trinity, Webster (1958–62), before becoming the first chaplain of Bishop Kearney High School (1962–65). He went on to become assistant pastor, co-pastor, and pastor of Our Lady of Mercy in Greece until 1981. He then was administrator at St. Cecilia in Elmira for several months before taking a sabbatical in Rome to study changes in the Church after the Second Vatican Council.

In 1982, Father Amann became the inaugural pastor at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, a position in which he remained for 16 years. "He was always so involved in the parish from the very beginning," said Sharon Campbell, business manager there. She noted that the parish still has pictures of Father Amann installing stones and mortar in the walls when the church was being built. Campbell added that Father Amann was very welcoming to parish children, who would wait at the end of their pews as Mass ended so the priest could tap them on the head with a hymnal as he processed out.

"His commitment to serving people was inclusive, even to those of us who strayed from practicing our Christian faith. If you envision Jesus with open arms, you can envision Father Bill in the same manner," said the parish's Deacon Christopher Fisher. Father Amman had enlivened Deacon Fisher's own marriage and inspired him to pursue the permanent diaconate. Throughout his life, he was known to be an enthusiastic and learned traveler, an avid reader, and intrepid outdoorsman. "Father Amann loved the world God created," his niece, Teri Hauck, remarked.

After attaining senior-priest status in 1998, he ministered at Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton; St. Thomas More, Brighton; and St. Joseph, Penfield. From 2018, he had resided at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Pittsford.

The Mass of Christian Burial took place Aug. 11, 2023, at St. Joseph Church, with interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Office of Mission Advancement, c/o Dawn Gruba, Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 150 French Rd., Rochester, NY 14618.



**Monsignor James McCauley**, '56, of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, died on June 8, 2022, at the age of 92.

James Ambrose McCauley was born on November 8, 1930, to John and Ella (Scanlon) McCauley near Caledonia. His father was killed in a hunting accident 11 months later and his mother and five children moved to Hokah so her children could have a Catholic education at St. Peter's School. Father McCauley graduated from St. Peter's High School and St. Mary's University in Winona and entered Theological College. He earned additional degrees from Tulane University and Gonzaga University.

Father McCauley was ordained a priest in 1956 and served St. Theodore's in Albert Lea, St. Stanislaus in Winona, St. Peter and Paul in Hart, St. John's and Pax Christi in Rochester, St. Bridgett's in Simpson, St. Margaret's in Mantorville, Christ the King in Byron, St. Joseph's in Owatonna, St. Mary's of the Lake in Lake City, and St. Joseph's in Theilman.

He taught at Cotter High School and served as principal at Cotter and Lourdes high schools. He was asked by Bishop Waters to start a new parish in Rochester that was dedicated in 1973 and named Pax Christi. While the church was being built, Mass was held at Skate Country, Assisi Heights, Madonna Towers, and in private homes. He retired from active ministry in 1999 but continued to fill in at various parishes on a weekly basis until he suffered a stroke in 2008. Even after his stroke, he continued to celebrate Mass in his home chapel on a weekly basis and at the nursing home in Caledonia. He enjoyed winters in California with his sister for many years and faithfully celebrated Mass on a weekly basis there in "The Colony" in Murrieta. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he celebrated Mass outside on his deck overlooking the Mississippi River.

Father McCauley was active in various organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, Rochester Exchange Club, and Human Rights Commission. He won the Upper Midwest Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament while in college and won many trophies in golf. He played baseball while a student at St. Mary's. He coached the Cotter High School Golf Team that won the state championship and was inducted into the Cotter Hall of Fame along with his team. He also took flying lessons and made a solo flight. One of his highlights as priest was when a baby he had baptized at St. Joseph's in Owatonna, Jason Kern, was ordained a priest 25 years later. He frequently stated that he "happily made the decision to



become a priest and never looked back.” He often asked young men if they had ever considered being a priest just as Father Hodapp asked him when he was in high school. Father Will Thompson was one of those young men whom he had asked. He truly enjoyed his 66 years as a priest.

Father McCauley’s funeral was held on June 13, 2022, at Pax Christi Catholic Church in Rochester, presided by Bishop John Quinn, Father Matt Wagner, Father Joe Fogal and Monsignor Gerald A. Mahon. He was interred at St. Bridgett’s Church Cemetery in Simpson. He requested that memorials be given to St. Peter’s School, the Priest’s Retirement Fund, and the IHM Seminary in Winona.



