

SUMMER 2017

# THE CROSSROADS



New Organ Dedication • Graduate Reflections • Ministry and Service



THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE • THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA



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*Theological College participates in the mission and responsibility of the bishops to provide for the people of God wise and holy priests close to the heart of Christ and consumed in his work of salvation. In affiliation with The Catholic University of America, Theological College assists seminarians in the task of vocational discernment and in the preparation for priestly life and ministry at the diocesan level, particularly as experienced in the United States.*

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*Above: Deacon Daniel Waruszeuski (4-T, Pittsburgh), left, at the Pastoral Supervisors Appreciation evening with his supervisor, Father Jim Proffitt, pastor of Saint John the Evangelist Parish in Severna Park, Md. (See story, p. 5.)*

*Cover: Twenty percent of Theological College's in-house seminarians volunteered for a week in Jonesville, Va., to work with the Appalachia Service Project. (See story, p.21)*

## ENGAGING THE DYNAMICS OF CONVERSION

In 1975, Pope Paul VI issued an apostolic exhortation on what he called the “new evangelization,” a phrase we hear so much today. In that important document, he wrote, “People don’t listen to teachers. They listen to witnesses and when they do listen to teachers it is because they are witnesses.” More recently, Pope Francis made the following comment in his typically direct fashion: “To be a priest is totally different from being a religious official. It is painful to see the metamorphosis from priest to religious official taking place little by little in many ordained ministers. Then the priesthood ceases to be the bridge, ‘the pontiff,’ and ends up as a mere function to be fulfilled.” In both these statements there is a challenge presented to the contemporary seminary. I believe that the contemporary seminary is challenged to prepare a future generation of diocesan priests who will be for everyone and everyday a “witness” and for everyone and everyday a “bridge.” At Theological College, this challenge guides and animates our formation program. To achieve this goal, Theological College seeks to assist each seminarian to engage the perennial dynamics of conversion: curiosity, conversation, confrontation, conversion, and commitment.

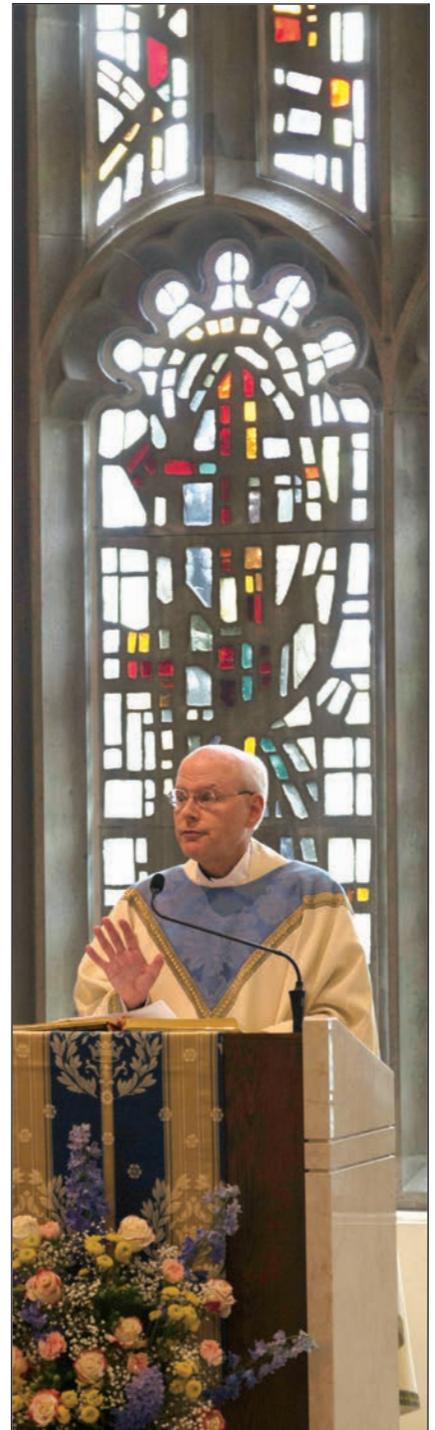
Each seminarian arrives at Theological College curious about the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood, evidencing excitement, energy, and enthusiasm. This curiosity emerges from family life and perhaps the inspiring witness of priests and religious and/or it is a curiosity rooted in a recognition of gifts for leadership or a deeply felt desire to serve others. Theological College celebrates this curiosity and welcomes each seminarian into conversations with spiritual directors and formation advisors. These conversations play a decisive role in enabling a seminarian to move from a naïve curiosity to a more informed and realistic understanding of his vocation. Inevitably, a seminarian will find himself confronted by unexpected challenges, whether they emerge in the classroom, in pastoral ministry, in community life, or their own private confrontation with the consequences of a commitment to a daily practice of prayer or the consequences of a commitment to a life of celibate chastity. These moments of confrontation are potential moments of grace and conversion leading a seminarian to become freer and more informed about himself and the vocation to the diocesan priesthood. Sometimes these moments of confrontation and conversion lead to the discovery that God is calling the seminarian to a different state of life. Oftentimes, these moments of confrontation and conversion lead to a deeper conviction regarding a vocation and a renewed commitment to evidence a readiness for ordination. The dynamics of conversion are fundamental to a successful discernment of a vocation and, in particular, a successful engagement of moments of confrontation accompanied by spiritual directors, formation advisors, pastoral supervisors, and classmates and will, in the end, allow God’s will to be revealed.

As Theological College enters into its second century of service to the Church, the challenges posed by Pope Paul VI and Pope Francis have been incorporated into the seminary’s formation program and their priorities impact the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral expectations that are placed before every seminarian. Theological College remains committed to preparing priests whose parishioners will experience them as “witnesses” and they will be eager to listen to them and to learn from them. Theological College remains committed to preparing priests who will be “bridges” for those who seek to draw closer to Jesus and His way, truth, and life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S. '73  
Rector



*Father McBrearity, P.S.S., delivering the homily at the end-of-year Mass on May 1, 2017.*

## CENTENARY CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE SULPICIAN SUPERIOR GENERAL

*“A century of ministry  
in priestly formation  
for which the  
U.S. Province of  
Sulpicians and your  
present community  
can be proud.”*



*Rev. Ronald Witherup, P.S.S., Superior  
General, Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice.*

Dear Father McBrearity,

On behalf of the General Council of the Society of the Priests of Saint-Sulpice, and in my own name, I am pleased to offer heartfelt congratulations to you and to the entire community of Theological College on the occasion of the seminary's centennial.

Theological College (then known as the Sulpician Seminary) was founded under the guidance of one of my predecessors as Superior General, Pierre Henri Garriguet, P.S.S., who was quite supportive of the American Sulpicians' efforts to make a wider impact on priestly formation in the United States. Associating the seminary as a house of priestly formation with The Catholic University of America has given it a unique niche in the history of priestly formation in the U.S. It is a century of ministry in priestly formation for which the U.S. Province of Sulpicians and your present community can be proud.

I myself had the privilege of serving briefly on the faculty of Theological College, from January 1985 to June 1986. What particularly impressed me about the formation community at the time was the dedication of both the faculty and the seminarians. I found the seminarians inquisitive, generous, and prayerful, as well as truly desirous of serving Christ and the Church. The Basselin Program also adds a unique dimension that marks the community life in special ways, and which shows the seminary's commitment to high academic standards in philosophy and theology.

In 2012, I had the privilege of conducting a canonical visitation to TC and was pleased and impressed that the seminary's high standards have been maintained. Your alumni, some of whom have become bishops and cardinals, have made a significant contribution to the life of the Church, another reason to laud the accomplishments of a century of service in the heart of the nation's capital.

As TC moves toward a new century of service in priestly formation, I assure you of our prayers and support from the General Council. I look forward to being present on campus in person to extend my sincere thanks and prayerful best wishes for the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald D. Witherup, P.S.S." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald D. Witherup, P.S.S.  
Paris, April 22, 2017

## TRANSITIONAL DEACONS: SERVANTS ON THE WAY



*Raymond Kalema, left, and Carlos Limongi, right, after their ordination.*

From March to June of this year, nine different dioceses had cause to celebrate as 11 Theological College seminarians made the passage from the lay to the clerical state, publicly professing their promises to obedience, celibacy, and prayer in their ordinations as transitional deacons. The first of these ordinations took place on March 11 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, celebrated by Bishop Thomas A. Daly of Spokane who conferred Holy Orders on **Raymond Kalema (Spokane)** and **Carlos Limongi (New York)** — both of whom offered reflections, below. Please join Theological College in congratulating these new deacons, as well as deacons **Maurice Moon** and **Jonathan Demma** from the **Diocese of Fort Worth** (ordained April 29), **Joseph Boykow** of **Paterson** (ordained May 13), **Nicholas Redmond** of **Richmond** (ordained May 20), **Wade Bass** and **Stephen Ingram** of **Dallas** (ordained May 20), **Rhett Williams** of **Charleston** (ordained May 26), **Jeffrey Chichester** of **Rochester** (ordained May 27), and **Andrew Clyne** of **Washington, D.C.** (ordained June 10).

### **Raymond Kalema**

**Third Theology, Diocese of Spokane**

Making this step to the diaconate ordination has not only made me ponder how God works in mysterious ways, but also attest to what Jesus said to his apostles in *Matthew 19:26*, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” My heart leaps with great joy and gratitude to God as my lifelong prayers are answered by our Lord, whose call to serve I heard so many years ago. I’m greatly humbled to be one of those he chooses today to help in his vineyard. My heartfelt thanks go to all my formation team both here at Theological College of The Catholic University of America and also back home in Uganda. I am grateful to my family, who always supported me in whatever decision I made in my life, and to Cardinal Blase Cupich, at whose invitation as bishop of Spokane I came to be a seminarian of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to my current bishop, Thomas Anthony Daly, for his paternal love and care extended to me and my



*Deacon Nick Redmond with Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo of Richmond, after his ordination.*

brother seminarians and also for accepting to ordain me deacon for the Diocese of Spokane. To all the friends, seminarians, priests, and religious with whom I have journeyed, I thank you for your significant presence in many moments of my life. Through the intercession of Mary, I pledge to follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus who came to serve and not to be served.

### **Carlos Limongi**

**Third Theology, Archdiocese of New York**

“It’s all about the journey,” many people say, but most journeys are made with the desire to get somewhere. For men in seminary formation here at Theological College, that somewhere is the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Along this journey, there are many stations — ministries, namely lector and acolyte, as well as receiving candidacy from the bishop — that make the path interesting and exciting. There is one station in particular that marks the point of no return: ordination to the diaconate, which is the first call to holy orders that a man can receive. It is the moment when a seminarian, a layman, becomes a member of the clergy; it is the beginning of a life surrendered in the promises of obedience, celibate chastity, and prayer. For me, this took place March 11 in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It was a day filled with many graces, immersed in a profound feeling of belonging, of being where I was supposed to be.

While being in formation for four years, with one more year to go before priesthood, there has always been a joy when looking to the future, to ordination as the fulfillment and fruit of all the discernment, work, studying, and praying I had done. As the day approached, however, that joy began to transform. This was the homestretch to ordination and I was just beginning to see the reality of what that meant: giving my whole life



*Deacon Wade Bass during the ordination with Bishop Edward J. Burns of Dallas.*

to the service of God, his Church, and his people. I began to desire even more tangible confirmation that this is what God was calling me to do. The Father, in his infinite mercy, granted me this confirmation within the ministries of which I am a part.

