

The **Crossroads**

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Fall 2025



ALUMNI DAY

ORDINATIONS

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CLASS NOTES

On Oct. 17, Father Vincent Vu ('23, Washington) presented the first evening of reflection for the year, entitled "Little Before God, Great in Love: What Diocesan Priests Can Learn from St. Thérèse," a timely topic anticipating the arrival of the saint's relics on November 19!



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Among other Alumni Day joys, Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient Father Tim Kitzke reunited with his early formator and friend, Father Mel Blanchette, P.S.S.



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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.

100 YEARS

Cover: Celebrating their centennial, these stained-glass panels, depicting the minor and major orders leading to the priesthood, were created by American artist Charles J. Connick of Boston and installed in the Theological College chapel in 1925. The set was moved to the new front doors in 1966, after the chapel was renovated and the tower and facade were completed.



06

ORDINATIONS 2025

Richmond's Father Andrew Clarke is one of six 2025 TC graduates who, along with other TC graduates and deacons, have been ordained to the priesthood since last spring.

CAMPUS CONVERTS

Both President Peter Kilpatrick and Rector Bud Stevens are among those who offer their conversion stories in this issue.



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At the opening Mass of the semester, Father Stevens spoke inspiringly of priest candidates opening the path to “the life-giving waters of the heavenly Jerusalem” (see p. 10).

The Things that Last

One of the courses I teach at the School of Theology is Christian Eschatology. I find this a fascinating subject and I always look forward to the class times. Eschatology can be defined in several ways. Traditionally, it has been presented as the study of the “Last Things;” that is, an exploration into the themes of death, judgment, heaven, hell, and purgatory. To be sure, the future priests of the Church must be exposed to these topics because the men and women who will be entrusted to their care need guidance regarding their ultimate destiny.

Karl Rahner, however, offers what I consider to be an intriguing alternative to conceiving of the content of Eschatology. Rather than being the study of the “Last Things,” he suggests that we should see it as the attempt to understand “the Things that Last.” I find this a necessary perspective for our times. What are the things that truly last? What are the realities that endure within the flow of time?

These are, I believe, crucial questions because they lead us to consider the authentic objects of hope. In what should we, as a Christian people, place our ultimate hope? Too often we place ultimate hope in penultimate things. Political parties, social agendas, economic philosophies of one sort or another belong to the ephemeral level. Our outsized passion for the immediate can only lead to disappointment and to the intensification of the divisions already at work in our society.

Advent is, above all, an eschatological season. It is a time for us to reflect upon the things that last and are thus worthy of our hope. During this Jubilee Year dedicated to the virtue of hope, we must be living signs to our brothers and sisters of those realities that will never pass away. Let us be witnesses to the Eternal God of love who remains with us always in a world of passing things. We read in *Matthew* 24:35: “Earth and sky will pass away, but my words will never pass away!”

Let this message be our guide during this Advent season and always,

Rev. Gladstone (Bud) Stevens
Rector

“Advent is, above all, an eschatological season. It is a time for us to reflect upon the things that last and are thus worthy of our hope. Let us be witnesses to the Eternal God of love who remains with us always in a world of passing things.”



In active and fruitful priestly ministry for more than 36 years, former Basselin scholar Father Tim Kitzke accepted TC's 2025 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award in October.

Alumni Day 2025

Suzanne Tanzi

On October 8, 30 alumni, former faculty, and other guests gathered for the annual Alumni Day reunion. The Votive Mass of Our Lord Jesus Chris, Eternal High Priest in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception was a meaningful beginning to the evening, which celebrated the essentiality, dignity, and joy of the priesthood. Very Rev. Timothy Kitzke (B '82), to be honored at the award banquet, was the main celebrant.

In his homily, Father Tim remarked how appropriate it was that we read *Luke* 22:14-20 (on the Last Supper) while celebrating Alumni Day with the greatest gift of the Eucharist. A priest for almost four decades, with myriad responsibilities over the years in urban outreach and multiple parish assignments, he realizes “more and more how important it is that we ignite an enthusiasm for the Real Presence as we seek to make Christ present in a world that needs him more than ever.” He went on to point out that participating in

the Eternal Priesthood of Jesus helps us to meditate in the temporal on the eternal hope rooted in God's love for us as we are, though sinful, moving to what we can become: full of grace and compassionate love for all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Father Tim concluded, “I am grateful for my time at Theological College, which nurtured my vocation and helped me to be the parish priest I am.”

During the lively reception and dinner that followed, with graduates from classes dating back over 40 years, priests representing 15 dioceses and former faculty reminisced about their time here, while promising their prayers for TC in hope for the future. And certainly, the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award was conveyed upon a man of great hope. Rector Bud Stevens introduced Father Tim as “a living reminder of what Pope Leo calls all of us to be.” His worthiness for the award is evident not only in what he has accomplished in his ministry of charity throughout his years as priest, but also as

“*Let us do our part, and God will then do what he wills. This is God's cause, and all will end well. My hope is in him.*”

— *St. Teresa of Ávila*

an example to seminarians. “The example of what a good and holy priest can do is of inestimable value,” Father Bud emphasized.

Father Tim began his acceptance speech, “Remember that all of our light in life is reflected light. The only Son of God is the real sun, and we are all called to reflect him.” The fond memories he shared included those of friendships with former alumni award recipients, such as Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski (’84), Bishop Michael Olson (B ’89), and Monsignor Robert Sokolowski (B ’57), who directed Father Tim’s Basselin thesis, “Religion and Religious Action and Their Relationship to Justice in the Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas.” Father Tim lived across the hall on the third floor from another awardee, Bishop Robert Barron (B ’82), quipping to uproarious laughter, “I just want to publicly acknowledge that all of his ideas are mine!”

His light-heartedness had a serious side, too, as he reached out to the seminarians present: “I am filled with gratitude for you and pray that you will persevere. I stand in witness to you that God can and will work great things in and through you. Don’t expect to be perfect. In your imperfection, tie yourself to Jesus Christ. As long as you have honesty and trusted advisors who support you, the Kingdom of Heaven will prevail. It is not up to our perfection; it is up to God and his powerful salvation for all of us in the middle of this crazy world.” ■

Alumnus Lifetime Service Award

Very Rev. Timothy L. Kitzke
Archdiocese of Milwaukee
Basselin Class of 1982

Very Reverend Timothy Kitzke is the rector and pastor of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, in Milwaukee, Wis. Concurrently, he is pastor of Old St. Mary, Our Lady of Divine Providence, Saints Peter and Paul, and Three Holy Women Parishes, also in Milwaukee. For the archdiocese he serves as episcopal vicar for Urban Ministry, helping parishes in the city address the issues of poverty, food insecurity, and racism. He is on the Board of Directors for Seton Catholic Schools, Chiara Senior Living Communities, Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, Father Gene’s Help Center, and Milwaukee Catholic Home. His other roles in service of the Church include: ex officio member of the archdiocesan Priest Placement Board, pastor of teaching parishes for seminarians and mentor to newly ordained priests for Saint Francis de Sales Seminary and the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, advisor to Kinship Community Food, and chaplain for the Italian Community Center in Milwaukee.

Father Tim was born to Leo and Mary Ann Kitzke and raised in South Milwaukee. He is the youngest of four children. After graduating from De Sales Prep Seminary, he attended Saint Francis de Sales College Seminary for two years. He then moved to Theological College where he studied as a Basselin Scholar until earning his M.A. in Philosophy in 1982. He went on to earn his S.T.B. in Sacred Theology and M.A. in Religious Studies at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. He later earned an M.A. in Divinity from Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in Milwaukee. He served as parochial vicar at two parishes before his current assignments on the east side of Milwaukee. Father Kitzke credits his years in the Basselin Scholars Program as golden moments in his education. Studying the great philosophical traditions of the Church was a solid foundation for undertaking further studies in theology. The pastoral formation he received at Theological College was outstanding preparation for the many pastoral duties he has been blessed to undertake.

Father Tim tries to maintain a healthy, balanced, priestly lifestyle by walking, praying, reading, and spending time with friends. He is thankful for the many priests, religious, and lay ecclesial ministers who not only shaped his priestly formation but accompany him in his priestly ministry. The people of God in his parish work are sure signs of the presence of Christ, and he is grateful to be a priest for over 36 years.

Meeting with the Bishops of the USCCB

The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops was welcomed to Baltimore during its annual Fall Plenary Assembly by numerous Church entities. Theological College was able to participate in this welcome on Nov. 10, with St. Mary’s Seminary and the Blessed Father Michael McGivney Propaedeutic House, by hosting several bishops for dinner at Cinghiale Restaurant in Harbor East. Rector Stevens and vice-rector Father Robert Cro, accompanied by seminarians representing the TC student body, talked with bishops about the fraternal life of the house, and the unique formation program offered at TC, in tandem with the superior academics of The Catholic University of America’s School of Theology and Religious Studies and School of Philosophy, as well as the School of Canon Law.



Seminarians met with their own and other bishops during the annual USCCB Fall Plenary Assembly. From left, Deacon Stephen Parker (St. Augustine), Bishop John Dolan (Phoenix), Father Bud Stevens, Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, C.S. (Charleston), and Deacon Trent Barton (Ft. Worth).

Ordinations 2025

Theological College had a joyous ordination season, which began in March, in celebration of the 19 alumni who were ordained to the priesthood and diaconate for 11 different dioceses, the Order of Preachers, the Rock Hill Oratory, and the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon. Please join us in praying for these men and their ministerial paths ahead!

