



HUMILITAS

SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY MAGAZINE

2025 • A YEAR IN REVIEW



CLOSE OF FORTY HOURS, NOVEMBER 3, 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YEAR IN REVIEW	5
PASTORAL VISITS	29
RITES & ORDINATIONS	31
ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS	40



“HUMILITY IS NOT WEAKNESS. HUMILITY IS AN INDICATION THAT WE KNOW WHERE OUR TRUE STRENGTH LIES. TO BE HUMBLE IS TO RECOGNIZE GRATEFULLY OUR DEPENDENCE ON THE LORD – TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAVE CONSTANT NEED OF HIS SUPPORT” *POPE LEO XIV*

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST,

As I write to you in the midst of my first year as Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, I am filled with immense gratitude, profound humility and deep hope for the future of the Church. Ever aware of the importance of the role of Rector, I extend my gratitude to Archbishop Nelson Pérez for the trust and confidence he has placed in me. I am also grateful to Bishop Keith Chylinski, former Rector, for his support and encouragement.



It has been a privilege to accompany our seminarians, deacons, students, faculty, staff and benefactors. From the classroom to the chapel, from service in the community to quiet moments of discernment, I have witnessed the extraordinary work of God, shaping the hearts of the men preparing to serve the Church. Their fidelity, zeal and brotherhood are a daily reminder of our Lord’s promise to be with us to the end of time, and of the Church’s enduring vitality. Likewise, I am amazed at the men of the Diaconate and their wives as well as the students of the School of Theological Studies. Their love for the Church and generous spirit is evident in the many ways they embrace the missionary spirit in the midst of their already busy lives, raising families and their secular occupations.

This year has marked a new chapter in our seminary’s long and storied history. While changes and challenges always accompany new beginnings, they also provide opportunities to rededicate ourselves to grow in our mission of forming shepherds after the heart of Christ as missionary disciples. I am deeply aware that this sacred task cannot be accomplished alone. It requires the partnership of the entire Church – clergy, religious, lay faithful and benefactors – each offering their prayers, wisdom and financial support.

Throughout the year I have been often reminded of the episcopal motto of St. Charles Borromeo – *Humilitas*. That motto is not only the new banner across the cover of our yearly publication, but the virtue that guides our lives as a community. It must be at the heart of every priest and indeed, every Christian disciple. As Pope Leo XIV states, “humility is not a weakness, but rather an indication that we know where our strength lies. To be humble is to recognize gratefully our dependence on the Lord.” I pray that it is always in this spirit that we look back at what has been and look forward to all that lies ahead.

I hope that you enjoy this edition of *Humilitas*, as we review what has been an extraordinarily satisfying year in every regard.

On behalf of the entire seminary community, Thank you! Your faith in our mission uplifts us, your generosity inspires us, and your prayers sustain us.

May St. Charles Borromeo intercede for us as we continue this sacred work together!

In Cor Jesu,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Christopher Redcay". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. T. Christopher Redcay
Rector
St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

EDITOR’S NOTE: FATHER REDCAY’S APPOINTMENT AS RECTOR WAS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025. HE SUCCEEDED MOST REVEREND KEITH J. CHYLINSKI WHO ASSUMED OVERSIGHT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA’S OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION. THROUGHOUT THIS PUBLICATION, BISHOP CHYLINSKI IS REFERRED TO BY THE TITLE HE HELD WHEN THE PHOTO WAS TAKEN.

HUMILITAS: A NAME ROOTED IN GRACE

By Rev. Patrick J. Brady
Vice-Rector

In the quiet corridors and sacred spaces of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, formation is not merely academic, it is spiritual, personal, and transformative. Every year, the seminary's Year in Review magazine captures the heartbeat of this journey.

Formerly known as *The Brook*, the publication, as you can see, has now taken on a new name: *Humilitas*. This change was not cosmetic. It is intentional, symbolic, and deeply rooted in the legacy of the seminary's patron, Saint Charles Borromeo. It is a name that invites reflection, challenges pride, and calls every seminarian, deacon aspirant and candidate, student, faculty member, staff, benefactor, alumni and reader to a deeper understanding of what it means to be formed in Christ.

WHY HUMILITAS?

The decision to rename the magazine *Humilitas* stems from a desire to align more closely with the spiritual ethos of Saint Charles Borromeo, whose episcopal motto was precisely that: *Humilitas*, Latin for "humility." In choosing this name, the seminary honors not only the saint's legacy but also the foundational virtue that undergirds all authentic Christian formation.

Saint Charles Borromeo was a towering figure of the Counter-Reformation, a cardinal and archbishop who lived with radical simplicity and unwavering dedication to the Church. He was instrumental in establishing the modern Catholic seminary system as part of his broader Counter-Reformation efforts, founding numerous seminaries in his Archdiocese of Milan to address clergy ignorance and corruption. He implemented the decrees of the Council of Trent by reforming the training of priests, providing them with better theological instruction and a stronger foundation for their spiritual and pastoral duties. He is regarded as the patron saint of seminarians and his reforms laid the groundwork for the current model of priestly formation.

Despite his noble birth and high ecclesial rank; he embraced humility as the cornerstone of his ministry. His motto was not a platitude—it was a lived reality. He walked among the poor, reformed the clergy, and tirelessly worked to renew the Church from within. In an age of corruption and clerical excess, *Humilitas* was his quiet rebellion, his spiritual compass, and his enduring gift to the Church.

WHAT HUMILITAS MEANT TO SAINT CHARLES

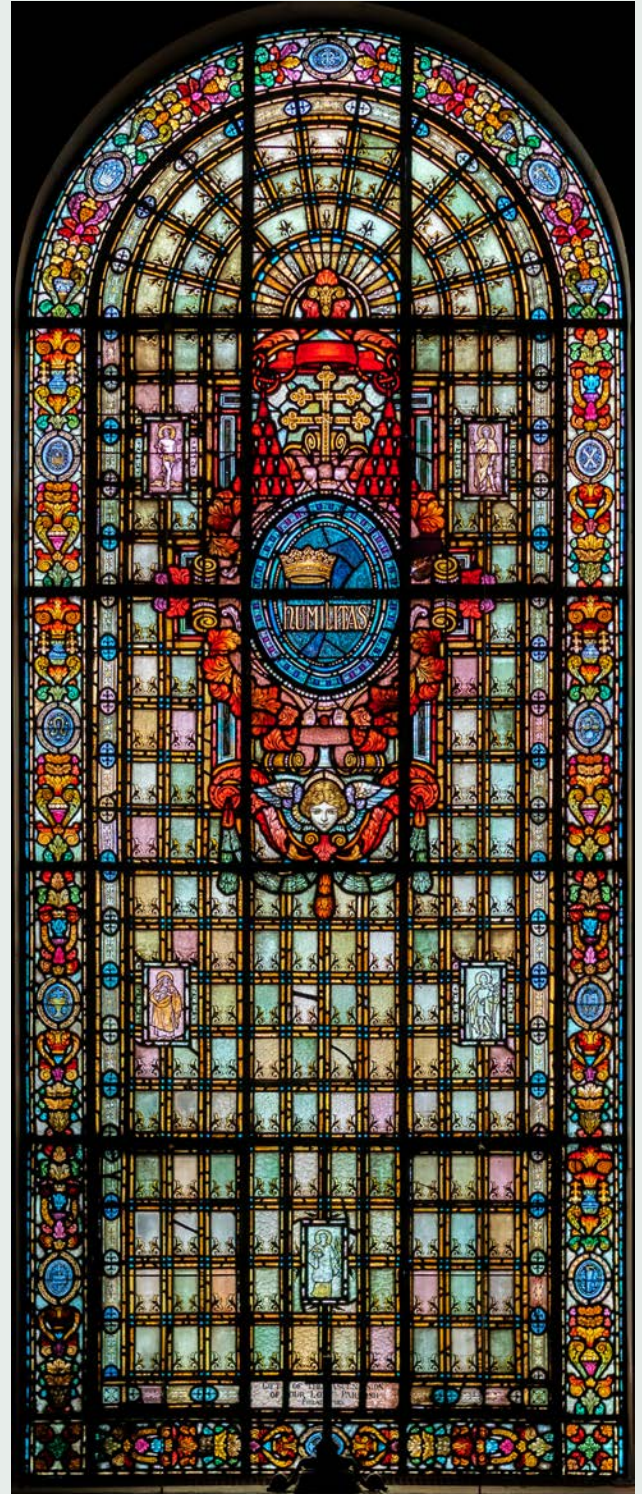
To Saint Charles, humility was not weakness—it was strength rightly ordered. It was the virtue that allowed him to see himself truthfully: as a servant of Christ, not a master of men. He understood that true leadership begins with self-emptying, with kenosis, the pouring out of one's ego so that Christ may fill the void. His humility was active, not passive. It compelled him to act with courage, to challenge authority with truth, and to reform the Church with love.

This understanding echoes the wisdom of Saint Augustine, who wrote, "Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility." Augustine's words mirror the very path Saint Charles walked—a path that led not to worldly elevation, but to spiritual depth.

For example, after the Council of Trent, Saint Charles pushed for clergy reform in Milan, which wasn't always welcome. Many priests resisted his call to holiness. Instead of rebuking them harshly, he often knelt before them and begged them to live the life Christ desired. He humbled himself as their brother, not just as their superior.

Further, when the plague swept through Milan in 1576–77, many nobles and officials fled the city. Saint Charles remained. He walked barefoot through the streets, carrying a wooden cross on his shoulders. Instead of hiding in his palace, he processed publicly, praying for the dying and comforting the abandoned. This wasn't the action of a distant prince of the Church, but of a humble shepherd who identified with the suffering of his flock.

Saint Charles's humility allowed him to listen to the needs of his flock, to recognize his own limitations, and to rely wholly on the grace of God. His life was a living testimony to the truth that greatness in the Church is measured not by status, but by service.



WHAT *HUMILITAS* SHOULD MEAN TO US

For those formed and educated at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, *Humilitas* is more than a name—it is a call to conversion. It is a reminder that priestly formation is not about prestige or power but about becoming a vessel of grace. In a world that prizes self-promotion and individualism, the seminary stands as a counter-cultural witness – the Gospel in action, where humility is not just taught but embodied.

To embrace *Humilitas* is to recognize that every gift—intellectual, human, pastoral, spiritual—is given for service, not self-glory. It means approaching ministry with open hands and a bowed heart, knowing that the people we serve are not beneath us but beside us. It means being willing to wash feet, to listen deeply, and to love sacrificially.

Saint Clement of Rome reminds us of this disposition in his letter to the Corinthians: “Let our praise be in God and not from ourselves, for God hates those that commend themselves. Let testimony to our good deeds be borne by others... moderation, humility, and meekness [belong] to those that are blessed by Him.” Clement’s words reinforce the idea that humility is not self-deprecation, but a quiet confidence rooted in God. It’s a virtue that resists self-promotion and instead invites others to witness the grace at work within us.