I saw myself doing ministerial work for the rest of my life and I felt happy. I was assigned to St. Peter’s Church, on Capitol Hill — a great learning experience. While in this parish, God gave me a beautiful gift, which helped reaffirm my vocation and it prepared me for diaconate ordination: several times while serving at Mass I found myself praying ardently for the people in the communion line — the young, the old, teenagers, young adults, parents with their kids... It was beautiful to see the people coming to Jesus and receiving him, even the young children, happily crossing their arms over their chests to receive a blessing from the priest or the deacon. I saw Jesus coming to them, touching them, at that moment, and I was certain I wanted to be a part of it. I wanted to be able to dispense God’s blessings upon the people of God; I wanted to help them on their journey to Christ. Furthermore, their faith and their piety strengthened and encouraged my own.

As happy as I am to be counted among those whom God has called, there is always the question of whether I’ll be a good deacon and, God willing, a good priest. Only time will tell. But I am encouraged by Thomas Merton, who wrote, “If God calls you to him, then he implicitly promises you all the graces you need to reach him. You must be blindly faithful to this promise” — and I am. It is all I pray for. My heart is open, my soul is willing, my hands are offered for whatever service the Father wants to use them. I trust in him who commands the steering of my course, and I pray each day that he grants me the love and the strength that I will need. Similarly, I pray that our Holy Mother will help me to love her son the way she did and, through that love, to love those whom he loves.

# PASTORAL SUPERVISORS APPRECIATION EVENING

By Mary Nauman

Theological College's annual Pastoral Supervisors Appreciation Vespers and Dinner, held on the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter the Apostle, Wednesday, February 22, 2017, celebrated with great joy and gratitude the men and women who have mentored our seminarians in their various ministries of pastoral service throughout the year. Boasting the largest attendance in many years, the evening began with vespers as the seminarians and their supervisors fulfilled Jesus' command to "pray always," thanking God for the Church founded by Jesus Christ, in the well-chosen opening hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." After chanting antiphons and psalms highlighting the teaching authority of the pope, an enlightening and uplifting reflection on our call to be authentic witnesses in service of the Gospel was offered by Kathi Kramer, director of pastoral formation. Her talk focused on the person of Peter whose "qualification for receiving the authority of Christ is not perfect obedience, but love," the same love which animates our call to discipleship, "to serve the world in Jesus' name." From Peter's "love-born authority," Kramer explained, each one of us asks God "to allow that love to bear fruit in our lives" as evidenced in acts of "humility, generosity, and radical hospitality," such acts in which the seminarians participated this year with the generous guidance of their supervisors.

Evening prayer was followed by a festive reception in Olier Hall, where the seminarians and their guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres and delightful conversation before partaking of

the sumptuous dinner in TC's beautifully decorated refectory. During the dinner, the theme of loving, authentic service echoed again as Father Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., rector of Theological College, awarded the Rev. Gerald L. Brown, P.S.S. Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry to Father Richard DeLillio, O.S.F.S., for his outstanding 20-year span of dedicated teaching service to the Church as an instructor of homiletics to our seminarians at The Catholic University of America. Father McBrearity quoted a St. Francis de Sales motto that summarized well Father DeLillio's priestly ministry: "Great opportunities to please God are infrequent, but turning little actions into great acts of praise for God happen all the time." Father McBrearity pointed out that Father DeLillio "turned the daily discipline of accompanying seminarians into the great act of praise to God" through his teaching, words, and example. After graciously accepting the award, Father DeLillio reflected upon God's goodness for receiving such an honor, especially since it was his privilege and delight to teach at Catholic University over the years. He remarked that another motto of St. Francis de Sales also characterized his classes through the years: "Be who you are and be that well as a testimony to the master craftsman who created you." Reminders of preaching with authenticity ensued: "Faith is local — go deeper; make the words fresh." Father DeLillio concluded his acceptance speech by remarking on the beauty of receiving such an honor, by emphasizing the purpose of his work: "Preaching is making connections — to make saints!"



*Faith is local —  
go deeper;  
make the  
words fresh.*

— Father DeLillio

*Father Richard DeLillio accepts the Rev. Gerald L. Brown, P.S.S. Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry from the rector, Father McBrearity.*

## THE KING OF ALL INSTRUMENTS: THE DEDICATION AND INAUGURAL RECITAL OF THE GERALD F. MULLER ORGAN

By Aaron J. Kelly  
Second Basselin, Diocese of Rochester

On Tuesday, April 4, 2017, the faculty, staff, and seminarians of Theological College welcomed a number of guests to our chapel to celebrate the dedication and inaugural recital of the new organ (see *The Crossroads*, Spring 2017, p. 6). The evening began with Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., rector, acknowledging Gerald Muller, D.M.A., who has served as the director of music for 18 years and will be retiring at the end of this year. It was through his dedication and hard work that the new organ became a reality. The seminary faculty decided that it would be fitting to dedicate the new organ to Muller in thanksgiving for his service at Theological College. On the evening of April 4, Father McBrearity blessed the organ, praying, “We, your people, joyously gathered in this church, wish to join our voices to the universal hymn of praise. So that our song may rise more worthily to your majesty, we present this organ for your blessing. Grant that its music may lead us to express our prayer and praise in melodies that are pleasing to you.”

Following the blessing of the Gerald F. Muller Organ, Daniel Roth performed an inaugural recital. Daniel Roth is the Organiste Titulaire of the Church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, France, where Father Jean-Jacques Olier founded the Society of Saint Sulpice. From 1974 to 1976, Daniel Roth was the Artist in Residence at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and taught at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. Roth is well known for his skill in improvisation. The recital consisted of five pieces focused around the theme, “Passion and Resurrection.” Roth played the “Fantaisie and Fugue in G Minor,” BWV 542 by Johann Sebastian Bach, “Prière” by César Franck, “Scherzo” from *Symphonie No. 2* by Louis Vierne, an original work, “Gloria Patri” from *Livre*

*D’Orgue Pour Le Magnificat*, and *Symphonie No. 6 in G Minor*, Op. 42, No. 2 by Charles-Marie Widor. The varied repertoire showed Roth’s incredible skill.

I once heard a quote attributed to Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, “To my eyes and ears the organ will ever be the king of instruments.” As I was listening to Daniel Roth perform, my mind kept going back to those words. The Gerald F. Muller Organ was constructed and installed by R.A. Daffer Church Organs, Inc., located in Jessup, Md. The organ is a hybrid, meaning it is both electric and pipe. The center keyboard contains eight stops that are pipes, and the pedal has one such stop, with a total of 634 pipes. The electronic part of the organ has more features than could ever be imagined. In addition to the countless different stops, the electronic part of the organ has a feature that can self-play approximately 300 different hymn tunes, it has a recording feature, it has 100 memory levels, and much more. When Daniel Roth was performing, I truly caught a glimpse of what the new organ can do. Daniel Roth’s

recital was a most fitting way to honor Muller, and to dedicate the new organ.

It has been a pleasure over the past few months to have the opportunity to play the new organ for house liturgies and for personal leisure and to learn the new instrument. Listening to Daniel Roth and being present for the dedication was very inspiring, especially because I get to play the new organ almost every day. I am reminded of the words of Albert Schweitzer, who said, “If you are called upon to play a church service, it is a greater honor than if you were to play a concert on the finest organ in the world... Thank God each time when you are privileged to sit before the organ console and assist in the worship of the Almighty.” The Gerald F. Muller Organ will be used for many years to aid the seminary community in offering worship to God. The blessing and dedication of the new organ pointed to the fact that, although it may not be the biggest and best organ in the world, it still is the king of the instruments, and has the ever-important role of assisting in the worship of God, the almighty father.



Daniel Roth, Organiste Titulaire of the Church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris, rehearses for the recital.

# THE END OF AN ERA: DR. MULLER RETIRES FROM THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:

By Tyler Santy  
Third Basselin, Diocese of Syracuse



*Dr. Muller with his Schola Cantorum choir group during practice in Providence Hall.*

At the year-end celebration in May, Gerald Muller, D.M.A., Theological College music director, was honored as he retires from his position at TC. Rev. Gerald McBrearity, P.S.S., rector, presented him with a Mary, Seat of Wisdom statue, custom-made with an accompanying plaque of recognition. Father McBrearity described what a gift it was to have such a talented choral leader and organist at the TC music helm: “Johann Sebastian Bach once said, ‘The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.’ What we remember and celebrate this evening is the fact that everything that Gerry has done in our chapel these 18 years has been for the glory of God and the refreshment of our souls. His departure marks the end of an era.” Recently, a new organ in the main chapel at TC was dedicated to this pioneering music director (see previous story).

A lifelong musician who studied at Julliard and has conducted and directed over 200 operas and musical theater productions, Muller has also served parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. He will continue to work as principal organist at Saint Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church in Greenbelt, Md. We offer here an interview by one of his Schola Cantorum choir members in the last days of the academic year, as tribute to this much-loved staff member and liturgical music mentor to hundreds of seminarians over almost two decades.

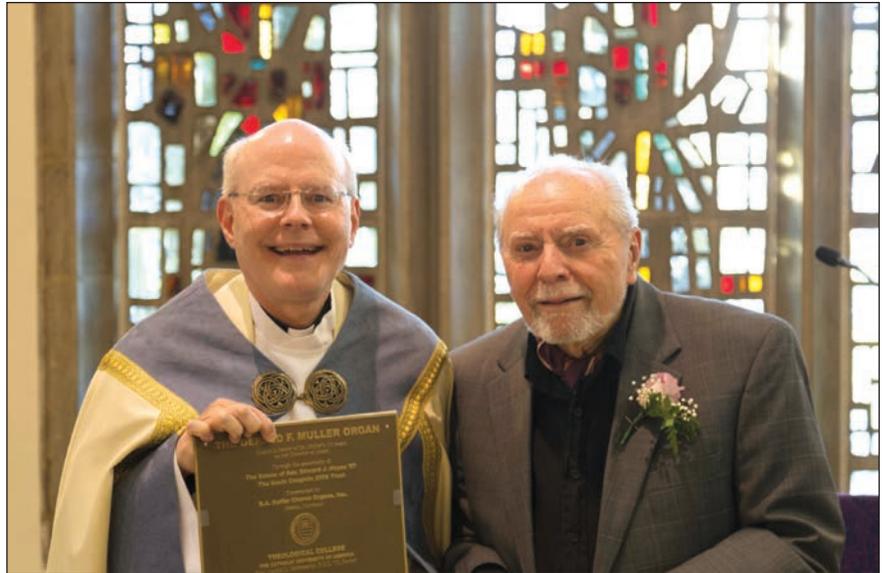
**Dr. Muller, you retired from your position at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C., after serving as the director of music for 17 years. How was it that you ended up coming to Theological College 18 years ago to take up the position of director of music again, this time in a seminary environment?**

After retiring from my position at St. Matthew, I took a position in New York for a few years before returning to D.C. to be on the faculty of the School of Music at The Catholic University of America. It was while I was on faculty, I think in the fall of either 1999 or 2000, that the dean of the school asked me to call Father David Thayer at Theological College. It turned out that he was looking to hire a director of music for the seminary and had called the University to see if anyone would be interested in taking the position. The dean of the school, a good friend of mine, recommended me since I had a history of directing music in a seminary from my time in formation with the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. In other words, it was familiar territory for me and so, after speaking with Father Thayer, I was hired and have been here now for 18 years as the director of music.

