

THE BROOK

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY MAGAZINE

2018-2019





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On the cover: Newly ordained priests from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia share a moment together this spring on campus.

Credits: Special thanks to *Catholic Philly* for allowing Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to reprint content that originally appeared on their website. Some of the content in this issue previously appeared on Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's social media outlets. Photography for this issue was provided by Sarah Webb, Zinjin Iglesia, Dominic Mirenda and Francisco Garcia.



DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY:

It is an exciting time here at Overbrook. In late August we enrolled 165 seminarians including 44 new seminarians, of whom 19 are studying for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. These seminarians come from 14 dioceses and six religious orders in the U.S. and around the world.

I am especially proud of our growing student diversity with over 30% of our seminarians now coming from Asian, Latino or African countries or nationalities. Our academic program is also stronger than ever and, as you may have read, this past year our accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Association of Theological Schools was reaffirmed. Each of these organizations recognized Saint Charles for its rigorous academic programs as well as its spiritual, human, and pastoral formation programs.

Earlier this summer, we also shared news of our planned relocation to a property near Neumann University. This decision concluded a seven-year process to develop a plan to sustain and strengthen the ministry of the seminary as a core mission of the Church in Philadelphia. The decision to relocate and sell our current property will allow us to construct a new, modern, technologically updated seminary while properly stewarding our current resources. The seminary will continue to operate on our current property for up to five years while the new facility is built. We anticipate that the affiliation with Neumann University will provide opportunities for the expansion of our academic and theological programs.

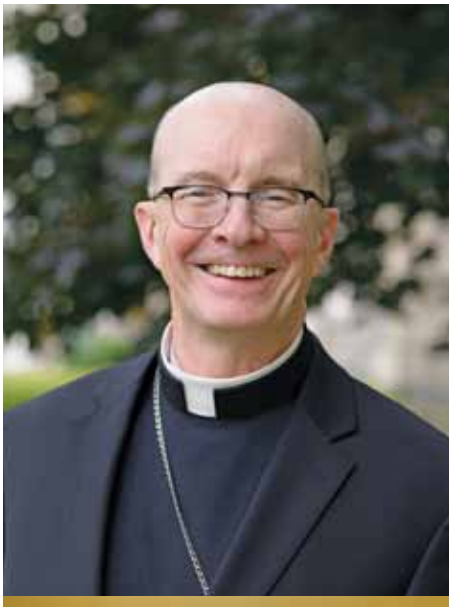
Saint Charles will remain an independent academic institution with its own Board of Trustees and accreditation and will continue to grant its own undergraduate and graduate degrees with its own theology, philosophy and classical languages faculty.

I am grateful for your prayerful support of our mission. The quality of our seminarians, deacon candidates, and students as well as their enthusiasm for serving the Church makes me more hopeful every day. Please continue to pray for our seminary.

Sincerely in Christ,

Timothy C. Senior

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior
Rector



Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior, Rector



The School of Theological Studies and Program of Catholic Studies

The School of Theological Studies and Program of Catholic Studies (STS) at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia serves Catholics who want to pursue a fulfilling academic program of theology. STS is a center of theological education in Philadelphia for laity, priests, and religious from the Greater Philadelphia area and the U.S. STS conducts evening, summer, and online courses, on both the graduate and undergraduate levels, in Catholic theology and in various institute programs.

STS is a co-educational program of theological study, faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and the Catholic intellectual tradition within the framework of “intellectual charity” (Benedict XVI). Fostering a loving community centered on Jesus Christ, STS provides a fully integrated theological education grounded in natural reason and revealed truth. STS seeks to form students who are authentic living witnesses of the faith sent forth to assist the Church in the joyful work of the new evangelization.

STS was founded at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 1969. For decades, STS has had the reputation of promoting solidly Catholic teaching with dynamic academic rigor. Since its founding, STS has granted masters degrees in Sacred Theology to over 1,050 students, most of whom still serve the Church in various capacities.



The School of Theological Studies Six Weeks’ Summer Semester for Laity and Religious

The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, Nashville, TN, pictured here, strolling the campus of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, are some of the many Religious Sisters' orders who participate in the School of Theological Studies summer semester of graduate degree studies along with the lay men and women students. The sisters benefit from the robust academics, committed professors and especially, attention to their sacramental and spiritual lives with daily Liturgy, Reconciliation, and opportunities for Adoration of Jesus Christ in the Most Blessed Sacrament. The School of Theological Studies was founded in 1969 in response to the Call of Vatican II to educate Religious Sisters and Brothers and the Laity.



The School of Theological Studies’ Ministry for Black Catholics Certificate Program graduate, Stephen Mathis, accepts congratulations from Saint Charles of Borromeo Honorary Degree recipient Dr. Jacqueline Rivers at Concurus.



Mary Beth Devenney, a teacher at Bishop Shanahan High School receives her Master of Arts degree from Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.



ORDINATION CLASS OF 2019:
NEW PRIEST ASSIGNMENTS

**Reverend
Giuseppe Esposito**
ALLENTOWN
Saint Anne Parish
Bethlehem, PA

**Reverend
John Maria**
ALLENTOWN
Saint Thomas More
Allentown, PA

**Reverend
Zachary Wehr**
ALLENTOWN
**Saint Catherine of
Siena Parish**
Reading, PA

**Reverend
Sean Koehr**
ARLINGTON
**Saint Mary of the
Immaculate Conception**
Fredericksburg, VA

**Reverend
Joshua Weaver**
HARRISBURG
**Saint Catherine
Laboure**
Harrisburg, PA

**Reverend
Carson Kain**
LINCOLN
Saint Mary Parish
David City, NE

**Reverend
David Buffum**
PHILADELPHIA
**Saint Katherine of
Siena Parish**
Philadelphia, PA

**Reverend
Alessandro Giardini**
PHILADELPHIA
Saint Eleanor Parish
Collegeville, PA

**Reverend
David O’Brien**
PHILADELPHIA
Saint Jude Parish
Chalfont, PA

**Reverend
Alexander Pancoast**
PHILADELPHIA
Saint Joseph Parish
Downingtown, PA

**Reverend
Anthony Raymundo**
PHILADELPHIA
**Saint Robert
Bellarmine Parish**
Warrington, PA

**Reverend
Francesco D’Amico**
PHILADELPHIA
Saint Aloysius Parish
Pottstown, PA

**Reverend
Jonathan Rice**
PHILADELPHIA
Saint Patrick Parish
Norristown, PA

**Reverend
Noe Ramirez de Paz**
RALEIGH
**Saint Michael the
Archangel**
Cary, NC

**Reverend
Luis Romero, C.M.**
VINCENTIANS
Vincentians House
Southampton, NY

**Reverend
Leo Tiburcio, C.M.**
VINCENTIANS
**Our Lady of
Guadalupe Parish**
Charlotte, NC

2019 Newly Ordained Priests

ARCHDIOCESE OF
PHILADELPHIA,
PENNSYLVANIA

By **Lou Baldwin**,
Catholic Philly



The newest priests for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia give their first blessing during the Mass of ordination May 18 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia.



Standing with the Philadelphia Diocese's 2019's newly ordained priests are (front row from left) Bishop Timothy Senior, rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary; Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. and Reverend Javier Santaballa, rector of Redemptoris Mater Seminary, the Philadelphia seminary for the Neocatechumenal Way; along with the new priests (middle, from left) Reverends Francesco D'Amico, Anthony Raymundo, Alessandro Giardini, Jonathan Rice (back, from left), David Buffum, David O'Brien and Alexander Pancoast.

Reverend David Buffum

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

If 10 years or so ago someone had predicted to **Reverend David Buffum** that he would enter a seminary and be ordained a priest on May 18, 2019, he probably would have asked what they were drinking.

The only child of Glenn and Mary Buffum grew up in Springfield, Delaware County. After completing the lower grades at Saint Kevin School and then E.T. Richardson Middle School and Garnet Valley High School he went on to Temple University.

After college, with a degree in film, Buffum relocated to New York and began a career with TD Bank in Manhattan. He was living in Brooklyn, simply enjoying life—dating, partying with the crowd. For a while he was vegetarian, ethically opposed to killing animals, but going to church was not part of his equation.

Yet something was wrong. He knew it and others sensed it too. It happened when he was in his late twenties, he recalls.

“I had a conversion experience,” he said. “One night on the way home after I was out drinking, which was pretty typical, I suddenly wanted to go into a church. When I was a kid a church had always been a comfortable place, a safe place for me. But the church was closed. I had no way to go in.”

But he did go back when it was open. He went to confession for the first time in 15 years and not only returned but became very involved in his parish, Saint Anselm in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn. As a former lapsed Catholic, his coming home was accompanied with the fervor of a convert.

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When the idea to enter the seminary first came to him, “the decision was not easy,” he said. “I really had to think about it. I was being pulled toward it. I didn’t know how to do it and at first I didn’t contact anyone,” he recalls.

When he finally made his decision to enter the seminary, most of his friends were shocked. They didn’t even know he had started going back to church. His family was not surprised because they noticed him going to church during his visits home.

He entered pre-theology at a seminary for the Brooklyn Diocese in 2011, with the intention of becoming a priest for that diocese. But he would come back to his parents' home during breaks and attended daily Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Morton.

At the parish Reverend Richard Smith noticed him praying from a breviary every day and asked him about it. When he explained he was a seminarian, Reverend Smith introduced him to the pastor, Monsignor John Savinski, who suggested Buffum help at the parish whenever he was home. He did, serving Mass, making Communion calls, little things.

“I started to get more of a sense of the Philadelphia Archdiocese and that’s why I transferred” and entered Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, he said.

Transitions always have challenges. The New York lifestyle to which he was accustomed is a lot different than Philadelphia’s, and in many ways he had become a New Yorker at heart. He misses some things like the vibrant theater scene. His age also made academics a bit harder too.

Because he is older than his classmates with far different life experiences than most, at times he has to catch himself in what stories he tells.

Ordained a transitional deacon in May 2018, Buffum really enjoyed his deacon year at Saint Patrick Parish in Malvern.

The long journey, made more so by a convoluted path, is almost over and a new one will begin.

Along the way there have been many, many role models in the priesthood to emulate. In the seminary while studying for Brooklyn there were teachers Reverend Marc Swartvagher and Reverend Joe Kelly. In Morton there are Monsignor Savinski and Reverend Smith, who will be the homilist at David’s first Mass.



Reverend Francesco D'Amico

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

Reverend Francesco Maria D'Amico, 34, who was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on May 18, has a unique distinction. He is not only named for Saint Francis of Assisi who is arguably the church's most beloved saint from the Middle Ages, he was born and raised in Assisi.

He also happens to be a member of the Neocatechumenal Way, a fast-spreading movement within the Catholic Church that stresses community and evangelization.

One of nine children of Eduardo and Stefania D'Amico, the family was Catholic, if not particularly practicing, when he was very young but it became more so as he grew older. In fact his father was president of the Assisi tour guides' association, which is a big thing in the town because of tourists' draw to Saint Francis and Saint Clare.