In the classroom, *Humilitas* means learning not to impress, but to understand. In pastoral assignments, it means showing up not as experts, but as companions. In prayer, it means surrendering our plans to God’s providence. And in community life, it means bearing with one another in charity, forgiving quickly, and celebrating each other’s growth.

WHAT *HUMILITAS* SHOULD MEAN TO US

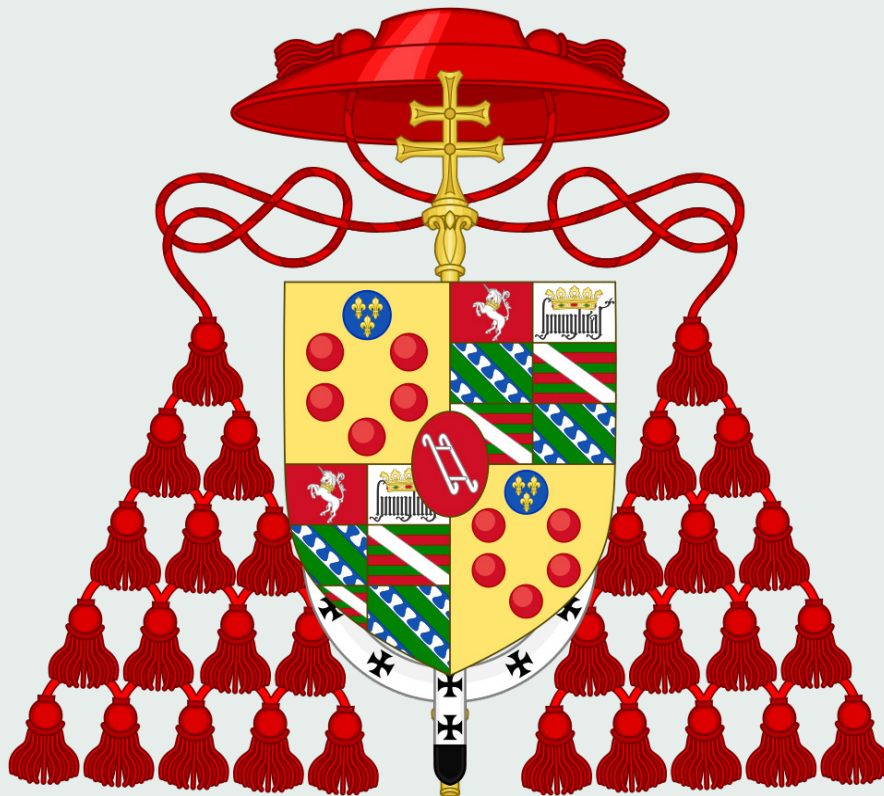
The transition from The Brook to *Humilitas* marks more than a rebranding—it signals a renewed vision for the Seminary’s mission. While The Brook evoked images of quiet refreshment and spiritual nourishment, *Humilitas* challenges us to “put out into the deep.” It asks us to examine the roots of our vocation, to strip away illusions, and to build our lives on the firm foundation of Christ’s humility.

This name change also reflects the seminary’s desire to form men who are not only theologically sound but spiritually grounded. Men who, like Saint Charles, will lead with gentleness, speak with wisdom, and serve with joy. Men who will walk into parishes, hospitals, prisons, and schools not with a sense of entitlement, but with a heart ready to be broken and poured out.

CONCLUSION: LIVING THE MOTTO

In adopting *Humilitas* as the name of our “year in review” magazine, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary invites every reader to reflect on the virtue that shaped its patron and should shape its future priests, deacons, religious, and lay men and women. It is a name that speaks volumes in a single word. It reminds us that the path to holiness is not upward, but downward—into the depths of love, service, compassion, and surrender.

May *Humilitas* not only grace the cover of our magazine but be etched into the hearts of all who walk these halls. May it inspire us to live as Saint Charles Borromeo did: with courage, conviction, and a humility that transforms the world!



SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO COAT OF ARMS

Board of Trustees: Guiding Our Mission and Vision

The Board of Trustees plays an integral role in supporting and guiding our seminary in fulfilling its mission of forming future leaders of the Church. Committed to the values of faith, scholarship, and service, the Board offers strategic advice, direction, oversight, and financial stewardship. Throughout this past year, a year in which we moved to our beautiful new campus, the Board's steady leadership has been pivotal in advancing our educational goals, fostering a vibrant spiritual community, and ensuring that our seminary continues to be a place of excellence in priestly, diaconal and lay formation. We are grateful for their dedication, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the seminary's vision and to the Church's mission.

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We extend our deepest gratitude to the members of the Committees and the Board of Trustees for their dedicated service and unwavering commitment. Your guidance, wisdom, and generosity of spirit have been invaluable in supporting our mission and vision. Thank you for your tireless work and faithful service. You are a true blessing to our seminary community!

A YEAR IN REVIEW



CASSOCK DAY

17 men from our College and Theological Seminaries celebrated Cassock Day on Wednesday, August 27. Cassock Day is far more than a ceremonial wardrobe change – it's a profound rite of passage that marks a seminarian's deeper commitment to the priestly vocation. Wearing the cassock publicly signals the intention to pursue the priesthood. It's a visible declaration: "I am set apart for God."

The men are pictured here with (front left to right): Father Jason Buck, Dean, College Seminary, Monsignor Gerard Mesure, Director, Pastoral and Apostolic Formation and Dean of Men, Pre-Theology, Father Christopher Redcay, Rector, Father Mark Searles, Dean, College Propaedeutic Year, Father Andrew Heiman, Director of Spiritual Formation, College Seminary.



Photo by Sarah Webb

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Tuesday, September 2 was the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, which was held in our Immaculate Conception Chapel. This Mass is a solemn invocation of the Holy Spirit's guidance over the seminary community – students, faculty and staff – as we embarked on a new year of intellectual, spiritual, pastoral and human formation. It echoes the ancient Christian tradition of calling upon the Holy Spirit before major undertakings, much like the Apostles did at Pentecost. Archbishop Nelson Pérez served as the main celebrant and homilist. This is the beginning of the seminary's 194th year of formation. A photo like this is taken every year of the seminarians, lay faculty, and priest faculty. New faculty and staff at the seminary also made their Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity during the Mass.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR NEW RECTOR: FR. T. CHRISTOPHER REDCAY

By Deacon Charles G. Lewis

When I recently sat down with Fr. Redcay in his office at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, I was greeted not with formality but with a smile that radiated joy and purpose. “Please,” he said, gesturing warmly, “make yourself at home.”

Fr. Redcay, recently appointed as Rector, brings with him a deep reservoir of pastoral experience, theological and spiritual insight, administrative competence and a heart wholly committed to the mission of the Church. His journey to this role has been shaped by years of service across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where he has earned a reputation for spiritual leadership, intellectual depth, and a gift for forming others in faith.

“The seminary is more than a school,” he told me. “It’s a sacred space where the Holy Spirit is actively at work—calling, shaping, and sending forth disciples. This is a place where vocations come alive.”

His vision for Saint Charles is rooted in tradition but oriented towards the future. “We are forming priests, yes—but also permanent deacons and lay men and women who are answering the call to serve the Church in profound ways,” he said. “This is a house of formation for the whole People of God.”

Fr. Redcay’s strategic framework centers on four pillars: Formation, Community, Mission, and Stewardship.

Formation is the heartbeat of seminary life. “We’re strengthening our academic programs, deepening spiritual direction, and ensuring pastoral training is grounded in real-world experience,” he explained. “Whether someone is preparing for priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or lay ministry, they deserve formation that is rigorous, holistic, and faithful.”

Community is essential to the seminary’s identity. “We’re cultivating a culture of fraternity and mutual support,” he said. “Our seminarians, deacon candidates, and lay students are not isolated learners—they’re part of a living, praying, discerning community.”

Mission reflects the outward call of every vocation. “We’re forming missionary disciples who will go out and serve—whether in parishes, hospitals, schools, or the margins of society,” he said. “The Church needs shepherds, servants, and witnesses. We’re preparing all three.”

Stewardship ensures the seminary’s vitality for generations to come. “We’re investing in our facilities, building partnerships, and inviting the wider Church to support this mission,” he said. “This isn’t just about today—it’s about tomorrow’s Church.”

Fr. Redcay spoke with particular admiration about the men preparing for the permanent diaconate. “These are men who bring their families, their professions, and their lived experience into their ministry,” he said. “They are bridge-builders—between the altar and the world. Their formation must be human, pastoral, intellectual, and deeply spiritual.”

He also emphasized the importance of lay theological education. “We have men and women—teachers, catechists, parish leaders—who are deepening their understanding of the faith not for personal enrichment alone, but for the betterment of the Church,” he said. “Our students are missionary disciples who have a real sense of apostolic mission.”

Throughout our conversation, one theme kept emerging: joy! “Joy is the mark of a life rooted in Christ,” he said. “It’s what draws people to the Gospel. Our formation programs should cultivate that joy—so that those who leave here carry it into every corner of the Church.”

Fr. Redcay is a man of prayer. “Before I make any decision, I bring it to the Lord,” he said. “I spend time in adoration, in Sacred Scripture, and in silence. That’s where clarity comes—not from strategy alone, but from listening to the Holy Spirit.”

He sees his role not just as an administrator, but as a spiritual father. “I want to walk with these men and women,” he said. “To challenge them, encourage them, and help them become who God is calling them to be.”

Outside of his rector duties, Fr. Redcay enjoys reading theology, hiking, and spending time with his family. “They remind me of the beauty of vocation lived in different forms,” he said. “And they keep me grounded.”

As our conversation drew to a close, I asked him what he hoped the seminary community would know about him. He paused, then said: “That I’m here to serve. That I love the Church, and I love being here at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. And that I believe—deeply—that the future of the priesthood, the diaconate, and lay ministry is bright.”

With Fr. Redcay at the helm, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is poised for a new season of growth, renewal, and grace. His leadership is marked not only by vision, but by competence, humility and joy. And as he begins this new chapter, we are blessed to walk alongside him.

Welcome, Fr. Redcay. The Seminary is in good hands!

A YEAR IN REVIEW

LENTEN CONCERT SERIES

ORGAN CONCERT ►

On March 4, the Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music held the first concert in its three-part spring series. The Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music was created to promote the Church's vision of sacred music as integral to the liturgy – giving glory to God and sanctification to the faithful. This concert featured brief works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johann Pachelbel, and Domenico Zipoli, played by Dr. Nathan Knutson, Chair and Director of Sacred Music, in our Immaculate Conception Chapel.



Photo by Sarah Webb

◀ CHORAL CONCERT

On April 6, the Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music held an inspiring afternoon of reflection and devotion during the Lenten Concert in our Immaculate Conception Chapel. Lucille was a patroness of the arts, a registered dietitian and along with her husband, Jerry, a beloved benefactor of the seminary. The series offers seminarians and the wider community a chance to experience sacred music as a form of prayer, not just performance. This concert featured members of our seminarian choir. All enjoyed the beautiful sounds of sacred music, which lifted our spirits during the season of Lent.