**When you first came to TC, what was the state of the music program and did you have an idea of how you wanted to grow and develop it moving into the future?**

*In the GIRM,  
and other documents  
on liturgical music,  
the phrase “sing or say”  
is often used, but  
preference is always  
given to singing.*

— Dr. Muller



*Father McBrearity presents the Gerald F. Muller dedication plaque to Dr. Muller after the organ blessing.*

The music program at TC had been up and down over the years since it was often lead either by Father Thayer, director of liturgy, or by the seminarians themselves. There was not much of an established program since the leadership changed quite regularly and there was no one who could devote the time necessary to structure a solid proposal. There were certain criteria laid down by people in the past; my main goal initially was to identify these criteria and eventually build up a music program for seminarians that was in accord with what the Church was asking. For this, it was necessary to look to what the Church says in her official documents, especially from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. I consulted both the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)* as well as *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, which was just coming out around that time.

**What, then, do you see as the main goal of the music program here at TC and in a seminary in general?**

I believe that all priests should be able to sing the Mass. In the *GIRM*, and other documents on liturgical music, the phrase “sing or say” is often used, but preference is always given to singing. With progressive solemnity, there are times when not everything is sung. But there are always parts that the *GIRM* encourages to be sung even in celebrations of the lowest solemnity, and of course everything should be sung in those of the highest. The main goal then is not only to make the liturgy beautiful, which many popes have affirmed, since it is the most important part of our life and of what the priest does, but also to teach and help all of the seminarians so that they can become singing priests.

**Could you give us an overview of what you see as the role of music in the liturgy?**

Singing in the liturgy is above all prayer. John says in his Gospel, “The Word was with God and the Word was God.” In liturgical music, we are using the Word to pray and communicate

God’s thoughts in what we do. All of the instructions say that liturgy should be beautiful and the primary way the Church says this is done is by singing the parts of the Mass.

**Over your time as director of music at TC, have you noticed a change in how seminarians and priests approach liturgical music?**

More and more, seminarians are now coming to TC with a better idea of what liturgy is and why music plays a special part in liturgy. It is not emphasized more than other parts or more than it should be, but it is an important one and the seminarians now seem to have a better grasp of that even before entering the seminary. More seminarians are also better prepared for singing and some have even learned to read and sing chant before coming. In general, there is a greater willingness on the part of the community to sing. And house music practices have improved in morale (there’s less groaning than there used to be!).

**What are some of your most memorable moments from your time as director of music at Theological College?**

The most memorable moments were probably in the early days. Most of the time was spent hectically trying to get a plan together and to find the directives but we also had to find a more suitable place for the music office since it was originally in the business office area — with the organ and all! Being able to use the old chapel in Providence Hall was a Godsend and a very fitting environment for a music studio. Other memorable moments include the liturgies for which we have been honored to sing, with various bishops, as well as preparing for some of the papal visits.

**As you prepare to retire from TC at the end of June, do you have any parting words for the seminarians and soon-to-be-ordained priests?**

Just keep doing what you’ve been doing, but do it better!

## PARTING REFLECTIONS FROM TC GRADUATES

*Just as Our Lord was always joined to God both interiorly and exteriorly, it is necessary that priests interiorly should be incessantly elevated to God. And whenever they converse with others exteriorly and they speak of God, they should not stop there but, on the contrary should elevate themselves to God through and in the presence of everything.*

— Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier  
(Manuscript IV, 37, Traité 201)

*The Crossroads* continues its annual column offering the wisdom of graduates reflecting back on their history at Theological College, as long or as brief as it may have been for those in the class of 2017. Their personal stories vary widely, but they witness to an experience of profound fraternity and unity of purpose in their studies and formation here at TC. Their judgements and sentiments look forward to ministries or studies with great promise for themselves and for the future of the Church in America.

Congratulations to the 14 graduates and may God bless their paths ahead!



*Deacons graduating in the Theological College class of 2017, top row from left: Anthony Amato (Rochester), Benjamin Garcia (Washington), Benjamin Barr (Pittsburgh), Miguel Melendez (Richmond), Harry Prieto (Bridgeport), Timothy Iannacone (Bridgeport), and Andrew Wakefield (Washington); bottom row, from left, Michael (Casey) Sanders (Louisville), Michael Baynham (Dallas), Matthew Lyons (Syracuse), Mark Kowalski (Richmond), and Daniel Waruszewski (Pittsburgh).*

## Reflections of a Theologian

### Deacon Anthony Amato

#### Diocese of Rochester

They told me five years ago that it would go by fast, but this was hard to believe when I was faced with four years of graduate theology ahead of me, as well as a pastoral year. Yet, here I am, at the end, on the cusp of ordination. Of course, this journey has been far more than just a succession of academic semesters and a countdown towards the completion of a degree. It has been a privileged time in which I have been allowed to focus entirely on the conformity of my mind, heart, and soul to Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest. There is no greater task or more worthy goal, and so I will be forever grateful for this opportunity that has been given to me by the faculty of Theological College and by the Diocese of Rochester.

As the anticipation and excitement build towards my ordination, I realize that they were right: time does indeed go by fast in the seminary. I have found that — although at times I have wished that it was a shorter process, or that time would go by faster — the formation of a priest, like the formation of any Christian soul, occurs most profoundly in the struggles of day-to-day life. It is there that I have learned to rely on “the providence of God that brought me here” (as it says above the doors of our building), as I have gradually given my will over to his supreme guidance. This is a process that never ends, and I can only hope, through God’s grace, that I will continually allow myself to become an instrument of his grace and salvation for the people whom I am called to serve in my diocese.

*Nos cum prole pia benedicat Virgo Maria.* May the Virgin Mary, with her loving Child, bless us.

### Deacon Benjamin Barr

#### Diocese of Pittsburgh

It was a sobering moment indeed when I came to the realization that, aside from the home in which I grew up, I have lived at Theological College as a member of the community longer than anywhere else during the course of my life. I was here first during my three years as a Basselin scholar and then, after some five years spent “in the world,” as a theologian. My life lived here spans almost two decades, beginning in 2002 and now concluding in 2017. During that time here, there have been many changes both within 401 Michigan Avenue and within the Church and the world outside of her walls, but my experience has been one of gratitude for what has remained unchanged. When I first came to Theological College, I found it to be a place that was both one of welcome, support, and encouragement, but also one of challenge, accountability, and formative, personal growth. The same is as true today as it was then. While my own journey along the road to priesthood has involved many unanticipated and at times not entirely welcome detours and roadblocks, I was always offered just the right balance of perspective and personal freedom to successfully navigate my way through and find myself again moving “along right paths.”

Those wandering paths now bring me to the brink of priestly ordination, a moment for which I had at times lost hope and for which I can never hope to be worthy. I can only say what an honor and privilege it has been to have shared my life and my journey with so many who have called Theological College home through the years, both faculty and students. I am given cause for hope to know that God has called and will continue to call such holy men to serve the Church as priests, and that Theological College exists to form those men after the heart of Jesus Christ.

I am grateful as well to the staff who have served our every need with such kindness and solicitude. The words of Psalm 133, so often mentioned in reference to the efforts of those devoted to common life in the Lord, have never seemed more appropriate than they do now, as I conclude formal priestly formation and prepare to enter into active priestly ministry: “*Ecce quam bonum et quam jucundum habitare fratres in unum!*” — “Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity!” May the unity that we have shared, the fraternity that we enjoyed, bear fruit in an increase of unity and love for the Lord among the faithful, and serve to inspire others to answer his call to priestly ministry.

### Deacon Michael Baynham

#### Diocese of Dallas

Jesus opens the eyes of the blind so that they may worship the Father in spirit and in truth. My years at Theological College have been about just that. Through formation and study here, Jesus has opened my eyes that I may see the truth: the truth about his love for me; the truth about myself, my vocation, my past, present, and future; my strengths and weaknesses. Through working with my formation advisor, spiritual director, and through the countless resources made available to me at TC to become the best priest I can be, I have come closer and closer to seeing myself and the world around me in spirit and in truth. While it has sometimes been difficult and even painful to see the truth, this new-found sight is what will enable me to be effective and fulfilled as a priest. I am forever grateful to the faculty at Theological College and at Catholic University for leading me through my fears and doubts and into the confidence of God’s providence.

The priest has a unique place in our world. Standing in the person of Christ the Head, the priest has the opportunity to see what God sees: God’s people gathering in worship of their Lord, the contrite sinner humbly asking for God’s forgiveness, the dying Christian placing all hope in Christ. But a priest who sees only what God sees is not nearly as helpful to his people as a priest who sees as God sees: with eyes of mercy, love, and patience. I believe that TC has been an essential instrument of God’s grace in opening my eyes, so that I may see not only what God sees, but, in spirit and in truth, to see as God sees.

## Deacon Benjamin Garcia

### Archdiocese of Washington

After pursuing many years of formation in religious life at different seminaries, arriving at Theological College was quite an experience. At first, it was hard to adjust, but as the years progressed, with the continual help of the faculty and my peers, I discovered that TC is a good place for formation. It is not the place for all, nor is it a perfect place, as no seminary is. I had some struggles, but in all cases the faculty openly listened and found common points to share to solve the problems. They are great models of patience and charitable care who help the seminarians to see with clarity and to accept corrections when needed, while allowing each individual to find his way as an adult. In this sense, TC is the place for men who have lived a bit, who can learn to manage their schedules, and who know they need to pray but at the same time require some proper freedom to act and to grow in self-formation. This happens at TC through peer interaction but also through interaction with the faculty. The formation includes careful reading of the person and always helping the individual to make decisions using his own gifts. This is something crucial for us as future diocesan priests — we have to be able to see our virtues, faults, errors, and deficiencies and work with them as adults.

As future diocesan priests, we also have to learn how to use our time wisely and know that prayer is essential and that we are ordained for the people of God and not for ourselves. The faculty is continually aware that they are assisting those who are to serve God and his people, in a certain isolation and privacy that requires proper discernment, boundaries, and self-awareness. This is accomplished with the help of God through a good spiritual director and priestly fraternity. The seminary allows all these qualities to flourish and grow in each of us as we go through formation, to one day serve at a parish for the good of souls and the glory of God and his Church.

## Deacon Timothy Iannacone

### Diocese of Bridgeport

During my time at Theological College, I have been intellectually assisted by Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier, the founder of the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice. In one of his most compelling analogies, Father Olier states that the soul is like a bronze statue being cast in a perfect mold. When the soul is removed from the mold, it remains rough, unfinished, and unrefined, ready to be gently completed with the expert use of a chisel. In keeping with this analogy, Theological College has taught me to address challenges in my life not only gently, but through a gradual process that recognizes growth is rarely an overnight process.

I am most grateful not only to the faculty and staff at Theological College, but to my formation advisor and spiritual director. Both have taught me not only to deepen my spiritual life, but to hone my skills within the dimension of human formation — indeed, one of the greatest highlights offered at Theological College.

I will always be thankful for my time at Theological College,

where the formation program inspired me both to be myself and to open myself up to others. Although challenges certainly lie ahead, I am confident that, as I leave Theological College, I have been equipped with the tools necessary to be an effective priest, God willing, and that every soul I encounter will be taught and guided for the sanctity and building up of the body of Christ.

In conclusion, I am again reminded of Father Olier, whose words describe exactly what Theological College has sought to teach me: “It seems to me that this should be the greatest desire of priests and if the bishop admonishes them at their ordination to imitate what they have in their hands, *Imitamini quod tractatis*, it is an order to place before their eyes the principal model they should manifest in the obligation they have to imitate Jesus Christ in the state in which he shows himself to them in the most holy Eucharist.”

