

THE BROOK

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY MAGAZINE

2022 • A YEAR IN REVIEW



Groundbreaking

Lower Gwynedd Campus

December 8, 2022



Dear Alumni and Friends of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary,

Greetings, and Blessed New Year! As the new Rector of Saint Charles, it is a great joy to welcome you to this latest edition of The Brook. It has been a year of many graces, and we are very happy to share with you many of the ways in which God has abundantly blessed us this past year.

Among the news items from last year, perhaps the biggest event was the Seminary Groundbreaking on our new campus in Lower Gwynedd, which took place on December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Having just celebrated Midnight Mass the night before, the entire community then traveled to the new campus with Archbishop Pérez, Bishop Senior, and many special guests and benefactors. The ceremony became a sign to all of us that the move is upon us, and that Our Lady is truly with us, watching over us through this transition. In addition, we consecrated the whole project to Saint Joseph the Worker. We ask that you all please pray for our seminary through his intercession. This is certainly a time of mixed emotions, but not without great Faith and trust in God's providence.

The clean-out of the current campus has begun. The projected move-out date from the current campus will be August 2024. We will be taking many elements from Overbrook with us, including highly revered altars, stained glass windows, sacred art and other items. Our most important treasures, of course, will be travelling with us as well: our seminarians and our world-class faculty.

Last summer, Archbishop Nelson Pérez announced several new seminary administrative and faculty appointments, which took effect June 2022. These new appointments include Reverend Jason E. Buck as Dean of Men in the College Seminary, Reverend Michael J. Kelly as the Director of Spiritual Formation for the Spiritual Year and Pre-Theology Program, and Reverend Monsignor Gerard C. Mesure as the new Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation and Dean of Men for Pre-Theology. We also welcomed Reverend Gus Puleo as a full-time faculty member and Director of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program.

We began this academic year with 133 seminarians from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and 14 partner dioceses and religious orders. There is a great spirit in the house, especially amid the growing cultural and ethnic diversity of the seminarians. In addition, there were 36 men in formation studying for the Permanent Diaconate, and over 200 students enrolled in the various programs run by our School of Theological Studies. There is much to be grateful for!

This past year, 16 graduates from the seminary were ordained to the priesthood, representing Archdioceses, Dioceses, and Religious Communities from throughout the country. In addition, two graduates from Sri Lanka are presently completing a year of pastoral work before their ordination next fall, and one of our graduates was just ordained for the Diocese of Mymensingh, Bangladesh.

As you read through the following pages, we ask that you continue to pray for our seminary community. We are truly grateful for your support! We have been blessed in so many ways, particularly during this important time of transition. Please know of our prayers for you. Through the intercession of Saint Charles Borromeo, may the Lord bless you in abundance!

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Keith J. Chylinski

Reverend Keith J. Chylinski
Rector



COVER PHOTO
BY SARAH WEBB



2022 Seminary News and Events

Welcome New Men

August 25, 2022 marked the opening day of the 2022-2023 year of formation! Pictured here are the new men with Father Keith Chylinski, Rector, following Rector's Dinner.



PHOTO BY DOMINIC MIRENDA

Mass of the Holy Spirit

The celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit occurred on August 31. This inaugurated the beginning of the seminary's 191st year of formation and a photo similar to the one seen here is taken every year of the seminarians, faculty, and staff. Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Chairman of the Board, was the main celebrant and joined Father Chylinski and the seminarians for Rector's Dinner following the Mass.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

March for Life in Washington, D.C. ▶

Seminarians and faculty travelled to Washington D.C to take part in the March for Life on January 21.



▶ Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg

On September 19, seminarians travelled to participate in Pennsylvania's March for Life in Harrisburg with Father Jason Buck, Dean of Men for the College Seminary, and Father Herbert Sperger, Director of Spiritual Formation for the Theological Seminary.



▼ Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Washington D.C.

On October 15, members of the seminary community took part in a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.



PHOTO BY KEN BUI



PHOTOS BY DOMINIC MIRENDA AND KEN BUI

Cassock Day 2022

Congratulations to the new men of the College and Theological Seminaries at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary who celebrated Cassock Day on Saturday, October 1.



The Jesus Run ▶

Saint Charles Borromeo seminarians participate in the Jesus Run, a homeless outreach program. Participants meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul to minister to those experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia. The seminarians are pictured here along with students from Widener University who provided the meal.



PHOTO BY DAVID SLUSARICK



Upper Side vs. Lower Side Flag Football Game

As a part of the celebration of the Feast of Saint Charles Borromeo on November 4, the Lower Side won a second consecutive victory in flag football by a score of 36-12.

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE McCANN

Upper Side vs. Lower Side Softball Game

The Collegians defeated the Theologians on May 5th during the Upper Side vs. Lower Side softball game by a score of 19-12.



Upper Side vs. Lower Side Soccer Game

On October 20, 2022, the Collegians defeated the Theologians in the Upper Side vs. Lower Side soccer game by a score of 3-2.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

Spring Vianney Cup

Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary hosted the Vianney Cup soccer tournament on April 2 for Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Saint Mary's Seminary and the Theological College. Mount Saint Mary's finished in first place over Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary by a score of 5-2. Saint Mary's won the consolation round over Theological College. This tournament has been played for more than 20 years but had been postponed since 2020 due to COVID-19.



PHOTOS BY JUDE OPARA

Fall Vianney Cup

Seminarians competed in the Vianney Cup soccer tournament, which was held on Saturday, September 24, at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The annual soccer tournament featured Saint Mary's Seminary (Baltimore, MD), Theological College (Washington, D.C.), Saint Charles, and Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. Saint Charles won the first game against Saint Mary's Seminary by a score of 3-2. Mount Saint Mary's finished in first place over Saint Charles with a score of 4-2 in the championship game.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Night Out at the Phillies

On September 20, the Serra International Club's Philadelphia Chapter invited the seminarians and resident priests to attend the Philadelphia Phillies game versus the Toronto Blue Jays



PHOTO BY REVEREND JASON BUCK



PHOTO BY REVEREND CHRISTOPHER COOKE

Ski Trip

Some of our collegians, along with Bishop Senior, Chancellor, and Reverend David Friel, Director of the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood, spent Presidents' Day Weekend (which was also a Rector's Weekend), skiing on Elk Mountain in Susquehanna County, PA. Another group went with Reverend Christopher Cooke, Dean of Men, Theology Seminary, to Gore Mountain in the Adirondack Mountains of New York.

Cassock Classic

On Saturday, April 30, 2022, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood hosted the Annual Cassock Classic Ultimate Frisbee Tournament. The event was held on the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary campus, and the Seminary won!



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Lunar New Year

The Theological Seminary celebrated the Lunar New Year, which is the biggest festival in some Asian countries like Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan, and South Korea when people gather with their families to give thanks to God for the past year, to celebrate the new year together, and to exchange best wishes. 2022 is the year of tiger, which signifies strength, courage, and perseverance. For the seminarians at Saint Charles from Vietnam, Hong Kong, and Korea, this was a chance to celebrate the new year with them and to get to know more about their culture and customs.



PHOTO BY CHUAN VAN TRINH



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

International Dinner

The seminary hosted an International Dinner on March 27 in the Pope Room in the College Building.



PHOTOS BY JUDE OPARA

Spring Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap was held on March 11 and featured a talk on Lent and Suffering by Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In addition to the social component, the night also featured Stations of the Cross and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The event was open to all adults ages 21 to 35 and attracted a large audience.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Fall Theology on Tap

On September 16, the seminary hosted Theology on Tap. It is a program for young catholic adults ages 21-35. The evening consisted of Eucharistic Adoration followed by a talk given by Bishop Joseph Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. After the lecture, music was provided by the all-seminarian band Plain White Collars. More than 100 young adults attended.

Faith and Fellowship Night

On Friday, April 29, the College Seminary held a Faith and Fellowship Night featuring talent by Marie Miller and Keynote Speaker Dr. Kelly Anderson, Chair, Department of Sacred Scripture, with the topic of "The Virgin Mary, Ark of the Covenant."





◀ Villanova University Program in Church Management for Men in Formation

Seminarians Brendan Zehner, Bernard Okechukwu Ekeagwu, Greg Miller, and Max McGallagher took part in the Villanova University School of Business Certificate Program in Church Management for Men in Formation from July 25-29, 2022.

They joined other seminarians and newly ordained priests from around the country to learn important business skills related to running a parish. Throughout the week they reviewed managing budgets and looking at case studies of parishes and dioceses, while learning the best way to continue the mission of the Church and uphold Catholic social teaching. This course equipped them with the necessary tools needed to manage the financial side of parish life.



Institute for Priestly Formation ▲

This July, eight seminarians from the Allentown and Arlington Dioceses participated in the summer program for seminarians at the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF). Since 1995 the Institute for Priestly Formation has offered an intensive spiritual formation program for seminarians on the campus of Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska.

IPF serves seminarians by providing the setting in which they can fall more deeply in love with God. A man's priestly life is more joyful and more fruitful when he engages in priestly ministry while at the same time living in intimate and unceasing union with God. IPF programs and resources aim to assist seminarians with tools that will help them to safeguard their relationship with the Trinity during their seminary years and beyond into active priestly ministry.

Catholic Relief Services ▶

In July, seminarians David Slusarick, Paul Boyer, Christopher Pujol, Edward Town, and Dr. Kelly Anderson (not pictured) attended Catholic Relief Services (CRS) annual training seminar for seminaries across the country in San Antonio, TX at the Mexican American Catholic College. The seminar prepares seminarians to share with the larger Saint Charles community the critical work CRS is doing around the world. This photo was taken in front of the Alamo.



Spanish Immersion Program ▲

Seminarians Rob Bollinger, Ed Town and Patrick Thorp are pictured here on a hike to a volcano in Guatemala, where they studied this summer in a Pastoral Spanish Immersion program in the city of Antigua. All three seminarians for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia returned to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in August to begin their studies in III Theology.

Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications

On May 26, 6ABC Action News Anchor Jim Gardner was awarded the 2022 Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence in Communications by Bishop Timothy C. Senior, Chancellor, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary at a luncheon that followed the 2022 John Cardinal Foley Symposium on World Communications Day. Also featured at the symposium discussion were Dr. Angela Corbo, Associate Professor and Chair of Communication Studies at Widener University and Matthew Gambino, Director, General Manager and Editor of Catholic Philly.com. The event was organized by Reverend Thomas F. Dailey, The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

◀ Cardinal Foley Lecture

The 9th Annual John Cardinal Foley Lecture on the Church & Social Communications was held on April 25 with Bishop Paul Tighe, Secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture.

Bishop Paul Tighe is pictured here with Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, and Reverend Thomas F. Dailey, The John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications.

The Cardinals' Forum ▶

As a part of the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Social Communications, the opening discussion in the 2022-2023 year of formation on "The Liturgical Formation of the People of God" was held on August 30.