Francesco well remembers Assisi's devastating earthquake of 1997. On the day after, his father was in the basilica when there was a severe aftershock that nearly destroyed the church. He escaped with his life but one of his companions did not.

"Our house was severely damaged, and we lived in a RV supplied by the government for the next three years. It was very hard especially since my dad could not work because tourism dropped," D'Amico said.

As he got older Francesco began drifting away from his family. "I wanted to be somebody, to have money and be popular," he recalls.

A good athlete, he thought soccer could be his ticket to success. On the day he expected to be recruited for a youth team of one of the professional clubs in Italy, the unthinkable happened. During a game he suffered a broken leg so serious it ended any chance of a soccer career.

Embittered, Francesco turned completely against the church and God, choosing the world. He played in a rock band. He spent his time drinking, getting high, indulging in all that life-style had to offer. "Life was a pigsty," he recalls in retrospect.

But somewhere inside he knew his life was out of control and he would have to do something, to get away for a bit, perhaps.

When he was 21, through a friend he received an offer to travel to Israel for a year, and he thought maybe that would help.

The offer really came from the Neocatechumenal Way and the place where he would be staying was the Domus Galilaeae on the Mount of the Beatitudes—the same facility where a group of Philadelphia priests recently headquartered during a trip to the Holy Land.

"It was an adventure of grace after grace," he recalls. "It was stronger than my past and I tasted God's love. I found God and Christ and the church."

It was really the parable of the Prodigal Son in his own life, and if he was the returning prodigal son, the father figures were Reverend Rino Rossi, the rector of Domus Galilaeae and Reverend Diego Sanchez, his spiritual director to whom he credits his rebirth into the Catholic faith.

After returning to Italy he mended his fences with his family and friends he may have offended, and started to live a life centered around the Neocatechumenal Way.

Meanwhile, he dated like-minded girls, thinking it would be good to be a husband and a father, but there was also a call to the priesthood and in the end that won out.

When he made his decision he had to go to Porto San Giorgio, Italy where after discernment there was a huge lottery. All of the aspirants put their names on slips of paper that were placed in a basket with other slips noting the names of cities around the world with a Redemptoris Mater Seminary for the Neocatechumenal Way.

One by one, names were drawn at random for a candidate and matched at random with a seminary. Francesco thought he would get India or China and was shocked when he was matched with Washington, D.C. "It was God's will," he said.

While in Washington he studied at the Catholic University of America. In 2013, when Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. authorized a Redemptorist Mater Seminary in the Philadelphia Archdiocese, he was transferred here.

At first the Way's seminarians lived in quarters at Saint Barnabas Parish in Southwest Philadelphia, and now at the former Saint Louis Parish in Yeadon, while completing his theology studies at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. He was ordained a transitional deacon in May 2018.

While he will remain a member of the Neocatechumenal Way, he will be a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia under the jurisdiction of the archbishop.

For D'Amico it has been a long journey to the priesthood, one that really began at the summit of the Mount of the Beatitudes.



Reverend Alessandro Giardini

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

Time was, you could tell the age of most priests in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia if you knew their ordination year. Just subtract 26 from that year and you had their birth year, give or take a year. That's because bishops like Cardinal Dennis Dougherty, who entered a seminary at 14, liked to bring them in early, straight out of high school or younger. That doesn't happen as often any more.

In that sense **Reverend Alessandro Giardini**, was ordained by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. on May 18, is a throwback in that he is just 26. But no, this is not something he was planning to do from the time he was a little kid.

He is the second child of Frank and Deborah Giardini in the family that would grow to six boys and one girl raised in Saint Joseph Parish, Downingtown.

It was and is a seriously Catholic family. Sunday Mass at Saint Joseph's was a must, as was praying grace before meals, even in a restaurant, and so was family night prayer. "Sometimes on a road trip we would recite the rosary," Alessandro recalls.

For his elementary school years he was home schooled, although some of his younger siblings attended Regina Luminis Academy of which his mother was one of the founders.

His high school years were spent at Bishop Shanahan High School and it was really in his senior year he began to seriously consider the seminary.

"I wanted to go to college and pursue a career as a reporter," he said. "Maybe in TV news. Communicating the truth, letting people know what was going on in the world. I really didn't want to be a priest because of the sacrifices."

"I guess what moved me to enter (the seminary) was seeing it as a way to bring my friends closer to God. It was much like you see in high schools and in the world today, religion is really a side part of life. I wanted those in my life to know God and how much he loves them."

It was Reverend Matt Guckin, at that time campus minister at Shanahan and in residence at Saint Joseph, who set Alessandro on the journey to priesthood. The priest suggested Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and the diocesan priesthood as the best path for him, Alessandro said.

"He was the one who first put it into my mind to become a priest," Alessandro said. "One thing that came to me was I wanted to communicate the truth and there is no greater truth than the Gospel. From that point on I started to take the idea of the priesthood more seriously."

Just because he entered the seminary in the fall of 2010 straight from high school doesn't mean it was clear sailing to ordination. The seminary is really a place for both learning and discerning.

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"The intensity of the program and rigor of the schedule was very demanding," Alessandro said, "especially for a guy who was on the edge. Did I have a vocation for the priesthood? Did God want me to be there? I wanted to serve my friends and my family."

It wasn't at all a matter of being disheartened by the clergy scandal that intensified during his seminary formation years. The worst thing was seeing others leave, men who told him they didn't have the calling.

"They were good guys, much holier and priestly than I was," Alessandro said. "I thought, 'If God doesn't want them, why does he want me?'"

Gradually, the self-doubts faded and it was "after the college years that I really felt that I belonged," he remembers. "It was through questioning my own heart that I forced my discernment to go deeper."

His deacon assignment at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Buckingham was good preparation for his future priesthood.

He credits good priests along the way, including Reverend Guckin and Reverend Brian Kean, who was also a young priest in residence at Saint Joseph Parish. There was also Reverend Frank Giuffre, who was his adviser during his seminary college years and who was the homilist at his first Mass.



Reverend David O'Brien
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

When **Reverend David O'Brien** was finishing up at Bishop Shanahan High School and looking toward his next move, maybe an engineering degree, he applied at 10 different colleges and was accepted at every one of them. Looking back, Penn State University, University of Delaware and Drexel University were the most appealing.

He could have saved his family a bundle of money in application fees plus time and travel with his very patient dad up and down the East Coast for college visitations because, in the end, he shocked everyone by opting for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to study for the priesthood.

Not that the family was disappointed, they were thrilled. "My father was the biggest influence in my life," he said. "He was very supportive. That meant a lot to me."

David found the application process for the seminary was a lot more complicated than any of the others. Who else requires applicants to submit a 10-page autobiography, grills them on their thoughts about the Catholic Church and the Catholic faith, and requires them to undergo a psychological evaluation?

David, 27, was ordained to the priesthood on May 18 by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

His journey began in rural Chester County where he was the second of the seven children of David and Bonnadette O'Brien. Their parish was Saint Peter in Honey Brook, which had a tiny church in the middle of nowhere, and it has since moved to a new and much larger church in West Brandywine.

Reverend Bill Cox was the pastor, and David recalls that as a boy, he thought the priest "just radiated joy."

It was in his boyhood that David first thought of becoming a priest. It was a fleeting idea that faded quickly but a seed was planted. Saint Peter parish didn't have a school and during part of his childhood he was both home schooled and attended Saint Joseph, Downingtown.

Then it was on to high school. An active kid, he played basketball and soccer and ran on the track team. Golf wouldn't come until his later seminary days, but that skill may come in handy if he ever has to do parish fundraising.

He also dated, had lots of friends but found time to be on the yearbook committee and student council, which may explain why he was accepted at those colleges. But one of his favorite activities is just being with family.

It wasn't until his mid-senior year in high school that the desire for priesthood came back. Reverend Matt Guckin, school minister at Shanahan, counseled him to apply to Saint Charles and just see where the Holy Spirit would lead.

David entered Saint Charles at the same time as his classmate Alessandro Giardini, which says something about the school ministry program at Shanahan.

Saint Charles "helped me to grow and deepen my faith," David said. "It was part of my Christian journey."

As other seminarians have said, one of the most difficult things was to see other men who seemed to be really made for the priesthood leave, but as time went on "I became more confident that God was calling me," David said.

The spiritual year, a recent addition to the Saint Charles program, "was really, really good," he said. "It was a time to pray, to read the Bible, to enter into prayer in days of silence and working with the poor."

He spent his transitional deacon year under the tutelage of Monsignor Michael Picard at Saint Andrew Parish, Newtown. "He's a wonderful man," David said.

Others who have influenced him include Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. and his pastor at Saint Peter Parish, Reverend Michael Fitzpatrick, who was the homilist at David's first Mass.

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"I'm grateful to God for my vocation in this day and age when the priesthood is not on a high pedestal," David said. "I hope to be a good priest through whom people can encounter Christ."



Reverend Alexander Pancoast
PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

When **Reverend Alexander Pancoast** was maybe two or three years old, he was sitting at Mass with his mom in Saint Ephrem Church in Bensalem talking under his breath to himself. "Alex, what are you doing, why are you mumbling?" his mother asked. "When I get big, I want to be that," he told her, pointing to the priest.

He doesn't remember that story of course but his mother told him so, and moms usually have good memories.

Something told to one's mother as a toddler would not be a good reason to ultimately become a priest. But indeed there was something to it, and through Alex's early childhood he kept this ambition alive.

The eldest of the two children of William and Donna Pancoast, his mother was Catholic, but his father was not. The family did attend church together and said grace before meals and his mother taught CCD, the things active Catholic families usually do.

Alex recalls when he was 10 his dad asked if he still wanted to be a priest and when he said yes, his father confided to him that he was considering becoming Catholic, which he did.

It helped too that Reverend Timothy O'Sullivan, a parochial vicar at Saint Ephrem who was in charge of the youth programs, was a fun guy who could joke with the kids. He was a great role model, the kind of person they could relate to.

For his elementary grades Alex attended school at Saint Ephrem. But when it came time for high school at his own choice he opted for Bucks County Technical School, which in addition to trades, has a good academic program.

He enrolled in the culinary arts program and the one definite thing he learned was that he didn't want to be a chef. On the other hand, being a people person, he enjoyed waitering. He dated a couple of girls semi-seriously and was active with the Boy Scouts, rising to Eagle Scout.

It was in his sophomore year when he went through a spiritual crisis. "I had a car, I had a little job, I had a girlfriend. I had everything in life that should make me happy, but I wasn't," Alex remembers.

He continued going to church and praying with the family, but secretly stopped believing in God, telling no one.

His epiphany took the form of metaphor. He was canoeing with Boy Scout friends, and they passed through a large stand of willow trees so dense it blocked the light.

As they paddled out into the brilliant sunlight his heart was filled with joy. In the midst of such magnificence, "Something clicked," he said. He could only think, "God created me, God loves me."

In his senior year of high school Alex applied to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and as backup to La Salle University, which offered him a \$40,000 scholarship. He turned that down when he was accepted by Saint Charles.