**Rev. Hugh Schwartz**, '56, once the longest-serving priest in the Archdiocese of Omaha, died on Jan. 20, 2023, at the age of 93.

Father Schwartz was born in Evanston, Wyo., and his family later moved to Omaha, where he attended the former Cathedral High School. He attended Conception Seminary in Missouri and Theological College. He was ordained in 1956. He served as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Norfolk (1956–62) and St. Mary Parish in Omaha (1962–64). He was the pastor of St. William in Niobrara (1964–66), St. Mary in Leigh (1966–71), St. Boniface in Elgin (1966–71), St. Wenceslaus in Dodge (1971–76), St. Charles in North Bend (1976–86), and St. Francis Borgia in Blair (1986–92). He retired in 2000. A lifelong Creighton University sports fan, Father Schwartz closely followed the school’s basketball and volleyball teams.

Father Schwartz spent the last years of his life living at the St. John Vianney Residence in Omaha. During that time, he served as a spiritual director to some of his fellow priests who also lived there. One of those priests was Father Michael Fitzpatrick, who shared that Father Schwartz was an extremely holy man who was well liked and never had anything negative to say about anyone, always willing to lend a helping hand. “Every day, he made a visit to the Blessed Sacrament,” Father Fitzpatrick said. “That was just part of his normal daily routine. Holiness radiated from him. He was just such a nice guy.”

The funeral Mass took place on Jan. 25, 2023, at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Elkhorn, with interment at Calvary Cemetery in Omaha. Memorials are suggested to the Archdiocese of Omaha Priest Retirement Fund.



**Rev. Roger G. Nilles**, '59, of the Diocese of Madison, died on August 4, 2023, at the age of 90, at St. John’s on the Lake in Milwaukee.

After attending grade school at St. James School, Madison, and high school at St. Francis Minor Seminary, Milwaukee,

Father Nilles attended St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee. He received an undergraduate degree from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa; a master’s degree from Theological College and Catholic University, and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Father Nilles was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William P. O’Connor of Madison on May 30, 1959, at St. Raphael Cathedral in Madison. He began his ministry as associate pastor of St. Paul Parish, Beloit, and St. Paul University Parish, Madison. He continued as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Lake Mills, with Mission of St. Mary Magdalene, Johnson Creek; St. Victor Parish, Monroe; and St. Peter Parish, Madison, where he retired from full-time active ministry as pastor emeritus.

He also served as an instructor and assistant principal at Beloit Catholic High School, Beloit; as Priest Senate president; on the Conciliation and Arbitration Board; and on the St. Raphael Board.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Aug. 14 by Bishop Donald J. Hying and interment was at Resurrection Cemetery in Madison. Memorial gifts may be made payable to St. Paul Catholic Student Center, Madison.

**Monsignor John Francis Wippel**, '60 (B '56), was born in Pomeroy, Ohio, on August 21, 1933, the second of two children born to Joseph Wippel (1901–1972) and Mary (Andrews) Wippel (1908–1994). The farm on which he and his brother Patrick were raised was one of three Wippel properties that had first been farmed by his paternal grandfather. Upon completing grade school, John Wippel followed his older brother into St. John Vianney Seminary. He spent his first two years of college seminary in Ohio, during which time he also made the roster of two minor-league baseball teams, in the positions of outfielder and pitcher.

In the fall of 1953, Wippel was admitted to The Catholic University of America and Theological College as a Basselin scholar. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1955 and his Master of Arts the following year. He remained at the university for the Licentiate in Sacred Theology, which he completed in 1960. That same year, he was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Steubenville.

Monsignor Wippel, center, visits with then-Deacon Kyle Vance (left) and Father Edouard Guilloux (B '15) at the 2021 Alumni Day celebration.



After spending the 1960–1961 academic year as an instructor in the School of Philosophy, Monsignor Wippel was awarded the Penfield Scholarship from Catholic University, which enabled him, with his bishop’s approval, to pursue doctoral studies in philosophy at the Catholic University of Louvain. He defended his dissertation, written under the direction of the famed medievalist Canon Fernand Van Steenberghen, in April 1963 *avec la plus grande* distinction. In keeping with the custom at Louvain, his Ph.D. degree would not be conferred until January 1965, when Wippel published an article based upon his dissertation.