LEVATE PIANO TRIO ►

On April 30, the Lucille M. Francesco Chair of Sacred Music held a “Lunch & Listen” in our Refectory featuring the Levate Piano Trio as part of its mission to promote sacred music that embodies the Church's vision of holiness, beauty, and universality. Pictured with the Levate Piano Trio are benefactors Dr. Jerry Francesco and Eileen Miellecarek.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



VIANNEY CUP

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!

The Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Soccer Team won the Vianney Cup Soccer Tournament! Their previous win occurred in 2004, making the 2025 triumph a long-awaited and celebrated achievement for the seminary's team and coaches. The seminary won against Mount St. Mary's in the final round with a score of 1-0.

THE VIANNEY CUP: A DAVID AND GOLIATH VICTORY FOR ST. CHARLES

By Rev. Jason Buck
Dean of Men, College Seminary

The Vianney Cup is more than a soccer tournament. Each year, four seminaries gather not only for competition but for prayer and fraternity. It is a day when future priests test themselves on the field, encourage one another off it, and discover that true victory comes from sacrifice, brotherhood, and faith.

For me, this year's victory carried deep personal meaning. As a seminarian, I knew only defeat. Year after year, we faced Mount St. Mary's, and year after year, we fell short. Father Mark Searles and I still joke that our class was well acquainted with losing. The Mount was our Goliath, and we could never seem to overcome them. To coach the men of St. Charles to a different outcome was not just about a trophy—it was about breaking a cycle, restoring confidence, and proving that perseverance, united with God's grace, can conquer giants.

Hosting the tournament itself seemed uncertain. We were still settling onto our new campus, unsure if we could even manage such an event. Yet what unfolded showed the power of a seminary



A YEAR IN REVIEW



community that believes in one another. Everyone played a role. Seminarians organized the grounds, coordinated the fields, and practiced relentlessly. Alumni priests sponsored new uniforms, giving our men not only fresh gear but a sense of pride.

Wesley and our kitchen staff overwhelmed the visiting teams with a South Philly dinner that reminded everyone of what hospitality looks like in Philadelphia. It wasn't just the eleven on the field who earned this win; it was an entire house united in purpose.

The first match set the tone. Every player contributed, each man finding his place in the team's rhythm. The lunch break became an exchange of fraternity with the other seminaries, but our focus never wavered. When the final game against the Mount began, we knew this was our moment. The opening goal gave us belief, but the second half demanded everything we had. Players were exhausted, some carried injuries, but they pressed on with determination.

At the heart of it all was Andrew Heidelbaugh, our goalkeeper, who turned aside attempt after attempt. His saves became a rallying point, the kind of heroic stand that defines both sports and the priesthood—placing oneself in the line of fire for the sake of the brothers. When the final whistle sounded, it was his hands, along with the effort of every man on the team, that had carried us through.

Michael Fairorth described the spirit of the tournament well: “Even though we are competing against each other, I always feel such a bond to the other seminaries and to the other men studying for the priesthood.” But on this day, that bond was matched by the joy of

victory—a joy we had not known for twenty-one years.

As John Imbimbo, our captain, reflected, “Hosting the tournament was more than a win, the trophy sealed our move to our new campus. Our community came together to support each other, to host a great event, and to celebrate victory for SCS.” For him and his teammates, it was not just about scoring or defending; it was about proving that St. Charles could rise, that we could stand together as brothers and succeed.

Michael Gibbons put it simply: “It was so awesome seeing the joy on Bishop Chylinski's face after the win as well as the joy not just of the players, but of the entire seminary community.” That joy was contagious, radiating from the rector to the youngest seminarian, from the fans on the sidelines to the alumni who had invested in us.



And for Dan Monastra, it was about perseverance: “The fact that we persevered together as a team and built up a real brotherhood while overcoming this challenge was the most rewarding thing for me.”

Some have said it was the best day in recent seminary history. I am inclined to agree. Not because of the score—though finally defeating the Mount after so many years was no small thing—but because of what it revealed about our men and our house. We were brothers in arms, united in purpose, and willing to sacrifice for one another. That is what makes priests, and that is what made champions.

The Vianney Cup of 2025 will be remembered not only for a 1–0 victory but for a greater truth: when a community believes, works, and prays together, even Goliath can fall.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

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 seminarians held their annual upper Side (Theology Seminary) vs. Lower Side (College Seminary) flag football game! The seminary sponsors the annual flag football competition as a way to foster fraternity, healthy recreation, and community spirit. While playful in nature, the competition reflects the seminary's commitment to forming well-rounded men who can relate to others, lead communities and live joyfully in service to Christ. Congratulations to the Theology men who won with a score of 25-13!



A YEAR IN REVIEW



MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. ►

On Friday, January 24, seminarians and members of the faculty and staff participated in the 52nd Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, the March for Life has become a national witness to the dignity of human life, not just a protest against a single court ruling. All life is a gift from God, and we are proud to give public witness to one of our core beliefs! Prior to the march, they attended Mass at the beautiful National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

◀ MARCH FOR LIFE IN HARRISBURG, PA

On Monday, September 22, our seminarians and priest faculty participated in the 2025 Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg, PA. With the overturn of Roe vs. Wade, the power to protect the unborn was given back to us — the American people — through our elected state officials. Our state capital is now so important for protecting life from the moment of conception to natural death.



PHOTOS BY THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES INVITATIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT: BROTHERHOOD AND BASKETBALL ►

From February 28 to March 2, seminarians competed in the 5th Annual Saint Francis de Sales Invitational Basketball Tournament at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in St. Francis, Wisconsin. The tournament included 16 seminaries and hundreds of seminarians. The event is a hopeful witness to the vitality and joy of those called to priesthood. It was a great time of faith, fun and fraternity!

The men are pictured here with Father Brian Kane, Rector of St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Nebraska, and former Dean of Men for the Theological Seminary at Saint Charles.

◀ ABBEYFEST

On Saturday, September 20, members of the seminary community traveled to The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, PA for the 11th Annual AbbeyFest. AbbeyFest is a family-friendly, faith-filled alternative to secular music festivals – one where Jesus is the true headliner! Saint Charles had two booths at the festival. It was a joyful day filled with music, community, and prayer.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



Photos by the American Jewish Committee

NOSTRA AETATE AT 60: RECEPTION & CONVERSATION

On September 10, Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks, Dean of the School of Diaconal Formation, was a panelist with Rabbi Noam Marins in a 60th anniversary event remembering *Nostra Aetate*, Vatican II's Declaration on Non-Christian Religions, issued in 1965. *Nostra Aetate* redefined the Church's relationship with

non-Christian religions, especially Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. *Nostra Aetate* at 60 is a call to continue the work of interfaith dialogue, promoting understanding and respect. This commemoration was sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC).



CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES CONFERENCE

During the weekend of February 15, representatives from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary traveled to Mundelein Seminary in Chicago, IL for a conference hosted by Catholic Relief Services. The conference was part of CRS's broader effort to build a Church

that is globally aware, compassionately engaged, and rooted in the Gospel's call to serve "the least of these." They also had the opportunity to meet Cardinal Blase Cupich and Bishop Robert Barron in their travels!



SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM

Following First Theology, seminarians spent two months in Antigua, Guatemala studying Spanish in a language immersion program. The Spanish Immersion Program is designed to equip seminarians with language proficiency and cultural understanding so they can better serve the growing Hispanic Catholic population in the

Church. While in Guatemala, the men also received a visit from Father Christopher Redcay, Rector, Father Thomas Viviano, Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Moral Theology, and Father Matthew Brody, President, Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary Priest Alumni Executive Committee.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

MULTICULTURAL SUNDAY

On March 16, as a part of Multicultural Sunday, seminarians spent time with various communities at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Multicultural Sunday is a way of allowing the seminarians to experience the Church's unity in diversity. It involves going out to parishes where Mass is offered in the context of the culture of the local community, often including the experience of Mass in

a language other than English. Encounters with parishioners happen organically after the celebration, and the seminarians have a follow-up conference to process and learn more about the rich tapestry of ethnic and cultural communities within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, including those with roots in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America, Brazil, the Caribbean, and Native American traditions.



FIRST THEOLOGY, HOLY REDEEMER PARISH IN PHILADELPHIA



COLLEGE PROBATION, YEAR, THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA IN DOYLESTOWN



SECOND, THIRD, AND FOURTH COLLEGE, ST. RAYMOND OF PENAFORT IN PHILADELPHIA



FIFTH THEOLOGY, SAINT PATRICK PARISH IN NORRISTOWN



THIRD THEOLOGY, SAINT HELENA CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA



SECOND THEOLOGY, OUR LADY OF HOPE PARISH IN PHILADELPHIA
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY | 13

A YEAR IN REVIEW



THE ITALY PILGRIMAGE

Over the spring break, Bishop Keith Chylinski went on pilgrimage to Milan, Assisi, and Rome with members of the priest faculty and seminarians from III Theology to deepen their spiritual formation and priestly identity through sacred encounters with the Church's rich heritage. Throughout the pilgrimage, they were inspired by the witness of so many saints, including our patron, St. Charles Borromeo (Milan), St. Francis of Assisi and the apostles, Peter and Paul (Rome)!



CLOSING OF FORTY HOURS

On Monday, November 3rd, the Seminary community, and many guests were present for the Closing of our Forty Hours Devotion. It was a beautiful moving evening, which included Solemn evening Prayer, a candle-lit procession, and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Forty Hours Devotion is a deeply spiritual tradition that emphasizes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayerful reflection, and renewal of priestly identity. This devotion is a cornerstone of the seminary's spiritual life, helping to form priests who are centered on Christ and committed to Eucharistic devotion.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

SANCTIFYING OUR DAYS: LITURGICAL LIFE ON THE GWYNEDD CAMPUS

By Rev. David M. Friel
Director of Liturgy

The celebration of the liturgy is central to our shared life at the seminary. So many people contribute to making our communal liturgies genuinely prayerful experiences, from priests and deacons to lectors and musicians. We are blessed, in particular, with a wonderful team of seminarians who take on responsibilities as MCs and sacristans, providing a tremendous service to their brothers by helping to order all our chapel celebrations. As the Director of Liturgy, I am very grateful for all the contributions that our MCs and sacristans make on a daily basis. They exemplify the generosity that is so characteristic of our men in formation.