Pictured here are Father David Friel, Director of Vocations, who served as the event moderator, Dr. John Haas, John Cardinal Krol Chair in Moral Theology, Father Keith Chylinski, Rector, Father Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S., John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics & Social Communications, and Dr. Nathan Knutson, Director of Sacred Music and Lucille M. Francesco Chair in Sacred Music.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

A YEAR IN REVIEW

The School of Theological Studies



The School of Theological Studies welcomed 18 Sisters to the seminary this summer. These Sisters were from various Religious Orders, including the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia (Nashville Dominicans), the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (Ann Arbor), the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita, and Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Immaculata). They came to us from missions in Kansas, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Alabama, Minnesota, Texas, California, Rhode Island, and Ireland. Each Sister is working towards her Master of Arts in Theology and took two courses this summer.

They are pictured here with Reverend Daniel Mackle, Chair of the Pastoral Theology Department and Monsignor Michael Magee, Dean of the School of Theological Studies along with three seminarians.

Philadelphia Ukrainian Cathedral

On Sunday, March 6, seminarians attended Divine Liturgy at the Philadelphia Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The Divine Liturgy was celebrated by Archbishop Borys Gudziak and concelebrated by Father Christopher Cooke, Dean of Men, Theological Seminary and Father Herbert Sperger, Director of Spiritual Formation, Theological Seminary.



2022 Golf Outing



PHOTO BY DOMINIC MIRENDA

The Seminary's Ninth Annual Golf Classic was held on September 26 at Philadelphia Country Club and Union League Liberty Hill. Joe Del Raso and Sean Fahey co-chaired this year's outing. The day included golf, a gourmet dinner with a scenic view and an unforgettable auction.

The 10th Annual Golf Outing will be Monday, September 25, 2023 at Philadelphia Country Club and Union League Liberty Hill. For more information, scs.edu/golf.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

Institution of Acolytes

Our Theology II seminarians and Permanent Diaconate candidates were instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte on Saturday, February 12, by Most Reverend Larry J. Kulick, Bishop of Greensburg, PA presiding. The Ministry of Acolyte is the final ministry before seminarians are ordained to the diaconate. In the Rite of Institution, the bishop hands those to be instituted a patent with bread and says, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church."

Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Mr. Joseph Ky Thanh Bui, Mr. Juan Pablo Builes Hernandez, Mr. Bernard O. Ekeagwu, Mr. Max R. McGallagher, Mr. Gregory H. Miller, Mr. Jacob Elias Sanz, and Mr. Brendan R. Zehner

Diocese of Allentown: Mr. Nikolai R. Brelinsky, Mr. Keaton C. Eidle, and Mr. Aaron R. Scheidel

Diocese of Arlington: Mr. James R. Joseph

Diocese of Greensburg: Mr. David M. Slusarick

Diocese of Harrisburg: Mr. Drew E. Tanguay

Diocese of Lincoln: Mr. Jonah A. Brox, Mr. Santiago Izquierdo, and Mr. Augustine X. Reimers

Diocese of Trenton: Mr. Brian Meinders

Congregation of the Mission: Mr. José Alexander Palacios, C.M.

For the Permanent Diaconate, Archdiocese of Philadelphia:

Mr. Christopher DeMaio, Mr. John J. Ellis, Mr. Michael R. Fohner, Mr. Jaime A. Gándara, and Mr. Robert Szipszky.



Institution of Lectors

The celebration of Mass with the Institution of Lectors took place on September 17. The principal celebrant and homilist was Most Reverend John J. McIntyre, D.D., Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Mr. Robert T. Bollinger, Mr. James V. Coffey, Mr. Chike Egbufoama, Mr. John A. Milius, Mr. Peter (Nho) V. Nguyen, Mr. Jude U. Opara, Mr. Timothy M. Perry, Mr. Shawn P. Terkhorn, Mr. Patrick S. Thorp, Mr. Edward G. Town

Diocese of Allentown: Mr. Robert F. Rienzo

Diocese of Arlington: Mr. Timothy D. Banach, Mr. Emmanuel Carreno-Garcia, Mr. Jordan A. Evans, Mr. John M. Meyerhofer, Mr. Alfredo D. Tuesta

Diocese of Harrisburg: Mr. Cole T. Mase and Mr. Andrew R. Saint Denis

Diocese of Lincoln: Mr. Scott N. Schieuer and Mr. Isaac K. Wahlmeier

Congregation of the Mission: Mr. Juan Carlos Pérez, C.M. and Mr. Paul Phuong Pham, C.M.

Admission to Candidacy

Pictured with the seminarians are Father Herbert Sperger, Director of Spiritual Formation for the Theological Seminary, Father Keith Chylinski, Rector, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia, Archbishop Charles Chaput, Father Christopher Cooke, Dean of Men for the Theological Seminary, and Father Patrick Brady, Vice Rector.

On November 4, Archbishop Nelson Pérez celebrated Mass for the Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for seminarians from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Allentown, the Diocese of Harrisburg, and the Archdiocese of Colombo.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Mr. Charles H. Cappelli, Mr. Thomas G. Cipolla, Mr. Declan J. Cole, Mr. Alexander B. Cross, Mr. Dominic W. Mirenda, Mr. Griffen T. Schlaepfer, Mr. Przemyslaw L. Rozestwinski, and Mr. Peter Nho Nguyen



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

Diocese of Allentown: Mr. Dominic C. Civitella, Mr. Tyle D. Davis, Mr. Tyler W. Loch, Mr. Anh Do Mai, Mr. Hy Gia Ngo, and Mr. Jeffrey S. Tomczyk

Diocese of Harrisburg: Mr. Andrew C. Heidelbaugh

Archdiocese of Colombo: Mr. Jude Arkesh Ragel and Mr. P. Don Sandun Tharuka

Baccalaureate Mass

On Tuesday, May 17, 2022, the Baccalaureate Mass for our college graduates was celebrated. Bishop Ronald Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

185th Annual Concursus

On May 18, the Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary's 185th Annual Concursus was held. Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap, Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia received a Doctor of Humane Letters from Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Chairman of the Board of Trustees who conferred the degree. Bishop Timothy Senior conferred degrees to graduates who earned Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Theology, and Master of Arts in Philosophical Studies. Letters of Completion for Pre-Theology and Certificates in Pastoral Spanish were also presented.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

Clap Out

Friday, May 6 marked "Clap Out" for IV Theology. At the close of their final semester, just prior to their Ordination to the Priesthood, the Class of 2022 was "clapped out" by the student body, faculty, and staff. Each member of the ordination class rang the church bell in Immaculate Conception Chapel for the last time and then walked outside while being applauded for his accomplishment.

The Ordinandi are pictured here with Father Christopher Cooke, Dean of Men for the Theological Seminary, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, and Father Herbert Sperger, Director of Spiritual Formation for the Theological Seminary.



PHOTO BY DOMINIC MIRENDA



A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Closing of Forty Hours

November 3 marked the Closing of Forty Hours, which consisted of a candle-lit procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a reception in the College Auditorium.



PHOTOS BY KIRK HOFFMAN



At the reception following the Close of Forty Hours, we broadcast Game Three of the 2022 World Series featuring the Philadelphia Phillies and the Houston Astros.

Pictured above are our seminarians watching the game and rooting for the home team!

Open House and Christmas Concert

On December 4, the 2022 Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Open House and Christmas Concert took place in Saint Martin's Chapel. This was the final Open House and Christmas Concert that will take place on the Overbrook campus.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB



PHOTOS BY DOMINIC MIRENDA

Christmas Tour ▶

On December 14, seminarians visited Villa Saint Joseph to sing Christmas carols with our retired priests as a part of the seminary's Annual Christmas Tour.



TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATIONS



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

◀ Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA

Pictured here are Deacon Phong Le, Deacon John Okpara, Deacon Wesley Taveras, Deacon Shane Flanagan, Deacon Randall Kraft, Deacon Anthony Albanese, Deacon Kenneth Omeke, Reverend Keith Chylinski, Rector, Reverend Patrick Brady, Vice Rector, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, and Reverend Francisco Javier Santabella, Rector, Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Philadelphia.

▶ Diocese of Allentown, PA

Pictured here are Deacon Alexander Brown and Bishop Alfred Schlert.



PHOTO BY JOHN SIMITZ



◀ Diocese of Arlington, VA

Pictured here with Bishop Michael Burbidge are Deacon Zinjin Iglesia (far left), Deacon Stanley (Luke) Poczatek (left of Bishop Burbidge) and Deacon Andrew Clark (third from the right).



PHOTO BY CHRIS HEISEY

◀ Diocese of Harrisburg, PA

Pictured here are Deacon Kevin Key and Bishop Ronald Gainer.



PHOTO BY NATALIE BENDER AND CATHY BLANKENAU BENDER

▶ Diocese of Lincoln, NE ▲

Pictured here are Deacon Loudon Redinger (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), Bishop James D. Conley, and Deacon Scott Nemec.

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA

Six new priests followed Jesus call in their hearts to the altar
By Gia Myers, *Catholic Philly*, Published May 23, 2022

Pictured here, top row: Father Andrew Auletta, Father Roneld Saint Louis, Father Henry Graebe, Father Andrew Lane. Bottom row: Father Ryan Nguyen, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Reverend Keith Chylinski, Rector, and Father Sang Woo Chi

"Never doubt that voice that you heard within your heart years ago," Archbishop Nelson Pérez told the six new priests he ordained for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Saturday, May 21 in the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul.

The ordination Mass culminated the path of religious vocation from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to priestly ordination. The new priests are Fathers Andrew Auletta, Henry Graebe, Andrew Lane, Ryan Nguyen, Sang Woo Chi and Roneld Saint Louis.

The cathedral basilica was filled nearly to its capacity of approximately 1,500 worshipers, including the many family members and friends of the new priests seated in the front pews.

"They're all such really good men, really dedicated," said Rick Auletta, father of Father Andrew Auletta. "The church is getting stronger."

Kathy Auletta, mother of Father Andrew, described her son and his five fellow classmates as "reaching out to people's hearts with compassion" through their vocations.

"The world is getting tumultuous," she lamented. "People need guidance and love. They need to know the path for peace" through the Catholic faith, she said.

"It's a blessing having not one, but two sons who are priests," said Henry Graebe Sr., father of Father Henry Graebe and his older brother Father Brian Graebe, who has been a priest for 11 years and is a pastor in the Archdiocese of New York.

"They'll be in competition to say Mass when they both come home to visit," he said, smiling.

Having raised two sons who became priests, Graebe Sr. and his wife Alice credit their family and faith traditions, as well as Catholic education.

"Always making Mass a priority, no matter what else was going on" was key, said Alice Graebe, "as well as family and holiday celebrations."

Father Keith Chylinski, who becomes the Rector of Saint Charles Seminary on July 1, credits prayer, faith and support of vocations by families for the six ordinations in the archdiocese this year, and the expected seven ordinations next year.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

Father Chylinski invites Catholics in the archdiocese to take part in a new program, "Philly Adoration for Vocations," launched this year on March 3, the feast of Saint Katharine Drexel. Adorers are invited to spend an hour or more before the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the seminary.

The Rite of Ordination of Priests opened with the hymn, "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus," as 13 members of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Color Corps processed up the main aisle of the basilica and raised their swords in salute.

