



# THE BROOK

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY MAGAZINE

2019 — 2020







**Dear Alumni and Friends  
of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary,**

We are living in unprecedented times filled with a certain amount of anxiety and uncertainty. Even so, as I write to you, the seminary is on sound footing. Enrollment and fundraising remain strong relative to what has been going on in the world. The mission of the seminary has never been more important to the Church and our plans continue to develop.



We are moving forward with our plan to relocate the seminary from its current location in Wynnewood, PA. The board of trustees believes that the relocation can be accomplished within four-year's time.

This issue of *The Brook* serves as an opportunity to celebrate the highlights of 2019–2020. Despite all the challenges, there have been some wonderful moments.

The Priest Alumni Association helped to underwrite two trips in January 2020 (prior to COVID-19 travel restrictions). The class of Third Theology men traveled to Italy. While in Rome, they had the occasion to meet Pope Francis shake his hand, chat with him and be photographed close together — unheard of access in today's coronavirus climate and an unforgettable encounter they will remember for a lifetime. (see page 16).

The class of Fourth Theology went on a trip to the Holy Land in January, again not long before travel restrictions went into place. They described their experience as a profound deepening of their faith that will carry them forward during their priesthood. (see page 17).

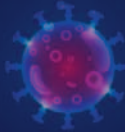
The seminary is now more than 30% diverse featuring seminarians from Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. Read more about the ways diversity was celebrated throughout the academic year on (page 4).

We ask that you continue to pray for our seminary community. Please be assured of our continued prayers for you and your families. We remain truly grateful for your support.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior  
Rector, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary

# 2020: Coronavirus and the Seminary



**Like the rest of the country, the COVID pandemic revealed itself to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary**

when Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf closed all schools in the Commonwealth on March 13 in an attempt to “flatten the curve.” Seminarians were sent off-campus to their family homes or to live in parishes. Within two days, the faculty and staff were trained in Zoom and all classes converted to virtual for the remainder of the semester. Faculty and staff worked from home. Older faculty used to traditional teaching methodologies adapted remarkably quickly to the digital classroom.

Father Patrick Brady, Vice Rector, quarterbacked the COVID response from the seminary which included a core committee of: Dean of Men for the College Seminary Father George Szparagowski; Dean of Men for the Theology Seminary Father Brian Kane; Dean of the School of Theological Studies Monsignor

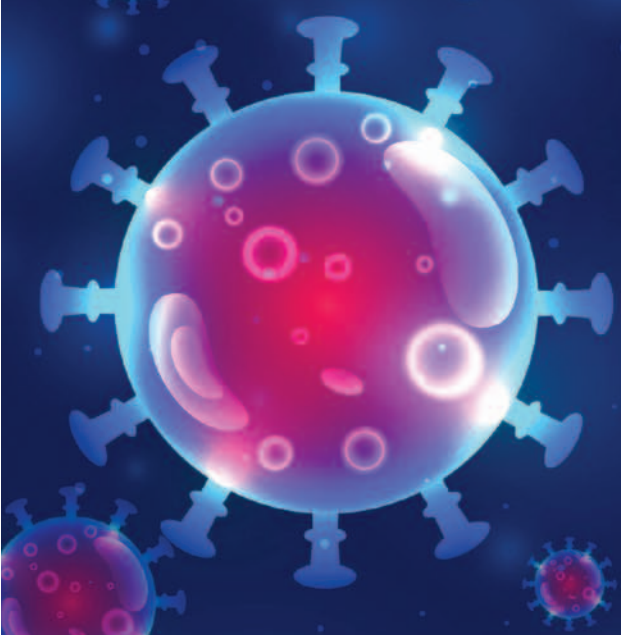
Michael Magee; and the Chief Financial Officer Mark McLaughlin. They took their lead from the information coming out of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for schools and universities; Dr. Rachel Levine, Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and officials with Montgomery County, PA.

Theology seminarians were sent to live primarily in parishes. They were there to learn from the pastors how a parish functions in a crisis.

“Priests don’t stop working because of a pandemic. Our seminarians were sent to parishes to learn how the Church cares for its people, especially those who are marginalized,” said Father Brady “Formation continued right alongside academics for the remainder of the semester.”

“Forming the future leadership of the Church is an essential task, therefore we cannot simply passively accommodate to the requirements of the pandemic but rather we must assist our students to embrace formation within these challenges — the reality of being a true minister to the people of God within the anxiety, fear, and uncertainty that they and those they are called to serve may face,” said Father Brady.

With the lockdown still in place through May, the 183rd Concursus was livestreamed. Archbishop Nelson Pérez was the keynote speaker. The Alumni Jubilee was cancelled. The seminary’s Gala Dinner honoring Patricia and Gary Holloway with the Saint Charles Borromeo Award was postponed twice due to COVID. It is now scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at the Union League of Philadelphia. Other events were postponed until later in the calendar year.





The pandemic restrictions also meant that ordinations were delayed both in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and in many of the seminary’s partner dioceses. In Philadelphia, transitional and permanent deacons were ordained together on June 13 in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul where there were limits on the number of attendees, social distancing was practiced, and masks were required. Archbishop Nelson Pérez also ordained five men to the priesthood on June 20 at the Cathedral, approximately one month later than originally planned. Similarly, the ordinandi were limited in the number of guests they could invite. Many friends and family participated by watching the livestream for the Mass.

**On June 15, campus reopened** to employees with operational guidelines from the Commonwealth in place. It became policy to monitor temperatures at the security gate upon arrival before entering campus. Social distancing became standard practice. Masks were to be worn in all common areas.

Despite this, campus was active during the summer months of 2020. The seminarians from the Spiritual Year’s 30-Day Silent Retreat were on-site in July due to COVID travel constraints. Nearly fifty alumni priests returned to campus for the annual Alumni Priest Retreat during the last week of July.

Nationally, it was mixed as far as how colleges and universities were operating in the fall of 2020 — some chose to go virtual, some opened and some adopted a hybrid model. Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary explored many options but ultimately made the decision to open on-site.

“We were looking to balance the safety of the men, the safety of the larger community, the need for their formation to continue and the ability to assist those who are marginalized in the midst of the pandemic through their apostolate work,” said Father Brady.

Thankfully, the virus did not have an effect on enrollment. On August 18, the seminary welcomed 27 new men to campus for the start of the 2020-2021 year of formation. The 2020-2021 year began with 156 seminarians. The seminary draws seminarians from 15 dioceses including: the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia; the Diocese of Allentown; the Diocese of Arlington; the Diocese of Bridgeport; the Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka; the Diocese of Da Nang, Vietnam; the Diocese of Greensburg; the Diocese of Harrisburg; the Diocese of Lincoln; the Diocese of Mymensingh, Bangladesh; the Diocese of Raleigh; the Diocese of Steubenville; the Diocese of Trenton; and six religious congregations including: Congregation of the Mission, the Vincentians; Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri; Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, The Mercedarian Friars; Order of the Canons Regular of Prémontré, The Norbertines Daylesford Abbey; Society of the Catholic Apostolate, The Pallottines; and Sodalitum Christinae Vitae.



“It was such an abrupt end last March. I’m proud of the steps we have taken as a community to keep the campus safe. The men are enjoying being able to be back on campus, in classes with their professors and experiencing fraternity with each other,” said Bishop Senior.

During the first two weeks of classes this fall, seminarians were restricted to campus in a quarantine. In addition to keeping the campus safe, this allowed for greater interaction between students and fostered close relationships.



The COVID response this fall has meant other changes for the seminary. Masks must be worn in all classes. The Wednesday Community Mass where both college and theology seminarians are present is now held in Saint Martin’s Chapel, the largest chapel on campus, to allow for more social distancing. Rector’s Dinners on Wednesday night are held in both the Refectory and in the College Auditorium with a Zoom connection between both to allow for announcements and remarks at dinner to be shared. Only four may sit at each table for meals in accordance with social distancing. All group sports have been suspended. Occupancy restrictions are in place for the gym, weight room and cardio room.