Among the highlights of our second year on the new Gwynedd campus were our beautiful Forty Hours devotions, held November 1-3, 2025. Forty Hours is timed so that it always leads up to our patronal feast of St. Charles Borromeo on November 4. These devotions are often remembered very fondly by our seminary alumni. For seminarians today, they continue to be days of refreshment and encouragement, centered on prayer before the Most Blessed Sacrament. Last year's Eucharistic procession circumscribed our new seminary campus, sanctifying the holy ground where we are privileged to live and learn. This year, we took the procession on a different route, including through part of the campus of Gwynedd Mercy University, which adjoins our property. We concluded the procession and the Forty Hours devotions with solemn benediction at an outdoor altar set up in Our Lady of the Angels courtyard. It was a cool, clear evening, made bright by candles and moonlight. When we opened our new campus last year, many aspects of our

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On December 8, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the seminary community held a candle-lit procession and celebrated Mass at midnight in our Immaculate Conception Chapel. The Seminary celebrates the Solemnity because we honor Mary, the



chapels had just been finished. Still other elements were not yet completed, even as we celebrated the dedications of our new chapels. One example would be the Stations of the Cross in the Chapel of St. Therese of Lisieux, the chapel in our college seminary building. We had chosen a set of Stations that originally hung in the convent chapel in Neumann Hall at the Overbrook campus, but they were in need of repair. Fixing the plaster and repainting fourteen Stations takes time, so they were not ready to go when the chapel was dedicated in August 2024. It was a great joy to receive the restored Stations just in time for Lent 2025. They were promptly hung on the walls by a team of college seminarians, and, on Ash Wednesday, Bishop Chylinski celebrated the rite of blessing Stations of the Cross. We are very excited to see these Stations live again.

Even now, our beautiful chapels are not fully complete. We hope, in the years ahead, to beautify these spaces by giving fuller treatment to the walls and ceiling. A Chapel Committee was convened this year to begin collecting ideas and discussing plans. Please pray for the ongoing work of our Chapel Committee!

In addition to our liturgical celebrations, the seminarians also participate in several communal devotions. Once a week, for example, the seminarians pray together the perpetual novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, which is such a popular devotion in Philadelphia parishes. We also pray for all the benefactors of our seminary at every Mass, as well as every Friday before Evening Prayer. Know that you and your intentions are remembered in our prayers.



Mother of God, as the patroness of the Seminary and of the United States – making it both a spiritual and national feast of profound significance. The celebration is a time of communal joy and reverence, drawing faculty, seminarians and guests into deeper Eucharistic and Marian devotion.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE DISPLAY

During the first week of Advent, members of the seminary community built the outdoor Christmas crèche display on campus.

The wooden structure was constructed by Father Michael Isenberg, Dean of Men, Theology Seminary, and Father Isenberg assembled the crèche with a group of our seminarians.

The men in the College Propaedeutic Year, Father Christopher Redcay, Rector, and Father Mark Searles, Dean, College Propaedeutic Year, also traveled to Palmer Christmas Tree Farm in Mt. Bethel, PA to cut down trees to bring back to campus.

The crèche was later blessed by Father Redcay in the presence of our seminarians and priest faculty.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

CHRISTMAS TOUR

On Wednesday, December 17, as part of a special tradition at Saint Charles Seminary for more than 50 years, seminarians and priest faculty traveled to Saint Joseph Villa, a Catholic senior living community sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Little Sisters of the Poor Holy Family Home, which serves the elderly poor, and Camilla Hall, the Convent Home and Healthcare Center of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart

of Mary, to sing Christmas carols for the residents. The visits are a profound expression of Christian charity, intergenerational solidarity and priestly formation. The visits typically occur during Advent or Christmas, transforming the seasons into times of mutual blessing. This tradition is not just a seasonal outreach – it's a living testament to the Seminary's mission to form priests who serve with heart, holiness and humanity.



A YEAR IN REVIEW

COLLEGE PROPAEDEUTIC YEAR



LIBERTY BELL CENTER, PHILADELPHIA



SAINT MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CHURCH, PHOENIXVILLE, PA



SHRINE OF BLESSED MICHAEL MCGIVNEY, NEW HAVEN, CT



A YEAR IN REVIEW



NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA, PHILADELPHIA



SAINT PATRICK CHURCH, MALVERN, PA



TERMINI BROTHERS BAKERY AND GENO'S STEAKS, PHILADELPHIA



A YEAR IN REVIEW

PRE-THEOLOGY PROPAEDEUTIC YEAR:



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Propaedeutic years serve as a foundation stage of priestly formation, designed to prepare men spiritually, humanly, intellectually and pastorally before they enter formal academic theological studies. The propaedeutic stage is a step away from the world and closer to Christ, allowing men to enter seminary life with clarity, purpose, and

openness to formation. This stage was emphasized in the Vatican's 2016 document, *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* and is now required of seminary formation in the United States under the 6th edition of the Program of Priestly Formation.



SEMINARIANS MATTHEW CARNEY AND ALEXANDER CUNNINGHAM, CAMINO DESANTEROS, SHAN

A YEAR IN REVIEW



PERMANENT DIACONATE CLAP OUT ►

Monday, April 28 was the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity, as well as Clap Out, for the Permanent Diaconate Ordination Class of 2025. The “clapping out” of men called to be permanent deacons expanded the long-standing “Clap Out” ceremony – original reserved for transitional deacons preparing for priesthood – to include those completing formation for the permanent diaconate. This extension reflects the Seminary’s commitment to honoring all vocations within the Church. By including permanent deacons, the Seminary affirms their vital role in parish life, charity, and liturgical ministry, and offers a joyful send off as they prepare for ordination.

The men and their wives are pictured here with Bishop Keith Chylinski, Rector, and Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks, Dean, School of Diaconal Formation.

◀ IV THEOLOGY CLAP OUT - 2025

On Friday, May 2, 2025, twenty-one of our seminarians were “clapped out” by the student body, faculty, and staff. The tradition of Clap Out dates to the 19th century and serves as a joyful, symbolic send-off for seminarians who are about to be ordained to the priesthood. The Clap Out is more than applause – it’s a ritual of transition – celebrating years of spiritual, intellectual, pastoral and human formation. This tradition continues to be one of the most cherished moments in the seminary calendar, capturing the emotion and excitement of a vocation fulfilled!



**DUE TO HIS WORK WITH THE PAPAL FOUNDATION, JIM COFFEY MADE HIS PROFESSION OF FAITH AND OATH OF FIDELITY ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9.*

A YEAR IN REVIEW

A PERSONAL REFLECTION: THE DIACONAL FORMATION TEAM

By Deacon Mark Dillon

My service on the Diaconal Formation Team (DFT) at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary began shortly after my ordination in 2008. Following two years of parish ministry at Mother of Divine Providence in King of Prussia—a period that proved to be vital “preparation”—I was assigned in 2010 to teach the Liturgy Practicum to men in their final semester before ordination.

What I thought would be a brief assignment grew into a remarkable 15-year ministry. Over those years, I worked with candidates from many walks of life—professionals, tradesmen, teachers, and more. Class sizes ranged from five to 22, each with its own character. Yet every man shared the same core qualities: a deep love of God and a sincere desire to serve Him as a permanent deacon. My task was to ensure they were confident, competent, and comfortable in their liturgical ministry—able to focus not on themselves, but on God.

When I joined the DFT, it consisted of a priest administrator, three deacons, and an administrative assistant. I soon realized that formation involved much more than teaching. The team accompanied each man through every stage of discernment, committed to forming well-prepared servants for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

My early years on the team were transformative, teaching me to trust more deeply in God’s providence. The familiar phrase “God has a plan for you” took on new significance as I understood that serving on the DFT was part of His plan for me.

During my tenure, the School of Diaconal Formation saw several important improvements: the establishment of a Master of Divinity program, the addition of a second year of Aspirancy, the introduction of the Diaconal Formation Advisor role, and a new six month pastoral assignment outside the home parish. Under Msgr. Gregory Fairbanks—who became Dean six years ago—the program continued to evolve, including the addition of seven Deacon Associates to enhance formation.

After 17 years as a deacon and 15 years on the DFT, I felt called to a new chapter of ministry. I completed my service this past June, grateful for all God has done and confident in the continuing strength of the program.

Where God leads next, I do not yet know—but I trust His plan. God is good... all the time.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: DEACON DILLON SERVED 15 YEARS ON THE DEACON FORMATION TEAM AS A “LEADER AMONG LEADERS” WITH OBJECTIVITY, INTEGRITY, SELFLESS DEDICATION, AND OUTSTANDING LITURGICAL EXPERTISE.)

188TH ANNUAL CONCURSUS

Wednesday, May 14th was Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary’s 188th Annual Concursum. The ceremony was held at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Church in North Wales, PA. Archbishop Edward J. Adams, Titular Archbishop of Scala, delivered the keynote address, drawing from his decades of service as a Vatican diplomat and his roots as a Philadelphia priest. Archbishop Adams emphasized the importance of remaining rooted in Christ amid the challenges of modern ministry. Reflecting on his years as Apostolic Nuncio in countries like Bangladesh, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, and Great Britain, he encouraged graduates to embrace the Church’s universal mission. He spoke about the joy and responsibility of priesthood, urging seminarians and graduates to be men of prayer, integrity and pastoral charity. His message underscored the need for priests and lay leaders to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel in a secular and often divided world. Archbishop Adams’ eloquent presence was a powerful reminder of the Seminary’s legacy and global impact.



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

Concursum is the seminary’s annual graduation ceremony where academic degrees are awarded to seminarians, as well as religious and lay students, enrolled in its college and graduate programs.

Bishop Keith Chylinski, Rector, conferred degrees to graduates who earned Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in Theology. Letters of Completion for Pre-Theology and Certificates in Pastoral Spanish were also presented.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

AMBASSADOR'S FUND

The Ambassador's Fund for Catholic Education is a philanthropic initiative that supports faith-based educational programs across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia – including here at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Founded by Matthew H. McCloskey, Jr., the Fund helps finance innovative and mission-driven projects that enhance the seminary's priestly, diaconate and lay formation efforts. It backs initiatives that reflect creative thinking and deepen understanding of the Catholic faith. The fund may assist in defraying costs for deserving students, supporting faculty development or improving seminary infrastructure.

Some initiatives include funding for the propaedeutic program – a foundational year focused on spiritual, human, pastoral and

intellectual formation for new seminarians. The Fund supports the School of Theological Studies which equips men and women for service in parish ministry, catechesis and evangelization. Grants have enhanced formation of men preparing for the permanent diaconate, including theological education and pastoral training. Finally, funding has gone toward improving classroom technology and campus facilities to better serve students and faculty.



SCHOOL OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES SUMMER PROGRAM

The School of Theological Studies Summer Program is a specialized six-week academic and spiritual formation experience designed primarily for communities of women religious, though it welcomes other participants seeking deeper theological education. The program provides a peaceful and prayerful environment ideal for reflection, study and renewal.

This summer included Sisters from religious communities in Nashville, TN, Ann Arbor, MI, and Wichita, KS, who are each working towards earning a Master of Arts in Theology Degree from Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

Participants are pictured here with Dr. Carmina Chapp and Michele Pisano, School of Theological Studies, and seminarian Joshua Brooks, III College.