Ordinations to the Priesthood

- 1 — Louisville’s Archbishop Shelton Fabre imposes his hands on Father Cole McDowell at the May 31 ordination.
- 2 — TC vice-rector, Father Chris Arockiaraj, concelebrated at the Charleston ordination of Father Justin Damask (B ’21) on June 6.
- 3 — TC’s 2018 ESL graduates, Fathers Thanh Duc Pham, right, and Hoa Tien Nguyen, left, were ordained for the Diocese of Portland (Maine) by Bishop James Ruggieri on May 31.
- 4 — Father Michael Villavicencio was ordained for the Diocese of Santa Fe on June 7.
- 5 — Father Isaac McCracken was ordained for the Diocese of Fort Worth on May 24.
- 6 — Father Gregory Santy, O.P. (B ’17) blesses his former diocesan brother, Syracuse’s Father Christopher Seibt (B ’08; TC ’13), after the Dominican ordination in June.
- 7 — Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P., of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia, anoints the hands of Father Bertrand Marie Hebert, O.P. (B ’18), at the ordination on June 5.
- 8 — Father Andrew Clark was accompanied at his Richmond ordination on May 24 by TC music director, Father Jim McKearney, P.S.S.



“God knows me and calls me by my name. God has created me to do him some definite service. Somehow I am necessary for his purposes. I shall do good. I shall do his work. I will trust him.” — St. John Henry Newman

Ordinations to the Priesthood (cont.)

- 9 — Several TC alumni, students, and faculty attended the Rock Hill Oratory ordination of Father Johnni Do Bonfim Silva, C.O., on June 7.
- 10 — Pittsburgh’s Father Daniel Roberts stands with Bishop Emeritus David Zubik and Bishop Mark Eckman after the ordination on June 28.
- 11 — Bishop Edward Malesic of Cleveland anoints the hands of Father Jon Hawkins (B ’18) at his ordination on May 17.
- 12 — Father Elias Hazkial (’24), of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, was ordained by Bishop Elias Haidan on the Eastern Orthodox feast day of the Prophet Elias in Detroit, Michigan.



Ordinations to the Diaconate

- 1 — Deacon Stephen Parker accepts the Gospels from St. Augustine’s Archbishop Thomas Wenski during the March 29 diaconate ordination.
- 2 — The first of TC’s 2025 ordinands, Deacon Blake Thompson places his hands in those of Fort Worth’s Bishop Michael Olson at the diaconate ordination on March 19.
- 3 — Deacon Andrew Heidelbaugh (B ’22) places his hands in those of Harrisburg’s Bishop Timothy Senior on May 17.
- 4 — TC’s 2021 Basselin graduates, Sean Neville, left, and Mitchell Carson, right, were ordained deacons for the Diocese of Cleveland on April 12.
- 5 — Deacon Nicholas Waldron, B ’21, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, was ordained on Oct. 2 in St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome by Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt of Grand Island, Nebraska.

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”
— John 12:26

The Start of a New Year

Suzanne Tanzi

The TC Orientation Team arrived in mid-August to strategize how to make the upcoming days the most hospitable, prayerful, and informative for the seminarians joining the house this year. They welcomed the new cohort, hailing from several dioceses, with an introduction to Evening Prayer by team leader and Student Government Association (SGA) President, Deacon Stephen Parker (St. Augustine). The following days incorporated introductions to each other, the faculty, the staff, and their Catholic University professors. Every day was content rich, with presentations on the spiritual direction and pastoral ministry programs, liturgy, music, the Rule of Life, academics, the seminary calendar, and the SGA. Campus and DC tours were also greatly appreciated. Most evenings came to a relaxed landing in communal prayer or Adoration and nightly socials, culminating in the Welcome Back Barbeque on Friday.

The liturgy and celebration that followed on Sunday were graced by the upbeat presence of President Peter Kilpatrick and his wife, Nancy, whom the rector introduced at the outset of Mass. As the President later pointed out, Fr. Bud “hit it out of the ballpark” with his homily, which was focused on the TC mission of forming priests who not only must pass through the “narrow gate” themselves, but also lead others onto that way as if between two bodies of water, as the Panama Canal does. This narrow path requires sacrifice in facing many challenges and it is “only as wide as the outstretched arms of the crucified God.” He continued, “Every time the word of God is preached authentically, a sacrament is celebrated; every time a pastoral word is offered in the spirit of Christ, a path is opened.” Future priests must, as signs and icons of Christ, guide people between “the abysmal waters of sin into the life-giving waters of the heavenly Jerusalem.”

President Kilpatrick picked up this message of hope at the celebratory reception, encouraging seminarians along this narrow passage. He exhorted them to trust in the Lord, to put everything in his hands with such abandon that they may always be serene. This peace of heart, emphasized by Pope Leo XIV in his first words to the world, will help them make the most progress in their vocation. “The harvest is out there waiting for you; may you embrace this mission!” ■



On move-in day in August, Deacon Blake Thompson (Fort Worth) blessed the room of newcomer Aidan McIntoch (Washington), among many rooms that were blessed that day.

Deacon Stephen Parker (St. Augustine) prepares for a Holy Hour during orientation week.

Veteran’s Day

“*Ecce Sacerdos Magnus:* The Sacrifice of Catholic Priests in Vietnam and the Formation that Defined Their Combat Ministry”

M.A. in History from George Mason University

Samuel McPeak

First Theology, Diocese of Richmond

For the 2024–2025 academic year, I was privileged to complete the final year of the M.A. in history through George Mason University, which I had left incomplete before entering pre-theology at Theological College. What follows is a short synopsis of the thesis that was submitted and subsequently published in the *Military Chaplain Review*’s 250th Anniversary Edition.

During the Vietnam War, 17 chaplains were awarded Silver Stars, including seven Roman Catholic priests.¹ Three chaplains were awarded the Medal of Honor, all of whom were Roman Catholic priests. Perhaps more striking are the statistics surrounding chaplain KIAs (Killed in Action). Sixteen chaplains from the Army and Navy were killed in Vietnam. Thirteen of those chaplains were from the Army, and the remaining three were from the Navy. Of those 16, seven were Roman Catholic priests.² The majority of the non-Catholic chaplains who were killed lost their lives in tragic accidents, primarily aircraft accidents and booby traps and, in one case, a heart attack.³ Aside from one chaplain who was killed due to a helicopter crash, every Catholic chaplain who was killed lost his life in direct contact action with the enemy while administering the sacrament of Last Rites. These statistics are even more striking when considering the severe shortage of



Sam McPeak presented his thesis to the house for the first Rector’s Conference on the theme of virtue.

Catholic chaplains in theatre during the entirety of the Vietnam War, and that Catholic priests made up only 25-30% of the chaplain corps in theatre at a given time. How could this be?

In my thesis, I argue that the man who would serve as a chaplain during Vietnam left the seminary with a particular view of what it meant to be the ideal priest. In examining the testimonies of those who knew these chaplains, as well as examining the chaplains’ personal letters, I argue that the priests who were killed in the Vietnam War actively sought out ways to fulfill that ideal. I demonstrate that these priests left the seminary with immense discipline and an idea about the priesthood that was the following: the existence of the priesthood is necessary for the salvation of souls; the priesthood is an ontological change of the soul making them a priest no

matter what they are doing; and the essence of the priesthood is that of service, suffering, and sacrifice. The combat chaplains who served in Vietnam, both non-Catholic and Catholic, saw their place as being in the most dangerous areas. However, the fundamental difference between non-Catholics and Catholics was their theological view of souls. It was necessary for these priests to be there because they believed they were there to save the souls of men who may not make it back to the field hospital, and that they were the only ones capable of saving their immortal souls. Because of this, Catholic priests risked death to save souls, whereas non-Catholics did not have this imperative and thus saw no need to risk their lives for this. Coupled with a desire to return to their families, non-Catholic combat chaplains were less likely to risk their lives in major battles.

In brief, the priests killed in Vietnam displayed, more than anything, the most intense desire to absolve the men’s sins who were most in danger. In November 1967, Father Charles Watters of the Archdiocese of Newark and a posthumous Army Medal of Honor recipient, no less than four times threw off soldiers holding him back and left the collapsing perimeter on Hill 875 during the Battle of Dak To to administer Last Rites and to drag men back to safety.

During the Battle of Hue in February 1968, and after having being reassigned to a position of relative safety, Army chaplain Father Aloysius McGonigal, S.J., returned to Hue to accompany a Marine Corps battalion entering the most hostile part of the city because he knew they would need a man to offer end-of-life sacraments. McGonigal was killed moving from one platoon to another offering this. During Operation Attleboro, one of the most extensive unit-on-unit operations of the war, Father Michael Quealy, M.M., insisted on going to the area with the most intense fighting, again, with the explicit intent of offering his sacramental services to soldiers who would not make it to field hospitals. He was killed after exposing himself to machine gun fire while absolving a soldier. This pattern repeats with the other priests who were killed in like manner: Fathers Vincent Capodanno, Robert Brett, and William Garrity.

Non-Catholic chaplains admitted they could do little on the battlefield except provide limited medical aid and reassurance and thus did their best to stay out of the way. By their own admission, they could not offer a service that would be considered force-multiplying, whereas the priests who gave

their lives, and many who survived, could not see a more critical role than the absolution of the sins of men on the battlefield.

These priests all shared a common seminary formation. The archival evidence gathered through the Maryknoll Fathers archives, the Sulpician Fathers archives, and the Jesuits’ Woodstock Seminary archive displays a serious emphasis on two things. First, the necessity of end-of-life absolution. One Sulpician source likened a priest who fails to go to the faithful who are in need of it as “guilty of criminal neglect,” just as a doctor is held in neglect of patients he fails to medically minister to. Second, a martyr and missionary spirituality emerged primarily in the formation of religious priests. Nowhere is this better seen than in the recruiting materials for the Maryknoll Fathers, who advertised stories of members of the Society who had been martyred and the prospect that the aspirant could be the newest martyr for the Church one day himself.

The performance of the Catholic chaplain under fire was not only a powerful witness for the proud history of the Army and Naval Chaplain Corps, but a testament to the Catholic priesthood and the unique character of Catholic priestly formation. Fathers Quealy, Capodanno, Watters, Brett, McGonigal, and Garrity, who breathed their last while exercising the sacramental ministry proper only to their status as Catholic priests, proved by blood the fundamentally and profoundly unique understanding of their necessity in combat and the saving of souls. ■

1. All of the Distinguished Service Crosses awarded to chaplains were subsequently upgraded to the Medal of Honor, and the only Silver Star awarded to a Naval chaplain was awarded to a Catholic priest.