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"I never lived with so many people in my life," Alex remembers. "I was nervous, coming from public school and everyone else coming from Catholic school or home schooling. They probably knew Latin and a lot of things I didn't know."

He soon discovered most of the seminarians had the same trepidations he had, and most of them had never studied Latin either.

The hardest thing for him was three of his closest friends, whom he met in pre-seminary days on Quo Vadis vocation retreats, one by one determined the priesthood was not what God planned for them and left the seminary.

More than once he was on the verge of giving up too, but always something, perhaps a great retreat experience, would bring him back.

This past year he has been serving as a transitional deacon at Saint Bede the Venerable Parish in Holland where Monsignor John Marine has been another great priestly role model.

On May 19, the day after his ordination by Archbishop Charles Chaput, Alex celebrated his first Mass at Saint Ephrem. In the first pew there was his mother, remembering what her little boy murmured almost a quarter-century ago.



Reverend Anthony Raymundo

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

Reverend Anthony Raymundo didn't begin his formation at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. His first two college years were at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

Anthony's life began in California as the eldest of the six children of Dr. Antone and Elizabeth Raymundo. The family relocated to West Chester when he was three and his elementary school years were spent home schooled, in public school and for the final three years at Saint Agnes School, West Chester.

From an early age the idea of the priesthood was there, and Anthony's dad was the first to suggest it simply as one possibility.

During his high school years at Devon Preparatory School Anthony began to seriously discern entering the priesthood. While he was influenced in this by the Piarist Fathers who conduct the school, he decided against that congregation for the simple reason that he did not wish to be a teacher, which was their charism.

Interestingly enough, later at Saint Charles Seminary he did have some opportunities to teach and found he rather enjoyed it.

Choosing Franciscan University to begin his undergraduate education made perfect sense under the circumstances. He'd already experienced it through a high school retreat and was considering the priesthood but not absolutely sure that was what God was calling him to do. There was another part of him that leaned toward becoming a husband and father. The university is co-ed and in addition to turning out religious vocations it is also a seed bed for Christian marriages. It is also unquestionably Catholic and does have a well-respected academic program.

Before the end of his sophomore year at Franciscan, Anthony made up his mind. He would, with God's help, be a priest and he would apply to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to study for the Philadelphia Archdiocese. His family took his decision well. If a few members had doubts about the wisdom of it, everyone came around.

"I entered in the fall of 2012 and they accepted all of my credits," Anthony said.

It probably helped, he guesses, that the academic dean for the seminary at that time was James Growden, a Steubenville grad.

Steubenville did not have typical seminary rules. At Saint Charles it was a whole new life for Anthony, learning to be obedient, learning to follow rules. But there were joys too.

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"It changed me as a person," Anthony said. "Learning how to depend on Jesus. He has to be our first recourse. Other people are fulfilled by a spouse and kids. We are supposed to be fulfilled through Christ, but they are the same vocation."

"You think, 'How can I be a priest with all of the problems I have?' There are moments you doubt, but you realize God didn't create me because of my abilities, he created me because he loves me. He promised to be with us in the Eucharist. You have doubtful moments but good moments too."

As with the other members of his class, part of the experience was learning to pray especially through the newly instituted 30-day silent retreat. "It kicked my butt but that's what I needed," Anthony said.

Of the memories he will take with him is two months spent in Peru immersed in Spanish, a real need for today's parish priest.

Also, there was hands-on parish experience, first at Saint Andrew in Newtown and as a transitional deacon this past year at Sacred Heart in Oxford, learning how to be a parish priest under the tutelage of good parish priests.

Ordination on May 18 was a really big deal for the extended Raymundo family, with relatives flying in from California, Wisconsin, and Arizona. The next day he celebrated his first Mass at Saint Agnes Church, with Reverend Joseph Shenosky, the vice rector at Saint Charles, preaching.



Reverend Jonathan Rice

PHILADELPHIA, PA

Originally appeared in *Catholic Philly*

Reverend Jonathan Rice, 32, is like his fellow candidate Francesco D'Amico: a member of the Neocatechumenal Way, a fast-growing movement within the church dedicated to adult faith formation through small, family-oriented parish-based groups.

Jonathan is eldest of the seven children (six boys, one girl) of Robert and Mary Elizabeth Rice. He was born in Corning, New York although his mother was originally from Honey Brook in Chester County. The family relocated to Denver, Colorado when he was very young, primarily for his dad's doctoral studies.

During his early days in Colorado, his parents weren't really practicing any religion and their marriage was in serious trouble. As matter of fact, on both sides of the family there was a history of broken marriages. Through counseling to save their marriage they somehow came in contact with the Neocatechumenal Way, and it completely changed their lives.

At different times when Jonathan was young, through the Way the family lived at various locations including Colorado and Indiana, and they were even missioned to Philadelphia for a brief period when the Way was first brought to the archdiocese at the invitation of Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

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Jonathan can't remember a time from his early childhood that he didn't want to be a priest, and that persisted through the various cities where his parents were sent to help establish new groups."

Participating in the church in his own right from a very young age, he attended World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in 2005 and went directly from there to spend a year in Israel. During that time he stayed at the Domus Galilaeae, the combination retreat house and formation center conducted for young men of the Neocatechumenal Way who might be considering the priesthood.

As a young adult, "I was originally sent to Georgia and then to Switzerland near Lake Lugano not far from Lake Como," he said. "I was in a mission there for about

two years when Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. asked the Neocatechumenal Way for vocations. My rector put my name in, and I was happy to come back to Philadelphia."

He has been here ever since, and meanwhile, two of his younger brothers have also entered Neocatechumenal Way seminaries. James is in South Africa and Joseph, who entered last year, is in Dallas.

As a seminarian of the Neocatechumenal Way Jonathan has been studying at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary but living at the Redemptorist Mater Seminary, the name given to all of their houses of formation around the world.

While Jonathan's sense of a religious vocation traces back to early childhood, maturing of course along the way as he grew in understanding, it doesn't mean there have been no times of trial.

"I was willing to throw in the towel by nature," he said. "There was always something going on, there were struggles and difficulties, but God worked through them."

Unlike members of religious orders and congregations, when ordained Jonathan will be a priest fully incardinated into the Philadelphia Archdiocese under the jurisdiction of the archbishop, who will give him his first assignment.

After his ordination Reverend Rice celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 19 at Saint Martin of Tours Church in Philadelphia.

Typically a newly ordained priest asks another priest who has been a mentor or role model to give the homily at that Mass. He can think of a number role models including locally Bishop Edward Deliman, Reverend Augustus Puleo and Reverend Martin Cioppi.

But Jonathan didn't want a homily that talks about him, so he gave it himself. "I wanted to preach at my first Mass myself," he said. "It should be all about the people, not about me."



Bishop Schlert Ordains Three New Priests for Diocese of Allentown

By **Tami Quigley**,
Staff Writer *The A.D. Times*

This piece originally appeared in
the *Allentown Diocese Times*



Pictured from left to right: Reverend Giuseppe C. Esposito, Bishop Schlert, Reverend John Maria, and Reverend Zachary Wehr

The Diocese of Allentown has three more shepherds to nourish its spiritual life. Bishop Alfred Schlert administered the Sacrament of Holy Orders to three transitional deacons while celebrating the Rite of Ordination to the Priesthood June 1 at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown.

“The Diocese is extremely blessed to be ordaining these three men to the priesthood. They each have different gifts and abilities that God has given them,” said Reverend Christopher Butera, Diocesan director of seminarian formation and administrator of Sacred Heart, Bath.

“The fact that they each also come from different backgrounds and have unique life stories that brought them to this point allows for a diversity of gifts in our presbyterate, which adds strength to the priestly mission of effectively serving and ministering to God’s people and his Church, most especially to our local Church of Allentown,” Reverend Butera said.

“Continue to pray for them and for vocations to the priesthood within our diocese.”

Reverend Giuseppe Esposito ALLENTOWN, PA

Reverend Giuseppe Esposito, 37, parishioner of the Cathedral, attended the former McAdoo Catholic Elementary School and graduated from Marian High School, Tamaqua in the year 2000. He is the son of Joseph and Debra Esposito and has a younger brother, Justin.

Reverend Esposito earned a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in 2007 and an associate degree in nursing from Lehigh County Community College in 2011.

While working as a registered nurse, he completed a bachelor of science degree in nursing in 2015 from DeSales University, Center Valley. He received a master of divinity degree from Saint Charles in 2018 and master of arts degree in pastoral theology this May. He served his transitional deacon year at Saint Catharine of Siena, Reading.

“To write about the swirl of emotions which accompanies this final step to the priesthood is very challenging. For every feeling experienced there seems to be an opposing emotion,” said Reverend Esposito.

“First, I’m overwhelmed with joy. I’m excited to perform the sacraments reserved to the priest. Celebrating the Eucharist, absolving sins and anointing with oil of the sick are powerful sacraments which make the healing power of Christ present to all those who receive.

—
“The priest is an instrument of the presence of God, which truly humbles me and fills me with awe.”

Along with the joy, there is trepidation, and feelings of unworthiness of so pure a calling. As I approach the priesthood, my faults and weaknesses are becoming more noticeable.

“Two realities, however, bring peace in these difficult moments. The first is that my decision to be a priest is not my decision alone. God, through the Church, makes the other half of the decision. This is one of many similarities between the Sacrament of Holy Orders and Matrimony. Just as the couple both decides to enter a lifelong covenant, so do the priest and the Church make this lifelong decision together.”

“Therefore, I am consoled that the decision is not entirely mine and that God is also choosing this for my life.”

“The second reality that brings peace is that God works through our weaknesses. When we are weak, we do not rely on our own strength, but God’s, to carry us through a challenge. In addition, our weaknesses and sufferings allow us to connect with others. It brings me great peace to know that God will work not despite of weakness, but through weakness. This is the message of the cross.”

“In closing, I am overjoyed and grateful to God for inviting me into his priesthood, and I will strive to always share that joy wherever my assignments take me.”

Reverend John Maria ALLENTOWN, PA

Reverend John Maria, 51, parishioner of Saint Ignatius Loyola, Sinking Spring, attended Garfield Elementary School, Pittston and graduated from Pittston Area Senior High School. He earned a bachelor of science degree in economics from Pennsylvania State University in 1989.

He is the son of Theresa Maria Pittston and the late Cataldo Maria. He has a brother, Carl Maria, and a sister, Annette Gromelski.

Rev. Maria is also the father of James Maria and father-in-law of Abby Maria. His grandson, Donato Giancarlo Maria, was born Nov. 7, 2018. “I was beyond blessed to be able to baptize him on December 23,” Maria said. Reverend Maria’s wife is deceased.

Deacon Maria earned a master of arts degree in theology from Augustine Institute, Colorado in 2014 and a master of divinity degree from Saint Charles this May.

He served his transitional deacon year at the Cathedral.

“As I approach ordination to the priesthood, I admit that it still seems like a dream. It seems like yesterday that I began seminary in 2014, with a swirl of emotions. When folks would ask how many years it would be, I stubbornly insisted that I saw it as a ‘series of one-week retreats,’” Maria said.