Many Saint Charles seminarians followed, the last of which were the six ordinandi (candidates for ordination), about 60 priests from the archdiocese, auxiliary archbishops and Archbishop Pérez.

"You could have done anything else with your life, followed any path," the archbishop told the six ordinandi during his homily, "but you were docile and obedient to the voice of God deep in your hearts."

The archbishop thanked their parents for the generosity of offering their sons in "service to the church around the world."

Archbishop Pérez noted that the six new priests will join hundreds of fellow Philadelphia priests in service in the archdiocese. He recommended that they "stay close to the Lord in the Eucharist" and "talk to him as your Lord." He reminded them that the same Lord who called them to the priesthood also called Saint Peter, referencing the earlier reading of the Gospel of John, 21:15-17.

"Stay close to your family and friends, they will sustain you" the archbishop said, adding, "and stay close to the Blessed Mother. She will protect you and guide you."

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Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA *Continued from page 17*

Following his homily and the promise of the ordinandi to undertake the office of the priesthood, the rite continued with the laying on of hands, where Archbishop Pérez first laid his hands on the head of each candidate, followed by the other archdiocesan priests present.

Archbishop Pérez then extended his hands over the candidates in the prayer of ordination. The laying on of hands and the prayer together constitute the essential elements of the sacrament of holy orders.

Each new priest was vested in a stole and chasuble, the liturgical attire of a priest, by a priest colleague who is particularly close to the newly ordained, followed by the anointing of hands with the oil of sacred chrism.

Father Andrew Auletta was vested by Father Christopher Walsh, pastor of Saint Raymond Parish in Philadelphia.

Father Henry Graebe was vested by his spiritual director in the seminary, Father Herbert J. Sperger.

Father Andrew Lane was vested by Father Philip Lowe, a Neumann University professor and resident at SS. Simon and Jude Parish, West Chester.

Father Ryan Nguyen was vested by Father Livinus Ugochukwu, currently in residence at Good Shepherd Parish in Camp Hill, Pa., who was serving African immigrant communities in Philadelphia until last year. The two became friends when Father Nguyen was discerning the priesthood and asked to join Father Ugochukwu during home and hospital visits to help with his discernment.

Father Sang Woo Chi was vested by Father Anthony J. Costa, pastor of Saint Agnes Parish in West Chester.

Father Roneld Saint Louis was vested by the priest who introduced him to Saint Charles Seminary, Father James Catagnus, pastor emeritus of Saint Ambrose Parish in Philadelphia.

Mass ended with the six new priests giving their first blessings to all in attendance, which included those present as well as numerous participants watching the Mass via livestream.

Liturgical music was provided throughout Mass by the Cathedral Basilica Choir, under the direction of Charlene Angelini, with organist Mark Loria.

A luncheon followed afterward at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood for the six new priests, family members and guests.

Each new priest celebrated his first Mass on Sunday, May 22. They follow the tradition of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that newly ordained priests visit their home parish or parishes where they served as seminarians to celebrate Mass, beginning the first weekend after the ordination.



PHOTO BY SNR PHOTOS

Diocese of Lincoln, NE

Pictured from left to right are Father Christian Schwenka, Father Dominic Winter (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), Bishop James D. Conley, Father Tony Schukei (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), and Father Liam O'Shea-Creal.

Ordination took place at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln, NE, on Saturday, May 28, 2022. Father Tony Schukei and Father Dominic Winter were ordained by Most Reverend James D. Conley.

Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians)

Saint John's University, Published June 22, 2022
Excerpted from the *Saint John's University* website

Pictured here Father Walner Diaz, C.M. and Bishop Alfonso Cabezas, C.M.

For a young alumnus of Saint John's University, the 10-year vocation journey of personal discernment, faith, challenging work, and trust in God recently culminated with his profession of sacred vows of Holy Orders.

On Saturday, June 4, the Vincentians of the Eastern Province (Congregation of the Mission) gathered to celebrate the ordination to the priesthood for Deacon Walner Diaz, C.M. '17C.

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The Vincentians, a Roman Catholic community of priests and brothers founded by Saint Vincent de Paul to evangelize the poor and educate clergy, welcomed their newest member of the Eastern Province.

Before a crowded congregation that included family and friends from across the country and many Vincentians, the Most Rev. Alfonso Cabezas, C.M., Bishop Emeritus of Villavicencio, Colombia, presided over the ordination ceremony held at the Miraculous Medal Shrine in Philadelphia, PA. It was through Bishop Cabezas that Fr. Diaz first met the Vincentian priests and brothers in New York.

Fr. Diaz cites Bishop Cabezas as a mentor who exposed him to the possibilities of a Vincentian vocation and attributes his mother as the person who first instilled in him a love of faith. Born and raised in El Salvador and the youngest of eight children, he made his way to New York as a young man. When he first arrived in New York, he spoke little English and could only find work in manual labor jobs. While attending Sunday Mass, Fr. Diaz met and was inspired by Bishop Cabezas, who befriended him and soon invited him to attend monthly discernment meetings.

"The rest is history," he shared.

Fr. Diaz soon began his formal seminary studies, enrolled at Saint John's, and resided at the nearby Miraculous Medal House that houses international seminarians studying philosophy and theology at the Queens, NY, campus.

Ordination is the sacramental ceremony in which a man becomes a deacon, priest, or bishop and enabled to minister in Christ's name and that of the Church. The ordination ceremony includes various rituals rich in meaning and history (e.g., prostration, laying on of hands, anointing of hands, giving of the chalice and paten, and the sign of peace).

In the phrase "holy orders," the word "holy" means "set apart for a sacred purpose." The word "order" designates an established civil body or corporation with a hierarchy, and ordination means legal incorporation into an order, in this case the Congregation of the Mission. The Rite of Ordination occurs within the context of Mass.

Fr. Diaz's first assignment as a Vincentian priest is Our Lady of Guadalupe in Charlotte, NC, a thriving, mostly Spanish-speaking community in the Diocese of Charlotte. "I want to be a servant to the people," he said.

Diocese of Harrisburg, PA

Excerpted from:
Four New Priests Ordained to Serve the Diocesan Church
 By Jen Reed, *The Catholic Witness*,
 Published June 9, 2022

Pictured here are Father Thomas Meinert and Bishop Ronald Gainer.

A congregation of clergy, religious, family members, friends and lay faithful filled Saint Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg on Saturday, June 4, in joyful celebration of the ordination of four priests for the Diocese of Harrisburg.

Bishop Ronald Gainer celebrated the Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood for the new priests,



PHOTO BY SNR PHOTOS

Father Jerome Kleponis, Father Thomas Meinert (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), Father Matthew Smith and Father Damon Tritle.

Father Meinert, 26, is a native of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey. He attended Saint Joan of Arc School and Bishop McDevitt High School, and received his priestly formation at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

"The first inkling that I had a call came when I was in about sixth grade. I was at Mass and I was praying, and I would see the priest. I was an altar server at that time. I thought that it was an interesting possibility, but I almost kind of dismissed it at that point and I wasn't really ready to address that God was calling me to this vocation," he said.

"It wasn't until I was in my junior year of high school when I went on a Kairos retreat that I really found the courage to start praying. I heard the call again and I think at that time I was a little bit more prepared to be able to answer it, but I really needed the grace of God to help me through to get to this point. He did his part; he supplied all the grace that I needed," he said.

Reflecting on the support he has received from the people of the Diocese throughout his eight years of seminary, Father Meinert expressed his gratitude and explained how their support provided a source of encouragement.

"For the past eight years, knowing that there is such a large amount of people who are praying for me and supporting me in any way that they can has really helped me in my discernment to want to be better for them," he said. "One of my friends, whenever it would get hard in seminary, would help to refocus it. When you start to get down on yourself and think, 'This is tough, this is hard, maybe I can't do this,' remember the people who are supporting you, who are praying for you. They're trying to get you to that 100 percent effort, they're trying to get you all the way there. You owe it to them to give your full effort."

Diocese of Raleigh, NC

'A powerful moment': Two ordained to the priesthood

NC Catholics, Published June 8, 2022

Pictured below are Father Erik Reyes and Bishop Luis Zarama.

John Michael Prudente De Guzman, who was born in the Philippines and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Erik Reyes Reyes, who was born in Mexico and raised in Whiteville, North Carolina, received the sacrament of holy orders June 4 and became the newest priests for the Diocese of Raleigh.

The Rite of Ordination included the promises of the elect, litany of supplication, laying on of hands, prayer of ordination, investiture and anointing of hands.

The Mass, which was streamed live, was attended by many of the new priests' family members and friends, including parents Jane and Sonny De Guzman and Bertha and Hugo Reyes.



PHOTO BY NC CATHOLICS

Father Erik's aunt, Adriana Reyes, shared the first reading in Spanish. Father John's dad shared the second reading in Tagalog, a language spoken in the Philippines.

Prior to ordination, each of the elect said that the laying on of hands, where all priests in attendance put their hands on the heads of those to be ordained, would likely be a special moment for him during the Mass. This tradition has its roots in an ancient text, according to the ordination program, and allows the Holy Spirit to be conferred upon those to be ordained.

"It's a powerful moment ... kind of like a welcoming to the brotherhood of the priesthood but at the same time receiving all their prayers and blessings," said [then] Deacon Erik.

The symbolism is meaningful, said [then] Deacon John, who added, "It shows the unity of the order of the presbyterate, that shows that the Holy Spirit is the one doing all of this and he's the one that unites us all together."

The Mass was attended by priests from other dioceses as well as from the Diocese of Raleigh.

"It brought back my own ordination," said Monsignor John Williams, who attended the Mass to celebrate with the new priests. "I think many of the priests who attend are transported back and remember their great sense of the mystery of grace. I felt the same affirmation when I received the laying on of hands ... and it was very renewing. That grace still flows."

During the investiture portion of Mass, the newly ordained priests, who entered the cathedral wearing deacon's stoles tied at the side, adjusted their stoles to be worn on both sides. They also donned the chasuble (or robe) of a priest.

Each new priest was asked to select a priest to help him with investiture. For Father John, Father Michael Schuetz, pastor of Mother of Mercy Church in Washington, North Carolina, assisted with vesting. Both attended Saint Thomas More Academy for high school and were classmates in seminary at Theological College in Washington, D.C.

Father Erik asked Father Rafael Leon, pastor of Saint Joseph the Worker in Warrenton, to assist with his vesting. Father Leon was his parish priest and helped nurture his call to the priesthood by talking with him about the life of a priest.

Now that they are ordained, each will begin his priestly vocation as a parochial vicar, who assists the pastor, at a parish. Father John will begin that work June 28 at Saint Michael the Archangel in Cary; Father Erik begins the same day at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral in Raleigh.

"The thing that I can say is ordination is a beautiful thing for our diocese and for all the Christian faithful," said Father Erik. "It's also the fruit of all the hard work of the faithful in our diocese because of their donations to the BAA and vocations and all the prayers that they do for the seminarians and the people who are discerning to be a priest. This is a moment when everybody can see the fruit of their work."