## Deacon Mark Kowalski

### Diocese of Richmond

Since entering the seminary at Theological College in 2011, it has been a wonderful home full of many joys, challenges, growth, formation, and friendships, for all of which I am most grateful. This community, along with the surrounding Catholic area including Catholic University and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, has truly been a place to fall more in love with Jesus Christ and his Church and to prepare for life as a priest back home in the Diocese of Richmond. In discerning this vocation and journeying through formation, I have come to know myself better, I have learned so much from brothers, faculty, and teachers, and I have seen the incredible impact a priest can have on others. I hope and pray that, with the help of his grace, I will be able to serve God’s people in a fruitful way.

TC has certainly provided a formation and an environment to do this well. For Father Brown, P.S.S., and Father McBrearity, P.S.S., the two rectors who shepherded our community during my time at TC, I am very grateful, along with Father Thayer, P.S.S., my advisor, and all the faculty and staff who have faithfully helped to carry out the mission of forming priests for the Church today. For all the professors who taught us everything we know, for all of my pastoral supervisors who provided fantastic opportunities for ministry, and for those who guided me in spiritual direction, I am most grateful as well.

I am also thankful for the many opportunities of leadership and service in the house over the years. One of the things I will certainly miss the most is the community. There are too many good stories to tell and a lot of great memories to look back upon, but I look forward with so much joy to being back in the Diocese of Richmond, to presiding at the Eucharist, to hearing confessions, to anointing the sick, to preaching and teaching in the parish, to simply being a priest of Jesus Christ, and the list goes on and on. Thank you, TC, for everything!

## Deacon Matthew Lyons

### Diocese of Syracuse

My time at Theological College as a seminarian has been a period of personal growth and formation for the priesthood. Like all Catholic seminaries, the mission of Theological College is to form men to be good, holy priests to serve God and his Church. My call to the priesthood was not a personal career choice, but a call from God to step into this specific role in his Church. Whenever the Lord calls us, he always gives us the grace and means to attain it. That is where TC came in, providing the environment to continually say “yes” to God in this vocation by providing the spiritual guidance, instruction, and community that allowed the Holy Spirit to form me. No man can ever say he is one hundred percent ready to handle perfectly all the challenges of the priesthood, but he can say that Christ is in his heart, always there to guide him in all things. It is only after spiritual, human, intellectual, and pastoral formation at Theological College that I can say that I am resolved to be united more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, with the help of God.

## Deacon Miguel Melendez

### Diocese of Richmond

My time at Theological College has gone by so fast! Perhaps this is because there is always something to do or to anticipate: the formal dinners, the rector’s conferences, that 12-page paper due for Father Begg (Archdiocese of Washington priest and Catholic University scripture scholar), or hanging out with friends and family, as well as some serious soul searching in the TC chapels so conducive to prayer. All great experiences, all contributing to my formation as a priest.

One thing I learned at TC is that, although I was in formation in a period when I was preparing to start a new life, the world kept going on around me. Two presidential elections occurred. One pope retired and a non-European pope was elected. And, personally, two close priests I knew and my last remaining grandparent passed away, not to mention my friend and family weddings, my dad being ordained a permanent deacon, my brother and sister both meeting and marrying their current spouses, and myself becoming a godfather, twice!

And while all these events were occurring on the outside, TC on the inside remained the same, loving community it has been through the years. I remember returning from my first theology summer assignment, entering the 4th Street entrance with (now) Father Matthew Gworek (Archdiocese of Hartford), our luggage overflowing as we were moving in for the school year, when we met Father Blanchette, P.S.S, and Father McBrearity, P.S.S, who greeted us with the warmest smiles and gestures, letting us know that they were in the presence of greatness (a Sulpician way of saying, “We love you guys”). This is something I’ve experienced during my entire time at TC: a charitable hospitality extended by our priests and formators who care for us as their own sons, wanting the best for us as men who are eagerly discerning our vocations, and who quietly pray for us to become saints as they live their daily lives in and out of TC.

This hospitality spread to us as seminarians and staff and found its staple in community life and service to the Church and the greater Catholic University and Washington communities. The Iron Seminarian competition was always one of my favorites, though I never made it past the second round of the tournament. (I could never understand how seminarians were so awfully good at Ping-Pong, pool, and darts...) The food and banquets put on by Sodexo and the larger TC community were always exquisite: Mr. Sunder Michael, Ms. Paulette Fullard, and the entire Sodexo staff will forever have a place in my heart, not just because of the food they prepared, but for their kindness shown day in and day out as they cared for all of our needs. And probably most importantly, I am thankful to my seminarian brothers, who challenged me and cheered me on to be who God created all of us to be: above average. One particular memory that will stay with me was the 2016 “snowmageddon” epic snowball fight in the 4th Street parking lot with (now) Rev. Cody Ford, Rev. Mr. Mark Kowalski, Mr. Rhett Williams, Mr. Walter Genito, Mr. Matthew Brown, and Rev. Mr. Michael Baynham.

A significant amount of my time was also spent in mini-communities, such as the *Jesu Caritas* group, the Social Justice Committee (SJC), and our own particular resident hallways. *Jesu Caritas* was a staple and helped me know and pray with guys I might not have otherwise known. The SJC gave me a healthy non-academic outlet and helped me to know how generous the community is here at TC in and outside of the SJC. And finally, it was always good “coming home” to the different living areas we formed in the hallways. While I was never a part of the famed “Hartford” living area, I was a part of “Richmond Row,” later dubbed, “Southern Comfort,” on the third floor.

All in all, between the challenging academic load at Catholic University and the formation program at Theological College, including my pastoral assignments in Richmond, Washington, D.C., and Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Laurel, Md., I feel I was adequately formed to discern and prepare for the priesthood. Thank you, Theological College, my seminarian brothers, and all those who have prayed for and supported me throughout this journey.

## Deacon Harry Prieto

### Diocese of Bridgeport

Intense prayer and reflection, study, discernment, and growth are the words that come to mind when I think of my experience at Theological College while preparing for the mission to “go and make disciples of all nations” (*Mt.* 28:19).

In my resolve to grow as a leader and minister in the Christian community — striving to be not only “*alter Christus*” but also “*alter Iesus*” — the seminary has provided an environment conducive to an intense spiritual life. In particular, communal prayer and worship, personal meditation, the reading of Scripture, and participation in the sacraments have animated my spiritual experience, and served as a basis for all other dimensions of formation. Through these, I have experienced the movement of the Spirit guiding my vocational journey and discernment.

The formation program at Theological College, in its depth and breath, has facilitated a dialogue within a lively intellectual atmosphere, much to the enhancement of my ministerial and ecclesial preparation. Particularly, attending The Catholic University of America presented a unique opportunity for study and reflection, for increasing my knowledge of Scripture and my understanding of the Christian faith, and for immersing myself in the rich intellectual tradition of the Church and its various possibilities for pastoral applications in the Christian communities of today.

The manifold growth that I have experienced at Theological College — personally, spiritually, intellectually, and pastorally — will no doubt assist me in serving the Christian community. As I complete this chapter of formation, I am grateful to God for such a precious time of grace and discipleship. With hope and confidence, I now prepare to begin full-time service to the faithful, with Christ, the good Shepherd, as my inspiration and model.

### Deacon Michael (Casey) Sanders

#### Archdiocese of Louisville

Although I have only been here since September 2016, this is not my first time at Theological College. I was blessed to be able to study philosophy here before moving on to The Pontifical North American College for theological studies. Three years later, I find myself back at TC, pursuing a J.C.L. (a degree in canon law). My time here in 2011–2013 was a cherished time, and it was exciting for me to return under the rectorship of Father McBrearity, P.S.S. — he was my spiritual director when I was here initially, and I consider him a most valuable mentor in my journey toward the altar. Being ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on May 27, I have not only

Father McBrearity to thank for that, but also the Theological College faculty for helping to shape me after his Heart during the three years in total I will have spent here. The faculty members clearly care about each and every one of the seminarians and are fully committed to and engaged in ensuring that we all discern what it is that God is calling us to as they assist us to follow him, courageously and confidently. Thank you, TC! *Ad multos annos.*

### Deacon Andrew Wakefield

#### Archdiocese of Washington

When I look back on my four years at Theological College, I am flooded with memories that will remain with me as I move into priestly ministry. The Sulpician prayer begins by saying, “O Jesus, living in Mary, come and live in your servants,” and I believe these words encapsulate what TC has been for me. It has been a home where I have come to see Jesus living in my life — through all the experiences, challenges, joys, and relationships formed in the seminary — and always in tandem with our Blessed Mother, who has arranged these years under her loving gaze.

I am leaving TC with so many wonderful recollections. I have enjoyed participating in the life of the house through the music program as a member of the Schola, as well as with the student government and social justice committees over the years. There was also so much going on in the house — speakers, evenings of recollection, special liturgies, house banquets... Life was always very full at TC! The Sulpicians take great care with our formation, and working with the faculty, especially Deacon McCormack in formation and Father Blanchette, P.S.S., in spiritual direction, has allowed me to better under-



*Father McBrearity with the graduating class of 12 deacons, just after blessing their class gift, a Mary Queen of Heaven statue, now installed in the interior courtyard.*

stand my own strengths and weaknesses, particularly regarding the various pastoral opportunities that have been part of formation. I am grateful to both of them for their patience, encouragement, and support over the years. Apostolic placements at Holy Redeemer Parish where I served as a deacon, L'Arche, and Georgetown University Hospital have been highlights for me, as well as many of my courses at Catholic University and participating in the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius during one of my summers, which was deeply enriching.

All of these experiences helped me better understand the unique role that priests play in the lives of the people of God. I have come to better understand how the Lord is always at work in our midst, making himself known, often in unexpected ways. And I have been blessed with the gift of sharing these years in the seminary with a diverse group of brothers who desire to know the Lord, some of whom will be my lifelong friends and confidants. I treasure these friendships and will certainly miss life at TC after ordination. It is a wonderful community — engaging, joy-filled, curious, and always striving to encounter the Lord Jesus living in his servants. Thank you, TC!

### Deacon Daniel Waruszewski

Diocese of Pittsburgh

“Knowing what you do now, if you had the chance would you still choose Theological College for theology?” Recently, my bishop put this question to me during a check-in meeting. It caused me to pause and to reflect on my four years here at TC. I proudly told him that I still thought that, of all the options we had, TC was the best, and that I learned much academically and in advisement, as well as outside of the classroom.

Theological College's laid-back environment gives the seminarians the opportunity to explore their formation in their own way. I have made some of my best friends here, including in *Jesu Caritas* groups, chairing the Prayer and Worship Committee, assisting in praise and worship small groups with the students of Catholic University, meeting many religious aspirants in Catholic University classes, and being involved with the formation of middle and high school students at my parish. I have also enjoyed participating in intramural sports, biking, and being part of the first TC Vianney Cup championship team. All of these experiences were made possible by the freedom and trust we were given at Theological College, to be agents of our own formation. As I look back on my time here, I see how TC has become a home away from home. I have learned the importance of being pastoral and I have learned how, when we lean on the Lord, he always provides. Though I've learned many lessons, what will stay with me the most is that God loves me for who I am, not what I do. As I journey forth from TC, I hope and pray that under our new leadership, it will continue to be a shining light, guiding future generations to Christ.

“Trust the providence that brought you here.”