(from left to right) Joe McLoughlin, Chairman, Seminary Golf Classic, Kevin Scanlon and Bishop Timothy Senior at Gulph Mills Golf Club.

In order to assist with COVID compliance, the lounge in Vianney Hall was renovated to provide recreational space in addition to the Common Room. It is now painted with new furniture, new carpeting and complete with foosball, ping pong, shuffleboard and darts — along with large screen televisions.

The Thursday apostolate college program usually visits institutions individually but this year the college seminarians have been helping with food banks, like Caring for Friends as a group.

“The college seminarians are continuing to help the poor and those in need safely,” said Father Brady. “You can’t hide from the suffering of others but we needed to find safe ways to assist.”

As a preventative measure, Walgreens came to campus to administer flu shots to seminarians, faculty and staff this September.

Despite the pandemic, the seminary’s annual Golf Outing was able to be held on Monday, September 28 at Gulph Mills Golf Club and Philadelphia Country Club. More than 190 golfers participated. Adjustments were made to the cocktail reception and the dinner (both held outside and socially distanced on the patio) to be COVID-compliant. The event is a fundraiser for the seminary and despite the coronavirus — returns were similar to those in 2019 which was a great blessing.

In 2020 the Closing of 40 Hours was only for seminarians and faculty and closed to the public. The annual campus Open House has been cancelled. The Christmas Concert will go on but will be virtual this year. It will be broadcast on Facebook Live on Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 p.m. and on the seminary’s website for the month of December.

Despite all of the accommodations for COVID, the seminary has been able to be flexible, adapt and to carry on. At daily Masses on campus prayers are offered for those who are sick, as well as, prayers for a vaccine and a cure to be found.



# Celebrating Diversity

The 2019-2020 academic year highlighted the seminary's growing diversity

This past year approximately 33 percent of our seminarians are Hispanic or non-Caucasian. They hailed from Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe. All seminarians are encouraged to celebrate cultural diversity throughout the academic year.



## Feast of All Souls

On November 2, 2019, All Souls Day, seminarians set up an altar, ofrenda, to celebrate El Día de Los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). Celebrating the Day of the Dead has a long history in Mexican tradition. The ofrenda was located outside of St. Martin of Tours Chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for 40 Hours Devotion.

They prayed a Rosary in Spanish in honor of all of the faithful departed remembered on the altar. They also were sure to pray for all of the deceased loved ones of all of the members and friends of our seminary community.

*Copy and photo by Zinjin Iglesia.*



## Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass, Procession and Dinner

In 2019 the procession went through the tunnel due to inclement weather. The dinner hosted by the Hispanic Club featured festive musicians. Even Bishop Senior took a turn at the pinata.

*Photos by Zinjin Iglesia.*



## Multicultural Sunday



Above: Pre-pandemic, Theology I spent Multicultural Sunday at Saint Cyprian Parish's Igbo (Nigerian) community. They enjoyed an authentic Nigerian meal after Mass with the community. *Copy and photo by Zinjin Iglesia*

Left: Pre-pandemic College III celebrated Multicultural Sunday at Mass followed by a lunch with the Filipino Community at Old Saint Augustine Church in Philadelphia.





## Hispanic Family Day

Some 125 young Hispanic men and their families got an inside look at the life of a seminarian and possibly a priestly vocation on March 8 prior to the pandemic restrictions in Pennsylvania. The day featured Mass in Spanish with Bishop Deliman, lunch, campus tours and a soccer game versus the seminarians. Archbishop Pérez joined the group to watch the soccer game and participated in solemn vespers afterwards.

*Copy by Gina Christian, CatholicPhilly, photos by Sarah Webb.*



## The State of the Church in China

Cardinal Joseph Zen, 88, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong was in town and gave a talk at the Penn Newman Center last winter. The topic of his talk was “On the State of the Church in China.” Several of our seminarians were able to attend and are seen pictured with Cardinal Zen prior to the outbreak of the coronavirus.



## Lunar New Year

In celebration of the Lunar New Year, January 2020, Philadelphia seminarian Philip Cheung (Pre-Theology II) welcomed seminarians to an enjoyable luncheon at an authentic Chinese (dim sum) restaurant in Chinatown prior to the outbreak of the pandemic in Pennsylvania.

*Copy and photo by Zinjin Iglesia.*

## Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Peter Claver brought a home cooked dinner for all the seminarians and the resident priests in November 2019 — it is their fourth consecutive year bringing these delicious dinners to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. On the menu: fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, green beans, cornbread and an assortment of cakes for dessert. The Knights of Peter Claver is the largest historically African American lay organization in the United States.





# 2020 Ordinations to the Sacred Order of Deacon

There are two types  
of deacons in  
the Catholic Church:  
permanent deacons and  
transitional deacons.  
Transitional deacons  
are one step away from  
becoming priests.

## Diocese of Allentown

### Reverend Mr. Phillip J. Maas

*This article was reprinted with permission from the A.D. Times*

Philip J. Maas, 29, is the son of James and Sandra Maas of Center Valley. Born and raised in the Lehigh Valley, Maas was educated in Allentown Diocese Catholic Schools. He attended St. Michael the Archangel School in Colesville and graduated from Allentown Central Catholic High School in 2009.

He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and worked for Lucent Electronics as an electrical engineer prior to entering the seminary.

Maas is a member of the Cathedral parish and has been preparing for the priesthood at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

The social distancing and gathering restrictions in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus made this a very unique ordination. The congregation was made up only of members of Maas' immediate family and a handful of priests. The ordination was livestreamed by the Diocese.

Father Christopher Butera, Diocese Director of Seminarian Formation said, "Philip has responded to the limitation of guests with humility and understanding, acknowledging this is what is asked and needed of him at this time in our history."

As a transitional deacon, Maas will spend the next year sharing God's word, bringing Viaticum to the dying, assisting at funerals, assisting with and blessing marriages, baptizing, instructing people in the faith, and performing works of charity before being ordained a priest.

Maas said, "I am grateful to God, the seminary, my Diocese and my family for guiding me to this next milestone in my vocation. I joyfully look forward to continuing to pursue a call to the priesthood."



## Diocese of Harrisburg

### Reverend Mr. Aaron Lynch

*Reprinted from the Harrisburg Diocese and edited for length.*

Deacon Aaron Lynch was ordained by Bishop Ronald Gainer of the Harrisburg Diocese on August 22, 2020. The ordination had been postponed twice due to COVID-19. Bishop Gainer told the candidates, "I know there are broad smiles on your faces right now even though I can't see your faces."

Lynch first heard the call to priesthood in middle school and high school. He said the messages were like small tugs.

"There's just something in you that knows, and I think every priest and every consecrated religious has that feeling," he said. "It might not be what I want, but it's what God wants me to do, whether I enjoy it or want it or not. If it is what God wants me to do, it will ultimately make me happy."

"Discernment of a vocation, at least in my experience and in the experience of a lot of men is, a lot of guys have a fairly clear idea that this is what God wants me to do, and its training our own hearts to be obedient to that pull. You discover that you love this vocation deeply."



## Diocese of Arlington

### Seminarian Spotlights

*Reprinted with permission from the Catholic Diocese of Arlington*

#### REVEREND MR. JOHN PAUL HEISLER

##### What influenced your decision to apply for seminary entrance?

Father Planty gave me the book *To Save a Thousand Souls*, and I knew that further discernment of the vocation to the priesthood needed to be done in the seminary environment.

##### Why do you want to be a priest?

To save souls.

##### What are your favorite pastimes?

I love basketball! I like playing Frisbee a lot too, and I have an interest in economics as well.

##### Who is your favorite Saint and why?

St. John Paul II. In every aspect of his life, he lived with a constant zeal for the Church. Every person who encountered him was touched in a way that they remembered for the rest of their life. His relationship with Our Lady has demonstrated to me the importance of a loving relationship with Mary.