Diocese of Arlington, VA

Excerpted from: Eight priests ordained June 4 'on fire with Holy Spirit,' Bishop Burbidge says

By Leslie Miller, The Arlington Catholic Herald, Published June 4, 2022

Pictured from left to right are Father Peter Saint George, Father Peter Clem, Father Daniel Reuwer (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), Father C. Mauricio Portillo, Bishop Michael Burbidge, Father Daniel Rice (Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary), Father John O'Farrell, Father Philip Briggs, and Father Robert Renner.



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH KASSOCK

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge ordained eight men to the priesthood June 4 at a standing-room-only Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Thomas More in Arlington. The ordinandi are Fathers Philip D. Briggs, Peter J. Clem, YA, John F. O'Farrell, C. Mauricio Portillo, Robert C. Renner, Daniel S. Reuwer, Daniel A. Rice and Peter J. Saint George.

Bishop Burbidge observed that the eight men are "on fire with the fire of the Holy Spirit" — a fact he said was confirmed earlier that morning by a transformer fire in the chancery building next door to the cathedral. He said one of the ordinandi commented that it must be a special sign. "All is calm and all is well now" at the chancery, Bishop Burbidge said, "but the fire of the Holy Spirit will never be extinguished."

In his homily, the Bishop noted that each year, the diocese produces one-minute videos on each of the men being ordained, and "it is amazing to see how such short videos reveal their characters and personalities. It was easy to see their holiness, joy and zeal," he said.

He said that three words kept surfacing in all of the videos, in one form or another: thanksgiving, service, and trust. "The candidates expressed thankfulness first of all to God who, as the prophet Jeremiah tells us (in the first Mass reading) today, formed them in the womb and now appoints them to go forth as his anointed ones, his priests. I was so inspired as I heard each of them begin the video by saying with a thankful heart: 'I will soon be ordained a priest of Jesus Christ,'" Bishop Burbidge said.

Looking around the packed assembly, he noted that "a spirit of thanksgiving is certainly evident in this cathedral today because we will soon witness a tremendous work of God when, through the imposition of hands and prayer of ordination, the handing on of the ministerial priesthood will be accomplished and these men: your sons, brothers, family members and friends, will soon be uniquely and forever configured to the very person of Jesus Christ. We are thankful to their parents, seminary formators and all who played a role in guiding them to this special day in their lives."

He told the ordinandi that they are being sent forth "at a challenging and difficult time in our world," and noted the emotional toll of these past few years, when many struggled, but also turned to the Lord as never before. "Dear candidates, this is exactly what is at the heart of your priestly service: to uplift your parishioners' faith and hope in the Lord, the one alone who sustains us. You will do so as you preach his Word, remembering the message of Saint Paul: 'We do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ our Lord!'"

"Preach the truth in love," Bishop Burbidge said, adding, "God's people deserve and need nothing less."

He said he sometimes is concerned that the men about to be ordained priests "could be overwhelmed as they listen to all that is expected of them. Remember, dear candidates, your trust in the Lord." He noted that Pope Francis often highlights priests' need for "closeness in their ministry": closeness to their bishop, to their brother priests, to the people they serve and, especially, closeness to God.

"Your closeness to God and constant seeking of the help of Mary and Joseph will sustain your spirit of thanksgiving and your desire to offer faithful and sacrificial priestly service to Our Lord, his Church, and his people, with profound trust in his promise to be with you today and forever. Go forth in the joy and strength of the Holy Spirit," he concluded.

Outside after Mass, friends and relatives lined up under the shade of canopy tents for hugs and the traditional first blessings from the newly ordained.

David Lima of Stafford, an assistant superintendent with the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools, waited in line with his family outside Father Reuwer's tent. They taught together years ago at Saint William of York School in Stafford, and Father Reuwer taught a couple of his children. "He always had a presence of God about him," Lima said.

The new priests will serve as parochial vicars: Father Reuwer at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas; Father Rice at Holy Family Church in Dale City.

Diocese of Greensburg, PA

Bishop Kulick Ordains Christopher J. Pujol to the Priesthood
By Cliff Gorski, *The Catholic Accent*, Published June 4, 2022

Pictured here are Father Christopher Pujol and Bishop Larry Kulick.

It has been more than 50 years since a parishioner from Mount Saint Peter Parish in New Kensington has been ordained to the priesthood. That changed today when Bishop Larry J. Kulick, JCL, ordained Father Christopher J. Pujol as the newest priest for the Diocese of Greensburg. The ordination Mass was held at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral before clergy, family and friends.

In his homily and instruction, Bishop Kulick said the Solemnity of Pentecost, which is celebrated this weekend, did not mean an end of the works of the Lord, His Apostles and disciples. For Deacon Pujol, the work is just beginning. "As a priest, you are intercessor and advocate for the people to God. You carry and present their needs to God. You plead on their behalf through your prayer, your personal sacrifice and your example of living. Advocate, Interceded and witness on behalf of the People of God for their natural and spiritual rights. Both at the altar of Sacrifice in the Holy Mass and in the sanctuaries of their lives," Bishop Kulick said. "Truly be an 'Alter Christos' to God's people in helping them and assisting them in the carrying of their daily crosses, celebrating their joys and in assisting them to grow in love for our Lord, his people and His Church."



PHOTO BY MARY SEAMANS

Bishop Kulick congratulated Deacon Pujol on behalf of Bishop Emeritus, Lawrence E. Brandt, Bishop Timothy Senior, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia and Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Archabbot Martin Bartel, Archabbot of Saint Vincent Archabbey and Chancellor of Saint Vincent College and Seminary, Father Edward Mazich, Rector of Saint Vincent Seminary, the priests, deacons, consecrated men and women religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Greensburg.

For Father Pujol, the Ordination Mass begins a new life and a continuation of a new journey in faith that began in grade school. Mount Saint Peter Parish was the parish in which Father

Pujol was baptized and received all of his sacraments. It will also be the parish where he will celebrate his first Mass, a Mass of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 5.

"The people of the parish have known me since I was a baby, and my journey is also their journey," Father Pujol said. "When I was home from seminary, they would hear my stories, and they are very proud that one of their own is a priest."

Father Pujol recalls the influence of his pastors at Mount Saint Peter Parish and the pastoral and community examples they demonstrated. During his Ordination Mass, he was vested by

Monsignor Michael J. Begolly, pastor of Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville. Monsignor Begolly served as Father Pujol's pastor at Mount Saint Peter Parish and was a large influence on him as he discerned his calling to the priesthood.

"He is really an example of how to serve as a priest and how to have the heart of a priest and how to care for people. He was always present as a father caring for his family, and that impacted me very much," Father Pujol said.

He says the teachers at the former Mount Saint Peter Catholic School, now Mary Queen of Apostles School, also played a role in his formation. "We had wonderful teachers who were very faithful and were devoted to their faith, both in and out of the classroom," Father Pujol remembered.

His family has also been part of his journey. They have been supportive and with him every

step of the way and share in his excitement. His mother and father, Laurie and Rick, and his siblings, Rebecca and Andy, share in his excitement along with his nieces, Harper and Lydia.

"I come from an Italian and Cuban family, and we are used to big gatherings with music. They see my ordination as their family growing because as a priest, your parish is part of your family, too," Father Pujol said.

As Father Pujol's journey continues, he now awaits his first assignment. "The people of God are the people of God everywhere. I will trust the Holy Spirit and the Bishop and whatever he decides will be great," he said.

Diocese of Allentown, PA

Father Matthew Kuna Ordained a Priest During Year of the Real Presence

AD Today, Published June 7, 2022

Pictured here are Father Matthew Kuna and Bishop Alfred Schlert.

It is a privilege for a priest to have been administered both the first and second degree of Holy Orders within a Jubilee Year. Father Matthew J. Kuna is grateful to have received that privilege, having been ordained a deacon soon after the opening of the Year of Real Presence and ordained a priest before the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, which will mark the close of the Jubilee Year.

On June 4, Bishop Alfred Schlert conferred priestly Ordination on Father Kuna at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, where for the past year Kuna has served as a Transitional Deacon.

Father Kuna is a son of Anne and the late Mark Kuna, and he has two younger brothers, Ryan and Scott. He attended Saint Thomas More School, Allentown and Bethlehem Catholic High School.

Before commencing his studies for the Priesthood at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, he graduated from Kutztown University with a bachelor of science degree in education. He discerned his vocation with the help of his friend Father John Doris of the Diocese of Scranton.

Present at the Ordination were more than 50 priests, as well as many of Father Kuna's family and friends.

Deacon Alexander Brown, whose own Ordination to the diaconate had taken place at the Cathedral only two weeks earlier, proclaimed the Gospel.

Deacon Kuna was called before Bishop Schlert to be examined and indicated his willingness to be ordained a priest. He then placed his folded hands inside the folded hands of Bishop Schlert and promised obedience to the Bishop and his successors.

While the Litany of Supplication was chanted by the cantor and the faithful, Deacon Kuna, in a moving gesture of his complete reliance on God's grace and his readiness to abandon his own will, prostrated himself before the altar.

Then Bishop Schlert placed his hands on the head of Deacon Kuna while praying silently. This laying on of hands was used by the apostles in the election of the first deacons of the Church and is an outward sign of Ordination to the Order of Priests.

In a gesture that Bishop Schlert called "a great manifestation of a fraternity that goes beyond friendship," the assembled priests each came forward to impose hands on the newly ordained.

Father Doris vested Father Kuna with a stole, which he will wear when celebrating the sacraments, and a chasuble, which he will wear when offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.



PHOTO BY JEFFREY BRUNO

The Rite of Ordination concluded with the Fraternal Kiss of Peace, during which the newly ordained Father Kuna stood before the altar and was embraced in turn by each of his brother priests.

Shortly thereafter, Father Kuna spoke the words of consecration in union with Bishop Schlert and concelebrants, in his first celebration of the Eucharist as a priest.

"Today you take on the title of Father," Bishop Schlert said to Father Kuna at the close of the Mass. "It is a title that the people of God, who are the Church, bestow upon you. Not because you are Matthew Kuna, but because of the office of priest that you hold, because of the bridge between God and man that you have now become."

"Anchor yourself at the altar when you stand in the person of Christ to offer the unbloody Sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Anchor yourself in adoration, anchor yourself in prayer," he said.

The Bishop exhorted Father Kuna to build his inner life by embracing "cruz, hostia, and virgo" — "cross, Eucharist, and the Blessed Virgin."

"The cross allows us to be born into divine life. Without the Eucharist we cannot live. And the Virgin watches over our spiritual development as a mother and educates us to grow in faith."

Father Kuna has been appointed by Bishop Schlert to serve as Parochial Vicar at Saint Catharine of Siena Parish, Reading and Chaplain of Berks Catholic High School, Reading, effective Tuesday, June 21, 2022.