2. All three of the naval chaplains killed were Catholic priests, one actively serving with the Navy, the other two serving with the Marine Corps in ground operations.

3. Of the other nine chaplains who were killed, two were Jewish chaplains and the rest fell under the general category of Protestant chaplain. [No Author, “Chaplains on the Wall,” Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, January 19, 2022.]

Campus Converts

Aidan McIntosh
First Theology, Archdiocese of Washington



Rev. Gladstone (Bud) Stevens, S.T.L., Ph.D.
Rector

Father Bud Stevens, a convert from Episcopalianism, is one of only two converts among TC's long line of rectors. The other rector was Father Anthony Lobo, P.S.S. (1976–1982). Father Bud attributes his conversion primarily to the work of the Holy Spirit in God's greater quest for man.

Father Bud was raised in a devout family and was always thinking about the deeper theological and philosophical questions, including the sources of Christianity, the problem of evil, and the arguments for God's existence. After years of wrestling with these questions, he came to realize that some of these could not be answered within the Anglican tradition.

At Father Ryan High School in Nashville, he began going to daily Mass and attending “search” retreats, while he involved himself in his own church's volunteer work. One day, a priest (Father Steiner) told him that he might have a priestly vocation, even before he became Catholic. Ministry was not something foreign to him, as his father was an ordained Episcopalian priest. Shortly after his reception into the Catholic Church, Father Bud entered college seminary.

Exercising his priestly ministry, studying Sacred Scripture, and pursuing his own theological studies continue to nourish Father Bud's zeal for the faith. In particular, he experiences the reality of his spiritual fatherhood when hearing confessions, as he witnesses “a new birth” of the penitent. He emphasizes that God's power is infinite and he is much bigger than our mistakes. This fascination with the mysteries of grace saturates each aspect of his priestly life. Additionally, he is deeply inspired by St. John Henry Newman, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and St. Maximillian Kolbe.

While he converted many years ago, Father Bud says that his Episcopalian background still has a strong impact on his role as rector of Theological College. Influenced by the university models of Cambridge and Oxford in England, he

believes in the importance of community and emphasizes the need to celebrate the sacred liturgy reverently. Many of Newman's ideas on education and formation are being implemented, both at Theological College and at The Catholic University of America.

When asked how our seminary can contribute to a wider culture of evangelization, Father Bud quoted the Vatican's *Directory on the Ministry and Life of Priests*, which calls for priests to present Jesus Christ as a “fascinating person.” Conversion always begins with wonder and fascination, and seminarians must be excited about what they're studying. The salvation of souls in priestly ministry is the primary focus, but people are not going to be convinced if their priests are not personally convinced and enkindled by the truth of the Gospel. With this emphasis at TC, Father Bud is hopeful and enthusiastic about the future of Theological College's mission.



Peter Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
President, The Catholic University of America

President Peter Kilpatrick is the first President of The Catholic University of America who is a convert to Catholicism. He credits his conversion to his wife, Nancy, and the birth of their oldest child, Elisabeth. As he committed to raise her, and their other children, in the Catholic faith, he was prompted to attend a Mass in the fall of 1981. At this Mass, the priest, Father Corbett, fervently preached about the preciousness of human life. Kilpatrick was deeply moved by this witness to pro-life values and began to yearn for the faith and devotion that this priest had. After he took the first step, his conversion was rapid, and he has been strong in his faith for 44 years now.

This zeal for the faith has led him all the way to Washington. His decision to accept the position as President of Catholic University was about the salvation of souls more than anything else. “My Catholic faith and friendship with Christ is everything,” he explains. As he walks through campus, Kilpatrick focuses on leading others to heaven and leaving a larger impact in the Church, not for his own sake, but for God’s glory. His Protestant background has left him with a deep love for the authority and truth of Sacred Scripture, and he appreciates the nuanced way that Vatican II has taught the Church how to interpret Scripture. As such, he fully supports the University’s wider mission of integrating faith and reason.

Since his conversion, Kilpatrick has enjoyed a faith nourished by the sacraments, prayer, and study. His love for the truth of the faith was further nourished after his conversion, when he was asked to teach R.C.I.A. (now named O.C.I.A.), and also by his deep desire to discover and follow the Church’s teachings. He highlights Mass and confession, which are widely available throughout campus, the practice of mental prayer and spiritual reading, and devotion to Our Lady as the crucial building blocks of his faith. Additionally, he continues to absorb the faith through the reading of good books in theology, Biblical commentaries, philosophy, and literature.

When asked about the University’s culture of evangelization, Kilpatrick emphasizes the role of friendship. “There is an old saying: friendship first. I think the way to evangelize on our campus is to sincerely love people and care about their good. This should lead to listening, empathy, and friendship. And that will very naturally lead to evangelization. Our campus ministry is doing that.” He hopes to develop the University’s O.C.I.A. program and other forms of outreach to non-Catholics, to win more souls for Christ and his Church.

Lastly, the President encouraged the seminarians of Theological College to foster an “intense gratitude for Christ’s love for us.” This gratitude and thanksgiving is necessary for priests to “love radically for the Gospel” and authentically serve the Church. He stresses the practice of daily meditation on Scripture and conversation with Jesus with this aforementioned “heart of gratitude” in priestly life. With a heart configured to Christ, the priest can totally trust in God and grow spiritually.

“I think the way to evangelize on our campus is to sincerely love people and care about their good. This should lead to listening, empathy, and friendship.”



Rev. Mr. Blake Thompson
Fourth Theologian, Diocese of Fort Worth

Deacon Blake first fell in love with the Catholic faith because he encountered the clarity of her teachings and the beauty of the Holy Mass. But he only found the Catholic Church after many years of searching for substance and meaning. While he was raised in a Lutheran (Church of Norway) family, he bounced back and forth between a high-church Presbyterian community and different non-denominational megachurches for much of his childhood. As he found that there was no real difference between these communities, he subsequently became a self-described “militant atheist.”

However, everything changed when a friend invited him to Mass for the first time. He was drawn to the Church through the beauty and love of the Eucharist and he found truth in the Church’s teachings. He was received into the Church in 2014 and decided to give himself entirely to the faith soon after, getting involved with his parish’s ministries and spending time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He entered college seminary after graduating from high school. Deacon Blake still remembers the rich musical tradition of his Presbyterian community, which has informed his understanding of the sacred liturgy.

What has sustained Deacon Blake’s faith is the reception and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady, particularly with the Holy Rosary. In particular, he reflects on the image of the Blessed Virgin and St. John at the Foot of the Cross: Our Lady’s heart is pierced, yet she remains interiorly quiet while the Evangelist is horrified. He understands the priesthood through this scene, as Mary is the priest’s model for quiet yet profound contemplation of Jesus Christ crucified, which St. John looks up to.

When asked about the mission of clergy to evangelize and develop the Church’s culture, Deacon Blake highlights the necessity of priests to give witness to their vocation through the simple “act” of wearing clerics in public. The priest clearly identifies himself as a representative of the Church, and ultimately of Christ, and communicates to people that he is available for them by wearing clerical attire, even though it can be a humbling experience.

“What has sustained my faith is the reception and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and devotion to Our Lady, particularly with the Holy Rosary.”



“Love for the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance, drew me into the Church and to the discernment of the priesthood.”

Mr. Robert Weisberg
Pastoral Year, Diocese of Fort Worth

Conversion was a challenging, but greatly rewarding, process for Robert Weisberg. He was raised in a devout non-denominational family in the Dallas–Fort Worth area and knew the importance of Sacred Scripture and worship of God as a child. When he went to Texas A&M for college, he continued to go to churches, but grew skeptical of the megachurches and Protestant services he was used to. These worship services came off as hollow, and the centerpiece of the sermon, which was not always taken seriously, seemed insubstantial.

After graduating, he practiced as a Methodist for a while, and began to receive their communion every week. This was a new experience for Robert, and he began to wonder why it was a weekly ritual, and where it came from. He looked into Church history and the writings of the Fathers for the first time, since this education was neglected by non-denominational communities, and he noticed that they sounded oddly Catholic for their time. After a while, he came to realize that Catholics were the original Christians — a shocking revelation for him. He finally decided to go to a Mass, and was attracted by the doctrine that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.

This love for the Real Presence continues to strengthen Robert’s faith. Christ’s presence to us is so real and tangible, instead of being over-spiritualized, and this brings him great joy. Love for the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance, drew him into the Church and to the discernment of the priesthood. In particular, he looks back on his service trip to Honduras with the TC community last spring with great fondness, as he was able to carry the Eucharist through the mountains to the people of God, who longed for Mass and Adoration. This was a very vocationally affirming experience for him.

Robert emphasizes that all Catholics, cradle and converts, need to have a real conversion of heart to follow Christ. It is important, he says, for priests to present the faith as practical — something they can actually follow in their daily lives — and communal, as practiced in the mystical Body of Christ. If lay Catholics understand that they can live in a relationship with the Lord Jesus in this ecclesial context, they can evangelize more effectively.



Aidan McIntosh enjoyed a visit to the office of President Peter Kilpatrick, where they shared conversion stories.

“These experiences with service showed me the genuine need in the Church for teaching the faith and developing a culture of evangelization.”

Mr. Aidan McIntosh
First Theologian, Archdiocese of Washington

As a recent convert myself, I was inspired to interview these important people with whom I feel a real sense of fraternal identity, especially considering how highly they value the University’s seminary, where I am being formed.

Ten years ago, I never would have thought that my future would entail studying for the Catholic priesthood and living in Washington, D.C. I was raised in a small Massachusetts town and had no religious upbringing. In middle school, as I began watching YouTube debates between atheists and Christians, I came to identify myself as an atheist, dismissing religion as irrational and pointless.