## Memoirs of a Basselin

Anthony Carona

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Thesis:** “John Searle and Thomas Aquinas on the Immateriality of the Mind”

**Director:** Gregory T. Doolan, Ph.D.

When I was asked to apply for the Basselin Scholars Program in Washington, D.C., after a couple of years of college seminary in Dallas, my first thought was one of reservation, one of thoughts about the family and friends I would have to leave behind if I accepted. Now approaching the end of my time at Theological College, I can look back with all the clarity hindsight affords and I am struck with gratitude for the many blessings the past three years have provided me and God's providential care in leading me here.

The highlight of my first year was the two-semester course on metaphysics offered by Gregory T. Doolan, Ph.D. In this class, my mind was stretched to new limits when considering themes like substance and the attributes of God. Though speculative in nature, these notions have permanently colored my approach to questions of ethics and human nature and will forever impact the way I think about God and the world he has created. I recall once complaining to the professor that the subject matter contained many things that were difficult to imagine. To this he replied in a way that I will never forget: “That's because for this kind of knowledge you don't use your imagination or senses, but your intellect.” This helped give new meaning to the Basselin motto: “*Ex umbris et imaginibus in veritatem*” — “Out of shadows and images into the truth” (Plato).

My second year began with the visit of our Holy Father Pope Francis to the University. I have never experienced anything like the electric enthusiasm that filled the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception's Great Upper Church when he processed down the aisle between thousands of cheering seminarians and young religious. His message, in the context of Junipero Serra's canonization, was, “Always forward,” a theme I continue to unpack. It was also during this time that I began thinking seriously about my master's thesis topic — a rewarding yet challenging endeavor that I have only recently completed.

In all, I am struck by the great and long-lasting friends that I have made over the past few years. I owe a special devotion to the Basselin College with the deep fraternity and untold hours of cheerful yet profound conversation it provided. I am also appreciative of the house at large for sustaining me and constantly keeping morale high. I owe a word of thanks to Father McBrearity, P.S.S., for always being an available and trustworthy guide, and also to Father Blanchette, P.S.S., who has helped me navigate the spiritual life and crucially guided me into an appreciation of the work of the Virgin Mary, especially in the heart of the priest. I offer a special thanks to Tyler Santy, my one classmate in the graduating class of 2017, who has always been a faithful companion and whom I will miss dearly. May

God bless you in whatever his providence holds for you. As I prepare to move on to theology studies at a new seminary, I approach it with the same optimism and enthusiasm I had upon first coming here, yet I will forever hold in my heart the fond memories made at Theological College and the life altering lessons I was fortunate enough to have learned at Catholic University.

### Tyler Santy

Diocese of Syracuse

**Thesis:** “The Neo-Thomists and Jan Aertsen:  
On the Transcendental Status of Beauty  
in the Thought of Thomas Aquinas”

**Director:** Gregory T. Doolan, Ph.D.

My time here at Theological College in the Basselin Scholars Program has truly been a life-changing experience, and I will forever be indebted to Theodore Basselin and his generous gift, which made this program possible. I arrived at TC in the fall of 2014, ready to begin not only my time studying philosophy as a Basselin but also my first semester in the seminary, having

just completed two years studying physics at LeMoyne College. Needless to say, there was much to adjust to during that first semester: a new university and major, spiritual direction, formation advising, and the ever-changing calendar of events and formal dinners, just to name a few. In this regard, I am thankful to my diocesan brothers, the other Basselins, and my classmate, Anthony Carona, for their help during this time of transition but most important for all of the friendships that have developed during my time here. I am also grateful to all of the professors I have had in the School of Philosophy at The Catholic University of America and particularly my thesis director, Gregory T. Doolan, Ph.D. They not only taught a difficult subject with clarity and enthusiasm but also instilled in me a great love and appreciation for philosophy in general. Above all, I am grateful to God for having blessed me with this time at TC, which has taught me the importance of good human and intellectual formation as well as the necessity of developing a deep spiritual life.

*“Alter alterius onera portate, et sic adimplebitis legem Christi” —  
“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”  
(Gal. 6:2). Deo gratias.*



The 2016-2017 Theological College Basselin scholars. Ph.L. graduates Anthony Carona (far left) and Tyler Santy (far right), flank the group.

## THE NEW HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: “AN INSTRUMENT OF GRACE”

By Elmer Herrera-Guzmán  
Second Theology, Diocese of Dallas

We welcome Hispanic Affairs as a new standing committee at Theological College. A lot of work was poured into making this moment happen. However, no one can take away the humble beginnings of this endeavor, with seminarians gathering for night prayer once a week. Some of them would also give a few dollars to purchase food and talk with each other in Spanish. Their goal was to practice the language and to share in the Hispanic culture. Their initiative led to the establishment of an ad hoc committee, known as the Latino Ministry Committee and later the Hispanic Affairs Committee. The ad hoc committee took up the challenge to make an organized commitment towards facing the cultural challenge in the American Church of today. As a test, the ad hoc committee fulfilled its goals and it drafted the foundation for the many possibilities ahead. The ad hoc status, however, became a limitation to the true potential of Hispanic Affairs. It needed to be a standing committee in order to give it a voice by being able to vote in the Student Government Association. Becoming an established committee would also mean a better support system from the faculty and students as it would enable other members of the community to hold office.

We created a sub-committee to work for this purpose, with Rev. Mr. Mark Kowalski, Daniel Sessions, Mark Garrett, Rev. Mr. Michael Baynham, and myself, Elmer Herrera-Guzmán. I also was chair for the Hispanic Affairs Committee Fall 2016–Spring 2017, and I experienced the need to elevate the com-

mittee. After answering many questions, working on the logistics, and talking to the whole house, we were able to convince 55 seminarians to vote “Yes” on March 22, 2017. This two-thirds majority vote confirmed Hispanic Affairs as a standing committee.

Later, on April 7, the house voted in new leaders to represent each of the four committees as well as the future Student Government Association president. The house elected Jaime Maldonado-Avilés (1-T, Hartford) for the chair of the Hispanic Affairs Committee. He will be the first to hold this office. He also inherits a great challenge since the early stages are crucial for the proper foundation of a strong committee that can help all our brothers. Realizing the challenge ahead, the newly elected committee chair said, “This is a precious opportunity! We have to formally immerse ourselves as seminarians in the beautiful yet complex call to shepherd the Latino communities across our dioceses. With the intercession of our Lady, the Hispanic Affairs Committee looks forward to becoming a source of enrichment to our formation.” He also gave a glimpse of his own hopes for the committee: “The committee, in its essence, is a collaborative effort in which we learn from and teach each other, always guided by committed formators. With complete trust in the Holy Spirit, this new forum can be an instrument of grace for seminarians, faculty, and all the families that one day will be accompanied by the future priests currently in formation at TC.”



*Seminarians vote to formally include the Hispanic Affairs Committee in the Student Government Association.*

## SEMINARIAN MINISTRIES

*God continues to seek allies  
and men and women  
capable of believing and  
capable of remembering,  
recognizing themselves as  
belonging to His people  
in order to cooperate  
with the creativity of  
the Holy Spirit.*

— Pope Francis  
(March 25, 2017)



Patrick Judd, first-year Basselin from the Diocese of Charleston.

At Theological College, the Pastoral Ministry Program, which is an integral part of formation, offers dozens of potential assignments for seminarians to choose from to minister to those in need. The Social Justice Committee (SJC) also provides inspiration and possibilities with its various proposed outreach projects. And, of course, each seminarian may follow the call of the Holy Spirit as occasions to serve arise on his individual path. Here we present stories of ministries in these three categories — service in an assignment at a local retirement and nursing home, SJC’s annual diaper drive and spring charity collection, and a seminarian’s language class for the Sodexo staff.

### Pastoral Ministry with the Little Sisters of the Poor

By Patrick Judd  
First Basselin, Diocese of Charleston

The Little Sisters of the Poor has earned widespread national respect not only for their willingness to stand for religious freedom, but also for their extraordinary service to the Church and her mission. The Little Sisters continue the mission of their founder, Saint Jeanne Jugan, to offer the elderly of every race and religion a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself.

I had the great honor to spend my pastoral assignment last semester at the Little Sisters of the Poor’s Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C. I would meet weekly with three retired priests from the Archdiocese of Washington in residence at the house: Father Charles Green (’95), Monsignor Thomas Duffy, and Monsignor Paul Langsfeld (B ’72; recipient of TC’s 2014 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award). Although this was supposed to be my ministry, I found that I was not the primary minister in these meetings. I had the pleasure of being ministered to by these three wise and experienced priests. Each man spent many years in parish life, some in seminary work, and some in administrative work. Each priest had a different vocation story. And each priest shared with a young seminarian, who has so little ministerial experience, reflections on a life spent in ministry. I would like to relate three such experiences of how they ministered to me.

One priest shared with me how he as a seminarian met Padre Pio in the 1950s. I was awe struck that the man sitting in front of me not only met, but served Mass for one of the most heroic saints of the 20th century. It forced me to step out of my own immediate Catholic experience and realize that the saints are not characters from fables, but real people who lived and walked on this earth. I will never forget how this elderly priest shared his own experience of walking with a saint.

Another great experience was when one of the priests helped me with some of my philosophy homework on Kant and Aristotle. I asked him to clarify a difficult reading which I was having trouble understanding. The priest eloquently and excitedly explained the differences in the difficult philosophical texts. The priest put aside his time to sit down and show how philosophical study is so necessary for ministry as a priest. He applied abstract ethical theories to real life priestly ministry. I have no ministerial experience yet to be able to draw from in order to see certain correlations, but this priest was able to illustrate, using his own experiences, the importance of my studies.

My final story is perhaps the most edifying for the priestly vocation. One priest was sharing how his day had been particularly difficult and painful. He paused and pointed to the altar in his room and said, “Patrick, I would not be able to do any of this, I would not be able to get through a day, I would not be able to put up with any of this pain, if I were not able to celebrate Mass at that altar every morning.” I was blown

away by the sincerity with which he communicated to me the source and summit of his faith and vocation. He recognized, after a lifetime of priestly ministry, that nothing was possible without a deep and personal devotion to the Eucharist. He was so in love with the Mass that he knew he could do nothing without the grace of our Lord.

These priests are no longer in a parish setting; yet, they are still in pastoral ministry. They ministered to me, a young seminarian with a romantic and glorified view of the priesthood. They did not tear this view down; rather, they brought reality to it. They showed the same zeal and love of the Church after decades of priestly ministry that a young seminarian would have after three years of seminary. Whether it was sharing their experience of walking with a saint, helping me with philosophy homework, or communicating a deep love for the Eucharist, these priests profoundly affected me. They showed me, in a real way, that the priest must suffer. But, in the same way, they revealed that the reward that awaits brings glory to suffering. Indeed, my time with these wise priests has taught me the truth of *Proverbs* 19:20: “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise.”



*Joe Moreshead at the seminary spring blood drive for which Inova reported they successfully collected blood from 31 donors — faculty, staff, seminarians, and McCormick Pavilion tenants.*

## Annual Diaper Drive

By Joseph Moreshead  
Second Pre-Theology, Diocese of Portland

Every year, the seminarians at Theological College pool their energy and resources so that together they can make a generous deposit to the DC Diaper Bank. You heard me right: the diaper bank. Not only is our nation’s capital home to the Treasury Building, the White House, and the Capitol Building, it is also home to an entire warehouse of diapers where families in need can get supplies for their children. This organization was founded seven years ago after Mrs. Corrinne Cannon had her

first child and realized how difficult parenting could be. If parenting was so difficult for her with all the resources she had to draw on, how much harder it must be for parents who were poor, who didn’t have that support and those resources! In 2010, the Diaper Bank was born. Donations began rolling in, the project began to grow, and today the DC Diaper Bank provides an average of more than 100,000 diapers to over 3,600 families a month.