##### What advice would you give to a young man thinking about the seminary?

Pray often and pray from the heart. Peace will come through prayer, so a daily prayer life is essential. Join the Men's Discernment Group. This is a zero-pressure discernment group that gives guys the opportunity to discuss their vocation with the Vocations Director at a number of retreats and other events.

"I've been in seminary for seven years now, and I feel like my ministry is just now beginning," he said. "All this time has been preparation and I'm aching to begin. I want to preach. I want to baptize. I want to witness marriages. I want to visit the sick."

"I'm chomping at the bit to finally get there after all this time," he added. "I have a great desire to give the grace of Christ to people in a unique way. I've been doing a lot of these things and I feel prepared, and I'm anxious to begin doing them in a priestly way."

Deacon Lynch expressed gratitude for the support he and his fellow seminarians have received from the people of the Diocese, through prayers, financial contributions and friendship.

"Receiving unconditional love from someone I've never met but who has been praying for me in such a deep, intimate and spiritual way is a very humbling experience and a very joyous one," he said. "The people of God have been very kind and generous to me and my brothers, and there isn't a 'Thank you' big enough for that."

"Pray for vocations, pray for my brothers, pray for your priests, and pray for all of the people who are helping them," Deacon Lynch asked the faithful of the diocese. "Pray for all the people working in parishes during this very difficult time. Things are crazy and we need to be patient. We need to pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit; we can't do this alone."



Pictured above, Father Herbert Sperger, Deacon John Paul Heisler, Deacon Jonathan Smith, Father Christopher Cooke. Both deacons are transitional deacons and will be ordained priests in the spring of 2021 for the Diocese of Arlington.

#### REVEREND MR. JONATHAN SMITH

##### What did you do prior to entering seminary?

Previously, I was a campus missionary at Belmont Abbey College outside of Charlotte, NC with FOCUS, The Fellowship of Catholic University Students. As a missionary, I led Bible studies and mentored young men in the faith, helping them become missionary disciples. Before that, I graduated from George Mason University with a degree in Government and International Politics.

##### What influenced your decision to apply for seminary entrance?

I definitely felt a push from the Holy Spirit. After reflecting on it, I realized the Lord had been calling me in subtle ways my whole life and has been preparing me for this for a long time. I also had the wonderful influence of my college chaplain, Father Peter Nassetta, who lives out his vocation with an amazing and contagious joy.

##### Why do you want to be a priest?

I want to be a priest because I want to bring people to Jesus and Jesus to people, specifically through the Sacraments.

##### What advice would you give to a young man thinking about the seminary?

Pray. If you aren't praying, you aren't discerning. Before you can know what God wants you to do in life, you must know God and His voice. Also, frequent the Sacraments as often as possible by going to daily Mass and Confession. And of course, talk to a priest. He can help you sort out all the thoughts and feelings going through your mind as you pray about it. I also found it helpful to read books on the priesthood and discernment like *To Save a Thousand Souls*. Last but not least, pray the Rosary daily. Our Lady is a powerful intercessor.



Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Archbishop Pérez Ordains 13 Deacons

This article originally appeared in CatholicPhilly and has been reprinted with permission.

Archbishop Nelson Pérez ordained 13 men as transitional and permanent deacons in a Mass Saturday, June 13 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. The 10 a.m. liturgy was livestreamed on CatholicPhilly.com. Because of the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus pandemic, the ordinations were delayed this year. The Mass marks the first time both permanent and transitional deacons were ordained at the same time in the archdiocese.

The following two candidates were ordained transitional deacons for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, with priestly ordination anticipated in 2021:



Kenneth L. Cavara

Kenneth L. Cavara, 39, is a member of St. Agnes Parish, West Chester. He is the son of Noreen and the late Kenneth Cavara. He graduated from West Chester University (Class of 2005) with a bachelor of arts degree in political science. After West Chester University, Kenneth taught English as a second language in Taiwan from 2006-2008. When he returned to the United States, Kenneth began a career in medical sales which relocated him to Hattiesburg, Miss. He entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 2014.



Mark A. Tobin

Mark A. Tobin, 33, is a member of Assumption B.V.M. Parish in West Grove. He is the son of Bill and Stephanie Tobin and the third of six siblings. After attending Avon Grove High School Mark enlisted in the Navy where he served for five years as a Special Warfare Combatant Crewman (SWCC) with two deployments to Iraq. After his service he attended West Chester University and earned his bachelor’s degree in business marketing. Mark then entered St. Charles Borromeo Seminary where he completed his master’s degrees in philosophical studies and divinity (theology).

Ordained a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Mymensingh, Bangladesh:



Prodip Philip Mrong

Prodip Philip Mrong, 30, is a member of Corpus Christi Church, Diocese of Mymensingh, Bangladesh. He is the oldest son of Proholad Chisim and Bely Mrong, and has two younger sisters living in Bangladesh. He enrolled in St. Paul Minor Seminary in 2002 then studied at St. Xavier Intermediate Seminary and St. Joseph Seminary where he earned a degree. He also attended Holy Spirit Major Seminary where he studied philosophy and one year of theology before completing his studies at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Ordained a transitional deacon for the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians):



Erik R. Sanchez, C.M.

Erik R. Sanchez, C.M., 32, was born in born in Choluteca, Honduras, and as a boy enjoyed reading, playing soccer, hiking and hunting. He emigrated to the United States as a teenager to help his family and to build a better future. After arriving in Long Island, NY in 2004, he joined the Congregation of the Mission, or Vincentians, in 2010 to serve the poor in the charism of St. Vincent de Paul. On May 1, 2020 he pronounced perpetual vows within the order to follow Christ, evangelizer of the poor.

The following were ordained permanent deacons for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:



Gerald J. Cassidy

Gerald J. Cassidy is a member of SS. Simon and Jude Parish in West Chester. He lives with his wife Amy and has two children, Patrick and Amy Patricia. Jerry attended Cardinal O’Hara High School, class of 1976, and St. Joseph’s University where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in business administration (1980). He is currently self-employed in Insurance Sales at Cassidy Agencies, Inc.



Henry (Hank) C. Fila

Henry (Hank) C. Fila is a member of St. Norbert Parish in Paoli. He resides in West Chester with his wife Barrie. They have two children, Brian and Kristen. Hank holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing and communications from King’s College, class of 1980. He is retired from Becket and Lee LLP where he was office administrator.



Franz N. Fruehwald

Franz N. Fruehwald is a member of Queen of Peace Parish in Ardsley. Franz and his wife Marian have four children: Josef, Paul, Catherine Mary Henry and Rebecca. Franz graduated from La Salle University with his master of business administration. Franz works in finance for Catholic Social Services.



Matthew A. Horvath

Matthew A. Horvath is a member of St. Philip Neri Parish in Pennsburg where he resides with his wife, Judy. Matt and Judy have four children, Ryan, Brittany, Taylor and Megan. Matt works for L & H Companies in metal fabrication.



Gregg W. Hoyer

Gregg W. Hoyer is a member of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Hilltown with his wife Doreen. They have four children, Dennis, Reece, Elijah and Jeremiah, daughter-in-law Lauren and granddaughter Gianna. Gregg received his bachelor’s degree from Dickinson College. He is the vice president of sales and marketing at Reeb Millwork Corp.



James V. Nash

James V. Nash is a member of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Limerick where he resides with his wife Kathleen. Jim and Kathleen have three children, Katherine, James III and Thomas. Jim is currently a regional manager at Industrial Appraisal Company.



Mark D. Nowakowski

Mark D. Nowakowski is a member of St. Basil the Great Parish in Kimberton. He lives there with his wife Colleen and their five children, Riley, Ella, Audrey, Thomas and Andrew. He has three grown children, Michael (with his wife Jennifer and two sons, Reid and Graham), Brian (with his wife Karen) and Elaine Heintze (with her husband Roland). Mark holds a bachelor of science degree from Louisiana State University. He is employed in sales at CenTrak, Inc.