However, the value of religion came to light after years of personal struggles, as I began to understand the basic human need for hope and a deeper meaning in life, which atheism explicitly denies. My love of European history and a trip to Italy helped me to see the Church’s role in developing civilization.

By God’s Providence, I came to Catholic University as an undergraduate in 2018, initially wanting to study law and political science. Here, I met authentic Catholics for the first time in my life and became involved with Bible studies and service through campus ministry. Reading the *Confessions* of St. Augustine for a philosophy class, I saw that holiness and Christian virtue were possible, even after living away from God for so many years. In 2020, I was received into the Church.

Immediately after my reception into the Church, I became involved with youth and campus ministry, as I hoped to share the truth of the Gospel with those who need to encounter Christ. These experiences with service showed me the genuine need in the Church for teaching the faith and developing a culture of evangelization. Living a sacramental life within the Church, with daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and altar serving made the faith much more real to me. In particular, seeing priests hear confessions for hours directly inspired me to consider the priesthood, as the vocation is directly tied with Divine Mercy.

Priests have a unique and powerful role in evangelization because, through the sacraments, they bring Christ into the world. Preeminently in the Eucharist, the priest brings Jesus Christ’s presence to the sick and the dying, and he helps to nourish God’s people, who are spiritually starving in today’s world. The priest must proclaim the Gospel well, but he must also know his dignity in being chosen and configured to Christ for the mission of saving souls. Likewise, the priest must be available to all and evangelize through friendship. Without authentic friends, I would not be Catholic, let alone in seminary formation. The priest must be a father, but also one who reveals the friendship and joy of Christ, the High Priest. ■

Seminarian Initiatives

Student Government

This fall, the Student Government Association and its four committees have been active in supporting the education, growth, and fraternity of the house.

- In advance of the Spring Break trip to Honduras, the Hispanic Affairs Committee again hosted a very well-attended meeting with the Missioners for Christ, who shared their experiences of ministering to the poorest of the poor there. The committee also continues to host weekly Spanish language and culture dinners, weekly Spanish Evening or Night Prayer (or both) and monthly Spanish Mass.
- The Prayer and Worship Committee is the go-between with the faculty and students regarding in-house worship. The committee also organizes the Schola for the Thursday St. Vincent Chapel Holy Hour, and this year was responsible for arrangements in hosting the relics of St Thérèse, which included a public veneration invitation (*read about it in the Spring 2026 issue!*). The committee also offered to the house the book *Advent of the Heart: Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings* by Father Alfred Delp, S.J.
- The Social Justice Committee ran a fundraiser at the Fall House Party. This year, the house generously contributed over \$4,000 to Neighbors Nourishing Neighbors (N3) Food Pantry (<https://www.n3foodpantry.org>), originally based in Prosper, Texas, which suffered devastating fire damage last

January. The pantry provided essential service to the largest-growing area in the state, and its reconstruction in Celina is a cause very dear to several TC seminarians who hail from the Diocese of Fort Worth. This committee has also begun collaborating with Cardinals for Life, the University’s pro-life club that meets weekly to pray at the local abortion clinic, as well as for other initiatives such as the Mother Teresa Day of Service in D.C., during which they paired with the Sisters of Life in Brookland.

- The Community Life Committee (CLC) hosted a variety of successful events, including the Mini-Sedes Cup golf tournament and the Fall House Party. The playful theme of the Fall House party was “Star Wars: A Jubilee Year of New Hope,” and was followed by the usual weekly movie night in the third-floor lounge (this time featuring *Spaceballs!*). This past semester, the CLC offered the unique opportunity to tour historic battlefields in the area. And, as always, the committee organizes game nights and refreshments for breaks during exams, among other moments of companionship, including overseeing the intramural sports activities.

Student Government Association 2025–2026:

Sitting, from left: Secretary, Nicholas Broussard (3-B, Lafayette); Vice President and 4th Theology Rep., Deacon Blake Thompson (Fort Worth); President, Deacon Stephen Parker (St. Augustine); Treasurer, Trent Barton (3-T, Fort Worth). Standing, from left: 1st Theology Rep., Amos Stinson (Louisville); Hispanic Affairs Chair, Jake Nadeau (1-T, Charleston); 3rd Theology Rep., Thach Nguyen (Pittsburgh); Social Justice Chair and Basselin Rep., Cameron Huhlein (2-B, Birmingham); Prayer and Worship Chair, Peter Nguyen (2-T, Fort Worth); Community Life Chair, Lane Tschirhart (2-T, Fort Worth); Pre-Theology Rep., Carl Baumann (Richmond); 2nd Theology Rep., Xavier Polisetty (Fort Worth).



Attendees at the Star Wars themed Fall House Party cheer on the Social Justice Committee’s successful fundraising efforts.

The TC Ravens Fly High!

This past semester, TC athletics took shape in the TC Football Ravens and the TC 3v3 Basketball Ravens, both managed by their great TC Sports Manager of Operations, Xavier Polisetty. The TC Football Ravens went 3-1 during the regular season, led by veteran quarterback and offensive coordinator Deacon Stephen Parker. Seeded fifth going into the playoffs, they took on the CUA ROTC, losing a heartbreaker 31-28, in a game that came down to the very last play.

Veteran center and defensive coordinator Wheeler Wilson, veteran running back Nico Broussard, veteran outside linebacker Liam Leonard, and veteran cornerback Megan Sie are retiring this season. We thank them for their years of dedication and manifold contribution to TC Ravens Football.

Special thanks are due to veteran cornerbacks Megan Sie and Clare Cey, since, without their consistent performance, TC Football Ravens would not even be possible, seeing as the CUA Intramural Flag Football League is coed, and Theological College is entirely without CUA-enrolled, intramural-eligible women, which lack is happily remedied by the aforementioned two, who regularly and with ease out-perform not only the women, but even the overwhelming majority of the men on the other teams.

The TC 3v3 Basketball Ravens was made up of two separate teams, the Ravens and the Lectors. Both teams made the playoffs, with the Lectors, consisting of Wheeler Wilson, Xavier Polisetty, Matthew Fichter, and Amos Stinson, making the Elite



The TC Ravens co-ed team enjoyed an exciting season!

Eight round of the playoff tournament. The Ravens, consisting of Stephen Parker, Jake Nadeau, Joseph Ytem, and Cameron Huhlein, lost a competitive game in the first round. Veteran point guard Wheeler Wilson is retiring this season. We thank him for his unwavering commitment to TC Ravens basketball, as well as his lights-out shooting, precision passing, and dominant slam-dunks.

TC Sports looks forward to volleyball, 5v5 basketball, and soccer in the winter and spring!



In September, Father Bud blessed the new game room seminarian kitchen.



New Student Kitchen

Nicholas Broussard
Third Basselin, Diocese of Lafayette

One of the most exciting events at TC this year has been the finishing of the much-anticipated kitchen in the lower-level game room. Xavier Polisetty (2-T, Fort Worth) led the charge in the effort to get a student kitchen at TC.

He described how the idea originated: “My previous seminary had a kitchen, and it was great to be able to cook your own food when you wanted control over what you eat or when you wanted a smaller communal meal with your seminary brothers. Additionally, with the class schedule the way it is, some of us would have class from 11 to 2, and we would miss the lunch in the refectory. So this offered a chance to be able to cook and bake our own food.”

The funds for the kitchen came from donations from the Knights of Columbus Councils from the Diocese of Fort Worth. Councils 7099, 4771, 2045, 15882, and the Fort Worth district contributed.

Polisetty commented that he liked the idea of a student kitchen because “it gives us a chance to spend time in community and helps us save money by avoiding eating out at expensive D.C. restaurants. We learn how to cook and clean, too, and can make cuisine from our home states, such as Cajun food.”

An avid cook myself, I really appreciate the kitchen because it lets me work with my hands in an otherwise very intellectual environment. Also, as a Louisiana native, I think cooking for your friends is a way to show them you love them. Of course, it offers a break from study as well as the chance to develop a hobby I love, but the opportunity to put on the apron to invite friends for a homemade meal is more important. Here, at right, is a recipe I love to make and highly recommend! ■



Ingredients:

- 3 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 pounds lean stewing beef, cut into 2-inch cubes
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 carrot, sliced
- One 6-ounce piece of chunk bacon
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 3 cups red wine (burgundy)
- 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 cups brown beef stock
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 2 cloves mashed garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon thyme
- A crumbled bay leaf
- 18 to 24 small peeled white onions (about 1" in diameter)
- 3 1/2 tablespoons butter
- Herb bouquet (4 parsley sprigs, one-half bay leaf, one-quarter teaspoon thyme, tied in cheesecloth)
- 1 pound mushrooms, fresh and quartered

Beef Bourguignon

(from Mastering the Art of French Cooking by Julia Child)

Cooking Instructions:

Remove bacon rind and cut into lardons (sticks 1/4-inch thick and 1 1/2 inches long). Simmer rind and lardons for 10 minutes in 1 1/2 quarts water. Drain and dry. Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

Sauté lardons in 1 tablespoon of the olive oil in a flameproof casserole over moderate heat for 2 to 3 minutes to brown lightly. Remove to a side dish with a slotted spoon.

Dry beef in paper towels; it will not brown if it is damp. Heat fat in casserole until almost smoking. Add beef, a few pieces at a time, and sauté until nicely browned on all sides. Add it to the lardons.

In the same fat, brown the sliced vegetables. Pour out excess fat. Return the beef and bacon to the casserole and toss with 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Then sprinkle on the flour and toss again to coat the beef lightly. Set casserole uncovered in middle position of preheated oven for 4 minutes. Toss the meat again and return to oven for 4 minutes (this browns the flour and covers the meat with a light crust).

Remove casserole and turn oven down to 325 degrees. Stir in wine and 2 to 3 cups stock, just enough so that the meat is barely covered. Add tomato paste, garlic, herbs and bacon rind. Bring to a simmer on top of the stove. Cover casserole and set in lower third of oven. Regulate heat so that liquid simmers very slowly for 3 to 4 hours. The meat is done when a fork pierces it easily.