FROM HIATUS TO HOPE: THE RETURN OF THE DEAN OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

By Carmina Chapp, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Theological Studies

After fourteen years away, returning to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary has been a grace filled homecoming. The new campus is bright, beautiful, and well suited to the growing number of lay students in the School of Theological Studies (STS). My hope is to fill our many classrooms with people eager to deepen their faith and bring the Gospel into the world.

A major challenge remains awareness: many still assume the seminary forms only clergy, though STS has offered academic and spiritual formation to laity, religious, and clergy for over fifty years. Our flagship program, the Master of Arts in Theology, continues to grow—especially online—and each student now receives a Verbum digital library subscription to support their studies.

We are also partnering with the National Catholic Bioethics Center to develop a new online graduate degree in Catholic Health Care Ministry, planned for launch in Fall 2026. This program will

prepare students in philosophy, theology, bioethics, pastoral counseling, and spiritual accompaniment for service in health care settings.

This year included many highlights: a joint lecture with the Department of Humanities by art historian Dr. Elizabeth Lev; the graduation of students from our Foundations of the Catholic Faith program; expanded adult formation offerings; and ongoing collaborations with archdiocesan offices. Our summer session welcomed eighteen religious sisters from three congregations, whose presence and prayerful singing filled the campus with joy.

My first year back has been a time of rediscovery and dreaming boldly for the future. I am grateful for the warm welcome and strong support of the Seminary community, and I look forward to advancing the important mission of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

12TH ANNUAL CARDINAL FOLEY LECTURE

On February 3, the John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications hosted the 12th Annual Cardinal Foley Lecture with speaker Montse Alvarado, President and Chief Operating Officer of EWTN News.

Cardinal John Patrick Foley (1935-2011) was a distinguished Church leader, journalist, and communicator whose legacy inspired the creation of the endowed Chair. Cardinal Foley served for nearly 20 years in editorial roles at *The Catholic Standard & Times*, the Archdiocesan newspaper. He acted as news secretary for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops for 15 years prior to being appointed in 1984 by Saint Pope John Paul II as President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications. It was there that he became known as the “Voice of Christmas” for narrating the papal Midnight Mass broadcast worldwide.



Pictured here are Bishop Chylinski, Ms. Alvarado, Archbishop Nelson Pérez, and Father Thomas Dailey, O.S.F.S.

FROM THE CHAIR AND AMBO...

By Rev. Thomas Dailey O.S.F.S.
John Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications

Begun in 2013-14, the John Cardinal Foley Chair supports the mission of the Seminary and the work of the Church by teaching seminary students and church groups, working with staff in parishes and (arch)dioceses, and engaging in dialogue with journalists and media professionals.

In 2025, the Foley Chair hosted three public events that brought prominent scholars and practitioners to the Seminary to speak about current issues in the life of the Church.

- In January, the 2025 Cardinal Foley Lecture, which focuses on the Church and Social Communications, welcomed Montse Alvarado, the President & COO of EWTN News, who spoke on, “Calling Others to Christ in a Digital World.”
- In May, the 2025 Cardinal Foley Symposium focused on “Sharing Hope amid the News.” Panelists included Joe Holden (CBS-3 news reporter), Gina Christian (correspondent for *Our Sunday Visitor*), and Fran Maier (senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center). Following the discussion, we presented Mr. Maier with the annual John Cardinal Foley award for Excellence in Communications.
- In August, the 2025 Cardinals’ Forum began the new academic year with a discussion on “Unity in the Church” that featured a special guest – Mr. Brendan Towell, who writes about Pope Leo XIV for *National Catholic Register*.

Throughout the year, the Cardinal Foley Chair engaged multiple audiences within and beyond the Seminary. In addition to teaching Homiletics to second-year Theology students, I offered two conferences in the Pre-Theology Propaedeutic Year program and directed a webinar for graduate students in Villanova University’s Church Management Institute.

Additionally, I offered a workshop to permanent deacons in the Diocese of Wilmington (DE), led parish missions in Philadelphia (at Our Mother of Consolation) and in Wichita (KS). I directed retreats: for a women’s association in St. Louis, the priests of the Diocese of Greensburg (PA), and the Visitation Nuns in Tyringham (MA). I also gave two presentations to Legatus chapters, in DuPage County (IL) and Wilmington (DE).

I published a regular series on “Homily Helps,” penned a feature article in *The Priest* magazine, and wrote commentaries for Catholic media, one of which received a national award in 2025 from the Catholic Media Association.

The Cardinal Foley Chair was featured in eighteen news publications and on two radio programs (KYW and NPR). Through forty-five social media posts, the Chair’s work received more than 13,700 views.

THE CATHOLIC PREACHING INSTITUTE

Established through a major grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. the Catholic Preaching Institute at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary seeks to foster the experience of compelling preaching throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In addition to updating its collection of resources – which now give access to more than 15,000 works on preaching – CPI also initiated three signature programs during 2025.

Hearing the Word is CPI’s digital commentary series. Sent each week to more than 1,800 readers, the electronic newsletter offers a brief, two-part look at the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel reading. An essay “from the pulpit” provides insight into the meaning of the Gospel text, while an essay “from the pew” gives testimony to the meaningfulness of the Gospel message in today’s world. At the nexus of scholarly understanding and personal perspective, the commentary enhances an appreciation of the Word of the Lord for preachers and parishioners alike. All commentaries for the 2025 liturgical year (year “C”) are archived on the CPI website.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

THE CATHOLIC PREACHING INSTITUTE offers a mentoring and coaching experience for archdiocesan clergy who wish to improve their homiletic craft. In 2025, ten cohorts – each consisting of a preaching fellow, a clergy mentor, and three lay advisors – undertook the year-long process. Each cohort met monthly to review the preacher’s homilies, provide constructive feedback, and recommend ways to improve. All participants met together twice for planning and assessment purposes. Through targeted surveys, parishioners will have the opportunity to comment on the before-and-after ... and, hopefully, to benefit from more compelling preaching!

In October, CPI hosted a Festival of the Word, celebrating Sacred Scripture in the Christian experience, especially through the connection of Word and Eucharist at Mass. The 2025 program brought practitioners from Philadelphia together with scholars from the Catholic University of America, Yale, and Notre Dame. The half-day event began with a friendly competition among student-preachers from St. Charles and other seminaries in the region. Concurrent seminars then addressed the power of the Word

in contemporary scholarship, in new approaches to preaching, in documentary filmmaking, and in the wake of artificial intelligence. A keynote presentation capped off the festival with a look at what preaching is really meant to be – from the pulpit and in the pews. The day’s sessions amplified what Pope Leo XIV said soon after his election: “If you truly want to encounter the Risen Lord, then listen to his Word, which is the Gospel of salvation.”

From both the chair and ambo, I am honored to engage in the Seminary’s noble work. Through these endeavors, the John Cardinal Foley Chair and the Catholic Preaching Institute champion the importance of evangelization through excellence in communication and preaching.

From the classroom to the parish, from digital platforms to public forums, the activities carried out in 2025 reflect a deep commitment by Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary to proclaiming the Gospel with clarity, conviction, and compassion. As we look ahead, this mission remains rooted in the belief that compelling preaching and thoughtful dialogue are essential to nurturing faith, fostering unity, and inspiring hope in the Church and the world.

CARDINAL FOLEY SYMPOSIUM

On May 22, Fran Maier, Senior Fellow for the Ethics and Public Policy Center, was awarded the 2025 Cardinal Foley Award for Excellence at a luncheon that followed the 2025 John Cardinal Foley Symposium on World Communications Day.



Maier has decades of experience in Catholic journalism and communications, including serving as a senior advisor to Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia, Charles J. Chaput O.F.M. Cap. D.D. The award was presented during a town hall-style symposium, featuring Gina Christian, National Reporter for Our Sunday Visitor, and Joe Holden, Chief Investigative Report for CBS News Philadelphia. Maier’s recognition highlighted his role as a bridge between faith and culture using media to share the Gospel with clarity and compassion.

FESTIVAL OF THE WORD

The Festival of the Word, held for the first time in October, was a dynamic celebration of Catholic preaching, designed to deepen the connection between Scripture and the Eucharist in the liturgical life of the Church. Hosted by the Catholic Preaching Institute, the festival aimed to showcase the theory and practice of compelling preaching. It brought to life, the Seminary’s motto: *Exiit qui seminavit*
SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY | 26

– “He went forth who sows,” emphasizing the preacher’s role in sowing the Word of God.

The Festival of the Word marked a new chapter in the Seminary’s mission to form preachers who proclaim the Gospel with clarity, conviction and pastoral charity.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

CARDINAL'S FORUM

On Tuesday, August 26, 2025, the Cardinal's Forum was the seminary's first academic event of the new school year featuring a public discussion on "Unity in the Church." The Forum explored the challenges

and opportunities of fostering unity among Catholics and across Christian traditions, inspired by Pope Leo's vision of the Church as a sign of communion. It was especially timely as the Church marked the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which produced the Nicene Creed – a foundational



Photo by Sarah Webb

statement of Christian unity. Reverend Thomas Dailey, OSFS, the Cardinal Foley Chair of Homiletics and Social Communications, served as moderator of the discussion among Brendan Howell from

the National Catholic Register, Dr. John Haas, the Cardinal Krol Chair of Moral Theology, and Dr. Nathan Knutson, the Lucille Francesco Chair of Sacred Music. This year's discussion considered the possibility of unity among Catholics in light of disputes over liturgy, doctrine, and leadership.

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD:

CASSOCK CLASSIC

The Cassock Classic is a lively and faith-filled ultimate frisbee tournament hosted by the Archdiocesan Vocation Office at the Seminary. It's designed to bring together Newman Centers, young adult groups, and college students from across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for a day of fun, fellowship and vocational inspiration. On Saturday, April 27, the Vocation Office for the Diocesan Priesthood hosted over 200 young adults! The Cassock Classic blends, sports, spirituality, and seminary hospitality – showing that joy, holiness, and community go hand in hand. Thank you to all who participated!



PHOTO BY SARAH WEBB

QUO VADIS

Quo Vadis was a dynamic summer retreat hosted on June 23-26 by the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and led by Philadelphia seminarians. It was held at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA. The name comes from the Latin phrase, "Quo vadis?" meaning "Where are you going?", echoing the question that Jesus asked Peter – and the one that every young man discerning his vocation must ask himself.

The retreat blends spiritual formation with outdoor adventure – including laser tag, pool parties, gaga ball and an "Amazing Race"



A YEAR IN REVIEW

inspired by the life of Saint John Newmann. Participants hear talks from priests, campus ministers, and vocation directors who offer wisdom and encouragement.

Quo Vadis is more than a 4-day, 3-night camp – it’s a transformative experience that invites young men to ask the Lord, “Where are you calling me?” and to begin walking that path with courage and joy! This year, the camp followed the theme of “Anchor of the Soul,” where the men learned how Christ is the hope and anchor throughout the storms of life.

This year, Quo Vadis will take place at Black Rock Retreat Center in Quarryville, PA from Monday, June 22 – Thursday, June 25, 2026.