Deacon Volodymyr Radko Ordained to Priesthood

From the Ukrainian Archeparchy of Philadelphia

On February 12, the feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs according to the Julian calendar, Metropolitan Borys Gudziak ordained Deacon Volodymyr Radko, alumnus of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to the priesthood at the church of Saint Sophia-Wisdom of God of the Ukrainian Catholic University. The newly ordained Father Volodymyr formally belongs to the Eparchy of Saint Volodymyr the Great in Paris, but he has been serving in the Archeparchy of Philadelphia for almost three years and will continue to do so as its Vocations Director.

“Today in the Gospel we have heard that we are the light of the world. But what is this light? Christ Himself. We are the light of the world because we have God’s grace and God’s light is in us. Christ shines in us and through us,” said the Metropolitan in his homily.

“Dear Deacon, always remember that your light is Christ, that He called you to life, that He protected and guided you. You are called to shine with the light of Christ,” he said to Deacon Volodymyr before the Rite of Ordination.

The Archbishop told those gathered in the church that from an early age Deacon Volodymyr dreamt of becoming a priest. He even played at being one as a young boy by building a mock altar and

learning the liturgical prayers and chant tones. “And in a wonderful, mysterious way, the Lord now makes a Ukrainian boy who grew up in Belarus, studied in Ukraine, Italy, France, and the United States a priest of His Church.”

“In recent years, I have had the great joy of having a deacon with me. Sometimes there was no one else. And I want to testify before the Church that this young man is ready to serve,” the Metropolitan shared warmly.

Parents Olha and Olexander, who live in Belarus, friends from the Paris Eparchy, including Chancellor Yuri Leshchynskyi, former classmates from the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and the San Sulpice Seminary in Paris, as well as friends from the US and representatives of the Archeparchy of Philadelphia shared the feast with Volodymyr. The choir of the Ukrainian Catholic University sang during the ordination Liturgy, which was also attended by the rectors of UCU and the Lviv Seminary, Father Bohdan Prakh and Father Ihor Boyko respectively.

“My heart is filled with gratitude. These days I have especially felt how much the Lord has blessed me with people. I thank my parents who gave me life and let me go on a long journey, my family, the Belarusian people and the Church where I spent my childhood, Ukrainian Catholic University, where my theological



formation began, and my friends in France and America,” said Father Volodymyr. Additionally, he expressed special gratitude to Metropolitan Borys for accompanying him in his vocation and helping him to grow.

The next day, Father Volodymyr celebrated the first Divine Liturgy in his hometown of Novy Rozdil in the Lviv Region. “It is touching for me to pray with you, this is the first Liturgy I serve as a priest,” he said.



Permanent Diaconate Ordination

Six men ordained permanent deacons in cathedral rites
Catholic Philly, Posted June 15, 2022

Pictured here are Deacon William Barrow, Deacon Peter Dolan, Deacon Alan Haley, Deacon Joseph Hosack Jr., Deacon J. Scott McDonald, Deacon Thomas Strohmetz, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, and Rev. Msgr. Gregory Fairbanks, Dean of the School of Diaconal Formation.

Archbishop Nelson Pérez ordained six men permanent deacons for service in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia during a Mass Saturday, June 11 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul. They are Deacons William J. Barrow, Peter J. Dolan, Alan T. Haley, Joseph V. Hosack Jr., J. Scott McDonald and Thomas A. Strohmetz.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

As ministers at the altar, permanent deacons assist the priest and bishop in liturgies. As ordained Catholic clergy, they proclaim God’s Word, preach and teach, baptize, witness marriages, lead funeral rites, administer Holy Communion to the sick and dying, and perform works of charity in the community.



Priest Alumni Jubilee

Archbishop Nelson Pérez celebrated the Priest Alumni Jubilee Mass on April 28 in Saint Martin of Tours Chapel on campus. Father James Otto was the homilist from the Class of 1997, as it is tradition that the class celebrating 25 years ordained delivers the homily. The Class of 1972 (50 years ordained) and the Class of 1997 (25 years ordained) are pictured on the steps of the chapel with Archbishop Pérez and the auxiliary bishops of Philadelphia. A reception in the Eakins Room was followed by dinner in the College Auditorium after Mass.



Alumni Priest Retreat

From July 25-29, 2022, the seminary hosted the annual Alumni Priest Retreat. This year, there was a capacity crowd with over 50 alumni priests from many different dioceses who all returned to campus for a week of prayerful reflection and renewal.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg, PA, was the Retreat Master. Father Louis Bellopede, Father Gerald Carey, and Father Neil Sullivan chaired the retreat. Eight seminarians served the retreat for the week. They are pictured here in Immaculate Conception Chapel.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Priest Alumni Executive Committee

The Priest Alumni Executive Committee voted in a new slate of officers for the next two years.



Pictured here are Father Michael Pawelko (center) who served as President for the last two years and Father Robert Ianelli (right) who served as Vice President for the last two years. Father Matthew Brody (left) presented Father Pawelko with a slate engraved with an image of the seminary's Theology building in recognition of his accomplishments as President.



Pictured here are the new officers of the Priest Alumni Association (from left to right): Father John Hutta, Secretary, Father Marlon Mendieta-Rodas, Vice President, Father Matthew Brody, President, and Father Jason Buck, Treasurer.



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Theology IV seminarians who have been ordained deacons traveled on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Father Chylinski, Father Sperger and Monsignor Mesure prior to their ordination to the priesthood in May 2023. The trip has been partially underwritten by a grant from the Priest Alumni Association. This is the first time the seminary has sponsored this pilgrimage to the Holy Land since 2020. Several newly ordained alumni priests also traveled with the group. They are pictured here at the Western Wall, Jerusalem and celebrating Mass in the Empty Tomb, Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



PHOTOS BY REVEREND KEITH CHYLINSKI



◀ **Allentown Priest Alumni Reception**

Bishop Alfred Schlert hosted a special reception for more than 30 priest alumni from the Allentown Diocese to hear firsthand about the ambitious and transformative plans to ensure Saint Borromeo Seminary's future, including relocation and affiliation. Bishop Senior, Chancellor of the seminary, gave a presentation followed by questions and answers from the audience. Pictured with Bishop Schlert and Bishop Senior are Reverend Keith Mathur and Reverend Jerome Tauber.

Lay Alumni Community Breakfast

More than 70 lay alumni and their wives joined the seminary community on Sunday, March 13 for Mass in Saint Martin's Chapel followed by a brunch in the Eakins Room.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Newly Ordained Mass

On September 21, the Newly Ordained Class of 2022 returned to the seminary for Mass followed by dinner in the Refectory. Father Tony Schukei (Diocese of Lincoln) served as the main celebrant and Father Matthew Kuna (Allentown) served as the homilist for the Mass.

Pictured here from left to right:

Top row: Father Christopher Pujol (Diocese of Greensburg), Father Matthew Kuna (Diocese of Allentown), Father Henry Graebe (Archdiocese of Philadelphia), Father Thomas Meinert (Diocese of Harrisburg)

Middle row: Father Daniel Reuwer (Diocese of Arlington), Father Daniel Rice (Diocese of Arlington), Father Tony Schukei (Diocese of Lincoln), Father Andrew Auletta (Archdiocese of Philadelphia), Father Walner Diaz, C.M. (Congregation of the Mission), Father Andrew Lane (Archdiocese of Philadelphia)

Bottom row: Father Sang Woo Chi (Archdiocese of Philadelphia), Father Roneld Saint Louis (Archdiocese of Philadelphia), Father Keith Chylinski, Rector, Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor, Father Dominic Winter (Diocese of Lincoln), Father Ryan Nguyen (Archdiocese of Philadelphia)



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Midnight Mass

Homily for the close of Immaculate Conception Chapel

Reverend Patrick J. Brady



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception was celebrated in Immaculate Conception Chapel on December 8, 2022. This was the final Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception celebrated in this chapel.

Part 1: Grief / Rejoice

Gathered here tonight, it's hard not to have a sense of grief. For 152 years this has been a place of prayer, a place of formation, a place from which emerged priests to serve to the people of God — to be formed, to grow, to live — this is a place that's home, and to lose it causes grief. Even moreso, knowing the symbolism of goodness this is meant to be — the place where heaven and earth meet, where the Eucharist is present — has slipped through our hands. That's grief.

And yet, tonight we gather here because Mary was conceived without sin.

On that day so many years ago, when the world was truly dark, when the works of Herod were considered great, when Israel was waiting and longing in expectation, the angel spoke:

Chaire, kecharitōmenē! Hail, full of grace! or even better: Rejoice, most favored one!

At first hearing the greeting can seem ordinary, everyday, in the ancient Greek speaking world. But read in light of the Septuagint, four times that word *Chaire* (**Rejoice**) is used with the announcement of a messianic expectation to a waiting, longing Israel. That greeting is given to Mary. She is greeted as a waiting Israel, as Lady Zion. In her, the angel announces to all of Israel, to all the world: Rejoice! And why? Because the Lord is with you! God has crossed the chasm dividing humanity and Himself; His plan has been implemented, and Mary — Mary is the type for the Church, and we look to her to know who we should be: she is Lady Zion, Israel awaiting.

Part 2: Architecture — Death Wins — Cross won

Gathered tonight in this beautiful edifice, an architect meant to lift us from the ordinary world — with pillars and columns and arches — to touch heaven. This place is fading, the paint is peeling, entropy seems inevitable, death always seems to win.

Yet — Mary was conceived without sin.

On that day so many years ago, when the empire of Rome seemed to have conquered and enslaved all, when the prophet Malachi had passed 400 years before, when over 500 years had passed since the tree of Jesse had been cut to its stump; the angel Gabriel spoke: **"Chaire, kecharitōmenē"** — "Rejoice, most highly favored one."

It is a strange greeting — he doesn't call her by name. He calls her by the strange word that completely identifies who she is, as made by God; he speaks that perfect passive participle — something accomplished in the past that is greeting her in the present because that is who she is.

Most highly favored one, what does that term mean? Not simply that God thinks nice thoughts, but that God is truly with her — she is filled with the Spirit; there is no room for sin; that means that in some unfathomable, unimaginable, unexpected way, the power of the cross, the victory of God, has touched Mary. The victory of the cross was not just for those who come after, but for all of time, in every place, in every circumstance, the grace of God is uncontainable. Mary Immaculate stands as witness to that. Death is defeated by the cross, sin conquered, time itself gives way to the power of God — because Mary is Immaculate.

Part 3: Nihilism — Ego/Humility of Mary

Gathered tonight in this building, we have to be aware of our own hearts. The tendency of our culture is toward nihilism: nothing has value, nothing matters, nothing perdures. We are products of our culture, and we can easily fall into that, because it's a thing of ego. The beauty of this church is man-made; flowers wilt, once vibrant pictures fade with time, we can get caught up in that loss — our hearts can tend towards this nihilistic egotistical outlook.

But tonight we celebrate Mary conceived without sin.

On that day so long ago, when the messenger of the Lord, the angel Gabriel, announced to Mary: **Chaire, kecharitōmenē**, he didn't do it from the temple heights, he didn't do it in the square of Jerusalem, or in the center of Rome, the Colosseum. He announced that most magnificent of titles in a tiny house, in a small village, in a backwards part of the empire. But in that tiny house was the greatest heart any creature could have.