“Now that the series has drawn to a close, I recall the prophet Jeremiah’s frightened response to God’s call: ‘I’m too young!’ But alas, no one would buy that from me.”

Maria said he does feel well prepared following many years of formation, with the last five years at Saint Charles. “I feel firmly grounded in the truth that Christ entrusted to his apostles, who passed it on to each successive generation of his Church,” he said.

“Christ has showered many graces upon me through the sacraments and in prayer. And yet, I had hoped to be levitating by now. I still have a long way to go in holiness. I am far from perfect, but I am consoled that there is but one perfect priest, Jesus Christ.

“I need not be a perfect priest to be a good priest. The gauge of my relative goodness will be in my daily striving to be conformed to his heart, and to seek his vision of the people I will serve.

“For many years, I was picked up, dusted off and shown the Lord’s patient mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I’m excited to be able to bring that mercy to others.”

Maria said for many years, the Lord nourished him and strengthened him with the Holy Eucharist in daily Mass. “His Body and Blood were brought to me through the hands of his priest. And now, I am awestruck at the thought that he will now use my hands to bring his Real Presence to others, so that he can raise up saints—old and young, big and little,” he said.

“I am humbled at the prospect of being present with God’s people at every stage of life in families, bringing the love of Christ at the birth of new life and being with them to prepare souls for their journey home to the Father.”

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“**These are challenging times for the Church, as she addresses threats from within, as well as from the increasingly secular world. Some have said that newly ordained priests are running into a burning building. I don’t really dwell or worry about that, because it’s not about me.**”

“It is about Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life—as it was in 33 A.D. at the dawn of the Church; throughout the centuries, at the height of its earthly glory; as well as in hard times, like we are experiencing now. The Church is his body, his bride. If we are faithful, he will see us through.”

“I trust that he will use my strengths and make up for my weaknesses in bringing Jesus to his people.”

Reverend Zachary Wehr
ALLENTOWN, PA

Reverend Zachary Wehr, 28, parishioner of Holy Trinity, Whitehall, attended schools in the Whitehall-Coplay School District and graduated from Whitehall High School in 2009. He is the son of Dennis and Kathleen Wehr and has a younger sister, Emily.

He studied history and secondary education at East Stroudsburg University before entering Saint Charles in 2011. Wehr earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy in 2014 and a master of divinity degree in 2018. Wehr served his transitional deacon year at Saint Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton.

“Even though I entered Saint Charles Borromeo in the fall of 2011, it feels like it was just yesterday. Throughout my time in formation for the priesthood, God has blessed me with so many grace-filled moments. I could never have imagined the amazing experiences and wonderful people that I would meet along the way,” said Wehr.

“My family has supported and encouraged me during my time in the seminary, and for this I am forever grateful. I have also been blessed with extraordinary brother seminarians and classmates who have been part of this amazing journey.”

“I am grateful to God for calling me to such a noble vocation and am very excited to serve him and his people as a priest. As a priest, I will be conformed more closely to Jesus Christ knowing that he will act in and through me. I am so excited and honored to be able to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to absolve people from their sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“I am also looking forward to meeting the people of God whom I am called to serve and to helping them grow closer to Jesus Christ. In some ways it is hard to express in words how I feel about being ordained a priest of Jesus Christ.”

“The Lord has filled me with great joy and peace, and I know that he will always be with me, leading and guiding me to do his holy will. No man could ever be worthy to be a priest, and yet God calls those whom he has chosen and gives them the grace to serve him worthily and well.

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“**In humility I thank God for my vocation and cannot wait to see what he has in store for me as a priest.**”

“Please pray for those men who are currently seminarians for our diocese and for an increase of good and holy vocations to the priesthood for our local Church. May God, who has begun the good work in us, bring it to fulfillment.”

Reverend Carson Kain
LINCOLN, NE

This article originally appeared in the *Southern Nebraska Register* by **Reagan Scott**



Reverend Carson Kain grew up in McCook, NE and celebrated his first Mass there at Saint Patrick Church. The son of Fritz and Tama Kain, he has one sister and six brothers.

Before attending seminary, Kain received his associate degree in science from McCook Community College and attended Nebraska Wesleyan University for a semester—where he met ordination classmate Reverend Allen Phan. After a semester at Wesleyan, Kain transferred to University of Nebraska Lincoln where he studied biology and biochemistry for three semesters.

Looking back, Kain said, there were a lot of factors that led him to discern his vocation. He credits Phan, all of the priests that he’s met and his parents, who inspired him to grow in holiness.

Reverend Kain also took advantage of the opportunity to go to Sydney, Austrailia for World Youth Day after he graduated from high school, attended a diocesan TEC retreat, Koinonia (a bi-annual retreat put on by the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Newman Center) and got involved in FOCUS.

“Looking back, what really did it for me was a pilgrimage that I took to Rome,” Kain said. “That was the icing on the cake.”

After ordination, Reverend Kain said he is most looking forward to celebrating Mass, hearing confessions and bringing people closer to Christ.

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He said, “**I’m really looking forward to being in a parish and helping people out wherever I can. It’s been a great ride, but I’m ready to get out there to help in the field.**”

Reverend Sean Koehr
ARLINGTON, VA

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Reverend Sean Koehr is a U.S. Navy chaplain candidate. Reverend Koehr, 29, completed his priestly formation at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, where he earned a Master of Divinity Degree and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology. He hopes eventually to serve as a Catholic chaplain in the U.S. Navy with endorsement and faculties from the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) after three years of pastoral service in his home Diocese of Arlington.

Bishop Michael Burbidge of Arlington ordained Reverend Koehr at Saint Thomas More Cathedral through the laying of hands and the prayer of consecration invoking the Holy Spirit. His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, concelebrated the ordination Mass.

“The military services are fertile grounds for the Gospel,” Reverend Koehr said. “The men and women in the Navy and Marine Corps desire the best and are searching for the best in themselves. I’m looking forward to preaching the Gospel at Mass—every day. It’s the greatest and most important message in the history of the world. It’s a huge responsibility and an awesome privilege to be entrusted with passing on the church’s tradition. Because everyone needs it. Everyone needs the Gospel and the sacraments.”

Koehr is a 2008 graduate of Seton School in Manassas, VA. He graduated in 2012 from Notre Dame University, where he took part in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) and majored in philosophy.

Among those in attendance at the ordination Mass were the Reverend Mr. Koehr’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Koehr, his grandparents, and 11 siblings. Reverend Koehr celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, June 9, at Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Warrenton, VA. He will begin his first three years of pastoral service at Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Fredericksburg, VA, while preparing to go on active duty in the Navy.

Reverend Joshua Weaver
DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA

This article originally appeared in *The Catholic Witness*, the newspaper of the Diocese of Harrisburg
by Jen Reed

Reverend Joshua Weaver is currently serving as Parochial Vicar, Saint Catherine Laboure Parish, Harrisburg and Chaplain at Bishop McDevitt High School, Harrisburg. He is from Saint Joseph Parish in Mechanicsburg, Trinity High School, Mount Saint Mary's University, and Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

When did you first hear or consider the call to be a priest?

It really took off in college. I met this girl who was really awesome, and as I was going out with her, she was very involved in her faith. I knew that the best way to be the best boyfriend possible was that I would need to fall in love with Christ in order to be a better boyfriend and, if God willed it, a better husband for her. I committed myself to really try to grow in my faith. She and I went to daily Mass together, we prayed together, we talked about faith together. We really pushed each other to grow in virtue and grow in relationship with Christ. It was through that relationship of growing closer to Christ—initially motivated by her—that when he eventually did call and started speaking to me to tell me that he wanted me to enter the seminary. I was actually able to hear it.

How did you handle such a dramatic change, from considering marriage and a teaching career to entering the seminary?

I definitely had more prayer and discernment, and I totally went kicking and screaming, in a spiritual sense. I was super happy dating this girl. I thought that she had a chance to be the person God was calling me to marry. I didn't want to leave. I was probably the happiest I had ever been in my life...The last thing I wanted to do was to let her go, but God was persistent. It almost seems like any time I heard in the Gospel something about following Christ, taking up a cross or leaving everything behind and following him, that was the image that kept popping into my mind. I couldn't shake it.

Eventually, I did spiritual exercises, kind of imaginative prayer. I always called them a "holy fantasy," so to speak. What I would do for a week in my prayer was imagine my life as a married person, my ideal life: finishing my

degree, getting married, having x amount of kids, doing this with my life, doing that with my life. And then at the end of my life, being on my deathbed surrounded by loved ones ushering me to heaven. I would go a step further and I would get to the pearly gates and I would see God and we would talk about my life and how I lived it. I would do that as a married person, and I would do that as a priest, hoping that maybe I could get some clarity and see what my heart would be leaning toward.

Every time in that fantasy as a married man, I could never look Jesus in the eye and tell him everything, I would get to heaven and tell him, "Lord I gave you everything, except her, or except this or except that."

When I would imagine myself as a priest... I would talk to God and say, "Lord, I don't know if I was that successful, I don't know if I did that well, but I gave it everything I had." I realized no matter how I would live my married life, no matter how much service I did, no matter how much good I did or how great I was in my imagination, I could never look God in the eye and tell him that I completely trusted him and gave him my entire heart. At that point in my life, as a sophomore in college, the only way I felt I could do that was to enter the seminary and be a priest.

What are you most looking forward to as a priest?

The thing I'm most looking forward to the most is being a spiritual father and everything that entails. It's the sacraments, bringing Christ to people in a very real way. I'm looking forward to hearing Confessions. I've been the beneficiary of the sacrament probably thousands of times at this point. To be on the other side of that screen and speaking the words of Absolution so the person can know that they are forgiven of their sins gives me chills to think about. I'm excited for the Anointing of the Sick, to be able to be potentially at someone's deathbed as they pass from this life to the next. Even the little things. Do people even know that their priests love them, and that we care? I'm looking forward to going to school events, to basketball games, to plays and dance recitals. Yes, I'm a priest but I'm not just present in the church on Sundays. I'm looking to be a spiritual father and to be part of people's lives and to love them.



Reverend Noe Ramirez de Paz
DIOCESE OF RALEIGH, NC

This article originally appeared in the *NC Catholics*, the magazine of the Catholic Church in Eastern North Carolina
by Kate Turgeon, photo by Shaun Bales

Reverend Noe Ramirez likes to laugh. He's quick to see what's funny about a situation, and doesn't mind pointing it out, even if it's at his own expense.

Ramirez likes to smile, and make others feel comfortable. It's a trait he picked up during his teen years, where he worked in a restaurant waiting tables and working the cash register. He learned hospitality there, he says.

Because it was a small town, everyone knew everyone, and when guests came in he was quick to ask specific questions such as, "How was your baseball game?" rather than simply ask how guests were doing.

Ramirez, who is the third of four children, went to public school and played soccer, tennis and basketball. He enjoyed watching major league baseball, especially the Boston Red Sox. He assisted at Mass, as an altar server, at Saint Juan Diego Catholic Mission.

After graduating from North Moore High School, he decided to move back to the country he was born in, Mexico, and attend Seminario Hispano de Santa María de Guadalupe.