To learn more and register, please visit www.heedthecall.org



“COME, FOLLOW ME”: HEARING THE CALL TO THE PRIESTHOOD

By Rev. Sean English
Vocations Director, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

There is a moment in every man’s life when he asks, “What is God asking of me?” For some, that question leads to marriage and family life. For others, it leads to generous service in the world. But for a few, that question opens the door to something extraordinary: the call to the priesthood.

If you’re reading this and wondering whether God might be calling you to be a priest, I want to speak directly to you. The call to the priesthood is real. It is personal. And it is worth exploring.

Discerning a vocation is not something you do alone. The Church walks with you. As Vocations Director, I’m here to help you take the next step—whether that’s a conversation over coffee, a visit to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, or simply praying together for clarity.

If you feel ready to explore the priesthood more seriously, the application process to the seminary is designed to help you discern with the Church. It includes:

- A personal interview and spiritual autobiography
- Psychological and medical evaluations
- Letters of recommendation
- A background check and sacramental records
- Most importantly, ongoing prayer and spiritual direction

This process isn’t about proving yourself. It’s about discovering whether God is truly calling you to this life. And even if the answer is “not yet” or “not this path,” the journey will bring you closer to Christ.

I’ve been a priest for several years now, and I can tell you: it’s the most demanding, joyful, and fulfilling life I could have ever imagined. Every day, I get to celebrate the Eucharist, preach the Gospel, hear confessions, anoint the sick, and walk with people through the highs and lows of life. I’ve baptized babies, buried the faithful, and stood at the altar as men and women vowed their lives to each other.

SAINT CHARLES BORROME SEMINARY | 28

But more than anything, I’ve seen the power of Christ working through my own weakness. Priesthood is not about being a spiritual superhero. It’s about being a vessel—an instrument of God’s mercy and love.

Yes, there are sacrifices. Celibacy, obedience, and a life of service require real commitment. But the joy of giving your life completely to Christ and His Church far outweighs the cost. There is no greater privilege than to serve the “Royal Priesthood of God” - His people, by being a priest.

God speaks in many ways—through prayer, through people, through the needs of the Church, and through the quiet desires of your heart. The call to priesthood often begins as a subtle nudge: a thought that won’t go away, a sense of peace when you imagine yourself at the altar, or a growing desire to serve others in a deeper way.

You don’t need to be perfect. You don’t need to have it all figured out. You just need to be open. God does the calling; we do the listening. And if you’re even thinking about the priesthood, that’s worth paying attention to.

If you’re still reading this, maybe God is trying to get your attention. Maybe He’s been planting seeds in your heart for a while now. Maybe He’s waiting for you to say, “Yes, Lord. I’m listening.”

I want to personally invite you to reach out. Whether you’re in high school, college, working, or somewhere in between, I’d love to talk with you. No pressure. No expectations. Just a conversation.

You don’t have to be certain. As I said, you just have to be open. The Church needs good men—men of prayer, courage, and compassion. Men who are willing to lay down their lives for something much bigger than themselves. Men who are not afraid to follow Christ wherever He leads. If that might be you, don’t wait. Take the next step. Reach out. Let’s talk. You can contact me directly at the Vocations Office of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia or visit HeedTheCall.org to learn more. God is still calling. The only question is: will you answer?

PASTORAL VISITS



Photo by Sarah Webb

◀ DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN, PA

During the week of January 20, Bishop Alfred Schlert and Father John Maria, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Allentown, PA, made a pastoral visit to the seminary. Bishop Schlert celebrated the community Mass on Wednesday evening, and he and Father Maria joined Bishop Chylinski and the seminarians for Rector's Dinner following Mass. Bishop Schlert and Father Maria are pictured here with the seminarians from the Diocese of Allentown, as well as Bishop Chylinski and Father Mark Searles, Director, College Propaedeutic Year, after Mass.

DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG, PA ▶

On November 20, 2024, Bishop Larry Kulick, Diocese of Greensburg, PA, made a pastoral visit to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Bishop Kulick celebrated the community Mass in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Bishop Kulick is pictured here with Tyler C. Randolph, a seminarian from the Diocese of Greensburg after Mass.



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE, MD ▲

On October 29, Archbishop William Lori, Archdiocese of Baltimore, made a pastoral visit to Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. Archbishop Lori celebrated the community Mass on Wednesday evening, and joined Father Redcay and the seminarians from the Diocese of Baltimore for Rector's Dinner following Mass.

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT, CT ▶

On October 1, Bishop Frank Caggiano and Father Christopher Ford, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, made a pastoral visit to the seminary.

Bishop Caggiano celebrated the community Mass on Wednesday evening, and he and Father Ford joined Father Redcay and the seminarians for Rector's Dinner following Mass. Bishop Caggiano and Father Ford are pictured here with the seminarians from the Diocese of Allentown, as well as Father Redcay.



PASTORAL VISITS

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

By Tyler Randolph
Theology II, Diocese of Greensburg

It is hard to believe that we are settled into our second year of formation here at our Lower Gwynedd campus already! Recently, I have found myself reflecting on how much St. Charles feels like home, and what it is that makes it feel like that. I am blessed to have experienced Overbrook for my first two years of formation. I will never forget pulling through the big iron gates on Wynnewood Road in August 2022, arriving at St. Charles sight unseen, and having no idea what to expect or might be in store for the next six years!

I was very surprised in those first few weeks to see just how much the campus felt like home. Up to that point, I had never lived more than 45 minutes from where I grew up, and I really had no desire to leave Western Pennsylvania! Yes, it was surely awe-inspiring to see the old marble, the grand windows, and the long lines of black cassocks lined up for liturgy - but most impressive were the men whom I met. Men from all walks of life, and from so many different work and educational backgrounds, all brought together by the love of Christ.

When I drove through the gate at Evans Road in August 2024, I wasn't met with huge imposing buildings or the bustling sounds of City and Lancaster Avenues. I really expected to miss the physical buildings and the "place" of Overbrook; however, the sadness never came! As quickly as I had felt at home at Overbrook two years earlier, I felt it here at the Gwynedd campus. It caused me to think of the old cliché saying "home is where the heart is" - which, when I shared that with some brothers, was met with some well-deserved eye rolls! However, there is so much truth to it! It is the relationships formed here that make it home.

These relationships cultivated over these years of formation among classmates, diocesan brothers, faculty, and formation have a common denominator - they are rooted in Christ! The One who makes this place a home is Christ, in whose heart we are formed, and he who is present here among us! It is such a blessing to be formed after Christ's

heart where I am, here and now. Before seminary, I worked for years as a parish music director, and I taught in our Catholic school, and through my years of ministry, I had a good idea of what the priesthood is like, but I had no idea what to expect in seminary. The concept of "formation" seemed so intimidating and foreign which there are plenty of "fish stories" out there from "back in the day," however, I haven't found it to be like that at all. Our formators have a common goal: to help each of us grow in the love of Christ and be formed to share that love with others.

Christ calls each of us reading this magazine to be in relationship to him and has given us a common love - St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. Because you are reading this magazine, Christ has touched your heart through St. Charles Seminary.

I encourage you to take some time and think about what St. Charles means to you. If you're an alumnus, think back on your time here and the relationships that were formed here, and how formation here prepared you to serve the Church in Christ's name as a priest, deacon, or lay person. If you're a faculty member or staff member, thank you for all that you do in your role of forming all of us here. I ask you to think about your experience working here, and what drew you to St. Charles. If you're reading this as a benefactor or friend, firstly, thank you. Consider the impact that you've had on the lives of so many, both in support of all of those formed at St. Charles, but also how that impact reaches way beyond the doors of the seminary through those formed here!

Since 1832, St. Charles Seminary has been committed to sharing the work of Christ, and I am confident that with God's help and keeping Christ at the center of the "home", the mission of the seminary will continue for generations to come!



PHOTO BY SARAH WELLS

▶ DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON, VA

Bishop Michael Burbidge, Diocese of Arlington, and former Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (1999 - 2004) along with Father Michael Isenberg made a pastoral visit to the seminary. Bishop Burbidge celebrated the community Mass on Wednesday evening in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Bishop Burbidge and Father Isenberg are pictured here with Bishop Chylinski and the seminarians from the Diocese of Arlington after Mass.

▶ DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA

Bishop Timothy Senior, Diocese of Harrisburg, and former Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary (2012 - 2022) made a pastoral visit to the seminary. Bishop Senior celebrated the community Mass on Wednesday evening in the Immaculate Conception Chapel on campus. Bishop Senior is pictured here with the seminarians from the Diocese of Harrisburg after Mass.



rites & ORDINATIONS

INSTITUTION OF LECTOR ▼

Saturday, September 20, was the celebration of Mass with the Institution of Lectors for seminarians in the Theological Seminary and candidates for the Permanent Diaconate. Mass was held at Saint Helena Church in Blue Bell, PA. The principal celebrant was Bishop Christopher Cooke, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.



PHOTO 2 - SEMINARIAN MICHAEL GIBBONS, THEOLOGICAL DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

▲ MINISTRY OF ACOLYTE

Saturday, February 8 was the celebration of Mass with the Ministry of Acolyte for seminarians in the Theological Seminary and candidates for the Permanent Diaconate. Mass was held at Corpus Christi Church in Lansdale, PA. The principal celebrant was Bishop Keith Chylinski, Rector.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

◀ On November 4, the Feast of St. Charles Borromeo, our seminarians were present for the celebration of Mass for the Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders. The principal celebrant and homilist was Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia.

ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY ▶

On September 14, during Solemn Vespers, was the Admission of Candidacy for Holy Orders for Michael Gokie, pictured third from the right, with presider Bishop Keith J. Chylinski, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

rites & ORDINATIONS

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

On Sunday, January 19, seminarian ▶ Przemyslaw Rozestwinski ('Przemek') was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia by Bishop Keith Chylinski.

On Saturday, May 10, seven seminarians ▼ from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Charles Cappelli, Thomas Cipolla, Declan Cole, Alexander Cross, Dominic Mirenda, Jude Opara, and Griffen Schlaepfer, and two seminarians from the Archdiocese of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Arkesh Ragel and Sandun Tharuka, were ordained Transitional Deacons in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel.



PICTURED HERE WITH ARCHBISHOP NELSON PEREZ AND BISHOP KEITH CHYLINSKI.



PHOTOS BY SHERRY WEBER

rites & ordinations

WHAT SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO SEMINARY FORMATION MEANS TO ME

By Rev. Mr. Griffen T. Schlaepfer
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

When I entered formation at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary in Overbrook nearly nine years ago, I was filled with a lot of excitement as well as serious uncertainty. While convinced that God was drawing me to the priesthood, the details of seminary life and culture along with the day-to-day life of a priest were completely foreign to me. When arriving at that majestic campus for opening day, I still remember the big banner with the words “Welcome New Men” greeting my classmates and me. Despite my inner draw to the priesthood and the great impression that so many people left on me that first day, I recall coming back to my room with one unshakable thought: “What did I get myself into?” This was going to be a drastic change in my life, and it was going to be difficult.