Being a mere pre-theologian at Theological College, I was not familiar with either the DC Diaper Bank or the annual diaper drive. However, I had been involved in the pro-life movement long enough to know how challenging and daunting parenting could be for mothers who were in need but felt like there was no one to help them. Giving concrete help to needy mothers, even by doing something as small as providing them with diapers, is incredibly important. Thus, when Vince DeGeorge (1-PT, Wheeling-Charleston) and I were asked to lead the diaper drive this year, we were extremely happy to help.

As generous as seminarians are, they are also competitive. All too aware of this, Kevin Riedel founded the Golden Diaper Award last year. The award is made out of a spray-painted gold diaper mounted on a trophy stand. With each class competing against each other, the Social Justice Committee raised more diapers than any year previous, with 18,359 diapers. This year, Vince and I decided to intensify the competition. Under the tutelage of Kathi Kramer, director of pastoral formation, we offered “diaper trivia bonuses” to the first class to answer questions on topics ranging from diaper pricing schemes to the number of diapers the average baby goes through in a day. Additionally, to encourage seminarians to buy larger size diapers (which are in less supply at the diaper bank), we offered a size distribution bonus to the class with the most even size distribution. Finally, in the last two weeks we declared a “Diaper War” in which seminarians could donate cash to subtract from the diaper totals of other classes.

And so on January 31, the 2017 diaper drive began. Amazon shipment after Amazon shipment of diapers in bulk came rolling in through the front doors of Theological College. Seminarians were soliciting donations online and at parishes. Men in clericals began showing up at local stores and (for some odd reason) buying diapers in bulk. It was quite a sight.

The night before the diaper drive ended on February 17, I thought we had just about hit our peak. The basement hallway had become a veritable diaper fortress. With a preliminary count, we had 30,631 diapers, and it just didn’t seem possible that there could be that many more donations to come. Basselins were leading with 9,110 diapers with first and third theology neck and neck for second and third place; it looked like that was where it would stay. I was wrong. Between the deacon class and third theology alone, over 7,000 additional diapers were donated that day. Across all the classes, thousands of diapers had been added to the total and the stacks of diapers were now scraping the ceiling.

That night at the Iron Seminarian tournament, Vince and I announced the final results. The third place Golden Pacifier

Award went to the first theology class, with 9,863 diapers; the second place Golden Baby Bottle went to the Basselins, with 10,663 diapers; and, leapfrogging both of them, the Golden Diaper Award went to the third theology class, with 12,327 diapers. When all was said and done, we collected 46,382 diapers for mothers and children in need. The people at the DC Diaper Bank said this was the largest donation they had ever received, and it took care of over a third of their diaper supply for the month.

The generosity of the men at Theological College never ceases to amaze me and the diaper drive was no exception. Thank you to everyone who donated. Together we were able to do something good for the least among us. Until next year!

### Spring House Party Charity

Traditionally, the Spring House Party provides a welcomed respite before the onset of second-semester exams. Due to unfavorable weather on March 31, this year's fraternal festivities took place in Vieban Hall, centered around nautically themed decorations, activities, and dinner fare. In recent years, these house parties have provided awareness-raising opportunities for all, as organizers from the Community Life Committee have welcomed requests from those on the Social Justice Committee (SJC) to propose a charitable cause to sponsor on the occasion of this biannual gathering.

Proceeds from the Fall House Party collection went to the Blas F. Ople Policy Center, one of the most effective anti-trafficking organizations in the world (see *The Crossroads*, Fall 2016, p. 18). The collection for the Spring House Party raised \$1,300 for the Community of Charity and Social Services (CCSS) in Vietnam. The CCSS is a Society of Apostolic Life of the Roman Catholic Church founded by Most Reverend Paul Nguyen Thanh Hoan, Bishop of the Diocese of Phan Thiet,



*Deacon Miguel Melendez, chairman of the Social Justice Committee, with Sister Cecelia of the community of Charity and Social Services, based in Vietnam.*



*Donated bicycles assembled by the CCSS for delivery in central Vietnam.*

Vietnam, in 1995, and officially recognized by His Excellency, Most Reverend Nicholas Nghi, in 2004. Priests and sisters of the order profess the three evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Similar to Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity, members of the community also profess a fourth vow, that of serving the poor in charity.

Theological College seminarians learned from Father Hy Nguyen, P.S.S., TC vice-rector, that the CCSS were raising money to buy 200 bikes for families in need. Father Nguyen, a native of Vietnam, has taught theology to sisters and seminarians of the order and introduced the SJC to Sister Cecilia, CCSS, who visited TC in April after the collection had been made for the bikes. Sister Cecilia explained that children need bikes in order to commute to school, and their families also highly value the bikes for other daily needs they have. She expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the families for the 26 bikes the TC donation will be able to purchase. She and other sisters will personally deliver the bikes to needy families in central Vietnam later this summer. SJC chairman Miguel Melendez commented that he thought this fundraiser was so successful because of its personal and tangible nature. He said, "Seminarians were able to see pictures of floods that recently affected families in Vietnam, learn about how students sometimes had to walk hours to school and how much a bike would help, and give money specifically for bikes to ease the journey. Given that the bikes were \$50 a piece, many donations were for exactly \$50, greatly raising the effectiveness of the fundraiser."

When asked what the most pressing need of the CCSS community is right now, Sister Cecelia said, "We are building The Mother and Child Orphanage in Binh Thuan, Vietnam. We need help to complete construction of the orphanage, and to purchase its furnishings." For more information on the CCSS and/or to support their ministry, go to <http://www.bacaixahoi.org/>.

## Seminarian Assists Sodexo Staff

At the outset of the year, Sunder Michael, Sodexo general manager and head chef, asked each of his housekeeping and kitchen staff members to write on a piece of paper one thing he could do for them personally, and one thing he could do for them professionally. Sunder's hope was to offer skill enhancement classes during half-hour staff breaks at TC. Most staff members asked for English proficiency help, to improve their speaking skills, and another popular request was to build computer competency. So Sunder got a laptop computer for in-house computer tutorials, and he asked second theologian David Roman (from the Diocese of Bridgeport) to teach English to them one day per week. This invitation was readily accepted by the eager seminarian, who is also fluent in Spanish.

His volunteer instruction of the Sodexo staff is not David's first teaching experience. He was a middle school social studies and religion teacher for six years at St. Joseph School in Danbury, Conn., and it was through this work that he discerned God's call to enter the seminary: "Over time, I discovered that with each Confirmation group that came through my classroom, I felt drawn closer and closer into Christ's presence."

At the core, the Sodexo staff want to be able to communicate more effectively and clearly with the members of the TC community and with their coworkers. Having journeyed with his own grandmother and her struggles with learning English as a second language after emigrating from Puerto Rico, David felt impassioned to do whatever he could to help them meet their goal of enhancing ESL skills. Though challenged by the fact that the four people in the "class" were at widely variant levels



*David Roman with his students from Sodexo.*

of proficiency, he was able to use an ESL series and much needed conversational engagement to help them improve. David comments, "I've been very impressed with their zeal and dedication to learning over these weeks. They have been such a pleasure to work with. They are astute, inquisitive, and have a thirst for knowledge. Their skills and aptitude continue to grow, albeit one step at a time. I am thankful to Sunder for supporting and encouraging his staff, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the fall!"

## NEW STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



*The new Student Government Association elected to serve the TC community in 2017–18, from left, Jaime Maldonado-Avilés (Hartford), Hispanic Affairs; Timothy Deeley (Pittsburgh), Community Life; Wade Bass (Dallas), President; Maurice Moon (Forth Worth), Social Justice; and Aaron Kelly (Rochester), Prayer and Worship.*

## SPRING BREAK NEWS

### Appalachia Service Trip: “God Moves in Our Hearts”

By Anthony Ferguson

Second Theology, Diocese of Richmond

This past March, a group of 15 Theological College seminarians spent spring break on a mission trip serving the poor in far-southwest Virginia, undertaking three home repair projects. The group worked with an organization called Appalachia Service Project (ASP), which regularly hosts volunteer service trips out of Jonesville, Va. — a small town near the tri-state border of Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

This was the second year Theological College worked with ASP in developing a spring break service trip, thanks to the vision of Kevin Riedel — a rising second theologian studying for the Diocese of Richmond. During his first year of formation, Riedel saw an opportunity for an “alternative spring break” option. He decided to take the risk and pitch a mission trip to the house and generated some interest. A small yet committed crew took the plunge for the service trip’s inaugural year, and thanks to their rave reviews and powerful witness (see *The Crossroads*, Summer 2016, p. 7), a much larger group stepped up for this year’s trip. “We wanted it to be relaxing, yet productive,” he explained. “My inspiration to join the group was to give back to the poor and to the people of the Diocese of Richmond, where the ASP operates,” said Deacon Miguel Melendez, another Richmond seminarian who was the 2016–17 Social Justice Committee chairman at Theological College. Riedel hopes this positive momentum continues in years to come.

Like much of Appalachia, Jonesville has been struggling ever since the scramble for coal started to decline. With the rise of newer, more advanced technologies, the coal industry required less and less brute force from its employees, hiring a smaller and smaller number of mineworkers. Thus, the community became increasingly impoverished, with opportunities dwindling and despair setting in. Today, the biggest local employers are fast food chains, Walmart, and a federal prison. Nationally, Lee County consistently has some of the lowest unemployment rates and highest percentages of families living below the poverty line. Drug abuse is common and most young people leaving the area for college never return.

However depressed the region has become, ASP has had a tremendous and visible impact. Not only do they provide much needed home renovations, they also embody a compassionate commitment and loving presence to the residents themselves. One line in the Appalachian Service Project’s mission statement reads: “When we move to help those in need, God moves in our hearts.” This Christ-centered approach to serving the people of Appalachia has made the organization an indispensable fixture to the community and a strong advocate for the local people.



*Theological College seminarians from a half-dozen U.S. dioceses spent their spring break ministering to needy families in Appalachia.*



Theological College seminarians witnessed this positive impact firsthand as soon as they arrived at their worksites. It was clear from the start that ASP took the time to really find those who were most in need and had already built solid relationships with the people who lived there.

The TC seminarians were divided into three project teams, each with their own separate worksite. One team was tasked with repairing a roof and building a deck. Another team constructed a wheelchair ramp. The third replaced a subfloor and kitchen cabinets. Beyond the manual labor, teams also took the time to really get to know their residents — listening to their stories, asking them questions about living in Lee County, and even praying with them. Each team worked hard all week long to complete their projects — ending each day with a beautiful daily Mass at the nearby Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Father Dustin Dought, of the Diocese of Lafayette, who is completing a licentiate in liturgical studies at The Catholic University of America, celebrated this Mass each day for the crew.

Daily Mass was a rare opportunity for the parishioners of Holy Spirit Parish, who normally only have a single liturgy on Sunday mornings. One priest is responsible for three parishes in the area, almost an hour apart from one another. On any given Sunday, only around 25 parishioners come together for the celebration of the Eucharist, so to welcome a large group of men discerning the priesthood was a huge blessing for them and a sign of hope for the Church. Parishioners very graciously held a potluck dinner one night for the work crew, as a token of gratitude and hospitality. “They told us about the advantages and opportunities of being in a small parish, but about the struggles as well,” Deacon Miguel said. “They shared what it is like being Catholic in an area where few Catholics live.”