"I thought I was being adventurous at first. Being away from home. Having a new start. Something totally different," he says.

But the transition was hard, especially during the first few months. Seeing his maternal grandparents for the first time in 16 years helped change things for him, and soon he felt love for Mexico again.

"We met at the Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I recognized them right away ... and it was joy filled. It was beautiful. There were tears and hugs and kisses," he says today, remembering the event.

After two years, he returned to the United States and transferred to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

During his time in seminary, he says he discerned and contemplated "a decision between two goods." It was difficult, says Ramirez, who once thought to study architecture or interior design.

"It wasn't a comparison between design school and seminary, though," he says. "But more of a comparison between the priesthood and married life," a vocation he first witnessed through the example of his parents Israel and Osvelia.

—
Throughout his discernment he recalled the words of a spiritual director. "He said, 'God has always been faithful to us, and you can be faithful to him in your priesthood,'" Ramirez says.

Today, he's thankful to Monsignor Gerald Lewis, Reverend James Garneau and Reverend Bill John Acosta for their guidance and example.

Reverend Acosta assisted Ramirez at the ordination Mass with vesting. "He saw something in me that I didn't. He was patient... and always there to give me support and courage. It was remarkable how I was going through something difficult, and I'd get a phone call, and we'd talk about things. He'd give me words of perseverance and I'd carry on. Not to mention he'd take me out for a good dinner every now and then," Ramirez laughs.

When asked what he's most looking forward to about being a priest, Ramirez answered that it's sharing God's mercy through the sacrament of reconciliation and bringing people closer to God in the Eucharist.

He celebrated two Masses of Thanksgiving following his ordination. The first was in English at Sacred Heart Church in Pinehurst.

"Sacred Heart is the mother church of the mission where I grew up, and the people there have always been supportive. I feel like I am a fruit of their generosity. The only way I feel to say thank you is to offer a Mass there," he says.

A second Mass was offered in Spanish the next day at Saint Juan Diego Mission in Robbins, NC.

"Afterward ... it's gonna be a big fiesta," Ramirez smiles.



Vincentians

Portions of this article appeared in *Catholic Philly*

From 1841-1852 all of the faculty and the rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary were from the Congregation of the Mission, also known as the Vincentians. Fast forward to 2019, and for the first time in the Seminary's history, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary had two seminarians from the Congregation of the Mission ordained as priests. Leo Tiburcio and Luis Romero were ordained priests before the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary and received by Reverend Stephen Grozio, C.M., provincial of the Eastern Province of the Congregation.

Tiburcio, 42, is originally from Puebla, south of Mexico City. He was living in Charlotte, North Carolina and working as a cook when he first encountered the Vincentians 15 years ago. "They were working with the Hispanic community there," he remembers. "I was working as a cook and I was looking for a place to discern for the priesthood."

I was impressed by Reverend Vincent Finnerty who was a Vincentian priest at the church where I was going. I saw how busy he was and how happy he was, and he suggested I become a Vincentian. That was 12 years ago, and I never expected to find the happiness and peace I have now."

Romero's experience was remarkably similar. Now 34, he is originally from El Salvador but was working in a factory in Queens, Long Island, when he first encountered the Vincentians through Bishop Alfonso Cabezas, C.M., bishop emeritus of Villavincencio, Columbia. Bishop Cabezas usually celebrated the Spanish Mass at Romero's church.

"He was very humble and open to the people," Romero said. I was struck by the simplicity of life and the identity of the poor, and I wanted a life of service," he said. "Now I'm happy to be a Vincentian."

Leo Tiburcio (left) and Luis Romero (right) are pictured with Vincentian Reverend Stephen Grozio (center), provincial for the Eastern Province of the Congregation of the Mission (the Vincentians).



Clap Out

A long-standing tradition dating back to the 19th century at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, **Clap Out** is a signature send off for seminarians prior to their ordination to priesthood. Each Deacon rings the bell of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception for the last time. All of the seminarians, faculty and staff form a double line exiting the chapel and "Clap Out" each Deacon in celebration of their upcoming Ordination to the Priesthood. The joy and camaraderie are evident on the faces of the ordinandi as well as all those assembled.



Bishop Senior and the Deacons share a moment of levity at the Clap Out.

Transitional Diaconate Ordination

On Saturday, May 11th, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, ordained five men to the Transitional Diaconate at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

“The Transitional Diaconate Ordination represents an important step for the men and their families toward their Ordination to the Priesthood as it acts as the temporary state of men who intend to go on for the priesthood. Please join me in praying for not only these young men, but for all those men and women who are currently discerning a vocation in the priesthood, consecrated, and religious life, that the Holy Spirit may guide them with grace and truth.”

—Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

First row left to right:
Bishop John McIntyre
Bishop Edward Deliman
Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Bishop Timothy Senior
Reverend Javier Santabella

Second row left to right:
Deacon August Taglianetti
Deacon Louis Monica
Deacon Kevin Okafor
Deacon Wilmer Chirino Gonzales
Deacon Cesar Javier Gonzales



Permanent Diaconate Ordination

By Lou Baldwin, *Catholic Philly*

In a ceremony remarkably similar to the ordination of seven young men to the priesthood, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. returned to the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul on Saturday, June 8 to ordain seven men for the permanent diaconate.

A big difference was they were all older, all married and most with children.

“All of us, no matter where we come from, no matter what our background, no matter what our education, are equal members of the church,” Archbishop Chaput said.

With that said, the permanent deacons are not simply appointed. They too undergo a rigorous period of preparation and education for approximately seven years

before ordination. At the end of the Mass, which was attended by spouses, parents, children and friends of the new deacons, Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F. M. Cap. gave them their assignments. Six were assigned to their parish of residence.

Deacon Melvin Burton Jr. was assigned to Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Philadelphia; Deacon Michael Cipressi to Saint Philip Neri Parish, Lafayette Hill; Deacon Matthew Coyne to Saint Joseph Parish, Downingtown; Deacon Christopher Hilden to Saint Anastasia Parish, Newtown Square; Deacon Steven Javie to Saint Andrew Parish, Newtown and Deacon Gary Schoenenberger to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Hilltown.

All received enthusiastic approval from the congregation. Perhaps the loudest applause was for Deacon William Griffin, who was not assigned to his home parish, Saint Anselm in Philadelphia, but to the Deaf Apostolate of the archdiocese. A large contingent of the deaf community was in attendance at the Mass along with their families.



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F. M. Cap gives the blessing during the Permanent Diaconate Ordination.

Episcopal Ordination

This winter saw the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Bishop Coffey is an alumnus of Saint Charles Seminary, class of 1996. Several Saint Charles Alumni were also in attendance at his ordination.



Pictured from left to right: Bishop Timothy Senior '85, Rector, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Bishop Joseph Coffey, '96, Bishop Daniel Thomas, '85 (Bishop of Toledo), Bishop Michael Burbidge, '84, (Bishop of Arlington), Monsignor James McBride, '56, one of Bishop Coffey's chaplains for the Ordination, and a long-serving and beloved Latin professor at Saint Charles—well known to our alums from the 1970s and 1980s.

2019 Alumni Priest Retreat

More than 42 alumni priests returned to campus during the last week of July for the Alumni Priest Retreat.



Caption

Alumni Jubilee

Priests of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are celebrating 25th, 50th and other significant anniversaries of their ordination to the priesthood this year.



The Class of 1994 are pictured with former faculty member Reverend Monsignor Richard Malone, second row left.



The Class of 1969 are pictured with Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.

25 YEARS

(ORDINATION YEAR 1994)

Reverend J. Brian Bransfield
 Reverend William G. Donovan
 Reverend Gregory J. Hamill
 Reverend Carl F. Janicki
 Reverend James A. Lyons
 Reverend Mardean E. Miller
 Reverend Stephen A. Moerman
 Reverend Zachary W. Navit
 Reverend Timothy F. O'Sullivan
 Reverend Michael S. Olivere
 Reverend Charles Zlock

50 YEARS

(ORDINATION YEAR 1969)

Reverend Gerald D. Canavan
 Reverend Hugh J. Dougherty
 Monsignor Thomas P. Flanigan
 Reverend John J. Kilgallon
 Reverend Richard J. Maisano
 Reverend Ignatius Marneni
 Reverend James J. McKeaney
 Reverend Martin E. Woodeshick

55 YEARS

Reverend William P. Donnelly
 Reverend Peter C. Funk
 Reverend Francis M. Gallagher
 Reverend Charles J. McElroy
 Reverend James C. Sherlock
 Reverend Donato P. Silveri

60 YEARS

Reverend John P. McNamee

65 YEARS

Reverend Francis J. Bartos
 Monsignor Bernard J. Trinity

The Spiritual Year: Finding God in all things

One of the things that sets Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary apart from other seminaries is its **Spiritual Year**.

The Spiritual Year offers formation intentionally in a smaller community setting to provide “a solid base for the spiritual life and to nurture a greater self-awareness for personal growth.”

The key goals of the Spiritual Year include the opportunity for the seminarian to enter deeply into solitude to solidify his self-knowledge of his vocational calling and to profoundly affect the seminarian’s interiority with the heart of Jesus Christ.

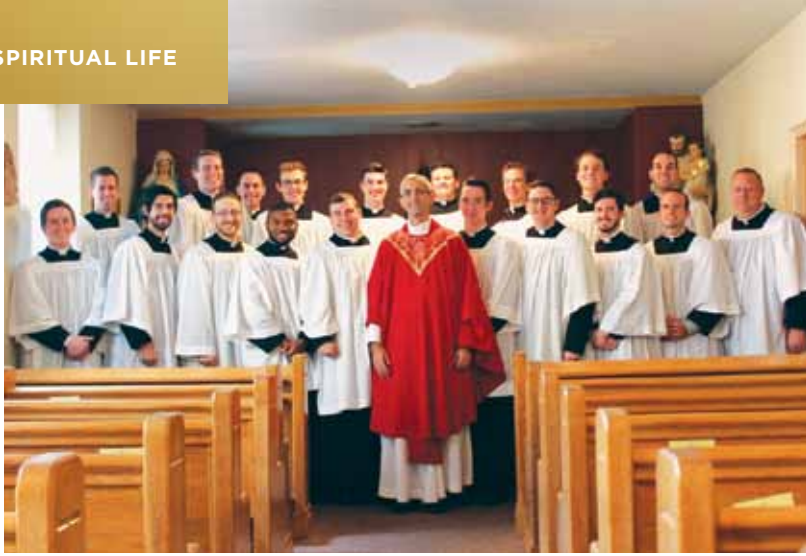
Using all the dimensions of priestly formation—human, intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual—this one-year program strives for a life-experience which will allow the seminarian to “find God in all things.”

The “stillness” of the year—freed from academic grades—aims at fostering a monasticism of the heart to remain with the candidate through ordination and throughout priestly life.



At the close of the 30-day spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

At left: John Chidiebube Okpara and Tucker Brown on a communal adventure day.



The “stillness” of the year—free from academic grades aims to foster a monasticism of the heart to remain with the candidate through ordination and priestly life.