While the beef is cooking, prepare the onions and mushrooms. Heat 1 1/2 tablespoons butter with 1 ½ tablespoons of the oil until bubbling in a skillet. Add onions and sauté over moderate heat for about 10 minutes, rolling them so they will brown as evenly as possible. Be careful not to break their skins. You cannot expect them to brown uniformly. Add 1/2 cup of the stock, salt and pepper to taste and the herb bouquet. Cover and simmer slowly for 40 to 50 minutes until the onions are perfectly tender but hold their shape, and the liquid has evaporated. Remove herb bouquet and set onions aside.

Wipe out skillet and heat remaining oil and butter over high heat. As soon as you see butter has begun to subside, indicating it is hot enough, add mushrooms. Toss and shake pan for 4 to 5 minutes. As soon as they have begun to brown lightly, remove from heat.

When the meat is tender, pour the contents of the casserole into a sieve set over a saucepan. Wash out the casserole and return the beef and lardons to it. Distribute the cooked onions and mushrooms on top. Skim fat off sauce in saucepan. Simmer sauce for a minute or 2, skimming off additional fat as it rises. You should have about 2 1/2 cups of sauce thick enough to coat a spoon lightly. If too thin, boil it down rapidly. If too thick, mix in a few tablespoons stock. Taste carefully for seasoning.

Pour sauce over meat and vegetables. Cover and simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, basting the meat and vegetables with the sauce several times. Serve in casserole or arrange stew on a platter surrounded by potatoes and garnished with parsley.

Our Resident Priests

Edited by Antonino Castellano
Third Theology, Diocese of Pittsburgh

Every academic year, Theological College is privileged to host up to eight student priests who are pursuing advanced degrees or have placements in Washington, D.C. Most live in Providence Hall, the attached priests residence renovated and dedicated in 2019. The variety of their home dioceses, cultures, and forms and expressions of the faith bring a rich diversity to the seminary community, of which they are an integral part. This year in residence are priests from five different dioceses and one archabbey, as well as one who works at the nearby St. Luke’s Institute. Below, some of them briefly tell their unique stories, and offer some literary suggestions, adding to those in previous issues.

“The task of believers, and of priests in particular, is precisely to 'touch' the hearts of others, so that they may be opened to the messages of the Lord Jesus. In this great task, the contribution that literature and poetry can offer is of incomparable value.”

— Pope Francis



Rev. John Fleming
J.C.L. Candidate
Diocese of Manchester, N.H.

Three score and four years ago, I was born in Danvers, Mass. Having earned a B.S. in psychology from Salem State College and been accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Manchester, I was ordained in 1996. Blessed with a ministry as pastor in four parishes, I also served in the Diocesan Tribunal as an advocate and an auditor.

Our judicial vicar recognized my interest in canon law and its special ministry in the Church. I have spent three years here in Washington, D.C., studying for a J.C.L. and residing at Theological College. It has been a challenging and rewarding time. Returning to the academic sphere has been difficult, with navigating the online systems of information services and literature needed for classes. The reward? The active grace of the support and camaraderie of the seminarians who have generously assisted me in my questions and freely given their time!

In my free hours, I enjoy exploring Washington and reading. I appreciate books relating to Biblical history, which helps in preparing homilies. For “fun reading,” I like urban fantasy literature.



Rev. Lorenzo Penalosa, O.S.B.
S.T.D. Candidate
Saint Meinrad Archabbey

I was born in the Philippines and moved to the U.S. in 2006. From a young age, I’ve always dreamed about becoming a priest and a teacher, two callings that ultimately led me to enter Saint Meinrad Archabbey, a Benedictine monastery in southern Indiana. Currently, I’m writing my dissertation to earn an S.T.D. in liturgical studies at The Catholic University of America. I’m very grateful to live at TC, in a handicap-accessible environment just across the street from campus. God willing, after my studies, I hope to teach about the theological richness of the words, actions, and sacred signs that we use in our worship.

One of the projects I’m currently working on is a podcast called *Studeamus*, in which I and a fellow graduate student interview Catholic University scholars, especially theology faculty, about their academic journey, their current research interests and projects, and advice they may have for graduate students. We hope to launch *Studeamus* later this school year.

I enjoy reading both fiction and non-fiction. In particular, I’m very interested in magical realism novels (such as books by Gabriel García Márquez and Haruki Murakami) — stories that take place in our world but have some supernatural elements. This genre of literature often reminds me never to lose a sense of wonder and awe, which are fundamental in our Catholic sacramental worldview. I also enjoy reading memoirs of writers, such as Stephen King’s *On Writing* and Anne Lamott’s *Bird by Bird*.



Rev. Thanh Pham
J.C.L. Candidate
Diocese of Portland

I was born and raised in Vietnam, where I earned a B.A. in counseling and therapy psychology. In 2016, I came to the United States to begin my formation and studies for the Diocese of Portland in Maine. Until 2018, I was in formation at TC while studying English at Catholic University.

Following my ordination to the priesthood in May 2025, my bishop assigned me to pursue a licentiate in canon law at Catholic University, responding to the growing need for qualified canonists in our diocesan tribunal. Through these studies, I hope to acquire a deeper and more professional understanding of canon law so that I may better serve the pastoral and juridical needs of the diocese. My primary area of interest is marriage law, particularly how it can assist engaged and married couples in living their vocation with greater faithfulness and joy. The bishop has asked me to remain at TC, as it is more convenient for my studies and provides supervision and support during my first year as a newly ordained priest.

At present, I am reading *Family and Civilization* by Carle C. Zimmerman, a book recommended by my professor. Zimmerman’s central thesis is that the vitality of civilization depends on the moral strength of the family. He argues that when virtues such as self-sacrifice, fidelity, and parental responsibility are replaced by individualism, hedonism, and state dependency, the moral and cultural foundations of society inevitably erode.



Rev. William Mobley
J.C.L. Candidate
Diocese of Dallas

I began formation at Theological College in 2019 and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Dallas in May 2024, following graduation. During my final year of theology, I began the licentiate program in canon law at the request of my bishop. After a brief summer of ministry at the National Shrine Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dallas, I returned to Catholic University to complete the course of studies. Grateful for the spiritual and intellectual foundation formed at Theological College, I look forward to completing my degree in May 2025 and returning to Dallas to serve in the diocesan tribunal, where I hope to unite the Church's law with her mission of mercy.

I enjoy reading the works of G.K Chesterton and C.S. Lewis, especially *The Great Divorce*, as well as the mysteries of Agatha Christie and any well-told detective story.



Rev. Michael Villavicencio
S.T.L. Candidate
Archdiocese of Santa Fe

I was born and raised in Albuquerque, N.M., and grew up in a homeschooling family. My parents' example of living a daily faith-filled life helped nourish my vocation from a very young age. Through my faith-based education, attending and often serving daily Mass (which allowed such a close proximity to the altar), and participating in parish life, my vocation began to become clearer as I seriously discerned the priesthood. In the fall of 2016, at age 18, I entered Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. I began theology studies in August 2020 here at Theological College, and was ordained a priest on June 7, 2025, for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.

I am currently studying for my licentiate degree in theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies in Marriage and Family. My desire to study in this particular field comes from my experiences in parish life and from awareness of the need to promote the sacredness of marriage and the dignity of the human person. My thesis is on the relationship of human fatherhood and Christology through the thought of John Paul II, which I hope can be a formative guide for young and aspiring fathers in the Church.

I enjoy reading theological works in Christology and anthropology, especially the writings of Hans Urs Von Balthasar in *Theo-Drama* and *Christian State of Life*, as well as Benedict XVI and his *Jesus of Nazareth*. Along with these, I very much enjoy the writings of John Paul II and his deep, mystical sense of the human person, which has grown and continues to grow my vocation as a priest. Some of these writings I highly recommend are: *Love and Responsibility*, *Man and Woman He Created Them* (Theology of the Body), and *Familiaris Consortio*, *Radiation of Fatherhood*. ■

THEOLOGIAN FOR OUR TIMES



“The normal precondition for real preaching is real studies... studies which will lead us to think about real things.”

— Rev. Yves Congar

Cardinal Yves Marie-Joseph Congar, O.P. (1904–1995)

It would be difficult to overstate the impact of Father Yves Congar on contemporary religious thought. As a teacher, writer, and *peritus* at the Second Vatican Council, his works continue to shape theological discourse in the present, even beyond the Catholic world. There was not an area within the theological sciences that fell outside the range of Fr. Congar's interest; he wrote significant works in dogmatics, historical theology, and spirituality that display not only an incredible level of erudition but a profound depth of insight.

For the mission of the seminary in the formation of seminarians, it is fruitful to focus on his thought that directly pertains to the work of Theological College; namely, preaching. Congar's primary concern was that preaching today be “real.” By this, he meant that homiletics should not engage in generalizations or vague abstractions but should instead reflect the realism of the Incarnation and the sacraments. He wrote, “By real preaching, I mean that which is really capable of bearing fruit in the consciences of men.” Thus, real preaching is not “about” Jesus Christ but must seek to generate him in the interior life of the hearer. To accomplish this aim, the preacher must not be satisfied with only correct exegesis on dogmatic propositions; his words must take the form of a living response to the needs and questions of living people. When not directed toward real people and their genuine concerns, even the most eloquent of sermons becomes unreal and, at best, only rhetoric.

Congar was mindful that this can be a daunting task. Years of formation must take place before one can claim to be a true preacher. He wrote, “The normal precondition for real preaching is real studies... studies which will lead us to think about real things.” In an age like ours in which truth is often treated simply as a commodity and misinformation is all too rampant, this is a message that all of us committed to the work of priestly formation must take to heart. Please pray that Theological College may continue to produce real men of the Word. ■

Community Engagement

The formation faculty at Theological College offers to its seminarians 140 years of combined experience in myriad aspects of priestly ministry. Their involvement in commitments outside the walls of TC witnesses to their selfless example of service to the Church, and enriches their relationships with their advisees and with the entire house.