Paul F. Stoyell-Mulholland

Paul F. Stoyell-Mulholland is a member of St. Norbert Parish in Paoli, and he resides in Broomall with his wife Barbara. They have four children, Brian Mulholland, Erin Lynch, Casey and Clare. From Cornell University he received both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in industrial and labor relations. He works as a senior manager of labor relations at the Boeing Company.



Thomas N. Verna, DMD

Thomas N. Verna, DMD, is a member of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Media where he and his family have been members for 25 years. Tom resides in Villanova with his wife Nicky and four children, Max, Charlie, Sydney and Alice. Tom attended Temple University School of Dentistry where he graduated with his doctorate in dentistry. He recently received a master of theology degree from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Tom is a practicing dentist in Springfield, Delaware County.



Diocese of Raleigh

Reprinted with permission from the Diocese of Raleigh

Seminarians Steven DiMassimo and Tyler Sparrow became transitional deacons May 23 at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh. Due to the coronavirus, the Mass was limited to family and essential personnel. About a thousand viewers watched the Mass, which was streamed live on YouTube.

The rite of ordination to the diaconate included the presentation of the candidates by vocations director Father Philip Tighe, the election (or acceptance of request) by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama and the six promises of the elect.

Father Herbert J. Sperger, director of spiritual formation at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, where DiMassimo and Sparrow studied, also attended.

Bishop Luis said the main function of the deacon in the church is to serve the people in the best way possible.

“The key is to approach the people you serve to recognize them and their needs first,” said Bishop Luis. “Go to peripheries, be with the people and learn from them what they need, and what they need is how you approach and love them.”

DiMassimo is a member of St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Raleigh and attended Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio, and worked as a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary at the University of Connecticut.

Sparrow is a member of Sacred Heart Church in Dunn and attended Seton Home Study School.

After Mass, Monsignor David Brockman remarked that in all the years he has attended ordinations, he has never seen a candidate smile as big as Tyler throughout the entire Mass.



# Ordinations to the Priesthood

## Archdiocese of Philadelphia

### Great day of thanksgiving sees five priests ordained in Philadelphia

*This article was reprinted with permission from CatholicPhilly.  
Copy by Maria Pisano, photo by Sarah Webb.*

In what Archbishop Nelson Pérez called “a day of great thanksgiving for the church,” five new priests were ordained for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

On Saturday, June 20 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, the sacred vocation of Wilmer Chirino Gonzalez, August Taglianetti, Kevin Okafor, Louis Monica, Jr. and Cesar Izaguirre Gonzalez was brought to fruition.

No set backs or challenges — not even the coronavirus pandemic — could stop the fulfillment of the call God placed on their hearts.

“After many years actually, from the day of your birth, it comes out to that moment; that moment in which the church now calls you forth,” said Archbishop Pérez as he reflected on the presentation of the candidates — the part of the rite when he and the church officially choose the men for the priesthood.

That moment will come soon for one remaining member of the priestly class of 2020, transitional Deacon Martin Okwudiba, who is studying in Rome and ready for ordination. Coronavirus restrictions are delaying the process to secure his visa to return to Philadelphia. While no definitive plans are set, his formation advisor Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks is hopeful the ordination will come soon.

Despite the pandemic, the sacrament of holy orders remains unchanged. The celebration of the sacrament “calls for as many of the faithful as possible to take part” according to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1572).

This year the faithful did gather at the cathedral and at home via livestreamed video, although the size of the in-person congregation was far smaller than in years past.

Traditionally the ordination at the cathedral, which seats more than 1,000 people, is open to the public, and the faithful have poured in to the point of standing room only.

This year each candidate could invite 50 guests for a total of 250 people. In addition, 80 priests were invited, including the candidate’s priestly sponsor, home parish pastor and the pastor of the parish where the candidate served the past year as a transitional deacon.

That count of priests also included those who served in their seminary formation. Additional priests could be invited by the ordinandi as part of their 50 guests.

With the social-distancing restrictions in place, the cathedral was well under 50% capacity. Further safety precautions included guests wearing masks, hand sanitizer available at entrances and every other pew roped off to ensure distancing.



*Pictured (left to right): (front row) Rev. Javier Santaballa, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Bishop Timothy Senior, (second row) Rev. Louis Monica, Jr., Rev. August Taglianetti, (third row) Rev. Cesar Izaguirre Gonzalez, Rev. Kevin Okafor, Rev. Wilmer Chirino Gonzalez.*

All were invited to participate in the celebration via livestream, as in recent years past. In his opening, Archbishop Pérez especially welcomed those joining by livestream.

While some logistics were new, the sacrament remained the same — characterized by joy.

Newly ordained Father August Taglianetti “was smiling the whole time,” according to the observation of his step-sister Breanna. Her eyes lit up behind her mask as she recalled her step-brother trying to be serious, only to have his smile quickly return.

“We are overjoyed by his joy,” said his father, Thomas Taglianetti, adding that his son has known he wanted to be a priest since was a little boy. Now he says his son is “at peace.”

Permanent Deacon Steve Javie from St. Andrew Parish, Newtown likened ordinations to Christmas morning. “The Holy Spirit fills the whole church,” he said.

Deacon Javie served alongside newly ordained Father Kevin Okafor as he was a transitional deacon at St. Andrew’s this past year.

St. Andrew parishioner Devin Barnaby is excited for Father Okafor and said it was “beautiful” to witness “someone giving up their life for the church.”

After hearing Father Okafor preach for a year at St. Andrew’s, she believes he is going to be an amazing priest.

“The implications of this day, you don’t know, but trust and hope that those implications are filled with God’s grace,” said Archbishop Pérez to the ordinandi. “And whatever moments you might have that might be down moments and challenging moments, remember this day . . . because this day is God’s promise to you that he will be with you.”

All five newly ordained men will begin their priestly ministry as parochial vicars: Father Chirino Gonzalez at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Philadelphia; Father Izaguirre Gonzalez at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Pennel; Father Louis Monica, Jr. at SS. Peter and Paul Parish, West Chester; Father Okafor at St. Elizabeth Parish, Upper Uwchlan; and Father August Taglianetti at St. Pius X Parish, Broomall.





*Fathers Caleb Hile and Alec Sasse (seen in the center) on the day of their ordination with their fellow ordinandi from Lincoln, NE with Archbishop George Lucas, Photo by Kevin Clark.*

## Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska

*Story by Reagan Scott for the Southern Nebraska Register and has been edited for length.*

Archbishop George Lucas ordained Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's Deacons Caleb Hile and Alec Sasse to the Holy Order of the Priesthood on May 23, 2020.

### Reverend Caleb Hile

Devotion to the Blessed Mother and Eucharistic Adoration spurred Deacon Hile to consider the vocation to the priesthood as God's personal calling for him.

The son of Dan and Deb Hile, Father Hile is from St. Joseph Parish in Lincoln and celebrated his first Mass there. He has three sisters and one brother.

"My parents have been a great witness of the faith to me over the years," Father Hile said. "Also the great priests and religious of the Diocese of Lincoln.

Especially the Christ the King Sisters during my grade school education, Sister Mary Fidelis and Sister Mary Faustina."

Other people who impacted his growth in the faith at Pius X High School included Mother Anne Marie, Father Nicholas Kipper, Father Benjamin Holdren, Father Leo Seiker and Father James Meysenburg.

Having been ordained, Father Hile is looking forward to celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, hearing confessions and teaching the Catholic faith.

### Reverend Alec Sasse

Father Sasse's home parish is St. Michael in Lincoln, but he attended St. Peter School growing up, and celebrated his first Mass there. Father Sasse is the son of Ted and Janna Sasse and has two younger brothers, one of whom passed away last May.

Father Sasse said when he was a senior at Pius X High School, he started to take his faith more seriously and was looking for something more in his life, to live less for himself and more for Christ and others.

"The idea of the seminary popped into my head and wouldn't leave, so I decided to give it a try," he said. "I thought I would go for a year, cross it off the list, and move onto other things. But the Lord began to transform my heart and I fell in love with the priesthood."