WHAT IS A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SEMINARIAN IN THE SPIRITUAL YEAR LIKE?

Each morning begins with a holy hour, Morning Prayer, and a quiet time for reading before class. After a period of quiet preparation, he gathers with others for a time of spiritual instruction or conferences concerning human formation topics. The celebration of the Eucharist completes the morning. After lunch, he fulfills community work responsibilities and then has some time for recreation. After dinner the evenings are dedicated to personal spiritual needs, such as silence, meditation, reading, reflection and direction. They are together for Evening Prayer each night before Grand Silence begins.

RHYTHM OF THE YEAR

Each seminarian is required to have a regular spiritual director, meeting frequently to process personal prayer and relationship with God. As a means of separating from the noise of the world, the Spiritual Year includes a media fast. Phones, television, computers, social media and other electronic devices are not used Monday through Friday. All day Saturday the media fast is lifted. On Sunday, a modified media fast is practiced.

No workshops take place on Saturdays. This is a day for “recreation.” The seminarian is free after morning Mass for the whole day until the evening with the goal of spending this leisure day in a productive way for human growth.

On Wednesdays, the Spiritual Year seminarians join the greater Saint Charles Seminary for Mass and Rector’s Dinner. Fridays are communal adventure days. Communal activities range from a shrine visit, or a visit to a museum, to a picnic, or a nature hike. Opportunities

to experience both history and the arts are also included in the Friday outings throughout the year. Eucharistic adoration through the night happens from Saturday night into Sunday morning, whereby the seminarian receives one hour to enter into the hopeful expectation of the Resurrection each week in deep communion with the Blessed Mother.

Upon the return from Christmas break, seminarians depart for a poverty immersion program for one month. Seminarians are sent forth in pairs to travel simply and serve the poor. This experience provides a concrete shedding away from materiality. In addition, during the normal course of the year, one afternoon per week is spent in field education.

SHANE FLANIGAN AND TUCKER BROWN WENT ON THE SPIRITUAL YEAR FOR THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

Coming into the Seminary, he didn’t want to do a Spiritual Year. “I thought it was a waste of time and a way to weed people out of the program.” But, Flanigan says he feels very differently now.

“I was surprised at how hands on it was—between the poverty immersion and the 30-day retreat there was fellowship that I didn’t expect to find,” said Flanigan.

“It was working with these underserved kids that really grounded me for my priesthood. I would help them with their homework but we also played basketball. Our shared interest in basketball broke down a wall with the kids and they opened up to us.”

“It taught me how to be a priest that prays. It built a relationship with God and I know it will strengthen me when I become a priest. In the times that we live in and the problems with the Church, this Spiritual Year is an anchor I will rely on for the rest of my life—to have such a deep relationship with God.”

For his poverty immersion, Flanigan served food in the soup kitchen in the morning. In the afternoons he worked with kids of all ages in an after-school program.

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“My favorite part of the Spiritual Year was the fraternity amongst the seminarians. Not having our phones and just having each other was very powerful,” said Brown.

Tucker Brown also went on Spiritual Year in 2018-2019. “I didn’t know what to expect—Reverend Cooke doesn’t like us to share too much so that the younger guys don’t know exactly what happens over the course of the Spiritual Year. For example, they might know there is a poverty immersion but they don’t know where it will be or what it will entail.”

“The structure of the program took some getting used to but then it became like a rhythm. The Spiritual Year helped me prioritize and realize what is really important going forward—obviously my relationship with God but also with friends and family.”

“The Spiritual Year was an overall awesome experience—I’m so glad I got to do it,” remarked Brown.

Rev. Christopher R. Cooke leads a hike along the Appalachian Trail.



CASSOCK DAY: THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Reverend Brian P. Kane, Dean of Men, presents cassock to Bairon Reyes.

**CASSOCK DAY:
COLLEGE SEMINARY**



Reverend George J. Szparagowski, Dean of Men, blesses the cassocks.



Dan Monastra helps Paul Boyer adjust his cassock.



SEEK 2019

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminarians attended SEEK 2019 in Indianapolis presented by FOCUS—The Fellowship of Catholic University Students.



Seminarians, faculty and staff proudly participated in the March for Life 2019 in Washington, D.C. on Friday, January 18.



We are so proud of our seminarians for leading a Rosary during a large pro-life gathering in front of the Philadelphia Planned Parenthood location this Spring.

40 Hours

By Zinjn Iglesia

At the close of 40 Hours, members of our seminary community joined our seminarians and priests for a candlelit Eucharistic Procession through campus that ended in Saint Martin of Tours Chapel for Solemn Vespers. After 40 consistent hours of constant Eucharistic Adoration, the Blessed Sacrament was reposed. The evening concluded with a community reception.

These forty hours were a beautiful time of growth in intimacy with Christ, a wonderful opportunity to transform our hearts into reservoirs of His life and love.

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Christ.”

—Saint John Vianney



Solemn High Mass in Extraordinary Form

“Mary pondered everything in her heart, and she always pressed on... She says to you and me, ‘Press on. Press on in your life of prayer. Press on in your discernment. Press on in your discipleship.’”

—Reverend Dennis Carbonaro

For the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Reverend Dennis Carbonaro, Spiritual Formation Director of the College Seminary, celebrated a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form with Reverend Alessandro Giardini (Philadelphia) serving as Deacon and Reverend Zachary Wehr (Allentown) serving as Subdeacon. Dr. Nathan Knutson, The Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music, provided beautiful sacred music.

The entire Mass was said and sung in Latin.

Relic of Saint John Vianney

Saint Jean Vianney is the patron saint of all diocesan priests. The Shrine of Ars, France, has entrusted to the Knights of Columbus the major relic of Saint Jean Vianney's incorrupt heart for a national tour in the U.S., from November 2018 through early June 2019. It arrived at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary on First Friday, February 1 before heading to the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. The Knights of Columbus welcomed this special opportunity to offer for veneration a major relic of the patron of parish priests, whose holiness and integrity is a model for clergy and laity alike. In our Holy Hour there was contemporary praise and worship, traditional chant, time for silent prayer, and a Litany of the Sacred Heart.



Martin Luther King Day of Service

On Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service all of our seminarians served at various locations throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia working with various religious orders, those in poverty, the ill and handicapped, and even on our own seminary campus. As always, their days began with prayer and Mass in preparation of bringing the light and love of Jesus Christ to those they encounter through service. Seminarians from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary volunteered on the MLK Day of Service at Divine Providence Village in Springfield, PA.

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Trip to the Holy Land

Seven members of Saint Charles Seminary Deacon Class traveled to Israel in January 2019 for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's annual trip to the Holy Land. It was subsidized by the Priest Alumni Association. Reverend Chylinski led it, and Monsignor Magee and Reverend Shenosky were with the group. The deacons are seen here at the Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter.



Christmas Cheer

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminarians performed classic Christmas Carols for the Sisters at Holy Family Home, Little Flower Manor and Camilla Hall. Seminarians from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary also volunteered at the 63rd Annual Archbishop's Benefit for Children Christmas Gala where more than 500 young people who benefit from over a dozen programs administered by

Catholic Social Services of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (CSS) attended. They represent approximately 16,000 children across the Delaware Valley who benefited from residential and community-based programs offered by CSS this year, including children with disabilities, at-risk children, and dependent or court-adjudicated youth.



New Piano for the Choir Room

The Priest Alumni Association generously donated the funds for a new grand piano (Petrof piano, Model IV) to be used for all choir rehearsals and voice lessons in the Theology formation room behind the chapel. It will also be used for warm up rehearsals before Liturgies. Altogether, it will be used almost daily during the school year. This piano is now a vital part of the music program at Saint Charles Seminary.

After the Seminary moves to a new location, the instrument will prove versatile, as a rehearsal piano, or concert instrument for the Seminary.

A grand piano is superior to a baby grand or upright piano because it provides a warm and round tone. A grand piano has a low profile and a wide range of dynamics, as it can be played softer and louder as needed. Our new piano, manufactured in the Czech Republic, is an aesthetic work of art.

New Pipe Organ for Sacred Heart Chapel

The Seminary is pleased to announce the generous donation of a beautiful Pipe Organ. We are extremely grateful for the donation from a generous benefactor.

Built by Bennett & Giuttari (2004) of Rehoboth, MA, the instrument is of extraordinary quality of sight and sound. It features three individual ranks of wood flutes. The organ will primarily be used by the College Seminary in Sacred Heart Chapel, but can easily be used in Saint Martin's and future locations.



Baccalaureate Mass

IV College celebrates on the steps of Saint Martin of Tours Chapel following the Baccalaureate Mass.



Front row left to right: Reverend Dennis Carbonaro, Reverend George Szparagowski, Bishop Timothy Senior, Reverend Joseph Shenosky, Reverend Robert Pesarchick, Reverend Javier Santaballa. Second row left to right: Trung Q. Pham, Ricardo Martinez, Greg Miller, Max McGallagher. Third row left to right: Adam Klukiewski, Noah Shoudt, James Harmon, Rogelio Raya. Fourth row left to right: Nikolai Brelinsky, Alexander Brown, Miguel Ramirez Montano, Andres Galeano Moreno.

Concursus

Commencement speaker Dr. Jacqueline C. Rivers accepts a Doctorate of Humane Letters, *honoris causa* at the 182nd Concursus at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary on May 15. Dr. Rivers has served as a lecturer at Harvard University and has presented at Princeton University, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Pennsylvania, the American Enterprise Institute, the Vatican, the United Nations and several other venues. Her latest publication, co-authored with Harvard sociologist Orlando Patterson, appears in the volume *The Cultural Matrix*. She received her Ph.D., Master's and undergraduate degrees from Harvard University. Dr. Rivers is also the Executive Director of the Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies.

Bishop Timothy C. Senior said, "Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is honored to present its Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Dr. Jacqueline Rivers, a distinguished lecturer and scholar in the Sociology and African American Studies Departments at Harvard."

Dr. Rivers will join a distinguished list of honorary degree recipients from the Seminary including Professor Andreas Widmer, Justice Samuel Alito, Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Judge Genevieve Blatt, Mr. William Fishman and Pennsylvania Chief Justice Robert N.C. Nix, *inter alios*.

At Concursus our lay-faithful students and seminarians received Bachelor's Degrees in Philosophy, Certificates in Pastoral Ministry to Black Catholics, Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in Theology.



Graduates at Concursus.

Welcoming seminarians from different lands and cultures

One of the major goals in the seminary's current strategic plan is making the campus and seminary more hospitable to its multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-racial community of seminarians.

By Monsignor Michael K. Magee



In 2012, a priest-friend of mine was visiting from Germany and was looking at the class pictures lining the walls of Vianney Hall. He asked a question about something that appeared very wrong: clearly the photographs all pictured caucasian, American faces—why doesn't the seminary look more like the Church? It is striking how dramatically that has changed over the past seven years.