In the fall of 1963, Wippel resumed teaching in Catholic University’s School of Philosophy. Apart from a visiting position at the University of California, San Diego, during the spring 1969 semester, where he shared an office with Herbert Marcuse, he continued to teach on the school’s faculty for six decades from the date of his first appointment. He rose quickly up the academic ranks. On receiving his doctorate, he was appointed assistant professor. Two years thereafter, in 1967, he was promoted to associate professor. In 1972, he was named ordinary (full) professor. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to Catholic University, he was appointed Theodore Basselin Professor of Philosophy in 2001. Following his retirement at the end of the fall 2021 semester, he was named professor emeritus.

Through his many publications, Wippel came to be known as one of the world’s foremost medievalists. He was author, editor, or co-editor of a dozen books and nearly a hundred scholarly articles and book chapters. His academic focus was metaphysics, and specifically, metaphysical reflection in the 13th century. His

interpretations of the metaphysics of Thomas Aquinas and Godfrey of Fontaines must be reckoned with by any scholar working in the field, but he also published important work on various related topics and figures. In 1981, his ground-breaking *The Metaphysical Thought of Godfrey of Fontaines* earned him the Cardinal Mercier Prize from Louvain-la-Neuve. Largely on the basis of that same work, the university also conferred on him its most advanced degree, the Maître-Agrégé de l’École Saint Thomas d’Aquin. The other work of which he was most proud was *The Metaphysical Thought of Thomas Aquinas: From Finite Being to Uncreated Being*, which appeared in 2000. A collection of his essays was published under the title *Metaphysical Themes in Thomas Aquinas*. Two additional volumes appeared with that title 2007 and 2021 respectively.

Among the many other awards and distinctions Wippel received for his scholarly work were two year-long fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, the first for the 1970-1971 academic year, and the second in 1984–1985. In 1999, the American Catholic Philosophical Association awarded him its Aquinas Medal, its highest honor. In 2001, he received The Catholic University of America’s Alumni Association Achievement Award for Research and Scholarship. The following year, he was awarded the John Findlay Award from the Metaphysical Society of America. He was appointed Professor Ordinarius of the Pontifical Academy of Saint Thomas Aquinas 2003. In 2005, the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies awarded him a Doctorate of Letters in Mediaeval Studies *honoris causa*. He also earned Catholic University’s Provost Award for Lifetime Excellence in Scholarship, Research and Teaching in 2006, and the Scholarly Excellence Award from the American Maritain Association in 2012.

Wippel’s contributions to scholarly societies include his service as president of three academic organizations: The Society for Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy (1982–1984), The American Catholic Philosophical Association (1986–1987), and The Metaphysical Society of America (2005–2006). He also found himself consulting in an editorial capacity for numerous academic journals and presses. Of such offices, suffice it here to mention only his ten-year membership on the Board of Directors of the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, undoubtedly the leading journal in the field.

Over the three-score years of research and teaching, Wippel naturally brought his commanding knowledge of the medieval philosophical tradition to bear in the classroom, and in ways that made him a legend among several generations of students. His work as a teacher bore particular fruit in the scores of M.A. theses and the dozen Ph.D. dissertations he directed, but also in



the impact he had upon countless seminarians, a great many of whom have gone on to holy orders.

Mention must also be made of Wippel's service as an academic administrator. After service as acting dean of the School of Philosophy in the spring 1975 semester, he served in the following semester as acting director of the Medieval and Byzantine Studies Program. From 1978–1980, he was director of Catholic University's Early Christian Studies Program. In the spring of 1989, he accepted the office of assistant academic vice president for graduate studies, immediately after which he was appointed academic vice-president of the university. He remained in that office for eight years, the last of which with the title of University provost.

A few days after his nineteenth birthday, joyfully celebrated in the company of several family members and friends, Monsignor Wippel was hospitalized for respiratory failure. He died on September 11, 2023. A week or so before his death, he told a fellow priest from his hometown of Pomeroy that he was "ready." His brother Patrick preceded him in death in 2021, as did a nephew, Joseph Wippel. He leaves behind Patrick's widow, Mrs. Mary Wippel, a nephew, Francis (Karen) Wippel, two nieces, Rita (Gary) Schmidt and Kathie Wippel, eight grandnieces and grandnephews. He is also mourned in a special way by Jim and Ann McCrery, their five children, and their many grandchildren, who have been like family to him over the course of the last several decades. The Mass of Christian Burial was held on Sept. 20, and was served by TC's Basselin scholars.



Monsignor McLoughlin was born in Chicago and attended Quigley High School Seminary there, followed by Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, where he received a B.A. in history. He then attended Theological College (1961–65) and received an M.A. in religious education at The Catholic University of America.