As time went on, I came to see that the formation at Saint Charles—or really, the formation at any seminary—is meant to be difficult. It is meant to change a man: from someone young and immature who thinks he may want to be a priest to one who is actually prepared and positively willing to live a priestly life of sacrifice for the sake of Christ and His Church. Saint Charles Seminary has done just that for so many of her seminarians. From my four years spent in the College Seminary, to the Spiritual Year program led by Bishop—then—Father—Christopher Cooke, to the last four years spent in the Theological Seminary, I have now experienced my fair share of life and culture at Saint Charles. And I can say without a doubt that God uses all of it to form and sanctify those whom He has called to tend His flock. The professors, formators, faculty, staff, and of course all the seminarians play a role in their own way.

The formation process here is like turning a slab of marble into a beautiful marble sculpture. Each one of the “artists” applies the chisel in a different way to the man God is forming to be His priest, allowing anything that does not belong to be chipped away. It may hurt a bit, since the “raw material” is a living person, and it may not always look

exactly like the one being worked on had imagined it would. Despite this, God Himself is the Master Architect who has the ultimate guidance, and the instruments He employs at Saint Charles are used to create wonderful works of art for His priestly service.

In addition to life at the seminary, these past few years have given me a much clearer glimpse of the day-to-day lives of priests here in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our apostolate program has allowed me to work closely with many men who have been formed at the same seminary as I have, and they have faithfully worked in the Lord’s vineyard for years. Seeing much of their loving dedication has inspired me and formed me in a way which cannot be taught in a classroom. Thinking of all of this makes me excited to join the brotherhood that is the Philadelphia presbyterate in just a few short months—and our fraternity is strengthened by the tie we have in Saint Charles.

Of course, there has been plenty of change within the seminary itself in the time I have spent here. Classmates come and go, professors change, years of formation are given new names—and of course, the seminary campus has made the transition from Overbrook to Lower Gwynedd. Being at the old campus for seven years and the new for the last two, I think my classmates and I have a unique perspective on the transition. And the truth is that while it was genuinely difficult to leave Overbrook behind—with the buildings, the stories and the tradition which was attached to the place—the spirit which filled those hallowed halls is still very much alive today in our new ones. Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary is alive and well and will be so for a very long time.

As I find myself approaching a new “drastic change” in my life, transitioning from the seminary to the priesthood, I am filled with gratitude to almighty God for the gift of having been a Saint Charles seminarian. With its difficulties and its joys, the formation I have received here has been one of the great blessings of my life.

CONGREGATION OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI

On Saturday, February 15, seminarian Brother Alexander Mosko, C.O., was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Philadelphia by Archbishop Edward J. Adams.



RITE & ORDINATIONS



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

CONGREGATION OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI (CONT'D.)

◀ On Saturday, September 13, seminarian Brother Joshua Vargas, C.O., was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Philadelphia by Archbishop Edward J. Adams.

DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON, VA ▼

On Saturday, April 26, seminarians Alexander Solsma and Aaron Zanca (first and second from left) were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Diocese of Arlington, VA by Bishop Michael Burbidge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

rites & ordinations



DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN, PA ▲

On Saturday, May 17, seminarians Dominic Civitella, Tyler Davis, Tyler Loch, Anh Do Mai, Hy James Gia Ngô, and Jeffrey Tomczyk were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Diocese of Allentown, PA by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT, CT ►

On Saturday, May 17, seminarian Juan Colon was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT by Bishop Frank Caggiano.



rites & ordinations



◀ DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA

On Saturday, May 17, seminarian Andrew Heidelbaugh was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA by Bishop Timothy Senior.

DIOCESE OF LINCOLN, NE ▶

On Friday, May 23, seminarian Bradley Moss (left) was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate for the Diocese of Lincoln, NE by Bishop James Conley.

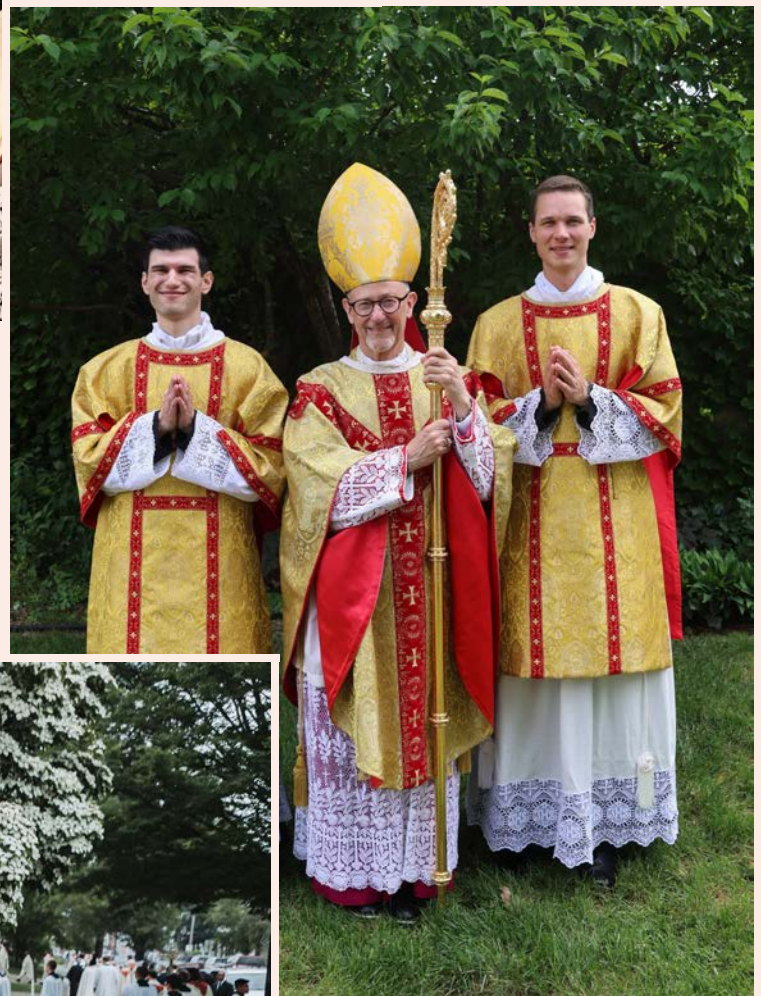


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHERN NEBRASKA REGISTER



◀ DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN, PA

On Saturday, June 7, seminarian Robert Rienzo was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Allentown, PA by Bishop Alfred Schlert.

rites & ordinations

ORDINATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WEBB

◀ ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

On Saturday, May 17, five seminarians from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia were ordained to the Priesthood in the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel. Father Robert Bollinger, Father Peter Nguyen, Father Przemyslaw Rozestwinski, Father Edward Town, and Father Richard Withers are pictured here with Archbishop Nelson Pérez and Bishop Keith Chylinski.

DIocese OF ARLINGTON, VA ▶

On Saturday, June 7, seminarians Timothy Banach, Emmanuel Carreño Garcia, Jordan Evans, John Meyerhofer, and Alfredo Tuesta were ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Arlington, VA by Bishop Michael Burbidge.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON



◀ CONGREGATION OF THE ORATORY OF ST. PHILIP NERI

On Saturday, November 15, seminarian Brother Alexander Mosko, C.O., was ordained to the Priesthood for the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri in Philadelphia by Archbishop Edward J. Adams.

rites & ordinations



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG, PA ▲

On Saturday, June 7, seminarians Cole Mase and Andrew St. Denis (first and second from right) were ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA by Bishop Timothy Senior, former Rector of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary.

DIOCESE OF GRAND ISLAND, NE ▶

On Friday, June 6, seminarian James Beran was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Grand Island, NE by Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt.



▼ DIOCESE OF LINCOLN, NE

On Saturday, May 24, seminarian Isaac Wahlmeier (fourth from right) was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Lincoln, NE by Bishop James Conley. Also pictured here with Father Wahlmeier are Bishop Keith Chylinski and Bishop Christopher Cooke, Auxiliary Bishops of Philadelphia.



PERMANENT DIACONATE ORDINATION ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

On Saturday, June 14, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez ordained Peter J. Anninos, James V. Coffey, Michael E. Connor, Charles D. Dern, Mario A. Gonzalez, Matthew J. Ruel, Kris Van Hees, and Michael F. Willcox to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The eight men are pictured here with Archbishop Nelson Pérez, Bishop Keith Chylinski, and Monsignor Gregory Fairbanks, Dean, School of Diaconal Formation.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

NOT THE END, BUT THE BEGINNING: A NEW CLASS OF DEACONS

By Deacon Matthew Ruel

Last June, our lives were forever changed by our ordination to the permanent diaconate—a day of profound joy and gratitude. After years of formation, prayer, and study, we were configured to Christ the Servant, beginning a journey whose meaning has deepened in the months since.

Our class of eight men walked this path together, becoming brothers through shared challenges, growth, and grace. Just as importantly, our wives became our strongest support—true partners whose sacrifices and prayers shaped our formation.

Each brother brought unique gifts:

- **Deacon Chuck Dern**, grounded by Geri's encouragement, reminded us that formation is about becoming men of service.
- **Deacon Kris Van Hees** and his wife, Kathy, modeled the harmony of balancing family, faith, and ministry.
- **Deacon Mike Connor** and his wife, Laura, showed how joy, humor, and shared wisdom sustained the journey.
- **Deacon Michael Willcox**, supported by Alice's prayerful presence, approached challenges with faith centered steadiness.

- **Deacon Mario Gonzalez** and his wife, Luz, witnessed perseverance and love for the poor in everyday life.
- **Deacon Jim Coffey**, with Felicia's musical gifts, demonstrated service through both study and charitable work.
- **Deacon Peter Anninos**, strengthened by Sue's encouragement, exemplified leadership rooted in humility and hard work.

As for me, I am deeply aware that my own journey was possible only through Rachel's steadfast love and sacrifice. Now in ministry, I feel an even deeper call to serve both my parish and my family.

The grace of ordination continues to unfold in our daily lives—in preaching, sacraments, and quiet prayer with our wives beside us. Though our class is unique, we know we are part of something far greater: Christ's ongoing work in His Church.

Our ordination was not an ending, but a beginning. We continue to grow, guided by the strength of our brotherhood, the support of our families, and the overflowing grace of God. May our service always lead others back to Christ, who called us and remains ever faithful.

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

ALUMNI JUBILEE MASS AND DINNER

The Priest Alumni Association hosted the Alumni Priest Jubilee Mass and Dinner on Tuesday, May 27 in our Immaculate Conception Chapel. Archbishop Nelson Pérez served as the main celebrant of the Mass. Father Christopher Rogers was the homilist from the Class of 2000, as it is tradition that the class celebrating 25 years ordained delivers the homily.