Especially in the past decade, semarians from an increasingly rich array of cultural, linguistic, racial and national backgrounds have brought the Seminary to reflect more fully the diversity of the Catholic population itself, in the United States and abroad. Bishops from as far away as Africa and Asia have also decided to send semarians to be educated at Saint Charles. The seminary, which once housed a student body almost entirely composed of native Philadelphians, is being or has been enriched by the presence of semarians born in numerous lands including Bangladesh, South Korea, Colombia, El Salvador, Ghana, Haiti, India, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Ukraine and Vietnam.

There are challenges these international students face, including issues surrounding visas; visa status is a highly regulated, rapidly changing and complicated code of law which varies by type, length of stay, and nation of origin. Financial issues, language barriers, the need for basic assistance with getting around in a new country/culture face the new seminarian who comes to Overbrook from a foreign land. For the seminary, there are also challenges, particularly if language is a serious concern. While it may not be necessary to have faculty and formation advisors from the same native culture as the seminarian, it is important for them to know the variables/differences that form the basis of the student's life experience (time, relationship with authority, assertiveness, forms of communication).

Unquestionably, the benefits brought by our international students to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary vastly outweigh the challenges. Nothing teaches, and richly expresses, the catholicity of the Church more effectively than living in community with men from extremely different cultures all seeking to respond to the call of Jesus Christ to become His disciples. These students embody the universality of the Church and the treasures of our common human nature, and they challenge us daily to become a Catholic seminary in the fullest sense of the word.

Certificate Program of Proficiency in Pastoral Spanish

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is preparing men to meet people in the culturally diverse communities where they will serve as deacons and priests. The **Certificate Program of Proficiency in Pastoral Spanish** teaches competency in Spanish, understanding of cultural matters and expertise in pastoral work. This comprehensive program prepares future priests and deacons for pastoral work and expands the possibilities for bishops in their placement of newly ordained priests.

Students enroll at the beginning of II Theology. The students must complete the following to obtain the Proficiency in Pastoral Spanish Certificate:

- Beginning, intermediate and two advanced Spanish courses (or the equivalent), to include the Pastoral Spanish course offered at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.
- A study abroad program in a Spanish-speaking country is required.
- Participation in two Latino parish apostolates preformed weekly on Thursdays.
- A written comprehensive exam in language and culture, completed in the IV Theology.
- An oral comprehensive exam (half hour in length) in Spanish language and culture with a given theme, completed in the fall of IV Theology.

The Pastoral Spanish curriculum builds pertinent skills that help deacons and priests connect with people in real ways and through real life events. Upon completion, students are able to:

- Demonstrate proficiency in all five linguistic skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening and culture.
- Celebrate the Sacraments in Spanish.
- Preach in Spanish.
- Teach in Spanish for parish programs, such as RCIA, Bible study, Pre-Jordan, and Pre-Cana.
- Connect to the faithful in written Spanish in Church bulletins, letters of eligibility and parish websites.
- Understand reverent traditions that are pertinent to weddings, baptisms, presentations, and quinceaneras.

To achieve a Proficiency in Pastoral Spanish Certificate, a minimum grade of 3.5 (B+) must be attained for each program goal, met throughout the academic career of the student during his formation in the Seminary Theologate. Also, a 3.5 (B+) grade must be earned on both the written and oral comprehensive exams.

With the Proficiency in Pastoral Spanish Certificate, deacons and priests will be able to work successfully in Hispanic parish ministry with “feligreses” through the celebration of the liturgy and Sacraments, and the many parish programs that support the life of the local Church and the surrounding community.

Six seminarians who completed Theology I traveled with Rev. Augustine Esposito and spent six weeks in Mexico City at the Seminario Hispana de Santa Maria de Guadalupe. They attended classes Monday through Friday for five hours each day. Each weekend they went on excursions to many significant places in Mexico City where they learned and experienced Mexican culture, the history of Mexico and the current lifestyle of Mexico. They also had the opportunity to experience the spirituality and religious customs of Mexico.

“Whenever we encounter another person in love of God and others, we learn something new about God. We have to become courageous Catholics and seek out those to evangelize who are in the flesh of Jesus Christ.”

—Pope Francis

Hispanic Family Day

By Bob Steiner, *Catholic Philly*

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary hosted Hispanic Family Day on Sunday, April 7, giving young Hispanic men and their families a firsthand look at seminary life.

Approximately 260 people attended the fourth annual event, its largest turnout ever, according to Reverend Stephen DeLacy, vocation director for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Bishop Edward Deliman celebrated Mass in Spanish for attendees, with music provided by the choir from Our Lady of Fatima Church, a worship site of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Bensalem.

The event also included a tour of the seminary campus, lunch, games for children, a soccer match in which young men attending played against seminarians, and evening prayer in Saint Martin’s chapel.

The archdiocesan Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood formed a task force in 2015 to increase priestly vocations from the Hispanic community. Reverend DeLacy said the idea for Hispanic Family Day arose in view of the Hispanic culture’s emphasis on family.

“In our deliberation, it became very clear that if we want to cultivate vocations, from the Hispanic community, we have to reach out to the whole family,” said Reverend DeLacy. “The Hispanic culture is very collective in its mindset, much more family-centric than individual-centric.”

Because of the efforts of the Hispanic vocations task force, there is “a large number of discerners now considering the call” to priesthood from the Hispanic community, Reverend DeLacy said.

Reverend Daniel Arechabala visited Saint Charles Seminary with his family when he was a young boy. In addition to his service now as parochial vicar at Queen of the Universe Parish, Levittown, and Saint Mark Parish, Bristol, he is active in fostering vocations through the Hispanic vocations task force.

“It’s just really exciting to me that this is what we’re doing now, where we’re inviting people to come on to the seminary campus, to have some time to enjoy themselves...and really make contact with the seminarians,” Reverend Arechabala said, “so that the families and their sons see the reality that (the

seminarians) have come from families and they’ve come from backgrounds similar to their own and are now pursuing, with God’s grace, the call to the priesthood.”

Hispanic Family Day also helps the visiting young men understand “that the seminary is a place of discernment, where young men can come to encounter Christ and better understand what he might be calling them to,” Reverend Arechabala said.

Miguel and Adriana Gonzalez, Queen of the Universe parishioners, have a son who is a freshman in high school. They brought him to Hispanic Family Day to show him, as Miguel Gonzalez said, “a different kind of approach” to life.

“We are trying to show him all the possibilities,” said Miguel Gonzalez. “At the end of the day, it will be his decision.” By attending Hispanic Family Day and seeing seminary life in person, Adriana Gonzalez said, their son now “knows better what it’s all about.”

For parents with a son who might be considering the priesthood, Reverend Arechabala’s advice is to help him be open to God’s will.

“In my estimation, the focus of the parents...would be to encourage him, but simply to be ready for whatever God wants,” the priest said. “It’s important that young men make this decision (to discern the priesthood) because God is calling them, because nothing else will sustain them—it’s only going to be that relationship with Christ.

“And above all to pray,” he added, “to pray that the Lord would continue to increase the number of vocations and to enable those young men to better hear that call.”



From left to right: Augustus DeSimone, Andrew Auletta, Henry Graebe, Reverend Augustine Esposito, Andrew Lane, Eric Tammney, Christopher Massaro.



Multicultural Sunday

Multicultural Sunday was on March 3 for our seminarians. Each class went to various parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to attend Mass with African American, Hispanic, Vietnamese, Filipino, or Igbo parish-communities. Multicultural Sunday is a great opportunity for the seminarians to experience worship within our truly universal Church, and to experience different cultures through food, language, and encounter.



Pictured are students from College III with Reverend Bill Waters (standing, back row middle), pastor, Saint Augustine Church, Old City, Philadelphia with members of his parish from the Filipino community. They provided lunch for the seminarians after Mass.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

On December 12, our seminarians celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a festive reception featuring Mexican food, drink and music in the College Auditorium.



Black Catholic Heritage Mass

In mid-March, Wednesday evening's community Mass was a Black Catholic Heritage Mass in Immaculate Conception Chapel. This was a celebration of the growing cultural diversity of our seminary community and in gratitude for the contributions of Black Catholics in our seminary community and our Archdiocese.



The celebrant was Reverend Richard Owens, O.F.M. Cap., Director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Black Catholics, and the homilist was Monsignor Federico Britto, who is the Pastor of two parishes in West Philadelphia, Saint Cyprian Roman Catholic Church and Saint Ignatius West Philly. He is also the Dean of the West Philadelphia and Center City Deanery. Music was provided by parishioners of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish, pianist Brian Martin and cantor Rita Bostic. We were also blessed to host them for our weekly Rector's Dinner.

Passover Seder

On Sunday, April 7, Monsignor Fairbanks and Rev. Brian P. Kane (back row, second and third left, respectively) led a group of Seminarians who participated in an Interfaith Seder Dinner at Saint Joseph University's Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations.





Seminary Life

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND OPEN HOUSE

More than 1,000 people enjoyed the music of our seminary choir, the seminarian-led tours of our beautiful campus, our large collection of international Crèches, and simply being around our amazing seminarians, priests, and staff.



VIANNEY CUP

On Saturday, September 22nd, seminarians of Saint Charles Borromeo traveled down to Theological College in Washington, D.C. for the annual Vianney Cup Soccer Tournament. Seminarians from Saint Charles, Mount Saint Mary's, Saint Mary's, and Theological College gathered for an awesome day of competition, fraternity, and prayer.

Our seminarians put up a hard fight against the reigning tournament champions, Mount Saint Mary's, for a score of 0-2. We were able to obtain a win against Saint Mary's in our second game by a score of 5-4.

CASSOCK CLASSIC

Faith, fellowship and flying discs abounded as Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary held its sixth annual Cassock Classic Tournament on Saturday, April 6.

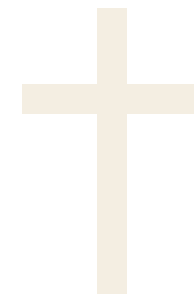
It was an opportunity for Catholic young adults to have some fun playing Frisbee and build friendships under the day's warm sunshine. The co-ed "Ultimate" tournament also provided young men a unique opportunity to get a glimpse of the seminary life.



BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AT MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

Our seminary basketball team traveled to Chicago for the 2019 Reverend Pat O'Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament hosted by Mundelein Seminary. We are proud of our seminarians for working together as brothers, leaving the tournament with a record of 2 wins and 1 loss.

"Even better than competing against seminaries from across the country was having the opportunity to meet those seminarians and grow closer to the Saint Charles Borromeo guys I traveled with," said Josh Weaver. "It's so refreshing to see so many talented, genuinely good, and holy men discerning God's call to the priesthood at our own seminary and at seminaries across the country. Plus, it's always an added bonus when you're able to win a couple games too."



SKI TRIP

A group of Seminarians took advantage of Rector's Weekend in February to travel to Mount Snow in Vermont. They went skiing and snowboarding. Bishop Senior, Reverend Kane and Reverend Cooke joined them on the trip and celebrated Mass.