He was ordained by the Most Reverend Loras T. Lane on May 29, 1965, and his first assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Therese of Jesus Parish, in Aurora, and then at St. Mary Parish in Elgin. From 1969 to 1976, he served as director of the Religious Education Office for the diocese until his appointment as pastor of St. Michael Parish in Galena. He went on to serve as pastor of St. Peter Parish, Geneva (1983–1997). A life-changing experi-

ence occurred during this time. Then-Father McLoughlin, along with two other diocesan priests (Fathers Tom Dempsey and Bill McDonnell), were part of a pilgrimage to the Holy Land when, on June 14, 1985, their return flight (TWA flight 847) was hijacked by terrorists. McLoughlin and Dempsey were among 39 Americans, many from the Rockford Diocese, held hostage by Amal Militia in Beirut for 17 days. After being released, Monsignor McLoughlin said of the ordeal, "It's not that we can't be angry, but to forgive is an appropriate Gospel message at this time."

Following his Geneva pastorate, Monsignor McLoughlin was assigned pastor of St. Mary Parish, Woodstock (1997–2007) and St. Patrick Parish, Hartland (2001–2007). On January 24, 2003, he received the Papal Honor of Chaplain of the Holy Father, giving him the title Monsignor. In 2007, he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Richmond until he retired from active ministry on July 1, 2011.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on May 18, 2023, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Huntley, with interment at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. Memorials in his name may be directed to the St. Mary's St. Vincent de Paul Society.



**Charles F. Strobel**, '70, of the Diocese of Nashville, died on Aug. 6, 2023, at the age of 80.

A native of Nashville, he attended Father Ryan High School before entering St. Mary College in Lebanon, Ky., as a seminarian.

After earning a B.A. in philosophy, he went on to earn an M.A. in education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, and then an M.A. in theology from Theological College and The Catholic University of America. While in Washington, he became immersed in the Civil Rights Movement.

Father Strobel was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 31, 1970, and served for five years in Knoxville as associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. He also taught at Knoxville Catholic High School and the University of Tennessee's Department of Human Services. While in Knoxville, he opened the city's office of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. In 1975, he returned to Nashville to serve as associate pastor of Holy Rosary Catholic Church. In 1977, he was named the pastor of Holy Name in Nashville, where he served until 1987, when he left to devote himself full time to Room In The Inn, the shelter he founded for those experiencing homelessness.

It was at Holy Name where Room In The Inn began. Hungry

people frequently knocked on the parish door and with the church secretary he began handing out sandwiches. In 1983, Holy Name and other congregations started the Loaves and Fishes food distribution ministry.

During the winter of 1985, Father Charlie saw people sleeping in their cars in the church parking lot. He invited them to sleep in the auditorium adjacent to the church. Congregants were supportive and brought cots, blankets, and food and, when space ran out, Nashville churches and synagogues joined in the ministry. Before the winter of 1986 ended, there were 31 congregations participating in Room In The Inn, taking in a dozen to 15 men or women each on their nights. The Winter Shelter program — which runs from November 1 through March 31 — continued to grow, as did the Room In The Inn staff, services, and facilities, moving three times until 1995 when they moved to another building, which became known as the Campus for Human Development. This was expanded by 45,00 square feet in 2010 for more services and 38 apartments. The Campus has since expanded again and will soon open 10 additional apartments.

Strobel received many accolades throughout his life, including the Human Relations Award from the National Conference of Christian and Jews in 1989, the Catholic Charities Annual Service Award from the Diocese of Nashville in 2002, the 2012 Lifetime

Achievement Award from the Nashville Chapter of the ACLU, the Joe Kraft Humanitarian Award in 2018, the Operation Andrew Annual Joe & Honey Rodgers Lifetime Achievement Award in 2019, AgeWell Middle Tennessee's Sage Award in 2021, and the Father Ryan Legacy Award in 2021. In 2004, *The Nashville Scene* named him Nashvillian of the Year; in 2005, he was one of 10 people designated Tennessean of the Year by *The Tennessean*.

In the prologue to the book he worked diligently to complete before he died, he began with a quote from Mark Twain: "The two most important days of your life are the day you were born and the day you find out why." Charlie Strobel never wavered in his selfless devotion to the unhoused members of the Nashville community. He believed deeply in the Beatitudes as a framework for living and, in particular, the words from Jesus in Luke 17 of the unworthy servants, who have done only their duty.