He said he was inspired by the way his pastor, Father Kenneth Borowiak, lived out his priesthood. Father Sasse said he ignited his faith, taught him how to pray and helped him discern his vocation.

Having been ordained, Father Sasse looks forward to hearing confessions the most because he knows personally the power of God's mercy.

He said, "I long to bring that mercy to others."

## Diocese of Raleigh, North Carolina

Bishop Zarama ordains two men to the priesthood

*Reprinted with permission from the Diocese of Raleigh, copy by Mandy Howard.*

Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama ordained Jairo Alberto Maldonado Pacheco and Matthew Ikechukwu Nwafor to the priesthood at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral June 6.

Though the coronavirus pandemic could not stop the celebration, the event looked slightly different because of safety regulations in place. Every other pew was blocked off to allow for social distancing, and members of the diocese were encouraged to watch via livestream rather than attend in person. Those who did attend were asked to wear masks throughout the service.

Despite the limited number of guests, and the unfamiliar feeling of face masks, joy and ebullience filled the church. Especially in light of the fact that, for many, this was their first celebration of the Eucharist in several months.

In his homily, Bishop Luis Rafael noted the love felt throughout the celebration and asked the two men to remember that love was the reason and the power behind every part of being a priest.

He said, "What is the power that moves you to serve the Lord? The power of love . . . moves you and gives you the strength that you need. . . . When service is without love and kindness and compassion, it is empty. . . . The Lord is calling you to share the love he has for both of you with the people he entrusts to you."

Father Matthew is appointed parochial vicar at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral. Father Jairo is appointed parochial vicar at St. Francis of Assisi.





# Pilgrimage to Italy



## Pilgrimage to Italy

Theology III traveled to Italy in January of 2020 along with Monsignor Magee and Father Shenosky.

The group visited Assisi where they toured the holy sites of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Then they traveled to Milan where they were greeted by Archbishop, Mario Enrico Delpini, the Archbishop of Milan. While in Rome, the group had the great fortune to have an encounter with Pope Francis where they had a moment to chat, shake hands and pose for photos with him. They remarked it was an unforgettable experience.

This trip was partially underwritten by a bequest from the late Bishop Louis DeSimone and the Priest Alumni Executive Committee.



### **Ad Limina Visit, Region III**

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary's Rector, Bishop Senior, visited Rome from November 24 – 30, 2019 for the *Ad Limina* visit which included the bishops of Region III (Pennsylvania and New Jersey). On November 28, the bishops had an audience with Pope Francis. The *Ad Limina* is a report to the Holy Father that ordinarily occurs every five years.



Above: Seminarians awaiting the solemn celebration of Angelus, Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth.

Right: Father Bernard Taglianetti and Deacon August Taglianetti during Mass at the Church of the Visitation in the Holy Land.



## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

As is recent tradition, Theology IV made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in January to prepare for their ordination in June. Joining them on the trip were Father Bernard Taglianetti, Father Keith Chylinski, and Dr. Kelly Anderson. This trip was partially underwritten with a grant from the Priest Alumni Executive Committee.

Above: Here the group is at the Mount of Olives overlooking the Temple Mount and Old City of Jerusalem.

Left: Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's Theology IV in front of the Church of Saint Peter's Primacy in January 2020.





# Seminary Life

## Jesus Run

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Jesus Run,” was a monthly outreach in center city Philadelphia that gives food, drink, clothes and blankets to the homeless. The seminarians of Saint Charles Borromeo worked in tandem with Temple University’s Neumann Center on the second and fourth Fridays of each month from 8:00-10:30 p.m. in three locations: Love Park, the tunnels by the Convention Center and Suburban Station. A homeschool group provides the sandwiches and snacks that are distributed. Keaton Eidle, in his IV College year headed up the project for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and he was joined by approximately 15-20 seminarians. Their mission is to engage the homeless in conversation about themselves.



“I first began working with the homeless with my dad. He was part of a ministry that sent people out in pairs to minister,” Eidle said. “Sometimes people just want to talk about the Eagles and other times it can be hard to know what to say.”

He said many of the homeless have a deep faith and you can learn a lot by listening. “We offer food and clothing but we also offer to listen to them in a way that they are heard and this reminds them about the dignity of the human person.”

## Veterans and Armed Services

Saint Charles Seminary is grateful to all of its veterans. Father Brian Kane, Dean of Men for the Theology Seminary, is currently serving in the Nebraska Army National Guard.

Mark Tobin, IV Theology (Philadelphia), is a veteran.

Andrew Lane and Henry Graebe both III Theology (Philadelphia) and Caleb Magowan, Spiritual Year II (Arlington) plan to serve in the Archdiocese for Military Services as military chaplains following their ordination.



Left: (front row) Caleb Magowan, Bishop Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of the Military Services and a Captain in the United States Navy. (alumnus of the ordination class of 1996), Andrew Lane. (Back row) Commissioning Officer of the United States Navy and Henry Graebe outside of Immaculate Conception Chapel following Andrew Lane’s commission into the United States Navy as an ensign.

Photo by Zinjin Iglesia

## Martin Luther King Day of Service January 2020



Above: Second Collegians participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service. Second College went to Queen of Peace Parish, Ardsley, PA to assist with making Blessing Bags for the Atlantic City Chapter of Angels In Motion (AIM). They helped package snacks, socks, gloves and made note cards for the homeless battling substance abuse in Kensington. The parish made 653 Blessing Bags for this outreach organization. The seminarians also assisted parishioners in making cards for the firefighters battling the fires in Australia. The Second Collegians were Robert Stephens, Aidan Warren, Bob Hutz, John Peter Zappe, Benjamin Albanese.



Above: Zinjin Iglesia and Patrick Thorp with residents of the Divine Providence Village. Photo by Zinjin Iglesia



College seminarians Tyler Loch, Daniel Monastra, and Paul Boyer spent Martin Luther King Day of Service at the Saint Thomas of Villanova Monastery on the campus of Villanova University. Father Esposito supervised their work.

## Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia

Archbishop Borys Gudziak celebrated the Divine Liturgy in St. Martin’s Chapel in 2019. He is the current Metropolitan-Archbishop of Philadelphia, Metropolitan Eparchy of Philadelphia for Byzantine Ukrainian Catholics. He will serve as speaker for the 184th Concursus, in the spring of 2021.



Photo by Zinjin Iglesia

## 2020 Pro-Life March

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary took the entire student body along with members of the faculty and staff to the January 2020 Pro-Life March on Washington, D.C.



Photo by Eric Tamney



### John Cardinal Foley Lecture

John Cardinal Foley Lecture on the Church and Social Communications featuring Father Mike Schmitz, Ascension Press

For the 2020 John Cardinal Foley Lecture, speaking to hundreds of faithful, Father Mike talked about his role as an evangelist in the new media and about the gift of his priesthood. Where do we begin in the work of the new evangelization? Father Mike encouraged us to simply begin by talking to people, telling our stories, and sharing the story of Jesus Christ! “See a need, fill a need!”



### 20th Annual Father Pat O’Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament

20th Annual Father Pat O’Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament at Mundelein Seminary in the Archdiocese of Chicago saw Saint Charles compete against 16 other seminaries from across the country last winter. Father Kane led the delegation from Saint Charles.



### Blood Drive

November 2019 the seminary held its annual Blood Drive.

*Pictured left is seminarian Tony Shukei.*

### FOCUS

A group of Saint Charles’ seminarians were in Phoenix, AZ for the FOCUS-The Fellowship of Catholic University Students #SLS20 Conference in January. All week they learned about the practicalities and the importance of the roles as missionary disciples, while praying and experiencing fellowship with thousands of young, on-fire Catholics from college campuses and parishes worldwide. They are pictured here with Archbishop Chaput, Bishop Coffey (’96, Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA), Father Bochanski (’99, Courage International), Father Kane (’00, Dean of Men), Father Dave O’Brien (’19), and Father Carson Kain (’19).