TC faculty, from left: Fathers John McNerney, Robert Cro, Bud Stevens, Martin Gallagher, Jaime Robledo, and James McKearney.

Rev. Bud Stevens, P.S.S., M.A., S.T.L., Ph.D.

While serving as Rector of TC, Father Stevens is also teaching Christian eschatology and homiletics at The Catholic University of America and contributes to the Dean's Council meetings and the School of Theology and Religious Studies faculty meetings. At the outset of the semester, he conducted a week-long retreat for the new men at the Blessed Michael McGivney Propaedeutic House of Formation in Baltimore, and spoke at St. Mary's Seminary on the Feast of St. John Henry Newman about Newman's contributions to the Church. Father Bud is First Consultor for the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice. He was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools and continues to minister as chaplain to the Knights of Malta. For the Archdiocese of Washington, he occasionally offers weekend Masses and other ministerial support.

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

Father Cro is TC's interim vice-rector, coordinator of human formation, coordinator of intellectual formation, and dean of men. He also serves as the general treasurer of the Society of St. Sulpice and is a lifetime member of the Ecclesiastical History Society, whose summer conference he attended in Edinburgh, Scotland.

“Presbyters who preside well deserve double honor, especially those who toil in preaching and teaching.”

— 1 Tim 5:1

Rev. James McKearney, P.S.S., M.A./M.Mus., S.T.L., S.T.D.

In addition to his service as formator and director of music (holding the Rev. John C. Selner Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy), Father McKearney has been teaching homiletics at Catholic University since 2024. This term, he taught a course titled Mystagogical Preaching Practicum, on preaching the daily and Sunday lectionary. Next semester, the course will be focused on preaching for special occasions, such as weddings and funerals.



Father Robledo conducts his hybrid class for the Archdiocese of Washington in the Saint Sulpice Conference Room.

Rev. Jaime Robledo, P.S.S., M.Div., S.T.L., S.T.D.

Father Robledo is the coordinator of spiritual formation and liturgy and coordinator of pastoral formation, with ministry placements in 14 local parishes, four campuses, two hospitals, and one prison. In June, he preached a retreat for priests in the Diocese of Salt Lake City and, throughout the summer, he assisted religious men and woman in spiritual and vocational discernment. For the Archdiocese of Washington, he is teaching a weekly evening class for the permanent deacon candidates on Christian anthropology, and next semester he will teach moral theology. For Catholic University, he is teaching two different sections of the practicum Liturgical Ministry of the Deacon. Also for the archdiocese, he offers weekend Masses, retreats, and workshops (for lectors and others).

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

Father McNerney is TC's director of Basselin scholars. He served as the First Michael Novak Distinguished Scholar at Catholic University and is an elected international fellow of the Institute for Human Ecology. He is an active member of the Eric Voegelin Society, which is devoted to the revitalization of teaching and understanding of Voegelin's work and fundamental expressions of human civilization in art, literature, science, and politics.

A published author, his books include *Myself as Another: A Journey to the Heart of Who We Are* (New York: New City Press); *Wealth of Persons: Economics with a Human Face* (Eugene, Ore.: Cascade Books); and *John Paul II: Poet and Philosopher* (New York: Continuum Press). *Crossing the Threshold: Philosophical-Esthetic Elucidations on the Human Person* is forthcoming. Father McNerney is a faculty member of the Catholic International University, an online college whose mission is to communicate the mind and heart of the Church in support of the New Evangelization. He teaches courses on the human person, contemporary philosophy, and metaphysics.



Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., M.S., S.T.B., Ph.L., D. Min. will recap his sabbatical adventures for the Spring issue of *The Crossroads*. Stay tuned! ■

Father Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., while on sabbatical, participated in the Jubilee talk and Jubilee Mass for the World of Education at the end of October. He also attended the papal Mass (left) at which Pope Leo XIV declared St. John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church.

New Faculty

Rev. Martin Gallagher, B.A., M.Div.
Sulpician Candidate

Father Martin Gallagher joined the Theological College faculty in July. He is a formator for first theologians and is the advisor for the student government's Social Justice Committee.

Father Gallagher is a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y., which is also his hometown. Ordained in 2017, he completed his studies for the priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, N.Y., earning a Master of Divinity. Father Gallagher was accepted into the candidacy formation program for the Society of St. Sulpice this year.

Prior to his seminary formation, Father Gallagher earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology, with an anthropology concentration, from SUNY Fredonia in 2005. Immediately following college, Father Gallagher taught English in Japan for two years. Rotating between junior high school and five elementary schools, he lived and worked in the northern prefecture of Iwate between 2006 and 2008. During seminary studies, he completed the Clinical Pastoral Education Program at UPMC Montefiore and Presbyterian (Pittsburgh) in 2015.

As a parish priest for eight years, Father Gallagher served in a variety of roles at different parishes, some of which overlapped. He served as pastor for two years and administrator (including temporary) for nearly two years. He also ministered as parochial vicar for five and a half years, before and after the diocesan reorganization called the Road to Renewal.

Father Gallagher enjoys the study of the Church Fathers, Church history, and liturgical theology. One of his particular areas of interest is the study of and integration of Eastern Christian theology (Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and Oriental Orthodox) into various theological disciplines and pastoral practices. ■



ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumnus: Rev. Frank Seabo Class of 2000, Diocese of Charlotte

Noah Yankovich
First Theology, Diocese of Charleston

This year marks 25 years since Father Frank Seabo's ordination. To celebrate his silver jubilee, Theological College is proud to highlight him as this issue's Distinguished Alumnus. I recently spoke with him about his journey to the priesthood, which was shaped by everyday blessings, patient discernment, and steady commitment, offering both guidance and inspiration for all.

Father Seabo was born in the Diocese of Camden, N.J. His mother's Catholic faith and his father's quiet integrity formed the foundation of his vocation. At the age of 10, he chose St. Paul as his confirmation patron, a detail that reads as a hint of the path ahead: like St. Paul, he would answer the call later in life, ordained at the age of 41 by Bishop William Curlin.

In 1989, Frank Seabo moved to Raleigh, N.C., for work. He became deeply involved in his local parish and as an active member of the Knights of Columbus, while pursuing his demanding career in training police officers in criminal investigations (using his company's technology). His call to the priesthood came in 1991 when a homily on service struck him with unusual force. Other events in his life, along with counsel from Father Frank O'Rourke, convinced him to begin his vocational journey with the Diocese of Charlotte.

Arriving at Theological College in the fall of 1995, he recognized that he was older than most here, but quickly discovered a house where prayer, fraternity, rigorous academics, and hands-on ministry were knit together. Courses grounded him in sound theology, ordered to service, while formation habits, liturgy, spiritual direction, and community life taught him to receive before acting. A particularly formative third-year pastoral assignment to a federal prison made the Gospel tangible in a new way. There, he witnessed how patient accompaniment and clear catechesis open avenues for grace, sometimes culminating in the joy of preparing for Baptism. Those encounters convinced him that God's mercy meets people in very specific, though often unlikely, places and times, and always through personal presence.



At the center of Father Seabo's priesthood stands the Eucharist. He strives to offer Mass with the freshness and gravity it deserves. From the altar, everything else flows: preaching the day's readings, O.C.I.A. instruction that invites people into the mystery, small retreats that deepen prayer, and visits to the sick that become occasions of hope. The Eucharist has been both "anchor and fuel," sustaining his faith and giving shape to the rhythm of his service.

He has recently taken over as pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland in Maggie Valley, his sixth assignment in the diocese. This, and most other parishes where he has served, are intimate yet vibrant, the kind of places where pastors quickly learn the names and stories of their parishioners. Always with a smile after Mass, he initiates conversations that unlock and foster new relationships. Family is the quiet backbone of his ministry. His brother Bob's steady care for their 91-year-old mother makes his availability possible, and the memory of his late father's rectitude continues to steady his decisions. He speaks of this support with deep gratitude.

Asked what he would offer seminarians and new priests, he returns to essentials. Keep the Eucharist at the center. Listen for God's voice in ordinary people and events. Do not count yourself out if your path seems late or imperfect. Serve the sick, teach with patience, pray faithfully, cultivate fraternity, trust grace to carry the weight, and, most importantly, "if you are ever pursuing this path [priesthood] for your own sake, leave!" A quarter century on, he still recognizes Christ in all the people he encounters and draws strength for each day's work at the altar. The call that first reached him through everyday moments continues to be renewed in the same way: quietly, faithfully, and through the faces God places before him. ■



On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, assisted by Father Michael Villavicencio ('25, Santa Fe), Father Bud blessed three beautiful Marian-themed vestments, gifts from the Class of 2025.

Class Notes

60s

Rev. Peter Graziano, '63, of the Archdiocese of Boston, let us know that, at the age of 90, he is still involved in part-time active ministry in his home parish, St. Michael the Archangel in Winthrop, Mass.

Rev. John Hynes, '65, of the Diocese of Wilmington (Del.),retired in 2023 after 58 years in fruitful parish ministry. He resides at Holy Cross in Dover and continues in support ministry for the diocese.

Monsignor Ronald Jameson, '68, of the Archdiocese of Washington, on July 1 celebrated his 30-year anniversary as the rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese. Heartfelt congratulations, Monsignor!

70s

Monsignor Roger McGrath, '71 (B '67), of the Diocese of Camden, was recently named vicar for retired priests for the diocese.

80s

Monsignor Michael Clay, '80, of the Diocese of Raleigh, pastor emeritus at The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi in Raleigh, has launched a website (*Harvest4God.com*) to assist O.C.I.A. ministers with resources to facilitate formation sessions faithful to the vison of the program.

Rev. Sinclair Oubre, Ph.B. '80, of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, is the pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Orange and a member of the Seafarers Union and North American Maritime Ministry Association. As a diocesan director of the Apostleship of the Sea in the Diocese of Beaumont, he ministers to local and visiting seafarers at the Port Arthur International Seafarers' Center. Father Oubre oversees the permanent diaconate program and is defender of the bond for the tribunal of the diocese He is also spiritual moderator and 1996 founder of the Catholic Labor Network (CLN) and Chaplain to the Sabine Area Central Labor Council. He offered Mass at TC on Labor Day for members of the CLN.