A community gathering to celebrate his life was held on Aug. 11, 2023, at First Horizon Park, home of the Nashville Sounds Baseball Club — a fitting venue for the life-long baseball fan's commemoration. Rector Bud Steven's sister, Rev. Rebecca Stevens, preached at this memorial service. Donations in his memory should go to The Charles Strobel Housing Fund at [donorbox.org/charles-strobel-housing-fund](https://donorbox.org/charles-strobel-housing-fund) or to Room In The Inn, P.O. Box 25309, Nashville, TN 37202.

## A Classmate's Tribute

### Father Joseph Sanches, Diocese of Nashville, Class of 1970

In 1917, the Sulpician Fathers founded Theological College at Catholic University to provide men for service to the churches across America. Following the instructions of their founder, Father Olier, they have trained men both intellectually and spiritually. Over the years they have given the Church outstanding cardinals, bishops, and priests. In recent time, there was one man whose name should be mentioned in the annals of their ministry. Rev. Charles Strobel was the first in his class to be ordained for the Church of Nashville. In 1977, he was named pastor of Holy Name Church in East Nashville, where he encountered a homeless man named Doy, who in turn introduced him to the world of the homeless in his city. Like his devout mother, he followed his family tradition of caring for the less fortunate and soon left his parish ministry to devote his entire life to serving the poor.

Charles Strobel became an apostle of the poor for the next 20 years, starting with his Loaves and Fishes feeding program, housing homeless at his parish, and founding Room In The Inn, which not only offers shelter, but serves other physical needs as well as spiritual needs of the homeless. It stands as a monument to his faith in Jesus' command to *sell what you have and give to the poor!*





**Rev. Jerome D. Rogers**, '76, of the Diocese of Crookston (Minn.), died on Sept. 19, 2022, at the age of 71.

Father Jerry Rogers was originally from Glen Ellyn, Ill. He graduated from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary High School in Lockport, Ill. He earned his college degree from Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minn., before moving on to the theological at Theological College at Catholic University. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Crookston on May 21, 1976.

Father Jerry began his priestly ministry as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church in East Grand Forks, Minn. He eventually became pastor there, and was extremely involved in campus ministry in the grade school and high school. He also built a development office to support the struggling school. From there, he went to Zambia, Africa, for three years to fulfill his life-long dream of being a missionary. He returned to the diocese to serve as the pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Detroit Lakes, Minn., for 15 years. For almost 15 years, he was a beloved pastor and advocate of the St. Mary's Mission in Red Lake, located in the heart of Red Lake Nation, one of the two closed reservations in the United States (meaning that the area has been able to maintain legal status as a sovereign nation). The reservation is communally owned by the Chippewa and is one of the poorest areas in the country.

Father Jerry worked tirelessly to evangelize and spread the truth of the Catholic faith. He retired from the Mission in 2022 and was named administrator of Saint Philip the Apostle Parish in Addison, Ill. Father was delighted to return "home" to his family in Illinois and loved serving the people of the parish.

Bishop Ronald Hicks celebrated the funeral Mass on Saturday, September 24, 2022, at Saint Philip's Catholic Church in Roseau, with interment at Assumption Cemetery in Winfield, Ill. Memorial donations suggested to St. Mary's Mission at [stmarymission.org](http://stmarymission.org) or P.O. Box 189, Red Lake, MN 56671.



**Very Rev. G. Michael Gribble**, '81, of the Diocese of Columbus, died on Aug. 3, 2022, at the age of 79.

He was born in Zanesville, Ohio on February 7, 1943, to the late George and Catherine (Keane) Gribble and was baptized at Blessed Sacrament Church (Newark) on February 28, 1943. A 1961 graduate of Newark Catholic High School, Father

Gribble earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in English education from The Ohio State University in 1969 and 1972, respectively. Having taught for several years, Father Gribble acted on God's calling and entered Theological College earning his Master of Divinity in 1981. He was ordained on May 16, 1981, at Saint Francis de Sales Church (Newark) by Bishop Edward Herrmann.

During his 40-plus years of dedicated service, Father Gribble served as associate pastor, Sacred Heart Parish (New Philadelphia); associate pastor, Saint Mary Parish (Groveport) with teaching duties at Father Wehrle High School (Columbus); pastor, Holy Rosary/Saint John Parish (Columbus); pastor, Saint Edward the Confessor Parish, and chaplain, Denison University (Granville); and rector, Saint Joseph Cathedral (Columbus) until his retirement in 2013.