Father James Joseph Kelly, Ordination Class of 1950 (75 years ordained), and members of the Ordination Classes of 1975 (50 years ordained) and 2000 (25 years ordained) are pictured here on the steps of the chapel. Following Mass, a cocktail reception and dinner were held in our auditorium and refectory.



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB



ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

2025 ALUMNI PRIEST RETREAT

During the week of August 4-8, the seminary hosted the annual Alumni Priest Retreat, the first in Lower Gwynedd. Father Patrick Brady, Vice Rector and Ordination Class of 1993, served as the Retreat Master. Father Louis Bellopede, Father Gerald Carey, and Father Neil Sullivan chaired the retreat. Four seminarians assisted throughout the week. They are all pictured here in the Immaculate Conception Chapel.



NEWLY ORDAINED MASS

On September 10, Saint Charles Seminary's newly ordained came to campus to concelebrate the Community Mass at 4:30 p.m. with the seminary community. Father Edward Town (Archdiocese of Philadelphia) was the main celebrant and Father Alfredo Tuesta (Diocese of Arlington) served as the homilist. All the newly ordained men joined Father Redcay and the seminarians for the Rector's Dinner following Mass.

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

THE FITZGERALD FAMILY RESIDENCE HALL OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

On March 20, Father Patrick Brady, Vice Rector, announced that our theology residence hall will be placed under the patronage of St. Katharine Drexel and has been named The Fitzgerald Family Residence Hall of Saint Katharine Drexel.

The Fitzgerald Family Residence Hall of Saint Katharine Drexel was made possible through the generosity of Kathy and Ward Fitzgerald, benefactors who also sponsored the Chapel of St. Pio of Pietrelcina in the theology residence hall. The seminary is truly grateful for their support.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VATICAN MEDIA ©



The Fitzgerald Family Residence Hall Saint Katharine Drexel

A FIRM FOUNDATION

By Mr. Mark McLaughlin
Chief Financial Officer

In the Gospel of Luke 6:47-48 we find Jesus recommending we build our “house” on a firm foundation of rock so that when the flood comes, it could not shake the “house” because it had been well built.

I am happy to report that we are building for the future on a firm foundation. Being a responsible financial steward is often difficult. There are often unlimited wants but limited means. In fact, there is also an adage that says, “Accountants know the cost of everything, and the value of nothing.” I have also heard that the finance department should be called, “The Department of No.” Well, while still committed to a “firm foundation”, I am excited to share some news with you that might dispel any notion of the above.

As I write this article, we are nearing the completion of the annual audit the seminary’s 2025 financial statements, and we are more than one year removed from our historic relocation from Overbrook to Lower Gwynedd.

Our relocation to a smaller, newer, and more efficient campus provided an opportunity for the seminary to review all its 3rd party

service contracts for savings opportunities among Facilities, Dining, Security, and Information Technology.

Extensive requests for proposals (RFP’s) were launched for Facilities and Dining Services, and we sought assistance with vendor selection from representatives of our Building and Grounds Committee of our Board of Directors, administration, and staff, as well as our seminarians. I was, and continue to be, grateful for all the support provided by so many people to ensure a successful transition. The Seminary thought outside of the box and moved to a shared services models partnering with our neighbor, Gwynedd Mercy University for security services and with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for IT services.

Now that the dust has settled and we have had time to adjust to our new campus, I have been able to do some deeper analysis into the financial impacts of our move, and I am happy to report that the results are impressive.

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

Significant financial highlights comparing FY25 to FY24 include:

Cash Savings:	
Facilities – Utilities	(\$592K)
Facilities – Services	(\$475K)
Security - Services	(\$189K)
IT -Services	(\$54K)
Total Cash Savings	(\$1,310K)
Cash Investments	
Dining - Services	\$292K
Net Cash Savings	(\$1,018K)

These savings are real, they are permanent, and they place the Seminary in a strong position to reinvest in more programmatic efforts.

Some may recall that in 2016, the Seminary conducted a study regarding the long-term viability of the institution in conjunction with Grant Thornton. A consistent theme from benefactors was the cost of deferred maintenance at Overbrook and the desire for more of the fund-raising dollars to be spent on programmatic needs rather than infrastructure maintenance and repairs. Nine years onward we are now able to see concretely the impact the move has had on the operations of our beloved institution.

We have made significant programmatic investments in the following areas:

School of Theological Studies – We are thrilled that Carmina Chapp, Ph.D. is the new Dean of our School of Theological Studies where she will be making efforts to improve the school’s teaching content and invigorate our on-line learning presence to enroll students from across the country if not the world.

Moral Theology Department – We hired Nicholas Ogle, Ph.D. as Assistant Professor of Moral Theology at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary. He earned his Ph.D. and M.T.S. in Moral Theology from the University of Notre Dame, and a B.A. in Philosophy from George Fox University. Prior to joining the Seminary in 2025, Dr. Ogle served as a John and Daria Barry Foundation Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania’s Program for Research on Religion and Urban Civil Society. His scholarly work focuses on Catholic moral theology, with published articles in the Journal of Moral Theology, Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics,

and the Scottish Journal of Theology. He is a member of the Academy of Catholic Theology, New Wine New Wineskins, and the Society of Christian Ethics.

Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, NE – Because of our “firm foundation” we are thrilled to be able to send a class of seminarians to the IPF! This program 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 Trinity during their seminary years and beyond into active priestly ministry.

Vocational synthesis stage – We are now providing our transitional deacons with a six-month parish-based internship. This program gives our men a real world “practicum” in the many aspects of parish ministry. Additionally, it allows the host pastor to participate in the formation of our future priests. This is an exceedingly practical and highly valued experience which increases their confidence and competence in parish ministry.

External Affairs & Alumni Relations – The Seminary has been blessed to have an alumnus, Deacon Chuck Lewis, assigned as part-time assistant to our rector, Father Redcay. In this role, Deacon Chuck will help by providing assistance with external affairs and alumni relations. He will also provide counsel to the Seminary’s new Director of Advancement; Stephen Burns, CFRE and Event and Development Liaison Gina DeColli. Gina will handle the Seminary Golf Outing, the Award Dinner and the Seminary Appeal. Future development efforts are essential to help us further improve programming as well as responsibly maintain and sustain the infrastructure in which we have invested. We are thrilled to have them on the Seminary Team!

Depreciation, (a non-cash expense) will exceed \$1.4M annually going forward so another strategic priority for the Seminary is finding ways to plan for and fund future maintenance, repairs, and improvements.

I close this update hoping that you share the same renewed sense of hope and optimism I have for the future of the Seminary. I look forward to moving from a mind-set of sustainability to one of growth; expanding our programmatic offerings as well as the communities we serve.

AS EACH HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER, AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD’S VARIED GRACE.

-1 PETER 4:10

ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS

2025 GALA AWARD DINNER

On March 19, Kathy and Ward Fitzgerald were presented with the Saint Charles Borromeo Award at our 2025 Gala Award Dinner. Held in the Crystal Tea Room in Philadelphia, it was an opportunity to gather as friends and supporters of the seminary and its mission.

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



PHOTOS BY SARAH WEBB

2025 GOLF OUTING

The Seminary hosted its 12th Annual Golf Classic at Philadelphia Country Club.

More than 180 golfers participated, making it one of the largest golf outings in the Greater Philadelphia region. Both the silent auction and the live auction were very successful. We remain grateful to all our sponsors and our talented committee members for their support. The 2026 Golf Classic will be held on Monday, September 28 at Philadelphia Country Club.



IN MEMORIAM

BASED ON AVAILABLE DATA FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2025

LISTED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

DATE INDICATES YEAR OF ORDINATION



Reverend Stephen J. Baker, O.S.A.

1990 - Philadelphia

Most Reverend Herbert A. Bevard

1972 - Philadelphia

Reverend Louis C. Bier

1976 - Philadelphia

Deacon Peter H. Burghart

2001 - Philadelphia

Reverend Sylvan Capitani

1964 - Harrisburg

Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Carroll

1961 - Philadelphia

Reverend Andrew D. Ciferni, O. Praem

1968 - Philadelphia

Deacon Daniel N. DeLucca

1986 - Philadelphia

Deacon John J. Ellis, Sr.

1998 - Philadelphia

Reverend Edward J. Enright, O.S.A.

1973 - Philadelphia

Reverend James R. Flynn, O.S.A.

1972 - Philadelphia

Deacon Robert Frankenberger

1987 - Philadelphia

Deacon Thomas J. Hannan

2000 - Philadelphia

Deacon Thomas J. Horan

1987 - Philadelphia

Deacon Joseph E. Iannucci

1988 - Philadelphia

Reverend Myron M. Judy, O. Carm.

1963 - Philadelphia

Reverend Louis J. Kolenkiewicz

1993 - Philadelphia

Reverend Monsignor Nevin J. Klinger

1982 - Allentown

Reverend Michael A. Lipareli

1980 - Philadelphia

Deacon James Mahar

2011 - Philadelphia

Reverend Christopher H. McDermott, C.S.Sp

1981 - Philadelphia

Deacon Clement J. McGovern

1986 - Philadelphia

Deacon Jose M. Mendez

1989 - Philadelphia

Reverend Monsignor Daniel C. Mitzel

1981 - Harrisburg

Reverend Monsignor Gregory J. Parlante

1982 - Philadelphia

Deacon John J. Pfeifer

2017 - Philadelphia

Reverend Salvatore J. Pronesti

1967 - Philadelphia

Reverend Nicholas J. Rashford, S.J.

1971 - Philadelphia

Deacon Victor I. Seda

1981 - Philadelphia

Reverend James C. Sherlock

1964 - Philadelphia

Reverend Donato P. Silveri

1964 - Philadelphia

Reverend Charles J. Sullivan

1966 - Philadelphia

Reverend Nicholas R. Terico, O. Praem.

1989 - Philadelphia

Reverend John J. Tumosa

1969 - Philadelphia

Reverend Joseph T. Whalen

1971 - Allentown



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2026 ALUMNI PRIEST RETREAT

MONDAY, AUGUST 3 THROUGH FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026
FATHER THOMAS BETZ, O.F.M. CAP.
RETREAT MASTER

THE 2026 ALUMNI PRIEST RETREAT WILL BE HELD ON THE CAMPUS
OF SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO SEMINARY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION,
PLEASE VISIT WWW.SCS.EDU



SEMINARY GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026
PHILADELPHIA COUNTRY CLUB

SHOTGUN START AT 11 AM
COCKTAILS AND DINNER AT 4 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SCS.EDU/GOLF



SEMINARY GALA AWARD DINNER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2027 AT 6PM
THE IVY AT ELLIS PRESERVE
MONSIGNOR FRANCIS W. BEACH
NEWTON SQUARE. PA

2027 SAINT CHARLES BORROMEEO AWARD RECIPIENT
PAUL AND THERESA MURTAGH & TIM AND SUSAN GILLESPIE, EVENT CO-CHAIRS
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.SCS.EDU/GALA