TALENT SHOW

Our collegiate seminarians put on an in-house talent show. Music, comedy, and monologues were just a few of the acts performed. Truly the night was filled with laughter and great joy. Pictured at right: Griffen Schlaepfer and Andrew Heidelbaugh



BLOOD DRIVE

Saint Charles Seminary hosted a blood drive for seminarians, faculty and staff for the American Red Cross in November. Seen here: Brandon Schmidt, I College

THEOLOGY ON TAP

The turnout was phenomenal for **Theology on Tap** this Spring. Since it was a Friday in Lent, the tomato pies from Marchianos Bakery and pretzels from Tasty Twisters were a big hit. The community thoroughly enjoyed welcoming all to hear a great talk from Reverend Tim Danaher, O.P. entitled "The Five Wounds of Christ" and to hear him sing with our seminary band. It was also a blessing to pray at our Holy Hour before the night began and at Night Prayer.



THE BISHOP DESIMONE ITALIAN CLUB

The Seminary's Italian Club had a full day on Saturday, April 6. Led by Philadelphia Third Theology semarian Louis Monica, they arrived in New York City, where they participated in a Mass at the National Shrine of Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini. After a lunch break, they attended a performance of Tosca at the Metropolitan Opera. The day concluded with a fine Italian meal at Pappardella's restaurant before returning to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. No doubt tired but culinarily and spiritually enriched.



UPPER SIDE VS. LOWER SIDE

Every Spring the seminary hosts an "Upperside vs. Lowerside Soccer Game," in which the college seminarians compete against the theology seminarians. This year's win went to the Upperside.

BROAD STREET RUN

Our Seminarians participated in the Broad Street Run 10-miler. Prior to the race, Bishop Senior celebrated Mass at the Church of the Holy Child, Our Lady of Hope Parish in Philadelphia which is near the starting line for the race. The soggy weather didn't dampen their enthusiasm. Special thanks to Cynthia Brown for providing brunch to the Seminary runners after the race.



Seminarians complete 150-mile Vocations Awareness Bike Tour throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia



In an effort to create awareness about vocations to the priesthood, seminarians from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary launched **Biking for Vocations**.

Over the course of five days (August 8-12), eight seminarians and Reverend Christopher Cooke traveled more than 150 miles by bike to offer holy hours, prayer services, and discuss their vocation pathways at Archdiocesan parishes located in Chester, Montgomery, and Bucks Counties.

Biking for Vocations kicked off with an opening ceremony and blessing of bikes led by Reverend Stephen DeLacy, Director of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood. Semarian Chris Massaro said the following verse was in his heart for the entire trip: Romans 12:1 "I urge you brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship."

More than a dozen other seminarians and volunteers transported the riders' gear and supported them in cars along the way. The seminarians broadcast portions of the five-day pilgrimage via Facebook Live. In addition, they regularly posted about their journey on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

"The key takeaway for me is the event brings a great sense of hope for the future. Interacting with the seminarians these days, you can see in their hearts a deep desire to evangelize. That, coupled with the growing number of vocations in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, fills me with tremendous supernatural hope and natural optimism for the future of the Church of Philadelphia," said Reverend Stephen DeLacy.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2019

On the first day of the pilgrimage, the seminarians visited Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish in West Chester (afternoon) and Saint Joseph Parish in Downingtown (evening).

Reverend Alex Pancoast, Parochial Vicar of Saint Joseph Parish, led a Holy Hour at 7:30 p.m. Reverend Pancoast completed six years of formation at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and was ordained by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap in May.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 2019

On the second day of the pilgrimage, the seminarians visited Saint Teresa of Avila Parish in Norristown (afternoon) and Saint Eleanor Parish in Collegeville (evening). At Saint Eleanor's Parish, the group met up with Reverend Alessandro Giardini, who was also ordained in May.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019

On the third day of the pilgrimage, the seminarians visited Saint Rose of Lima Parish in North Wales (afternoon) and Saint Agnes Parish in Sellersville (evening).

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2019

On the fourth day of the pilgrimage, the seminarians visited Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Doylestown (afternoon) and Saint Andrew Parish in Newtown (evening).

MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019

On the final day of the pilgrimage, the seminarians visited Saint Catherine of Siena Parish in Horsham (afternoon) before returning to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

The eight **Biking for Vocations** semarians riding with Reverend Christopher Cooke are: Christopher Massaro, Austin Robuck, Mark Gomba, Dominic Mirenda, Tucker Brown, Anh Mai, Timothy Fariss, and John Peter Zappe. Eric Tamney managed social media and traveled with the riders on their journey.



Seminarians stopped at Our Lady of Guadalupe and met with the parish youth group.



Seminarians held a question and answer session with the parishioners from Saint Eleanor Parish.

The riders met Christian who came up to them and gave them hugs. He's 3 years old and wants to be a priest! He has his own missal and mass kit and is a good friend with newly ordained priest Reverend David O'Brien!

From left to right, seminarians Anh Mai, Mark Gomba, John Peter Zappe and Christian at Saint Andrew Parish.



Institute for Christian Formation

It is with great joy that Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary and the School of Theological Studies announce the launch of a new faith formation program under the title of The Institute for Christian Formation to include Catholic Church Teaching, Sacred Scripture, Spirituality and Prayer.

The Institute for Christian Formation will begin in the Fall of 2020 and held at the seminary. It is a two-year program consisting of eight sessions in the Fall and eight sessions in the Spring. The cost is \$250.00 per eight-week session. Participants must be 18 years-old and a diploma is required. All levels of education, vocations and careers are encouraged to participate; laity, priests, and religious sisters and brothers. Faith formation is a conversion of the heart opportunity in one's journey of faith. We welcome you to join us. This is a non-degree/non-credit program that will be recognized by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Catechetics.

For more information, visit www.scs.edu or contact Suzanne Mulrain at 610-785-6595 or at smulrain@scs.edu.



DR. JOHN HAAS APPOINTED TO JOHN CARDINAL KROL CHAIR IN MORAL THEOLOGY AT SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. appointed John M. Haas, Ph.D. to the John Cardinal Krol Chair in Moral Theology. Dr. Haas was the inaugural holder of the Krol Chair from 1990-1996 and now returns to Saint Charles Seminary after a 22-year tenure as President of the National Catholic Bioethics Center.

The John Cardinal Krol Chair of Moral Theology was founded by His Eminence Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua in January of 1990. The Krol Chair, named in honor of a great churchman who clearly and unwaveringly proclaimed the moral demands of Christian life, was established to enhance the Seminary's efforts to promote a better understanding, appreciation and acceptance of Catholic moral teaching. Through teaching, lectures, symposia, workshops and publications, the Krol Chair contributes to the seminary's primary mission of preparing men for pastoral service as ordained priests and to its secondary mission of educational outreach to the broader Church community. The previous holder of the Krol Chair from 2008-2016 was Rev. Dennis J. Billy, C.Ss.R.

DR. NATHAN KNUTSON APPOINTED AS THE LUCILLE M. FRANCESCO CHAIR OF SACRED MUSIC

Most Reverend Timothy C. Senior, Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, announced the creation of the Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music and the appointment of Dr. Nathan Knutson as the first holder of the chair. The chair was recently established by Dr. Jerry Francesco, in honor of his late wife, Lucille M. Francesco. The Francesco family has long been beloved benefactors of the seminary.



JAMES M. DESPRES, PH.D.

This spring, The Catholic University of American in Washington D.C. awarded a Doctorate in Philosophy (Ph.D.) to Professor Despres, who is now Dr. James M. Despres, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy. Dr. Despres has been on the faculty at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary since July 2009. He was instrumental in conceiving, implementing and directing the MAPS program (Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies) here at the seminary.

MARK MCLAUGHLIN, CFO, COO

Mr. Mark McLaughlin, CPA, began his service to the Seminary on May 6, as the new Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operating Officer. Mr. McLaughlin served for 30 years in managerial positions, including Director, Senior Manager and Supervisor, at RICOH USA in Malvern, PA, a provider of document management, IT services and office equipment. Most recently he was Director of the Internal Audit for RICOH. Mr. McLaughlin has been a Certified Public Accountant in Pennsylvania since 1991.



RETIRED: SHEILA LONGWORTH

Campus Information Coordinator Sheila Longworth retired this year. Longworth has devoted her life and work to generations of seminarians and priests. She had served as a phone operator, mail room clerk, and secretary at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for more than 45 years. In 2018, Pope Francis awarded her the Benemerenti Medal. The Benemerenti Medal is extended to members of the clergy and laity for exceptional service to the Roman Catholic Church.

RETIRED: STEVE DOLAN

Recently, Stephen P. Dolan, Jr., Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the last six years announced his plans to retire from full-time employment. Mr. Dolan will continue to be involved with the Seminary as a consultant to Rector Bishop Timothy Senior. At his retirement party Mr. Dolan was joined by his wife Donna, their son Stephen and daughter-in-law Stephanie. Bishop Senior gifted Mr. Dolan with a slate tile etched with pictures of the buildings of the campus.





2020 Golf Outing

Join Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary for the
Seventh Annual Golf Classic September 28, 2020.

Title Sponsor: JJ White

Golf will be available at two historic golf clubs:
Philadelphia Country Club and **Gulph Mills Golf Club**.

The day will include golf, a gourmet dinner with a scenic view,
and an unforgettable auction for your enjoyment.

Proceeds from the **Seminary Golf Classic** will go directly to support
the formation of our seminarians—your future priests.

For more information, please visit www.scs.edu/golf.



2020 Saint Charles Borromeo Awards Dinner

Wednesday, April 22, 2020

5:30-9:30 p.m.

The Union League of Philadelphia

140 South Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

Business attire

**Cocktail Hour followed by
Dinner and Award Presentation**

Gary and Patricia Holloway have selflessly given their time, talent and treasure to enrich the community and offer an outstanding example of servant leadership. Like Saint Charles Borromeo, who lived a life of service and humility, the Holloways embody these qualities in their own lives.

All proceeds directly underwrite the education and formation of our seminarians.

PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP: \$10,000

VIP Table for 10 guests at the Award Dinner

- Name/logo recognition on Save the Date and Invitation
- Name/logo recognition on all electronic event communications
- Name/logo recognition on cover of program booklet
- Full page, full color ad in program booklet
- Name/logo recognition on event website
- Name/logo recognition on signage at the entrance of event
- Special recognition by emcee during the event

GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$5,000

- Table for 10 guests at the Award Dinner
- Name/logo recognition on Invitation
- Name/logo recognition on all electronic event communications
- Name/logo recognition in program booklet
- Half-page, b/w ad in program booklet
- Name/logo recognition on website
- Name/logo recognition on signage during cocktail hour

SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$3,000

- Table for 10 guests at the Award Dinner
- Name/logo recognition in program booklet
- Half-page, b/w ad in program booklet
- Name/logo recognition on website

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$1,500

- Event tickets for 5 guests
- Quarter page ad in program booklet
- Name/logo recognition on website

PROGRAM BOOKLET ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES:

- Full page ad: \$1,000
- Half page ad: \$500
- Quarter Page ad: \$250

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKET: \$300.00

- Includes admission to cocktail hour and one ticket to the Award Dinner

Questions? Please contact Gina DeColli at 215-587-5650 or gdecogli@catholicfoundationphila.org.

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