And when she heard that title — one who is filled with the Holy Spirit, one who is filled with God, one who God sees as "most favored," her reaction is not pleasure; instead she reacts troubled. Unlike most of us, who get lofty titles which can lead us to pride and presumption, she remains absolutely humbled, because that title — *most favored, full of grace, filled with the spirit* — that title is the work of God, and she knows it in the depths of her heart. Because her heart is not set on herself — her heart is always fixed on Christ.

What wonderful news for us! Because Mary is the type of the Church — who we are is who she has been, and who she is. We don't need lofty skills to change the world, we need humility. Within a tiny house, this announcement was made and it changed everything. We don't need to be in special places for the world to change — we just need a humble heart, open to grace.

We know it — but do we believe it? Is it truly part of our lives? It's why we hold a feast like this, to place Mary front and center before us, to see how we are truly called to be, this type of the Church, this Lady Zion. We are called to imitate her, to be authentically the people of God. And even more on this celebration and every day, to ask Mary, the one who never lets anyone go unaided, to intercede for us:

that the grace of God may free us from the sadness of finitude,
and from false understanding that the Gospel is in one place
and the world somewhere else,
and most of all to enkindle in us the enthusiasm for sacredness,
for holiness that's lived in a heart that is humble,
a heart freed from egotism, a heart fixed on Christ.

O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.



1964

Requiem for a Chapel

By Reverend John P. Collins • Photos by Sarah Webb

“Lord, for your faithful people life is changed, not ended.” — Roman Missal

Upon the conclusion of the 2022 fall semester, the Theologate Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, was closed after 152 years of faithful service and services to facilitate its deconstruction for transferring some of its beautiful appointments to Saint Charles Seminary’s new location at Gwynedd.

Immaculate Conception Chapel (ICC) opened its doors to 128 seminarians on September 16, 1871 and was formally dedicated on December 12, 1875. It was plainly decorated, a condition which would be changed by a series of renovations in 1885-88, 1915, 1934-35, 1975-6, and the early 2000s. The chapel was named to honor Mary as Patroness of the United States, under her title of the Immaculate Conception, a doctrine proclaimed by Blessed Pope Pius IX in 1854.

So that we might remember it with fondness, the following is a verbal guided tour accompanied by photos from our archives.



December 2022

Photo taken by Reverend Christopher Cooke, Dean of Men, Theological Seminary.



PHOTO BY MARY ANN SULLIVAN

The Madonna statue donated by Catherine Power.

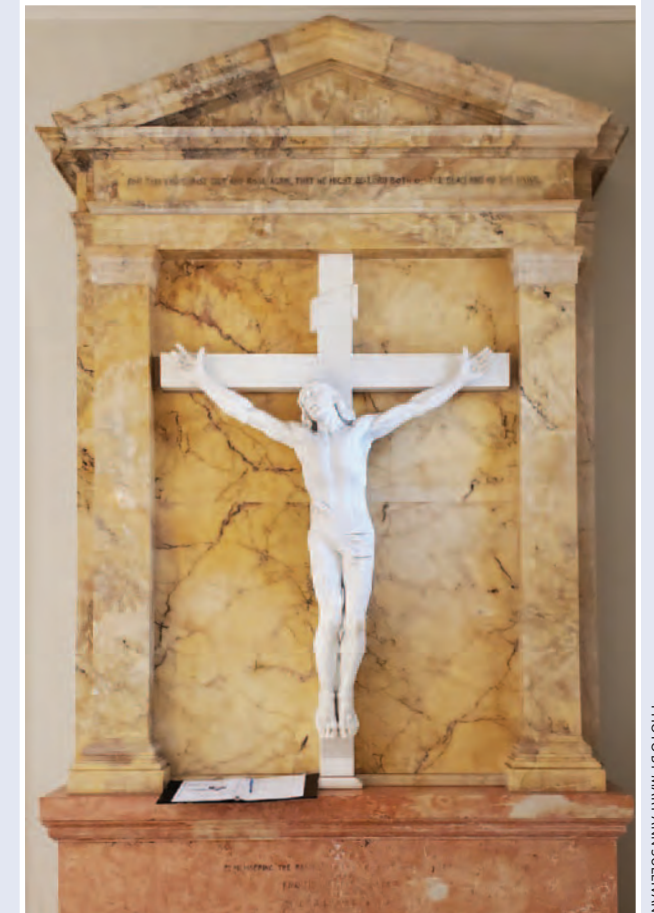


PHOTO BY MARY ANN SULLIVAN

The crucifix donated by the Drexel family.

Pars Prima — The Narthex

Upon entering the Narthex, one would have noticed to the left of the main doors, a long rope connected to a bell in the tower. The bell being within the chapel is a feature of the Roman style of architecture. It differs from the Renaissance style of Saint Martin’s Chapel in the College Division, which has its bell in a free-standing tower or *campanile*. The bell was used to summon the students to all liturgical events. It was also used as part of the traditional “clap out” ceremony in which the deacons, soon to be priests, depart for the last time, while the faculty, staff, and student body applaud them after ringing the bell as they walked down the corridor to the main entrance, leading to the seminary grounds.

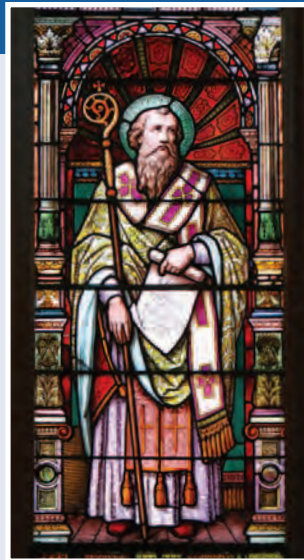
Proceeding in a clockwise direction, visitors would come to see a wall plaque listing the names, branch of service, and dates and places of death of the six Saint Charles priests who were killed in action during World War II.

Continuing along, you would have encountered a statue of Mary surrounded by marble attached to the wall. It was a gift of Miss Catherine Power, in memory of her brother Rev. William A. Power, who was a member of the first ordination class from Saint Charles Overbrook location in 1872, the ceremony taking place in ICC. Father Power would pass away as a still young priest in his 40s in 1889. Miss Power’s generosity would also extend to Saint Martin’s

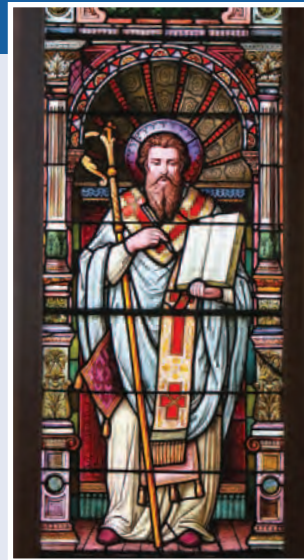
Chapel where the marble Stations of the Cross would be erected because of another kind and generous donation.

Crossing in front of the double doors leading to the main body of the chapel, you arrived at a large crucifix, surrounded by marble, a donation to the seminary by Saint Katharine Drexel, in memory of three deceased relatives. They are her father, Francis Anthony Drexel, a multimillionaire who contributed generously to the finishing and decoration of the original chapel in 1871; her stepmother, the former Emma Bouvier, who raised Katharine from the age of one, following the death of Katharine’s mother, the former Hannah Langstroth after childbirth; and her sister, Elizabeth Drexel Smith, who also died giving birth to her still-born daughter in 1890. The Crucifix with its inscription below was given in 1902.

The final major attraction in Narthex on the back wall was a reproduction of the image of Mary given to Saint Juan Diego on his cloak at Guadalupe in 1531. It was a gift of Cardinal Roberto Rivera Carrera, the Archbishop of Mexico City from 1995-2017. He is a successor of Bishop Juan Zumarraga to whom Saint Juan Diego presented his cloak along with winter roses, a sign that Mary’s apparition has truly occurred. Mexico City is the oldest diocese on the mainland of North America.



Saint Athanasius



Saint John Chrysostom



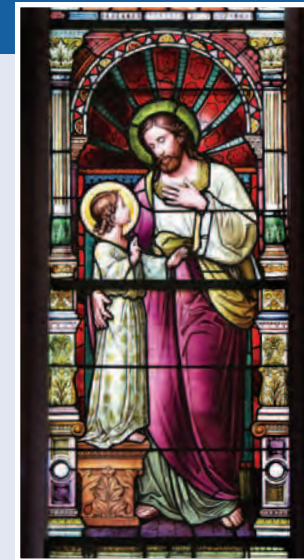
Saint Ambrose



Saint Augustine



Saint Patrick



Saint Joseph

Pars Secunda — The Windows

In 1884, Patrick John Ryan succeeded the late James Frederic Wood as Archbishop of Philadelphia. One of his first projects involved the renovation of ICC, changing it from a plain style to one more elaborate. The work took place from 1885 to 1888. The most colorful of the changes was the installation of stained-glass windows, ordered from T. and J. Morgan of New York City. Three sets of two windows each lined the two sides of the chapel, involving a common theme between the sets counter to one another.

The windows in the rear of the chapel had the Church Fathers as its theme. On the right-hand side appropriately facing east were two eastern fathers: Saint Athanasius known for his doctrine of Christ's divinity and the Creed, and Saint John Chrysostom, famous for his preaching (hence the nickname "Golden Mouth") and his development of eastern liturgy.

Facing them on the left (or west) side were Saint Ambrose and Saint Augustine. It is appropriate that they are joined in that the former (the Bishop of Milan) baptized the latter (later the Bishop of Hippo). Many of the windows have symbols associated with each Saint and these two are not exceptions. A beehive is found with Saint Ambrose, many legends abound. One is that bees covered his face as a boy and his father saw this as a sign he would be "honey tongued." Another involves a play on words on his name. Ambrosia is food composed of honey and nectar, both associated with bees. Ambrose is therefore the patron of beekeepers and candlemakers (from beeswax).

Saint Augustine's shows a small boy with a seashell. A reference to the dialogue between the two — Augustine questioning the boy's attempt to put the sea into a hole in the beach and the rebutting of Augustine's attempt to explain the Trinity, both impossible tasks.

Moving to the center set of windows, we encountered the depiction of the four Evangelists with Saint Luke and Saint John on the right

and Saint Matthew and Saint Mark on the left. The symbols of the four writers are shown at the bottom of each window: Luke's ox, John's eagle, Mark's lion, and Matthew's angelic child. Based on writings found in Ezekiel and Revelation, they are thought to be signs concerning the beginnings of each of their Gospels.