### Former Flyer at Rector’s Dinner

Last fall our seminarians had the opportunity to meet Don Saleski at Rector’s Dinner. Don and his wife Mary Ann are co-chairs of the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary Benefit Gala (April 21, 2021). He was one of the “Broad Street Bullies,” the nickname of the 1970s Philadelphia Flyers squad that won two Stanley Cups.

*Photo by Zinjin Iglesia*



**Pre-pandemic Theology on Tap** drew a capacity crowd featuring the Sisters of Life. *Photo by Zinjin Iglesia*

### Biking for Vocations 2020

Biking for Vocations 2020 was a five-day pilgrimage designed to raise awareness of vocations to the priesthood and vocational discernment, as well as to generate support for the seminarians currently in formation. This year there were twelve bikers and two bishops covering two separate routes: the Perimeter Route with bikers riding along the outer edges of the Archdiocese, and the City/Suburban Route, where bikers rode through the city of Philadelphia and into the northeastern suburbs of the Archdiocese. Both of these pilgrimages included visits to parishes where the seminarians participated in Holy Hours, prayer services, Mass and gave their vocation stories.



*The seminarians are pictured here at Nativity of Our Lord with the Pastor, Father Joseph Watson. Bishop Joseph Coffey is second from left and Bishop John McIntyre is fifth from left.*

### Philadelphia Marathon

The Philadelphia Half Marathon and Full Marathon in November of 2019 saw a strong turnout from Saint Charles. Bishop Senior said Mass for all in the seminarians participating in the Half Marathon. Father Cooke also completed the race.

*Not pictured: seminarian Declan Cole who ran the full marathon.*



### Christmas Concert 2020

The Christmas Concert for 2020 will be livestreamed on December 6 and will also be available for viewing from [www.scs.edu](http://www.scs.edu).



*Photo by Sarah Webb*



# Cassock Day

Pre-theologians received their cassocks from Father Brian Kane at solemn evening prayer. The following morning, on October 3 the collegians received their cassocks blessed by Father George Szparagowski, prior to Mass.



# Formation Milestones

*The Institution of the Acolytes was held on Saturday, September 12, 2020 in the Chapel of Saint Martin of Tours. Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald, D.D., J.C.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia was the principal celebrant.*

**For the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the following seminarians and candidates for the permanent diaconate were instituted:**

- Mr. Andrew J. Auletta
- Mr. Sang Woo Chi
- Mr. Augustus D. DeSimone
- Mr. Peter J. Dolan
- Mr. Henry F. Graebe
- Mr. Alan T. Haley
- Mr. Joseph V. Hosack
- Mr. Andrew F. Lane
- Mr. Christopher T. Massaro
- Mr. John S. McDonald
- Mr. James J. McGonigal
- Mr. Ryan Nguyen
- Mr. Roneld Saint Louis
- Mr. Thomas A. Strohmetz

**For the Archdiocese of Colombo:**

- Mr. Pramod Ranjuna Perera
- Mr. Marlon Rashmika Vass

**For the Diocese of Arlington:**

- Mr. Daniel Scott Reuwer
- Mr. Daniel August Rice

**For the Diocese of Greensburg:**

- Mr. Christopher J. Pujol

**For the Diocese of Harrisburg:**

- Mr. Thomas L. Meinert

**For the Diocese of Lincoln:**

- Mr. Tony C. Schukei
- Mr. Dominic I. Winter

**For the Diocese of Raleigh:**

- Mr. Erik R. Reyes

**For the Congregation of the Mission:**

- Mr. Walner D. Diaz, C.M.

*Mass with the Institution of Lectors was held on Saturday, September 19, 2020. The Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, VA, was the main celebrant.*

**For the Archdiocese of Philadelphia the following seminarians and candidates for the permanent diaconate were instituted:**

- Mr. Anthony J. Albanese
- Mr. Christopher DeMaio
- Mr. John Ellis, Jr.
- Mr. Shane M. Flanagan
- Mr. Michael R. Fohner
- Mr. Jaime A. Gándara
- Mr. Randall J. Kraft
- Mr. Phong T. Le
- Mr. Ricardo A. Martinez
- Mr. Kenneth I. Omeke

**For the Diocese of Allentown:**

- Mr. Alexander T. Brown
- Mr. Miguel Ramirez

**For the Diocese of Arlington:**

- Mr. Andrew W. Clark
- Mr. Zinjin N. Iglesia
- Mr. Stanley J. Poczekatek

**For the Diocese of Harrisburg:**

- Mr. Derick M. DeCamp
- Mr. Kevin M. Key

**For the Diocese of Lincoln:**

- Mr. Loudon Redinger

## Candidacy for Diaconate and Priesthood

*On Wednesday, November 4, 2020, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez presided over the Mass with Admission to Candidacy, in the Chapel of Saint Martin of Tours, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.*

**The following seminarians were admitted, or have been called to Candidacy for Diaconate and Priesthood:**

**For the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, by Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez:**

- Mr. Joseph Thanh Ky Bui
- Mr. Juan Pablo Builes
- Mr. Philip Cheung
- Mr. Bernard Okechukwu Ekeagwu
- Mr. Max McGallagher
- Mr. Gregory Harold Miller
- Mr. Jacob Elias Sanz
- Mr. Brendan Randall Zehner

**For the Diocese of Allentown, by Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert:**

- Mr. Nikolai Romero Brelinsky
- Mr. Keaton Christopher Eidle
- Mr. Aaron Ryder Scheidel

**For the Diocese of Arlington, by Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge:**

- Mr. Samuel Florian McIlheran

**For the Diocese of Greensburg, by Reverend Monsignor Larry J. Kulick:**

- Mr. David Elliott Slusarick

**For the Diocese of Harrisburg, by Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer:**

- Mr. Joseph Edward Buchheit
- Mr. Drew Elliott Tanguay

*During the summer of 2020, Candidacy for Holy Orders was conferred:*

**For the Diocese of Arlington, by Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge:**

- Mr. Kevin Christopher Kelly
- Mr. James Ryan Joseph

**For the Diocese of Lincoln, by Most Reverend George J. Lucas:**

- Mr. Augustine X. Reimers
- Mr. Jonah A. Brox
- Mr. Santiago Jose Izquierdo

*On Friday, December 4, 2020, Candidacy for Holy Orders will be conferred:*

**For the Diocese of Trenton, by Most Reverend David M. O’Connell, C.M.:**

- Mr. Brian David Meinders



# The School of Theological Studies



Even though Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary exists first and foremost for the formation of future Priests, the mission of the Seminary also has offerings that are available to a much wider population. The **School of Theological Studies (STS)** was founded in 1969 in response to a call of the Second Vatican Council to educate the laity and religious in theology. Since then, it has existed under several different names including the “Religious Studies Division” and the “Graduate School of Theology” before receiving its current name. In May 2020, Monsignor Michael K. Magee was appointed the School’s new Dean by Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez.

The School’s classes, encompassing the diverse aspects of **dogmatic and moral theology, Sacred Scripture, and Church History**, are directed to a vibrant student body that includes lay and religious students. The men in the School of Diaconal Formation and their wives also take classes as part of the formation leading to Ordination as Deacons. The Master of Arts in Theology degree program consists of 36 credit hours in Catholic Theology taken over semesters that run every Fall and Spring (in the evenings), and Summer (in both afternoons and evenings), thus allowing students who work during the week to take many of the classes as well. During the summer program, Religious Sisters are welcomed from all over the country to the Seminary’s beautiful environment where daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, the Sacrament of Penance, and beautiful space for private prayer are offered, with the spirituality and charism of each religious community being respected. The students benefit from an excellent and diverse array of full-time and adjunct faculty, chosen for their academic excellence, orthodoxy of faith in keeping with the Church’s Magisterium, and teaching ability. Academic advising is available to all. The School also regularly sponsors or cooperates in the planning of various lectures pertinent to current interests and concerns of Catholics several times per year, which are open to the general public.

