1. Vianney Hall  -  Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary was founded in 1832. After beginning its existence in Center City Philadelphia, Saint Charles moved to its current home in Lower Merion Township in 1871. Vianney Hall serves as the primary classroom and dormitory space for the Theology Division of the Seminary. Saint Charles houses four distinct divisions: the College and Theology Seminary Programs, the Graduate School of Theology and Program of Catholic Studies, and the Permanent Diaconate Division.

2. Ryan Memorial Library  -  As you proceed down the main corridor of Vianney Hall, you pass photos of many of the ordination classes of Saint Charles Seminary. On your right you will find Ryan Memorial Library, which was refurbished in the mid-2000s. Additional study space was added and wireless Internet was upgraded. Ryan Memorial Library boasts one of the most impressive Theology collections in the United States. The Rare Book Room features interesting works ranging from the Middle Ages to the present.

3. Theologate Main Hallway  -  Exiting the library and proceeding down the hallway, one enters the oldest building on campus, the original Theologate. The property on which the Seminary stands was purchased by Archbishop James Frederick Wood for $42,000. This hallway features the Last Communion St. Jerome, as well as Crucifixion by Constantino Brumidi, who is known for his frescoes in the U.S. Capitol building.

4. Immaculate Conception Chapel  -  One of the donors to construct Immaculate Conception Chapel was Francis Drexel, scion of the prominent Philadelphia family and father of Saint Katharine Drexel. The pews are arranged in traditional monastic style to facilitate the antiphonal prayer style of the Liturgy of the Hours. The altar appointments are the work of internationally-renowned craftsman, George Nakashima.

5. Saint Charles Borromeo Statue  -  Leaving the Theologate Division building, there is a statue of Saint Charles Borromeo just outside. He is the patron saint of seminaries and was a member of the powerful Medici family, known for producing several medieval popes and art patrons. He was influential at the Council of Trent, convened in the 16th century in response to the Protestant Reformation.

6. College Facade and Main Entrance  -  Saint John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests and his statue faces the entrance to the Seminary grounds. In the past, the vast majority of new students walking through the gates were recent high school graduates. Now, many men enter the Seminary with college degrees and often several years of professional experience. Nevertheless, many men still arrive from high school or transfer from another college. The College Division has served these men since its dedication in 1928.

7. Aerobic Room  -  On the ground level, you will find the Seminary’s exercise center. A generous donor provided much of this equipment so that future priests could take care of both soul and body. Saint Charles also has a weight room and gymnasium to support its intramural program, which includes basketball, volleyball, and soccer (played on the fields bordering City Avenue).

8. Eakins Room  -  Thomas Eakins, known especially for his magnum opus, The Gross Clinic, was a friend of several Seminary professors and frequently would join the Seminary community for solemn Vespers on Sundays and engage in intellectual discussions with the professors over dinner. Several of his original portraits are on display in the Eakins Room as well as rare chalices and other liturgical vessels.

9. College Division Main Hallway  -  The Main Hallway of the College Division features several striking works of art, including Christ Raising the Daughter of Jaivus, a 19th-century piece by Frank Moss, a Jewish Philadelphian. There is also a depiction of the Last Judgment by an unknown artist. At the other end of the hallway, beyond the main lobby, are portraits of the former Bishops and Archbishops of Philadelphia.

The fourth bishop of Philadelphia was John Neumann, a Bohemian Redemptorist missionary who was canonized in 1977 and remains the only male U.S. citizen granted sainthood. He is buried under the altar at Saint Peter the Apostle Church on 5th and Girard Streets in Philadelphia.

10. Saint Martin’s Chapel  -  The facade of the Chapel of Saint Martin of Tours is modeled after the Church of Santa Maria della Pace in Rome. The spiritual home of the College Division since its opening in 1928, Saint Martin’s features a four-manual Moller pipe organ with over 2500 pipes. It was donated by Albert Greenfield, a prominent Philadelphia and friend of Cardinal Dennis Dougherty.

On the panels over the pews is inscribed in Latin the Magnificat, the Canticle of Mary in Saint Luke’s Gospel. Behind the altar are paintings depicting the life of Saint Martin of Tours, the 4th-century Roman soldier-turned-bishop. Pope John Paul II, during his visit to Philadelphia in 1979, met with the seminarians of Saint Charles in Saint Martin’s Chapel.