Rev. Owen Korte, '81, of the Diocese of Omaha, recently retired, after having last served as pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Hartington.

“I’ve had the privilege — the unexpected privilege — of serving as rector of this historic Cathedral for all of these magnificent years. Thirty years! That’s more than half of my 57 years as a priest. And, of course, I also spent 11 years of my early years as a priest here at the Cathedral when I was the director of liturgy for the Archdiocese. So that makes 41 years here altogether. That is exactly half of my life! The Cathedral has really been my life! And a blessed and happy life it has been. I stand in awe of all the ways God has blessed me over so many years in this amazing and holy place and, as I do, I am overcome with gratitude.”

— Monsignor Ronald Jameson ('68, Washington)



Monsignor Frank Murray accepted the Theological College Alumnus Lifetime Service Award in 2018 from then-rector, Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S.

Monsignor Frank Murray, '81, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), 2022 recipient of the TC Alumnus Lifetime Service Award, was bestowed the title of monsignor on April 13 by Pope Francis, due to his exceptional service to the Church.

Rev. Frank Salmani, '81, of the Diocese of Providence, retired in 2024, becoming pastor emeritus at St. Agnes Parish in Providence, where he formerly served as pastor for over six years.

Rev. Thomas Tully, '85, of the Diocese of Raleigh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Saint Michael the Archangel in Cary, while persevering in his assignment to form a new community around the diocesan land trust property in Holly Springs, with residence and sacramental ministry at Saint Bernadette in Fuquay-Varina.

Rev. Phillip Brown, P.S.S., '89, former TC rector (2011–2016) and current president-rector of St. Mary's Seminary & University (Baltimore), has been appointed as consultant to the USCCB Committee on Higher Education, focusing on the relationship between bishops and theologians. As a service to the Archdiocese of Baltimore, he has also taken on the responsibility of Latin translations for the tribunal.

Monsignor Marc B. Caron, ’89, of the Diocese of Portland (Maine), has been appointed director of the Center for Continuing Formation at Saint Mary’s Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md. He had served as vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Diocese of Portland since 2020. Prior to his current role, Monsignor Caron served on the formation faculty of St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Mass., from 2016 to 2020.

Most Rev. Joseph Tyson, ’89, Bishop of Yakima, Wash., is in his second of a three-year term on the board of directors for Catholic Relief Services. He also remains actively involved in more than a half dozen committees for the USCCB.

00s

Rev. Thomas LaHood, ’00, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed rector of Holy Redeemer in Kensington, Md., after having served as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Rev. Clyde Timberlake Meares, ’02, of the Diocese of Raleigh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes in Raleigh, after having served as sacramental minister at the Parish of Maria Reina de las Americas in Mount Olive and the Mission of Santa Teresa in Beulaville.

Rev. Scott Hahn, ’03, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed pastor of Annunciation Parish in Washington, D.C., after serving as pastor of Saint Jerome Parish, Hyattsville, Md.

Rev. Matthew Paratore, ’09, of the Diocese of Metuchen, has just retired, after having last served at Our Lady of Peace in Fords, N.J. Father Paratore will continue his work in the diocesan chancery as well as the tribunal.

10s

Rev. Aaron Qureshi, Pre-T ’10, now of the Diocese of Phoenix, was incardinated into the presbyterate of that diocese on March 6, 2025. He is associate director of the Arizona State University Newman Center and a member of the faculty at Mary College at ASU.

Rev. Evan Ponton, B ’12, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, has been appointed administrator of the newly united parish of St. Leo the Great and St. Vincent De Paul in Baltimore, after having served as associate pastor of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Matthew in Northwood. He continues his ministry as chaplain to the Baltimore City Fire Department. Follow his homilies and writings on his *Words If Necessary* blog!

Rev. Michael Bissex, B ’13, of the Diocese of Rockville Center, has been appointed pastor of the Church of St. Aidan in Williston Park, after having completed his doctoral studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

Rev. Andrew DeFusco, ’14, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, in 2024 was appointed pastor of St. Ignatius in Hickory, after having served as pastor of St. Andrew by the Bay in Annapolis.

Rev. Kyle Doustou, ’14 (B ’10), was appointed vicar general of the Diocese of Portland, after having served as pastor of the Parish of the Resurrection of the Lord in Old Town since July of 2019, as well as the diocesan director of campus ministry and chaplain at the University of Maine in Orono.

Rev. Ryan Lerner, ’14, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, was appointed pastor of St. John Bosco in Branford, after having served as pastor-in-solidum of Blessed Michael McGivney in New Haven and chaplain of St. Thomas More Catholic Chapel & Center at Yale University

Rev. Michael Ruminski, ’14, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, has been appointed pastor of St. Thomas and St. Timothy in West Hartford, after having served as pastor of Sacred Heart in Bloomfield and as the director of the Office of Divine Worship.

Rev. Edouard Guilloux, B ’15, of the Diocese of Arlington, has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Stephen Martyr in Middleburg and Saint Katharine Drexel Mission in Haymarket, after having served as parochial vicar at St. John the Apostle in Leesburg. Father Guilloux enjoyed participating in Basselin Days, February 6-7, and the Cardinals for Christ “Pilgrims of Hope” conference and alumni dinner on June 3. (See theologicalcollege.org “News” archive for more information about these events!)

“The Lord has done great things for us! We are filled with joy!” (Ps 126). What a joy it was to be present for the ordination of Brother (now Father) Gregory Santy, O.P., to the priesthood! What an honor it was to be asked to vest him. The honor really belongs to Monsignor Yennock (may he rest in peace). Father Gregory and I were blessed beyond measure to grow up in St. Daniel Parish in Lyncourt, N.Y. Seeing the selfless example of Monsignor Yennock inspired us to consider the priesthood. It is certainly a life of sacrifice. May we live it as boldly and joyfully as he did.”

— Rev. Christopher Seibt (B ’08; TC ’13; see p. 7)



Father Harold Escarcega (B ’16, Phoenix) recently returned for a brief visit to the seminary.

Rev. Andrew Haissig, ’15, of the Diocese of Arlington, has been appointed parochial vicar at Saint Patrick in Fredericksburg, after having served as parochial vicar at Saint Agnes in Arlington.

Rev. Levi Hartle, ’15, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, since May 2024 has been serving as pastor of Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish, Charleroi/Donora/Monongahela, after having served as parochial vicar to the Holy Family cluster parish and as a consultant to the Department of Worship.

Rev. W. Alex Nevitt, Pre-T ’15, of the Diocese of Paterson, was appointed administrator of St. Bonaventure Parish in Paterson in July 2024, after having served as parochial vicar of Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel in Cedar Knolls.

Rev. Carlos Sánchez, ’15, was appointed parochial administrator of St. Martin de Porres in Caledonia after serving as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Peace in Geneva.

Rev. Harold Escarcega, B ’16, of the Diocese of Phoenix, was appointed in 2024 as parochial vicar at Queen of Peace Parish in Mesa, after having served at Ss. Simon and Jude Cathedral in Phoenix. Father Harold offers monthly confessions and Mass in Chinese for the Catholic community in the diocese.

Rev. William Frei, B ’16, of the Diocese of Charleston, has been appointed administrator of Corpus Christi in Lexington and chaplain for Wellpath Recovery Solutions in Columbia, after having served as parochial vicar at St. Mary’s Church and San Sebastián Church in Greenville.

Rev. Benjamin Barr, ’17 (B ’05), of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been serving as pastor at Holy Spirit Parish in Lawrence County since 2024, after having served as parochial vicar at Holy Spirit Parish in Lawrence County and chaplain at Westminster College.

Rev. Michael Hoye, Pre-T ’17, of the Diocese of Worcester, has been appointed associate pastor of St. Mark’s in Sutton, while retaining that same role at St. Mary’s in Uxbridge.

Rev. Gregory Santy, O.P., B ’17, was ordained to the priesthood for the St. Joseph Province Order of Preachers by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P., of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia, on June 5. He is now serving in campus ministry at Providence College, which was founded by the Dominican Order in 1917.

Rev. Daniel Waruszewski, '17, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been serving as parochial vicar of Sts. Martha and Mary Parish in Allison Park (St. Catherine of Sweden) and Gibsonia (St. Richard) since August 2024.

Rev. Jon Hawkins, B '18, of the Diocese of Cleveland, was ordained to the priesthood on May 17 and appointed parochial vicar at Holy Family Parish in Stow.

Rev. Bertrand Hebert, O.P., B '18, was ordained to the priesthood for the St. Joseph Province Order of Preachers by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, O.P., of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Australia, on June 5. After his summer assignment at St. Louis Bertrand Parish in Louisville, Ken., he returned to D.C. for further studies at the Dominican House.

Rev. Carlos Limongi, '18, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed pastor of Holy Name–St. Gregory on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, after having served as pastor of St. Joseph and St. Mary Immaculate on Staten Island.

Rev. Hoa Tien Nguyen, ESL '18, was ordained for the Diocese of Portland (Maine) on May 31 and is serving as parochial vicar of Holy Spirit Parish in Wells.

Rev. Thanh Duc Pham, ESL '18, was ordained for the Diocese of Portland (Maine) on May 31 and has returned to Theological College for Canon Law studies at Catholic University.

Rev. Matthew Browne, '19, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, facilitated a 500-person Eucharistic Congress at St. Anthony's High School on Long Island on June 8, where two Eucharistic pilgrimages culminated after a nine-day sojourn across Long Island.

Rev. Walter Genito, '19, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Margaret of Cortona–St. Gabriel, Riverdale, after having served as parochial vicar at St. Columba in Hopewell Junction.

Rev. Raymond Kalema, '19, of the Diocese of Spokane, was appointed in 2024 as pastor of St. John Vianney and St. Paschal in Spokane Valley, after having served as administrator of St. Patrick in Colfax, St. Joseph in LaCrosse, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in St. John.