Father Gribble remained very active as a senior priest, celebrating Masses and assisting with pastoral ministry at a number of parishes and schools in Licking County and nearby. He was known simply and affectionately as "Father Mike," and carried a booming voice that was unique and instantly recognizable in any crowd. A longtime resident of Buckeye Lake, Father Mike served as the fleet chaplain at the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club where he enjoyed the continual friendship of many people known throughout his life. Regardless of one's religious affiliation, Father Mike was dedicated to his life's ministry and served the religious and pastoral needs of the entire lake community and beyond and was, in many ways, everyone's pastor. Father Gribble very much appreciated his family and cherished the time he spent with them traveling, enjoying a meal, or sharing a laugh.

The Mass of Christian Burial was on Aug. 9, 2022, presided by Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, with concelebrants including Bishop James A. Griffin, Bishop Frederick F. Campbell, and priests in and of the Diocese of Columbus. He was interred at St. Joseph Cemetery, Newark. Father Gribble requested that donations be made to the SPICE Program, c/o the Newark Catholic High School Foundation, 1 Green Wave Drive, Newark, OH 43055; or the Watkins Island Foundation, PO Box 1432, Buckeye Lake, OH 43008 (a 501c3 established to provide funds for the betterment of Buckeye Lake).



**Rev. James F. Turner**, '84, retired pastor of the Diocese of Phoenix, died on January 14, 2023, at the age of 69.

Father Jim was born and raised on Long Island, N.Y., the third of six children of Edward and Mary Turner. He graduated from Syracuse University with a B.A. in liberal studies, emphasis in Spanish, and earned a certificate in Secondary Education from Northern Arizona University. He then entered Theological College and after graduation was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1984. His first priestly assignment was at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Tempe, Ariz. He served as pastor of St. Pius Parish in Flagstaff, Ariz., before being named founding pastor of St. Thomas More Parish in Glendale, Ariz., in 1997.

He retired from that position in 2020 and most recently served at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Sun City, Ariz. Father Jim was a pastoral priest who enjoyed celebrating liturgical rites with a full church or one-on-one while administering the Anointing of the Sick, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, or walking with those in need of a comforting presence. He was a gifted preacher and liturgical presider and built not only the physical church, but also the community of believers. Father Jim enjoyed reading mystery and spy novels, but his favorite hobby was cooking. He enjoyed hosting friends and family for dinners of good food and engaging conversation.

The Mass of Christian Burial took place at Saint Thomas More Catholic Church in Glendale on January 23, 2023. He was interred at Calvary Cemetery, Flagstaff. Memorials are suggested to the Priest Retirement Fund.



**John F. "Jack" Donahue**, former Theological College finance officer, 1993–2010, died on May 23, 2023, at the age of 86. John Francis Donahue was born in Boston, Mass., to Catherine Ryan and John F. Donahue on May 26, 1936. He was raised by his Aunt

Martha, Uncle Danny Ryan, and his grandmother, Mary Ryan. He grew up rough and tumble in Dorchester, Mass. Following B.C. High, he attended Boston College, a Jesuit Catholic University that gave him his lifelong ethos of service with integrity. Upon graduation, he met and married his sweetheart Ms. Joanne McCarthy on September 3, 1960, in West Roxbury, Mass.

Jack held numerous roles in service to his country including in the United States Air Force, DC Air National Guard, the

New England Regional Commission, as well as the Appalachia Commission. He worked for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for 15 years and, after retiring from the U.S. government, he continued to serve as a finance officer for Theological College (1993–2010). Throughout his life, Jack worked in service to others, whether it was starting up a basketball league at the Minot North Dakota Air Force Radar Station, standing guard during the Civil Rights movement culminating with the March on Washington, or expanding charitable organizations, he embodied the notion of a servant leader.

As president of St. Coletta's of Greater Washington, he was instrumental in helping this startup charity become an exemplary organization serving children and adults with intellectual and other disabilities.

Jack was an avid tennis player, youth basketball coach, voracious reader, and active community leader. He was a gentleman, kind and soft-spoken; he had a wry sense of humor, and continuously showed his love and care for others. Jack was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, who brought joy to every gathering.

The Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady Queen of Peace in Arlington, Va., on June 10, 2023. Jack wished that any tributes be made in the form of a charitable donation, to St. Coletta's of Washington, D.C.: [stcoletta.org/donate/](http://stcoletta.org/donate/). ■







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