The School’s **Catechetical Institute** provides affordable non-credit courses online four times per year, in either English or Spanish, for parish catechists, Catholic elementary school teachers, and all who want to learn more and grow in their Catholic Faith. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia’s Office for Catechetical Formation provides credits for completion of these courses to Catholic school teachers and catechists, while the program is also open to others who simply have a desire to



*The Executive Committee for the Institute for Christian Formation, pictured below from left to right: Suzanne Mulrain, Coordinator, School of Theological Studies, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary; Reverend Dennis Gill, Director, Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Meghan Cokeley, Director, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Reverend Monsignor Michael Magee, Dean, School of Theological Studies, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Not pictured: Ann Menna, Deputy Secretary of Catechetical Formation, Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*



Front row: Father Thomas Whittingham, Christopher DeMaio, and John Ellis. Second row: Joseph Dellaquila and Michael Fohner. Back Row: Robert Szipszky, Jeanne and Jamie Gandara.

learn and to be able to transmit the Faith to others. Courses include Old Testament, New Testament, Foundations of the Church, Christian Anthropology, Catholic Moral Teachings, the Person of Jesus, Sacraments of Initiation, and Sacraments of Healing and Vocation.

Currently under development, with the purpose of meeting the growing need for exceptional formation in Catholic Philosophy, is another online, introductory level, non-credit Catholic Philosophy program developed by the Philosophy professors entitled ***Philosophy and the Catholic Mind***, reasonably priced at \$60.00 per course. The foundational grounding in Catholic Philosophy that it affords is intended to assist participants in navigating contemporary society and ordinary life while thinking with a Catholic mind. The program includes four foundational courses: *The Search for Wisdom: Basic Concepts in Catholic Philosophy*; *The Fullness of the Human Person: Philosophical and Theological Contributions*; *Metaphysics and Creation* (in development); and *Human Action and Moral Agency* (in development). These are taken in sequential order and self-paced for the students’ convenience.

The School of Theological Studies is very pleased to announce that in January 2021, a new program is being offered for the benefit of the Catholic faithful who want to deepen their understanding of the Catholic Faith and their life as Catholics but who neither need nor desire to do so within the context of academic courses for credit. The **Institute for Christian Formation (ICF)**, by means of in-person sessions on eight Thursday evenings over the course of each season, will seek to provide its participants —whether laity, religious or clergy — not only with a chance to enhance their understanding of Catholic doctrine as found in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, but with an invitation to on-going conversion of heart in the company of brothers and sisters sharing similar aspirations and values.

Participants in the ICF will be invited to come to know more fully their dignity as Christians and beloved children of God in whom the Spirit of God dwells. Their knowledge of the broad dimensions of the Catholic Faith will help them to participate fully, consciously and actively in the Sacred Liturgy in a renewed awareness of the on-going transformative power of the gifts of Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist. In the words of Reverend G. Dennis Gill, Director of the Archdiocese’s Office for Divine Worship and a member of the

Executive Committee for the new Institute, “The deepest aim of the Institute for Christian Formation is to help participants comprehend and enliven the divinity shared by Jesus Christ with each person who engages in the formation program so that their living out of their Baptismal priesthood becomes real in who they are, how they worship God, and what they bring to their fellow neighbor.”

Bishop Timothy Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, said of the new initiative: “Saint Charles is expanding our mission by providing another opportunity for more of our people to deepen their knowledge of the great gift of our faith. This renewal will surely bear fruit in their lives as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.” The Institute for Christian Formation will serve as an ongoing faith formation program also providing competent volunteers ready for service and vibrant participation in the parishes of the Archdiocese. The cost for the eight evenings in a given season is \$250, with special pricing also available for two to seven individual sessions. The program will be offered initially in English, while the School is open to exploring in the future any ways it might cooperate with existing structures within the Archdiocese for serving populations speaking Spanish and perhaps even other native languages as well.

Finally, the School has initiated during the current academic year a program offering the opportunity for academically advanced high school students to earn 3 college credits in Theology at their participating high school site. This **dual high school/college enrollment program** involves a specific course approved by the Seminary and taught in the high school itself by a teacher who is also an adjunct professor of the Seminary. High schools wishing to explore the possibility of such a collaborative venture with the Seminary should contact the School office.

The School office welcomes all inquiries regarding all of these programs — or indeed, of any kind — either by email at [sts@scs.edu](mailto:sts@scs.edu) or by phone at 610-785-6287. Further information is also available on the School’s page on the Seminary’s website at <https://www.scs.edu/school-theological-studies>, with links to the specific offerings mentioned here on the left-hand side of the page of the desktop version or the bottom of the mobile version. Anyone who wishes to be on the School’s list for email notifications regarding events and offerings may use the same contact information to request it.



# Thursday Apostolate and Pastoral Assignments

After the Second Vatican Council, in the 1960's, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops required seminaries to offer field experience in pastoral formation as a proximate preparation for priestly ordination. At Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary that requirement is known as the "Thursday apostolate."

Reverend George Szparagowski, Dean of Men, College Seminary, added to his duties this summer and is now Director, Apostolic and Pastoral Formation; when Father Shenosky became parochial administrator at Sacred Heart Parish, Oxford, PA. Father Szparagowski is now responsible for overseeing the program at Saint Charles.

Typically, college seminarians are sent where they are in direct service for those in need with the goal of developing in the men a heart of service. This included prisons, senior centers, working in special needs education, and homeless shelters. Largely working with the poor and marginalized.

Pre-theology and theology seminarians are given pastoral assignments to guide their development in how to be a shepherd of souls. They are assigned to parishes where they learn firsthand the work of a pastor. They accompany the pastor on calls to hospitals or shut-ins. They teach RCIA. They attend parish financial council meetings. Once they receive a summer assignment, they serve at weddings and funerals, assist with preaching and work with youth ministry. Theology seminarians teach in parochial grade schools and help high school chaplains. Some theologians are sent to Spanish-speaking parishes where they grow more fluent and more comfortable ministering in Spanish.

Priest faculty visit the sites and interview both pastors and seminarians. Summaries are presented to the formation committee.

Due to the pandemic, theologians have been taking advantage of Zoom to hold bible study and adult faith formation conferences.

In the fall of 2020, due to the limitations of the pandemic, the college seminarians have been going as a group to Caring for Friends.

Caring for Friends is one of the largest food banks and most comprehensive senior meals delivery programs in the five-county Greater Philadelphia region. Its senior meals program serves over 28,000 clients, the majority of whom are homebound seniors and veterans. Through the food bank's community food redistribution they provide fresh, frozen and pantry stable food to 250 faith organizations and community nonprofits to fill their pantries and support their group cooking events.

There is no charge, time limit, or age requirement for its services. Caring for Friends will extend its services to anyone who is unable to afford or purchase food. While the majority of its clients are elderly, about a quarter of Caring for Friends clients are individuals under the age of 60 who are homebound due to disabilities and illness.

However, they are dependent on volunteers who rise to meet the challenge of serving all the neighborhoods where a need exists.

Under the supervision of Mr. Vincent J. Schiavone, the collegians have been making meals, working hard creating, filling, and sorting through boxes of donated food at the warehouse. The seminarians arrive at noon, have a poor man's lunch of sandwich and water, and work non-stop until 4:00 p.m.

The collegians all have had the opportunity to experience a different aspect of the program each time they volunteer. Some put together the food boxes that are used for the food pantries, others sort through large trucks of donated food, and some work to make snack bags. In the future, the collegians will be sent out to the distribution centers.

"I cannot relay how proud I am of the College seminarians for their efforts in supporting this outstanding organization. The Caring for Friends staff are very impressed with the work ethic and joyful spirit of our seminarians and cannot believe all the work they accomplish. These men work tirelessly and as a team! They continue working until the tasks are completed and look forward to their next visit," said Father Szparagowski. "I can honestly attest that these are not easy jobs and the men put forth their strength and energy to get the food packaged and ready for delivery."