With this year’s spring break service trip on the books, Kevin Riedel and friends are already looking forward to next year’s service trip. Through God’s grace, Riedel hopes this will become a venerable tradition for years to come!

## Our Road Led to Rome

By Carlos Limongi

Third Theology, Archdiocese of New York

Rome is one of the most popular travel destinations in the world because of its history, food, architecture, and art. For Catholics, especially for seminarians, it is the place to breathe in the early days of Christianity, learning how the first Christians embraced the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of persecution, experiencing the capital of Catholicism under the leadership of the Bishop of Rome, and seeing the places where some of the first martyrs gave up their lives for love of Christ. For many, Rome offers an abundance of cultural opportunities that make it one of the leading vacation destinations, but for Catholics, it is where you go to experience the Church.

Over spring break, seminarians Matt Browne (2-T, Rockville Centre), Aaron Kelly (2-B, Rochester), and I decided to travel to Rome in hopes of acquiring a deeper love for our faith and Church. Michael Russo (2-T, Washington) met us there for part of our touring. All of us were very excited about seeing the historic sights where the Church took root and flourished. Upon our arrival in the Eternal City, the first thing we did was to go on the Vatican “Scavi Tour,” which brought us not six feet away from the tomb of Saint Peter, where the bones of the first pope had been found. Words cannot describe what it meant to be near the resting place of the apostle Jesus chose to lead his Church. Our time at the tomb was short, but we prayed that

Saint Peter would grant us the courage to profess our Lord as he did.

One of the highlights of our trip was to have Mass celebrated for us at the tomb of Saint John Paul the Great, thanks to Father Luke Sweeney, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York who is currently working in Rome. The remains of the late pope are inside Saint Peter's Basilica and we were blessed to celebrate the Eucharist on the altar above his tomb. Walking around Saint Peter's Basilica was another grace-filled experience — to pray at the tombs of other saints was a powerful moment of blessings. All these holy men and women who lived fully for Christ and the Gospel spoke to us of the total surrender to our Lord. Among the many saints whose relics we venerated inside St. Peter's and other churches throughout Rome were Saint John XXIII, Saint Paul, Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Frances of Rome, Saint Philip Neri, Saint Vittoria, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Saint Agnes.

The Vatican museums and the different churches we visited

told the tales of a world in which God was always first. Noblemen, artists, merchants, and the common folk lived for God and there was no better way to honor the Savior of the world than by putting their talents and fortune into expressions of their faith through art and places of worship. The beauty we beheld in every church we entered intensified our love for the sacred and opened our hearts anew to the possibility of heaven, as depicted through every decorated wall, ceiling, sculpture, and painting.

Rome can indeed be a blessing to anyone who travels there with a thirst for God. For us, it was a pilgrimage that strengthened our faith and helped us want to strive for more than what we are, for more than what we do. To walk with the martyrs and the saints awoke in us a desire for the beauty of holiness, trusting in God's mercy and providence, that he will guide us to heaven. We hope and pray that in our future ministry we can return to Rome with parishioners and faithful people of God, who also long to hold on in faith to him who has the words of eternal life.



*Above, seminarians on Palatine Hill in Rome during spring break, from left: Michael Russo (2-T, Washington), Aaron Kelly (2-B, Rochester), Matthew Browne (2-T, Rockville Centre), and Carlos Limongi (3-T, New York). Left, top, in front of the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica and below, at the tomb of Saint John Paul II.*

# SERMON SLAM 2017

By Walter Genito Jr.  
Second Theology, Archdiocese of New York



*Walter Genito (2-T, New York), served as the co-chair for the WTC student board.*

*This is how  
all will know  
you are my disciples,  
if you love  
one another.*

— *John 13:35*

The Sermon Slam is an event sponsored and run by the Washington Theological Consortium (WTC), whose offices are located in the McCormick Pavilion at Theological College. As stated in the mission statement, the WTC is “a community of theological schools of diverse Christian traditions — with partners in education, spirituality and interfaith dialogue — that supports ecumenical unity and interfaith understanding.” There are currently 11 member schools that participate in ecumenical educational events and other activities on a voluntary basis. This year, I was co-chair of the Consortium’s student board that runs the Sermon Slam initiative.

As the WTC executive director, Larry Goleman, explained, “The Sermon Slam began five years ago when a Catholic University student, working with the Maryknolls, helped us adapt the concept from one promoted by the Academy of Preachers, a national organization whose motto is: ‘Inspiring young people in their call to Gospel preaching.’” Participants and spectators come to hear sermons from other schools and houses of formation for an enjoyable evening of food, drink, and fellowship at rotating venues. This year’s event was hosted by Virginia Theological Seminary on April 8. The Sermon Slam is a way of breaking people out of their ecclesial shells and exposing them to different forms of Christian living. This happens through individuals who, representing their respective traditions, present to an ecumenical gathering a preaching style which is unique to their denomination. As the schools in the Consortium exclusively associate with one tradition, the individuals who come forward to preach represent not only their tradition but their school as well. Catholicism and Protestantism were equally represented at this year’s event. Out of the six schools present, three were Catholic — Theological College, the Dominican House of Studies, and the Paulist Fathers — and three were Protestant — Howard University, Wesley Theological Seminary, and Virginia Theological Seminary.

Since it was Lent, the student board of the Consortium chose *John 13:35* as the scriptural theme that the speakers were to meditate on. Some preachers, like the representative from the Dominican House, offered a scholarly sermon, drawing upon the writings of Saint Thomas Aquinas to illuminate the passage, whereas others, such as the preacher from Howard, read the passage in light of current tensions in America, with a particular focus on troubles facing the African American community. The people present who came to cheer those representing their schools had an opportunity to vote on which sermons fell into the following categories: the funniest, the most creative, the best use of scripture/tradition, and the most inspiring. Representing Theological College, I tied with another person in the “most inspiring” category. Following this, each of the preachers, having only a minute to prepare a sermon based on a random scriptural verse given to them, delivered a one-minute reflection. A “best extemporaneous” award was given to the sermon with which the people were most pleased. It was a lively event and there was a warm atmosphere among all participants. I wholeheartedly recommend that TC seminarians continue to attend this initiative because it is educational and enjoyable to meet and get to know others who have similar but not exactly the same beliefs.

# *Laudato Si'* REFLECTIONS WITH DR. DAVID CLOUTIER

By Mark Dwyer  
First Theology, Archdiocese of Washington



This spring semester, the Social Justice Committee welcomed guest speaker, David Cloutier, Ph.D., a moral theology professor at Catholic University and former professor at Mount Saint Mary's University, to discuss Pope Francis's encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*. As professor to some of the seminarians, Cloutier was asked to enlighten the TC community on today's environmental concerns and break down some of the practical implications of the letter in order to grasp how one could apply this letter in daily life.

During the lecture, the first question that he asked was, "Why do we have an environmental encyclical?" All the media hype regarding climate change and the increase of human production may indicate that we have, in many ways, impacted the health of our home on Earth. His reply to the question was that "everything is connected to everything else!" This would suggest that what we produce and generate now will always have some form of consequence for future generations. To further break down his answer, he provided four main themes by which he would explain and support this reply.

The first theme regards *beauty*, the wonderful gift that God bestowed upon us in his creation of Earth and seeing everything within creation as good. He went on to explain that our dominion is not equal to domination; therefore, as humans we must understand the proper meaning of dominion by serving and preserving. By doing so, we will give life to future generations by recognizing our relationship with God, with ourselves, and with the whole world.

The second theme regards *sharing*. In his encyclical letter, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis (The Social Concern)*, St. John Paul II described the tremendous increase of economic growth as *super-development*. He further explains:

This super-development, which consists in an excessive availability of every kind of material goods for the benefit of certain social groups, easily makes people slaves of "possession" and of immediate gratification, with no other horizon than the multiplication or continual replacement of the things already owned with others still better. This is the so-called civilization of "consumption" or "consumerism," which involves so much "throwing-away" and "waste." [n. 28]

We can note here how Francis would support this claim of *super-development* within his letter, certainly a reality of which we should all be aware. This term also points us to observe the universal common destination of goods that we have been provided, to live in solidarity with one another in order to cultivate a culture of life and the well-being of humanity.

The third theme regards *technology*. Cloutier humorously asserted how today's generation is becoming increasingly accustomed to the "sacraments of technology," where the iPhone/smartphone culture reigns. The materials that we own have the capacity to express who we are becoming and how we are shaped by the products of society.

The fourth theme is *overcoming environmental sin*. Cloutier suggested that we may feel guilty for these environmental impediments because we may not have been properly educated about the importance of environmental health. We may need to be introduced back into the ways in which we can joyfully serve others and give back to society while remaining open to fellowship, community life, and serving those in need.

Even living on little, they can live a lot, above all when they cultivate other pleasures and find satisfaction in fraternal encounters, in service, in developing their gifts, in music and art, in contact with nature, in prayer. [n. 223]

Some may see this letter simply as a list of demands of "do's" and "don't's" concerning our daily use of resources, but when placed and understood in their proper order, we are able to focus on living in a healthy way that fosters our Christian identity and common good of all. Overall, this much anticipated lecture by Cloutier not only provided encouragement and advice for seminarians who may face environmental challenges in parish life but, more importantly, he was able to open our minds to see more clearly who we are becoming as followers of Christ and stewards of his beautiful creation.

In the Christian understanding of the world, the destiny of all creation is bound up with the mystery of Christ... [n. 99]

# MARCH MADNESS AND THE INTRAMURAL SWEEP

By Brett Metzler  
First Theology, Diocese of Fort Worth

In the fall of 2013, in a dessert line at a reception, a group of Basselins extended an amiable but serious challenge to Rhett Williams, a first-year pre-theologian. The challenge was that the 2013–2014 Basselins would demolish the class of pre-theologians in basketball. The words, now a part of TC lore, that were spoken to ignite this challenge were: “Pre-theology is weak. We can take ya’ll in basketball.” Rhett Williams, with unhesitating courage, accepted the challenge from Kyle O’Connor immediately, and thus began an interclass basketball rivalry that exists to this day.

In the weeks following, the pre-theologians, in an attempt to intimidate their upcoming opponents, nicknamed the Basselins, “the Teddys,” after the founder of the Basselins, Theodore Basselin. The Basselins quickly responded with a *Summa*-style treatise expounding on all the ways the Basselins were more perfect specimens of true basketball talent, and therefore unable to lose.

When the “Feud of the Philosophers” took place, it proved to be a nonstop, tumultuous, and exhausting battle to the finish. It was ultimately the pre-theologian “Pterodactyls” who came out on top. When spring came around, this event was opened up to the whole seminary, incorporating each class, and it was given the name, “March Madness.”

The 2017 tournament took place on Sunday, April 23, 2017. The evening opened with a prayer led by Father Begg of Catholic University, and was immediately followed by the national anthem, sung by a quartet of TC’s very own Schola choir members, led by Tyler Santy and Aaron Kelly. Our rector, Father McBrearity, was also on hand to cheer on the teams and to offer blessing prayers at the outset of the matches.