Dozens of priest alumni concelebrated at the 2025 Alumni Day Mass on October 8.

Rev. Ramiro (RJ) Regalado, '19, of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, has been assigned pastor of Saint Thomas More in Corpus Christi and chaplain of the Newman Center at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi and the community with disabilities. He previously served as parochial administrator of St. Mary Catholic Parish in Freer.

20s

Rev. Anthony Ferguson, '20, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed pastor of Holy Family, Pearisburg, and Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, after having served as administrator.

Rev. Ryan Hiaeshutter, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed pastoral administrator of St. Thomas Aquinas in Dallas, after having served as parochial vicar there.

Rev. Justin Damask, B '21, of the Diocese of Charleston, was ordained on June 6 and has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary Church in Greenville.

Rev. Scott Bahrke, '22, of the Diocese of Memphis, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Brigid Church in Memphis, after having served as parochial vicar of the Church of the Incarnation in Collierville. He continues to serve as assistant vocations director for the diocese.

Rev. Gabe Bouck, '22, of the Diocese of Memphis, has been appointed to the diocesan Presbyteral Council and to the Committee for the Ongoing Formation of Clergy for three-year terms. He also serves as associate pastor of St. Mary's in Jackson, after having been parochial vicar for St. Paul the Apostle in Memphis.

Rev. John De Guzman, '22, of the Diocese of Raleigh, has been appointed parochial vicar at Saint Paul in New Bern, after serving as parochial vicar at Saint Michael the Archangel in Cary.

Rev. Carlos De La Rosa, '22, of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, has been appointed parochial vicar of Most Precious Blood Catholic Church in Corpus Christi and chaplain for Saint John Paul II Academy, after serving as parochial vicar of Saint John the Baptist in Corpus Christi and chaplain of the Newman Center at Texas A&M University.

Rev. William Buckley, '23, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Bede in Williamsburg, after having served as parochial vicar of the Basilica of St. Andrew in Roanoke.

Rev. James Buttner, '23, of the Diocese of Syracuse, has been appointed parochial vicar of the parishes of Sacred Heart in Cicero and Divine Mercy & The Mission of St. Bernadette in Central Square, where he will be assisting Rev. Christopher Seibt (B '08; TC '13). He has also begun studies in canon law through Saint Paul University, Ottawa. He previously served as parochial vicar in Spirit of Hope, a six-church cluster parish in Oneida, N.Y., and as associate director of vocation promotion.

Rev. André Sicard, '23, of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, has been appointed parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Madeleine, as well as assistant to the judicial vicar and associate vocations director for the diocese, after having received his J.C.L degree from Catholic University.

Father Vincent Vu, '23, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer Parish in College Park, Md., after having served as parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Parish in Upper Marlboro, Md.

Rev. David Birkdale, '24, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Benedict's Parish in the Bronx, after having received his S.T.L. degree in historical theology from Catholic University.

Rev. Vincent Castaldi, '24, of the Archdiocese of New York, has been appointed parochial vicar at St. Joseph's in Somers, N.Y., and chaplain at Kennedy Catholic High School, after having received his S.T.L. degree in systematic theology from Catholic University.

Rev. Benjamin Grothouse, '24, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, has been appointed associate director of liturgy, while continuing to serve as parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Keller.

Rev. Elias Hazkial, '24, of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, was ordained to the priesthood on July 20, the Feast of St. Elias, in Detroit, Mich. He has returned to the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome to continue his J.C.L. studies in Oriental (Eastern) canon law.

Rev. John Kist, '24, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed parochial vicar of Triumph of the Holy Cross, a cluster parish based in Jefferson Hills, Penn., after having received his S.T.L. in liturgical studies from Catholic University.

Rev. Nathaniel Roberts, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed parochial vicar of Sacred Heart in Bowie, Md., after having served at St. Peter's on Capitol Hill.

Rev. Stephen Wong, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Largo, Md., whose pastor is Auxiliary Bishop Roy Campbell. Father Wong's previous assignment was as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Md.

Rev. John Do Bonfim Silva, C.O., '25, of the Rock Hill Oratory, was ordained on June 7 and has been appointed parochial vicar for St. Anne Church in Rock Hill, S.C.

Rev. Andrew Clark, '25, of the Diocese of Richmond, was ordained on June 7 and appointed parochial vicar of the Basilica of St. Andrew in Roanoke.

Rev. Isaac McCracken, '25, of the Diocese of Ft. Worth, was ordained on May 24 and appointed parochial vicar of Holy Family Parish in Fort Worth.

Rev. Cole McDowell, '25, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was ordained on May 31 and appointed associate pastor of Saint James Church in Elizabethtown.

Rev. Daniel Roberts, '25, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was ordained on June 28 and appointed parochial vicar at St. Aidan in Wexford.

Rev. Michael Villavicencio, '25, of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, was ordained on June 7 and has returned to Theological College to pursue an S.T.L. at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. ■

In Memoriam



Rev. James J. Caldarella, '69, of the Dioceses of Worcester and Norwich, died on Jan. 25, 2024, at the age of 80. In 1963, Father Caldarella received an A.B. degree from LaSalette College in Altamont, N.Y., and in 1964 he took

simple vows after attending LaSalette novitiate in Bloomfield, Conn. In 1966, he received a B.A. from LaSalette Major Seminary in Ipswich, and then he continued his studies for the priesthood at Theological College. In 1968, he joined the Diocese of Wheeling and was ordained a deacon in March 1969.

From 1969 to 1971, he served as deacon at five churches in the Wheeling Diocese, as well as religion teacher at Madonna High School in Weirton. In 1971, he came to the Diocese of Worcester and was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan. From 1971 to 1983, he served as associate pastor at three parishes, while earning an M.A. in education from Boston College. In 1984, he received an M.A. in leadership in formative spirituality from Duquesne University, and a certificate in leadership in spiritual direction the following year.

After two shorter assignments, in 1987 Father Caldarella was appointed pastor of Prince of Peace Parish in Princeton, where he served for 28 years. During that time, he conducted retreat weekends and weeklong directed retreats at St. Joseph by the Sea Retreat House in New Jersey while continuing to offer spiritual direction in his own diocese. In 2014, he was assigned as Minister to Priests for the diocese. He retired in 2018 and moved to Old Saybrook, where he grew up. He continued to serve on the Diocesan Review Committee. He was granted faculties for the Diocese of Norwich, Conn., where he continued to assist various parishes in the diocese.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 2, 2024, at St. John Church in Old Saybrook. Memorial donations may be made to Maryknoll, a Catholic non-profit mission, or to a charity of choice.



Rev. Eugene Charman, '71, of the Archdiocese of Hartford, died on March 25, 2025, at the age of 81. Father Gene attended Stonehill College, where he studied physics, and decided to pursue a calling to

religious life and entered the novitiate of the Brothers of the Holy Cross. Discerning that he was called to the priesthood, Father Gene began studying for the Archdiocese of Hartford at Theological College and was ordained to the priesthood in 1971 by Archbishop John F. Whealon at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford.

Father Gene loved his priesthood and his many assignments in Southington, Woodbridge, West Haven, Oakville, Cheshire, Orange, and North Haven. He was an early computer guru and was tasked with helping to implement computers in many of the parishes of the archdiocese. After retirement in 2019, Father Gene assisted in many parishes in the greater New Haven area. He enjoyed studying John Henry Newman, the Sarum Rite, and all things technological.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Archbishop Christopher Coyne on March 31, 2025. Memorial contributions may be made to Notre Dame High School, Attn.: Development Office, One Notre Dame Way, West Haven, CT 06516.



Rev. John Ederer, '75, of the Diocese of Saginaw, died on Sept. 23, 2021, at the age of 83. Father Ederer was known for his commitment to Catholic education and his love for Catholic liturgy. He

passionately celebrated the sacraments in both the Ruthenian Byzantine and Latin Rites. Before he was ordained a priest, Father John was a Franciscan friar and also served as a Catholic school teacher within the Capuchin community

Father Ederer received his secondary education at St. Lawrence Seminary in Mount Calvary, Wis., and continued his priestly formation at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and Capuchin Seminary of St. Mary (St. Joseph College), for his philosophy degree. At Theological College and The Catholic University of America, he earned his theology degree in 1975. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1977 by Bishop Francis Reh at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Saginaw.

Over the course of his 44 years as a priest, Father Ederer served at 10 parishes in the diocese. As a bi-ritual priest, he also served as a Byzantine priest at St. George in Bay City, Mich.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Oct. 1, 2021, presided by Saginaw Bishop Robert Gruss, with Father Frank Voris, O.F.M. Cap., as homilist. Father Ederer is interred at St. Andrew Cemetery in Saginaw.



Rev. William Jerse, B '76, of the Diocese of Cleveland, died on Feb. 1, 2025, at the age of 71. Father Jerse was a Basselin scholar at Theological College and finished his seminary studies at Saint Mary

Seminary in Cleveland. He was ordained in 1980 by Bishop James Hickey. Over the course of his priesthood, Father Jerse served in eight parishes, in addition to serving as defender of the bond for the diocesan tribunal and adjutant vicar. He retired at the end of 2021 for health reasons.

Father Jerse was known to be proud of his Slovenian heritage. He enjoyed the opportunity to study canon law and to balance pastoring with his ministry in the tribunal.

The Mass of Christian Burial was on Feb. 8, 2025, with Bishop Edward Malesic presiding. Interment is at All Souls Cemetery. In his memory, contributions can be sent to St. Mary of the Assumption Church or Our Lady of the Lake School. ■



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hope in this Holy Season!***



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During these last days of the Jubilee of Hope during Advent, please remember your Viéban contribution, joining our mission of entrusting our seminarians to the heart of Mary and Jesus!

This mosaic, by Rita Mandolini of Rome, was a gift from the Society of St. Sulpice (American Province) to Theological College, on the occasion of its 100th anniversary in 2017.