Take for example, Thursday, September 24, when the collegians made 1,100 meals for shut-ins and 500 food boxes. While they

were there, Caring for Friends received 19 phone calls from 19 food centers in Delaware County. The seminarians filled these orders which would, in turn, feed 5,000-10,000 people. Mr. Schiavone stated that it was God's Divine Providence that the Saint Charles Borromeo College seminarians were there to prepare and box all the food for those so desperately in need. It has been amazing to see the College seminarians working together, giving freely of their talents and energy.

Collegians have also been sent to Hub of Hope in Suburban Station in Philadelphia which is a partnership between SEPTA, the City of Philadelphia and Project Home working with the homeless and the working poor.



Bishop Senior (top left) and Father Szparagowski (above) with the collegians at Caring for Friends.



# Seminary News

## Administration, Faculty, Alumni and Board Member Announcements

Archbishop Nelson Pérez made the following changes in the assignment of five of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's administration in July 2020:



From left to right: Bishop Timothy Senior with Monsignor Michael Magee, Father Joseph Shenosky, Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks, and Father Patrick Brady.

**Reverend Joseph Shenosky**, Vice Rector is now the Parochial Administrator, Sacred Heart Parish, Oxford, PA.

**Reverend Patrick Brady**, Dean of the Schools of Theological Studies and Diaconal Formation, is now Vice Rector. Father Brady will continue as professor of Sacred Scripture and is also a formation advisor.

**Reverend Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks** is now Dean of the School of Diaconal Formation. Monsignor Fairbanks continues as professor of Church History and as a formation advisor.

**Reverend Monsignor Michael Magee** is Dean of the School of Theological Studies. Monsignor Magee continues as professor of Systematic Theology and Sacred Scripture and as a formation advisor.

**Reverend George Szparagowski**, Dean of Men, College Seminary is now also Director, Apostolic and Pastoral Formation. (see page 26)



**Kelly Anderson, PhD** successfully defended her doctoral thesis "The Emotions of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark" April 20 at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Anderson is an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies for the Major Seminary and has been teaching at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for thirteen years.

## Papal Honors

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Pope Francis has honored 40 outstanding Catholic leaders, including five who have been closely associated with the Seminary community.



◀ **Mrs. Cathleen C. "Cait" Kokolus**, Vice President for Information Services and Assessment, has been awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

**Dr. John M. Haas**, John Cardinal Krol Chair of Moral Theology, has been named Knight in the Order of Saint Gregory the Great, together with his wife, Mrs. Martha Louise Gannoe Haas, who has been named Dame in the same Order.

**Mr. James J. Bock**, a member of the seminary's board of trustees, and chair of the buildings and grounds committee, has been named Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great.

**Ms. Lorraine Knight**, a member of the seminary's board of trustees, and the Nominating and Governance Committee, has been awarded the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice.

**Mrs. Kathleen Guertin**, currently secretary for Saint Elizabeth Parish, Upper Uwchlan, who served the seminary for 27 years in the Religious Studies Division (now the School of Theological Studies), has been awarded the Benemerenti Medal.

## Priest Alumni Executive Council



**Father Chris Picollo** retired as president of the Priest Alumni Executive Council and is succeeded by ▶ **Father Michael Pawelko** as president and Father Robert Ianelli as vice president.

**If you are interested in becoming involved with the Priest Alumni Executive Council, contact mpawelko@gmail.com.**

## Together Again at the Seminary

Father John Collins, ordination class of 1972, Monsignor John Savinski and Monsignor Andrew Golias (both ordination class 1971) attended the seminary together. Following ordination their careers have crossed paths multiple times over the years from teaching together at Cardinal O'Hara High School to serving as pastors in the same cluster and for a time in the same parish and teaching together at the seminary. They are now together again in their "retirement." Father Collins teaches in the college, the theological seminary and in the School of Theological Studies. Monsignor Savinski is now the Master of Ceremonies for Archbishop Pérez and lives at Saint Charles. Monsignor Savinski is also working with III Theology formation and does some spiritual



direction. Monsignor Andrew Golias is teaching in the college seminary. This is the first time all three have been working together since the 1960's when they were seminarians. They are pictured here in the faculty lounge on campus.

## In Memoriam

Based on available data between November 1, 2019 – November 3, 2020

**Monsignor Joseph J. Anderlonis**  
1969 • Philadelphia

**Reverend John J. Bradley**  
1963 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Edmund J. Brennan**  
1982 • Allentown

**Reverend John J. Farry**  
1967 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Robert T. Feeney**  
1986 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Ronald J. Ferrier**  
1968 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Laurence J. Gleason**  
1996 • Philadelphia

**Monsignor John W. Graf**  
1974 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Francis E. Kelly**  
1955 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Cornelius F. Lambert**  
1983 • Camden

**Monsignor John F. McBride**  
1962 • Philadelphia

**Monsignor Joseph P. McGeown**  
1965 • Philadelphia

**Reverend James J. McGlinchey**  
1956 • Tulsa

**Monsignor Charles E. McGroarty**  
1962 • Philadelphia

**Reverend John E. Mulgrew**  
1956 • Philadelphia

**Reverend James J. Mulligan**  
1966 • Philadelphia

**Reverend Clarence A. Olszewski**  
1957 • Harrisburg

**Reverend Anthony F. Orth**  
1975 • Philadelphia

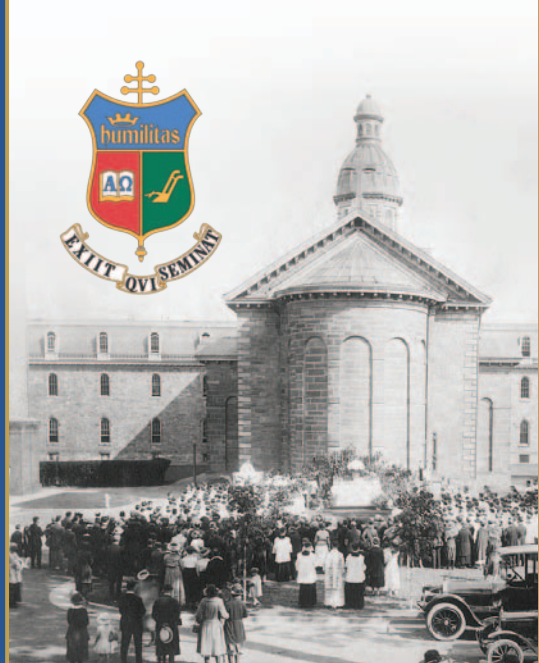
**Monsignor Thomas J. Owens**  
1974 • Philadelphia

**Monsignor James M. Reinert**  
1983 • Lincoln

**Reverend Albert J. Santorsola**  
1986 • Philadelphia

**Reverend John J. Shelley**  
1961 • Philadelphia





## SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

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# SAVE THE DATE

**Thursday**  
**September 30, 2021**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Alumni Mass in  
Saint Martin of Tours Chapel  
followed by a Cocktail Reception  
and Dinner to celebrate  
the



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of

**SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO  
SEMINARY**

on the Overbrook Campus

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Photograph from June 3, 1920 Feast of Corpus Christi

## Alumni Priest Retreat

The Alumni Priest Retreat will occur on campus from Monday, July 26 beginning with evening prayer through midafternoon Friday, July 30, 2021. The Retreat Master for this year is **Rev. Paul D. Scalia** from the Arlington Diocese. The cost for the retreat is \$500.00.



Father Scalia grew up in the Diocese of Arlington and attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. He then studied theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Since his ordination in 1996 he has served as parochial vicar at several parishes and as pastor of Saint John the Beloved in McLean. He currently serves as the Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and directs the permanent diaconate program. He has written for various publications and is a frequent speaker on matters of faith and doctrine. Father Scalia is the author of *That Nothing May Be Lost: Reflections on Catholic Doctrine and Devotion* (Ignatius Press, 2017) and *Sermons in Times of Crisis: Twelve Homilies to Stir Your Soul* (Saint Benedict Press, 2019).

**For more information or to reserve your spot, please contact  
610-785-6530 or [akain@scs.edu](mailto:akain@scs.edu).**