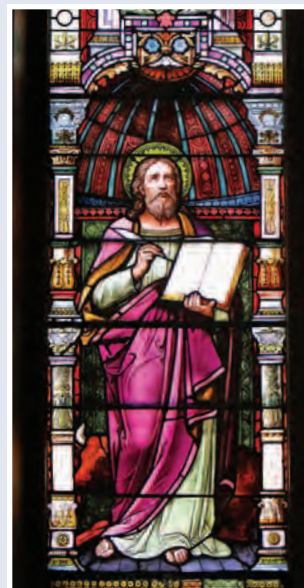
Finally in the front were windows of the patrons of the seminary. On the left were Saint Patrick (holding his shamrock for the Trinity) and Saint Joseph. On the right were Saint Charles Borromeo and Saint Thomas Aquinas. Saint Charles' window depicts a beggar at the bottom to show the Saint's charity during a period of famine and plague in the area of Milan where he was a Bishop in the 1500s. Aquinas has several symbols: a chalice for his teaching on transubstantiation and his hymns for Corpus Christi, a dove as divine guidance, and a sun for his brilliance. The Borromeo-Aquinas windows were donated by Archbishop Ryan himself. His name appears at the bottom (in Latin) and his Episcopal Coat of Arms (with his motto *In vite mane* or "Remain on the vine") decorates the top.



Saint Mark



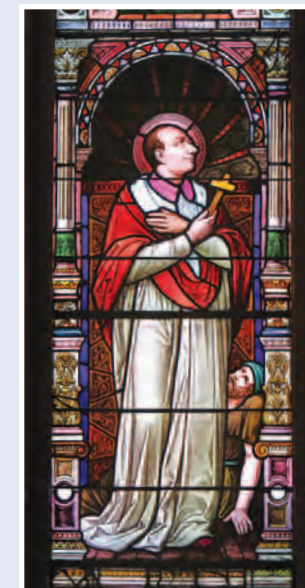
Saint Matthew



Saint Luke



Saint John



Saint Charles Borromeo



Saint Thomas Aquinas

Pars Tertia — The Altars

The original 1871 ICC altar was made of wood. It was replaced by a second one in 1873. As part of Archbishop Ryan's renovation, a new marble altar was installed in 1885. The inscription at the bottom tells us that Ryan dedicated it in memory of his predecessor Archbishop Wood. It was not formally consecrated until 1896 during Overbrook's silver anniversary. The altar was used for daily Mass until the late 1960s when the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council took effect. At that time, a temporary wooden altar was erected between the old altar and the student stalls.

John Cardinal Krol initiated the revised configuration of the sanctuary. He insisted that the old Ryan marble altar be retained as the altar of repose. Mr. George Nakashima, a respected architect, was commissioned to carry out the newly designed project. A new table-like altar of travertine marble was constructed. The other appointments such as the ambo and the chairs and benches for the celebrant, deacons, and concelebrants were made out of walnut. The walls were repainted in an off-white shade to contrast with the newly painted dark brown columns. The cost of the renovation was \$50,000, paid for by the generous donation of Msgr. James I. Bruder, the seminary's treasurer.

The dedication of the new altar was performed by Cardinal Krol on February 11, 1976, a significant date for several reasons. That day marked His Eminence's 15th anniversary of his appointment as Philadelphia's Archbishop. Little did he know that exactly 12 years later in 1988, that date would mark his retirement. February 11 is also the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, in which apparition Mary declared herself as the Immaculate Conception. Also, Saint Charles is located within the boundaries of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Philadelphia. Finally and most coincidentally, the day marks the passing of Archbishop Ryan, whose old altar was now supplanted, in 1911.

There were also several side altars in ICC. Like the main altar, they were temporary and made of wood, to be replaced by Ryan in 1885 with more permanent marble ones. Their original purpose was to allow the priest faculty members to say Mass individually in the days before Vatican II's introduction of concelebration. Now that the priests usually celebrate in a group, these altars were less frequently used, and then mainly as communion stations. Four were erected behind the student stalls with two on each side allowing for privacy. Two others were placed in the front of the Chapel, with one on the left dedicated to Mary, while the one on the right was in honor of Saint Joseph. These two altars, along with accompanying statues, were removed as part of the renovation of 1975-76

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHAPEL CLOSING



The Annunciation of Mary.



The Immaculate Conception by Bartolome Esteban Murillo.



Presentation of Christ



Promise of the Redeemer in Paradise



Resurrection of Jesus



Queenship of Mary



Presentation of Mary

Pars Quarta — The Paintings

When ICC opened in 1871, there was but one painting located in the center of the apse. It was that of the Immaculate Conception by Bartolome Esteban Murillo from Seville, Spain who was noted for his portraits of the Madonna. The estimated year of the work is 1678. The original painting was displayed in the Louvre in Paris for 89 years before being moved to its present location at the Prado in Madrid in 1941. The artwork was donated by Francis Anthony Drexel, the father of Saint Katharine, at the request of Archbishop Wood.

The remaining paintings were a part of the Ryan enhancements. In the apse, to the right of Mary, the Presentation of Christ in the temple was depicted, a symbol that just as Jesus was given back to his Father as a young child, so do many young men present themselves here at Saint Charles for the service of God and His Church. To the left is a representation of the Annunciation of Mary, it was fittingly included in a chapel dedicated to the Blessed Mother. There is also a connection to Archbishop Wood, the founder of Overbrook, in that he was ordained a priest on March 25, 1844, the feast of the Annunciation and that the first parish which he founded after becoming Philadelphia's fifth Bishop in 1860 was that of the Annunciation in South Philadelphia.

Overarching the three rectangular apse paintings was an oval shaped work entitled "Promise of the Redeemer in Paradise." On the Chapel's ceiling were three circles which were left empty in the original schema. They were later filled in by Archbishop Ryan by paintings depicting the Resurrection of Jesus, the Queenship of Mary and the Presentation of Mary by her parents Saints Anne and Joachim.



Top left painting is the Assumption of Mary.



Top right painting is the Transfiguration of Our Lord.



Bottom left painting Saint Aloysius Gonzaga's First Holy Communion.



Bottom right painting is the Sistine Madonna.

Rounding out the artwork were the paintings over the four side altars. Two of the paintings were on the right side of the Chapel with the Transfiguration of Our Lord at the front end and the Sistine Madonna in the back. The left front painting was that of the Assumption of Mary, while the one in the rear was a depiction of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga's First Holy Communion administered by Saint Charles Borromeo. This painting and the side altar were both gifts from Francis Anthony Drexel.

Conclusion

This ends the verbal and photographic tour of ICC. For those reading these words in the distant future, it is hoped that you will have gained an appreciation for the beauty and sanctity of this now passed into history Chapel. For those who are alumni of Saint Charles, both ordained and lay, it will resurrect feelings of love and joy, and a sense of nostalgia tempered by the happy knowledge that parts of it remain in the new Gwynedd chapel, while retaining its old name. It also gives them a chance to reflect on the Latin motto from Virgil's Aeneid placed above the theologate stage-auditorium in 1946. "Forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit." Someday it will be good indeed to have remembered these things."

Pars Quinta Ultimaque — Miscellany

Most of the pews were original to the Chapel, although some of the ones in the rear facing the altar were added in the 1915 renovation. The stalls were made of walnut and faced toward each other in a monastic style. This allowed for an antiphonal method of praying the Liturgy of the Hours.

When opened in 1871, the Chapel was illuminated by gas lamps. This should not be surprising as Edison did not patent his electric light bulb until 1879. It was not until a utilities renovation of the heating and lighting systems in 1915 that electricity came to ICC. This was authorized by Archbishop Edmond Prendergast as part of a building project which included the constructing of Saint Edmond's Hall and a new convent for the resident Sisters of Saint Joseph.

On September 26, 1934, part of the ceiling collapsed. The cause was discovered to be the rotting of the wooden beams and rafters pulling away from the walls. The Chapel was closed for more than a year, as the students had Mass in the auditorium. Reopening on October 7, 1935, the new roof had steel and not wood for support.

The original floor was also wooden and would remain such until 1956 when it was replaced with a cement one covered with terrazzo.

Visitors would have noticed a series of rectangular cut-outs in the wall. Done during Cardinal Justin Rigali's tenure while Msgr. Joseph Prior was Rector, some of the off-white painting system was removed to give a hint as to the fancy wallpaper originally in place.

The last organ was installed in 1950. Before that, the one in use was a pump-organ requiring seminarians to push the pump handle up and down to blow air into the pipes.

Not wanting to waste a good tenor or base on such a task, a seminarian with limited singing talent was selected for that task. This came to be a position of great honor, a non-singing choir member! The most famous of these "pumpers" was Denis Joseph Dougherty, who would later return to Saint Charles not only as a faculty member (1890 – 1903) but also as Cardinal and Archbishop of Philadelphia (1918 – 1951). When he constructed the College Building and Saint Martin's Chapel in 1928, the organ there required no pumper.

The dimensions of ICC were 103' x 45', making it about only 52% of the size of Saint Martin's.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

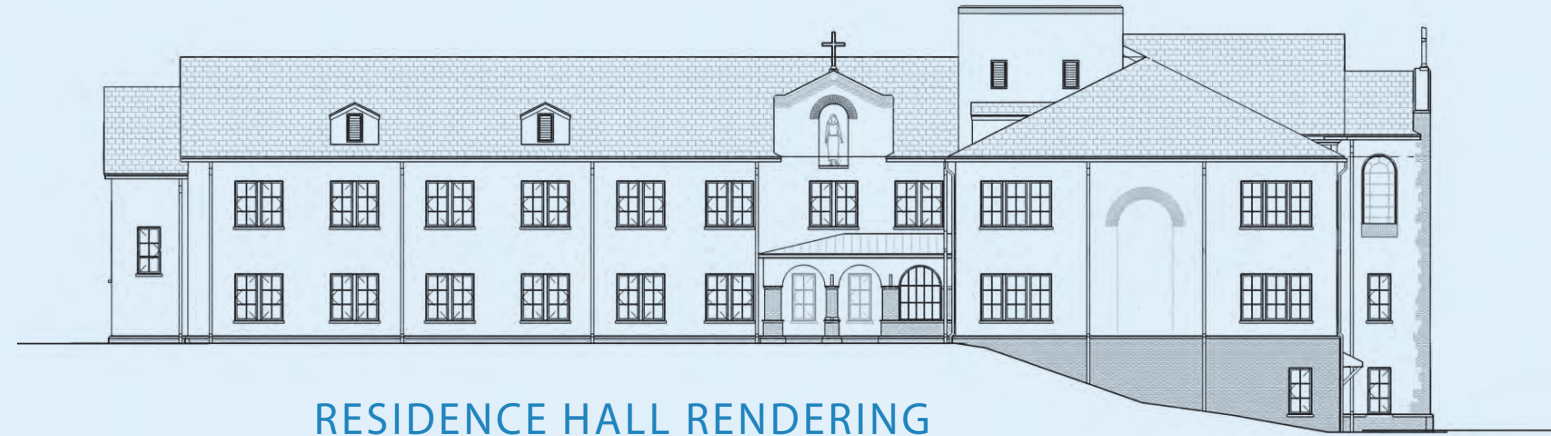
LOWER GWYNEDD CAMPUS

Lower Gwynedd Open House

On Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary hosted an open house at our new location in Lower Gwynedd, PA. Guests had the opportunity to tour Alexandria Hall dormitory, view plans for the new campus, and sample light refreshments under a tent on the lawn.



SITE PLAN



RESIDENCE HALL RENDERING



STUDENT LIFE CENTER RENDERINGS

RESIDENCE HALL

- 36 Seminarian Rooms in Double Suites with Shared Bathroom
- 8 Priest Apartments
- 2 Guest Rooms
- Chapel (70 Seats + 12 in Sanctuary)
- Conference Room (16 Seats)
- Student Loting
- Priests' Lounge



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Pictured above are Father Keith Chylinski, Rector, Deanne Horner D'Emilio, JD, President of Gwynedd Mercy University, and Bishop Timothy Senior, Chancellor.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB



Lower Gwynedd Groundbreaking Ceremony



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB



Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Eyes the Past and the Future With Cross at Construction Site

By Kevin Shinkle

This cross was created by Rob Bollinger (Theology II, Archdiocese of Philadelphia) and Greg Miller (Theology III, Archdiocese of Philadelphia). It is 7 feet tall and 3 1/2 feet wide. It was created from a pew found in the basement of the Immaculate Conception Chapel at the Overbrook campus. It was blessed by Archbishop Pérez at the groundbreaking and was installed on the site of the new campus at Lower Gwynedd along with a statue of Saint Joseph. Both will remain there for the life of the project. The seminary has been praying for the intercession of Saint Joseph and Saint Charles Borromeo throughout the relocation process.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Everybody needs a hobby, as the saying goes, including seminarians.

For Rob Bollinger, a seminarian at Saint Charles Borromeo in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, his hobby — his way of seeking some respite from his studies — starts with a piece of wood.

“There’s definitely a sense of accomplishment to go from a piece of wood on the ground to something that’s a totally new purpose,” he said recently. “To see the process from start to finish is very gratifying.”

From that initial piece, through careful and precise work, items emerge like a Murphy bed he built for a family member or a hand-carved chessboard. Now he can add a seven-foot-tall white cross of poplar wood to the list. And not just any cross. Bollinger’s latest project will stand over the construction site of a new seminary on land purchased from Gwynedd Mercy University outside Philadelphia. The cross, constructed from an old pew found in the basement of a chapel at the current seminary, will pay homage to Saint Charles Borromeo’s illustrious past, while looking to the future — all under the care of Christ.

“There is undeniably a sense of sadness about leaving our Overbrook campus” which the seminary has called home since 1871, said Bishop Timothy Senior, chancellor of Saint Charles Borromeo. “But continuity is very important, and this cross is an expression of that. As Catholics, we center our lives on dying and rising. There is a dying, but there is a resurrection, too. This cross then is really about the future.”

The cross made its debut Dec. 8 at the groundbreaking and blessing at the site of the new seminary, where Bollinger carried it at the head of a procession that included Philadelphia Archbishop Nelson Pérez. The milestone event included Most Reverend Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown; and Most Reverend Edward M. Deliman, Most Reverend Michael J. Fitzgerald and Most Reverend John J. McIntyre, Auxiliary Bishops of Philadelphia as well as Most Reverend Joseph L. Coffey, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese for Military Service and a native of Philadelphia.

Seminarians, members of the seminary’s board, faculty, staff and other supporters also attended.

“The work we are beginning today should enliven our faith and make us grateful,” Archbishop Pérez said in his blessing. “We know the familiar words of the psalm, ‘if the Lord does not build the house, they labor in vain who build it.’ Whenever we look to the interest of our neighbor for the community and serve them, we are in a sense God’s own co-worker.”

Seminary Rector Fr. Keith Chylinski said in his opening remarks that the cross and its location overseeing the construction site “serves as a reminder of why we’re here and why this seminary is being built. It’s being built to proclaim the hopeful Good News to the world that God is with us; that He is alive and He’s here.”

Continued on page 43



Continued from page 41

The new seminary is scheduled to be ready for the 2024-25 academic year, and it will be a long time coming. In 2016, former Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., accepted a recommendation from the Seminary Board of Trustees to sell the seminary property in Wynnewood, another suburb of Philadelphia, and explore options to partner with a local Catholic college.

Eventually, the current seminary property was sold to Main Line Health, a hospital provider, and the seminary reached an agreement to move to the new location in Lower Gwynedd Township. Founded in 1832, the seminary currently has 133 seminarians, including 68 studying for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

The seminary holds a special place in the history not only of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia but also the entire Catholic Church in America. Five popes and three saints have visited the campus over the years in addition to the training of multiple archbishops and bishops and thousands of priests, deacons, religious and laypeople.

The idea of installing a cross at the construction site had its roots years ago when Fr. Chylinski was the music director at Corpus Christi Church in Lansdale, and the parish did something similar before building a new church.

"I see my role as rector as two-fold — helping people to grieve the loss of moving from this beloved campus but also to look forward as we move to the new," he said in an interview. "The very fact we are using wood from a pew for the cross is meant to be a sign that

we are not leaving everything behind as we move to the new place — that we are taking many things with us — not the least of which is our greatest treasure, our seminarians, themselves.

"So, then we approached Rob about building the cross because he's known here as a great craftsman."

Bollinger is in the seventh year of a nine-year program. He started woodworking early in his studies at the seminary, starting with YouTube videos and working his way to bigger projects. Bollinger was assisted in this project by fellow seminarian Greg Miller.

"People don't usually picture someone studying for the priesthood to have such normal hobbies," Bollinger said. "But I've found this to be extremely recreational in the sense that whenever I feel burnt out or need a break, I do woodworking for an hour, and I feel rejuvenated."

Bishop Senior said healthy leisure and outlets such as woodworking are an important part of formation for seminarians.

"There is a spiritual dimension for seminarians being able to express themselves creatively," he said.

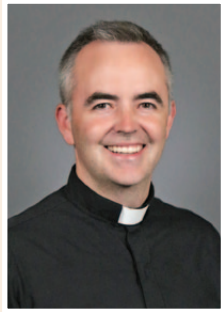
But will Bollinger be able to continue with his hobby when he's ordained? He hopes so. He's heard of parishes with abandoned wood shops in their basements that were once used by priests with a similar inclination.

"That would be cool to be placed in one of those," he said.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB AND ROB BOLLINGER

FACULTY & STAFF Announcements



Reverend Jason Buck began as Dean of Men, College Seminary on July 1, 2022. Father Buck succeeds Father George Szparagowski, Pastor of Saint Philip Neri Church in Lafayette Hill, PA.



Reverend Michael Kelly began as the Director of Spiritual Formation for the Spiritual Year and for Pre-Theology on July 1, 2022.



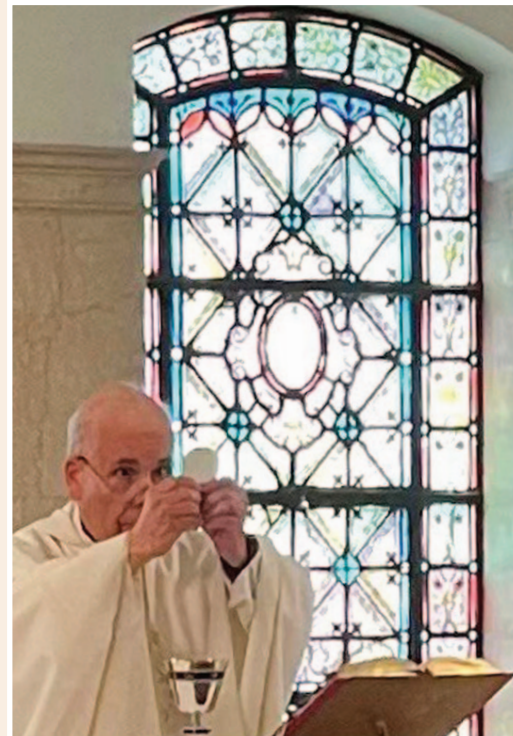
Monsignor Gerard Mesure began as the Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation and Dean of Men for Pre-Theology on July 1, 2022. Monsignor Mesure served as full-time faculty at the seminary and part-time as Chancellor for the Archdiocese for the last year.



Reverend Augustus Puleo began as a full-time faculty member and Director of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program on September 1, 2022.



James Routh, LPC began as the Director of Counseling Services on June 8, 2022. Mr. Routh succeeds Father Keith Chylinski, Rector.



Reverend John Collins' 50th Jubilee

On May 20, Father John Collins celebrated his 50th Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. He celebrated Mass for the staff at the seminary and was feted at lunch with a cake in his honor. In September he celebrated Mass for the entire seminary community and was recognized at Rector's Dinner.



CFO of the Year Award

On July 19, Mark McLaughlin, COO/CFO of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, was honored as a CFO of the Year by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.

Pictured here left to right with Mark are: Ed Liva, Faculty at Villanova University and Treasurer of the Board for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Steve Dolan, consultant, Mark's daughter Grace, Mark's wife Sandy, son Shane, Joanne White, HR Specialist and Title IX Coordinator for Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, William Matthews, III, Partner, Klehr Harrison Harvey Branzburg, LLP, who also nominated Mark for the award.

In Memoriam

Based on available data from December 2021 to October 2022

Reverend Ferdinand Buccafurni
1958 - Philadelphia

Reverend William T. Campion
1977 - Allentown

Reverend Dominic M. Chiaravalle
1965 - Philadelphia

Reverend William P. Donnelly
1964 - Philadelphia

Reverend Msgr. Francis X. Dreger
1951 - Philadelphia

Reverend Francis S. Feret
1962 - Philadelphia

Most Reverend Robert P. Maginnis
1961 - Philadelphia

Reverend Wilfred F. Maloney
1955 - Philadelphia

Reverend Frederick L. Miller
1972 - Newark

Reverend Msgr. John F. O'Brien
1961 - Philadelphia

Reverend William J. J. O'Donnell
1952 - Philadelphia

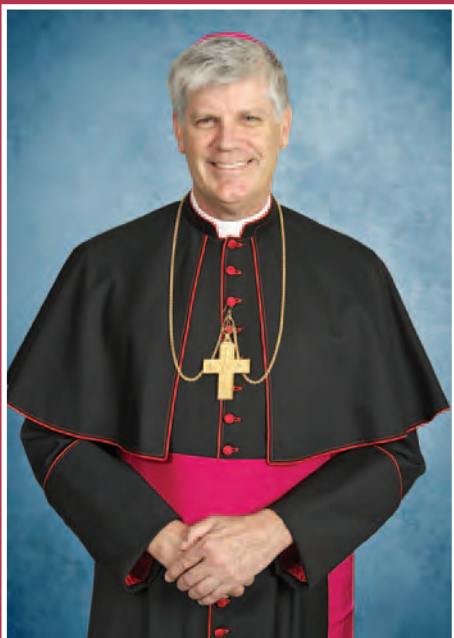
Reverend Edward A. Pelczar
1962 - Philadelphia

Reverend Raymond F. Tribuiani
1973 - Philadelphia



SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY

100 East Wynnewood Road
Wynnewood, PA 19096



2023

Alumni Priest Retreat

The Alumni Priest Retreat will be held
on the campus of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Monday, July 31 through Friday, August 4

The Retreat Master is
Most Reverend Bernard E. "Ned" Shlesinger III
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta

For more information please contact
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS
at 610-785-6530.