The battle for third place was played between the first-year theologians (1-Ts) and the second-year theologians (2-Ts). While the game proved tight until the



*With Father McBrearity, rector, the first place March Madness victors, the 3-T/4-T “Swishers of Win” beat the pre-theologian “Pterodactyls” in a “mesmerizing” competition.*

final buzzer, John Minnich (15 points) for the 1-Ts and Mark Garrett (8 points) for the 2-Ts led their respective teams through a hard-fought battle, ending in a 32–28 1-T win. The battle for first place was no less intense. Maurice Moon (8 points) and Mark Kowalski (15 points) led the 3-T/4-T “Swishers of Win” to a 40–26 win over the historical pre-theologian Pterodactyls. While the score may not show it, the game was nothing less than mesmerizing. Joe Kauflin (16 points) refused to let his team give up in the second half as he scored 10 of their 17 points, while, round after round, Mark Kowalski drained three-pointers only to diminish the hopes of his opponents in the final minute of the game.

The players of the respective classes were not the only seminarians involved in the tournament. Emcees and commentators such as Daniel Sessions, James Buttner, Anthony Federico, Patrick Mullan, and Peter Fazzari stole the show with their witty and cunning rhetorical second-by-second coverage of

the events. So great was their commentary that it proved difficult to distinguish between the echo of the game on the court and the roar of laughter in response to the utterly sidesplitting announcers. Overall, the event proved to be a night of friendly competition and fraternal joy.

The March Madness tournament this spring was not the only athletic event TC seminarians participated in this year. As some may know, the seminarians participate in intramural sports with the students across the way at The Catholic University of America. This year, however, sets the stage as an astonishing milestone for TC as they clenched four University intramural championship titles in flag football, volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Not only have they dedicated their lives to God in the pursuit of priesthood through rigorous academic study and an unrelenting search for holiness, but the seminarians at Theological College also acknowledge and develop their God-given talents even in the athletic arenas.

## BEING MEN OF COMMUNION

*Formation comes about every day through interpersonal relationships, moments of exchange and discussion which result in the development of that “fertile soil,” in which a vocation matures concretely.*

— Pope Francis

*Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis*

A full, balanced life is characterized by healthy, life-giving relationships — with family, peers, and those to whom you minister. Cultivating and maintaining meaningful interpersonal connections like these is a skill that requires time and intention. The key is developing healthy intimacy. That can be a challenge in a culture that is increasingly connected, but often isolating.

The lack of strong interpersonal connections can significantly impact our ability to thrive in ministry. Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, in *Why Priests are Happy* (Ave Maria Press, 2012), identified the lack of close friends as a strong predictor of priestly burnout. Many priests struggle with isolation and loneliness, and it can be difficult to find the time and energy to maintain relationships.

### Cultivating the Soil for Friendship

A variety of cultural obstacles work to prevent creating lasting friendships. Substitutes for human connection are many and readily available: technology, consumerism, substance abuse, individualism, and other temptations. Priests' demanding schedules also can reinforce isolation, even in the midst of a large or busy parish.

Healthy intimacy means being your authentic self in a friendship, and allowing the other person to do the same. This calls for some vulnerability, which is a challenge for many of us: What if we are viewed as weak? Or not good enough? Beyond making ourselves vulnerable, we also have to be flexible. Close friendship requires being supportive and staying connected even when your friend thinks differently than you do.

Finally, good fences make good neighbors, even in the context of friendship. Setting emotional boundaries and expectations for what you and your friend expect and need out of the friendship can foster trust over time. Avoid the temptation to share too much too soon: true connection happens over an extended period of time.

Friendship with parishioners and others to whom you minister is part of the joy of priesthood. But those friendships, while

important, do not meet all of a priest's needs for connection. It is critical to cultivate peer relationships — with other priests and, when possible, with individuals who know you outside of your role as a priest.

Social connections that are separate from work and ministry are more difficult to attain for priests whose vocation is both your life's work and your personal identity. You have to be “off the clock” at some point — identify people with whom you can take the risk to be vulnerable. Peer relationships can bring spiritual renewal and give you the energy needed to be fully present for others.

### The Value of Alone Time

The priestly vocation in some ways can be considered a choice to be alone, at least in terms of the commitment to celibacy. Brother John Mark Falkenhain, O.S.B., Ph.D., a psychologist and monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana, draws an important distinction between loneliness and solitude. He defines loneliness as a lack of intimacy, or feeling truly known by others. Solitude, by contrast, is intentionally spending time alone and seeking greater intimacy with God.

Dr. Emily Cash, a psychologist on the staff of the Saint Luke Institute, describes spending time in healthy solitude as a way of identifying, understanding, and accepting our strengths and vulnerabilities — learning to know ourselves better. Thus we build our capacity for connection with others. This type of spiritual and personal intimacy is the foundation for developing fruitful, lasting relationships with others that lead to a healthy balance in life and ministry.

*This column was provided by SLIconnect, the continuing formation resource of Saint Luke Institute, offering online and print resources for Catholic clergy, religious, and lay leadership designed by experts in psychological and spiritual health.*



*Alumni priests from Theological College in the 1960s and 1970s get together in Vieban Hall for lunch at Alumni Days 2016.*

# THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE STAFF RETREAT

By Mary Nauman



*The staff enjoyed their first retreat together with the rector, Father McBrearity, P.S.S., at Washington Retreat House.*

On Thursday, March 9, 2017, the staff of Theological College came together to pray, reflect, and worship God on our first annual retreat held at the Washington Retreat House. After a brief tour of the beautifully decorated facility offered by our gracious hostess, Sister Sara Dwyer, A.S.C., we enjoyed a continental breakfast in the airy dining hall overlooking the Harewood Road property while we anticipated the day's events.

After the initial orientation, we met in a small, intimate chapel on the ground floor to pray Morning Prayer together. Some free time to explore the grounds or to meditate followed until the first talk was presented in the spacious, well-stocked library on the main floor of the retreat house. Father David Thayer, P.S.S., graciously offered a thought-provoking Lenten reflection, "It's Not About Not Eating," focused upon the idea that fasting and self-denial require and are preceded by simplicity of life. Following this talk, we attended holy Mass in the main chapel where Father McBrearity, P.S.S., presided. During his

homily, Father McBrearity applauded our decision to get away from our busy schedules to make time for dedicated prayer.

In the early afternoon, after a delicious lunch was enjoyed by all, we met in the library once again where Father Thayer delivered a Lenten Sulpician meditation modeled upon Father Jean-Jaques Olier's method of *lectio divina*. This encounter with holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit set the tone for the remainder of our peaceful day as we concluded our retreat with the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Everyone agreed that the day was truly a gift from God, a respite from our daily labors that enabled us to grow closer to Jesus, and to each other, on our Lenten journey. Many thanks go to Sofia Olkiewicz, assistant to the rector, for planning the day; to the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement at the Washington Retreat House for their gracious hospitality; and to Sulpician priests, Father Thayer and Father McBrearity, for shepherding us throughout the retreat!

## Alumni Profile: Bishop Robert Barron

# “SEIZE THE HERITAGE AND CELEBRATE IT”

By Matthew Browne  
Second Theology, Archdiocese of Washington  
and John Minnich  
First Theology, Diocese of Richmond

On the occasion of Theological College’s centennial celebration, alumnus Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, met with Theological College seminarians for a brief interview. Bishop Barron graduated with his Ph.L. from The Catholic University of America in TC’s Basselin Class of 1982. Named an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles on July 21, 2015, Bishop Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, host of the award-winning *Catholicism* film series, and, in 2012–2015, he served as the Rector/President of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary outside of Chicago. His website, WordOnFire.org, reaches millions of people each year. His regular YouTube videos have been viewed over 18 million times. Bishop Barron is a best-selling author and has published numerous books, essays, and articles on theology and the spiritual life. He is a religion correspondent for NBC and has also appeared on FOX News, CNN, and EWTN. Bishop Barron’s pioneering work in evangelizing through the new media led Francis Cardinal George to describe him as “one of the Church’s best messengers.” He has keynoted many conferences and events all over the world, including the 2016 World Youth Day in Kraków, Poland, and the 2015 World Meeting of

Families in Philadelphia, which marked Pope Francis’s historic visit to the United States.

**Would you mind sharing with us one of your favorite memories of being at TC during your time in the Basselin College?**

**Bishop Barron:** I was there from ’79 through ’82 and I just loved the joyful spirit of the house and some of the great people there. Father McBrearity was on the faculty and was a superb mentor guiding us through the spiritual life. Father Mel Blanchette was the head of the Basselin Program when I was there and was a wonderful priest who has remained to this day a great friend. Father Joe Bonadio was my spiritual director. I was fortunate to have met these great Sulpician personalities and spiritual leaders. I remember those years as just happy years, joyful years.

Catholic University had a decisive impact on my whole life. Monsignor Sokolowski (B ’57), Monsignor John Wippel (B ’56 and TC ’60), and Dr. Thomas Pruffer were some of my incredible teachers. Almost everything I’ve written has been impacted by those people. They gave some ideas that have sustained me throughout my life as a priest, as an academic, and as a writer. So Catholic University had a massive impact on me. And I have



John Minnich (1-T, Richmond), right, and Matthew Browne (2-T, Rockville Centre), meet with Bishop Robert Barron at TC’s annual USCCB Bishops Breakfast in Baltimore.

a little photograph of Theodore Basselin right over my desk today because Theodore Basselin significantly changed my life. I remain to this day very grateful for the education that his endowment inspired.

**How has the Basselin Program had an impact on your priesthood and now your episcopacy?**

**Bishop Barron:** I love the Basselin Program — especially the seriousness of it and the philosophical focus of it. It introduced me to the great Catholic intellectual tradition, the great Catholic “both ... and,” faith *and* reason, theology *and* philosophy, nature *and* grace ... Monsignor Sokolowski and Monsignor John Wippel were not only teachers of philosophy but they were philosophers themselves. So we learned the art of philosophizing with them. I remember going to the library and writing papers and attending class with these great masters. It impacted me then and has continued to impact me to the present day.

**You speak a lot about the New Evangelization, which is very inspiring for us in formation for parish priesthood. For us, aspirants to the priesthood, how would you describe the priesthood in the twenty-first century?**

**Bishop Barron:** I would go with Pope Francis’s description of the priests as missionary disciples. The New Evangelization remains the central task. We’re losing a lot of our own people. Secular culture is encroaching upon the Church and we’ve got to be very intentional about being missionaries. We can’t simply wait for people to come to us; we have to go very actively out

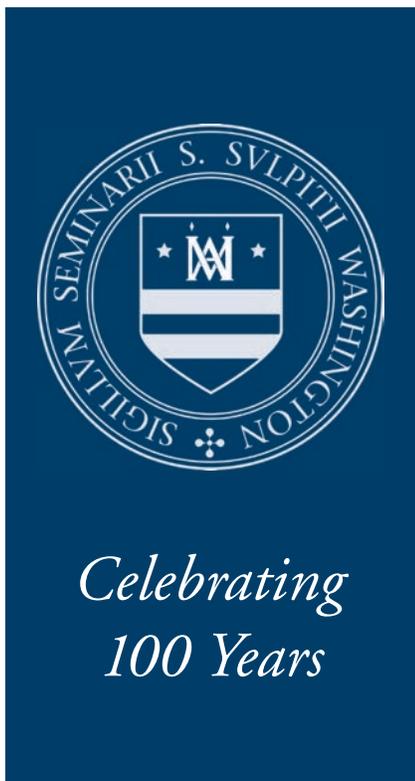
to them. That means a serious grasp of two things: our own great tradition rooted in the Bible, and the culture. That is the Catholic “both ... and.” When you know both those things you can be an effective evangelist to the culture. I learned a lot of that at TC and Catholic University, and I think that is the task right now of priests.

**Do you have any advice for young people discerning priesthood?**

**Bishop Barron:** Take it seriously. Don’t think you can just hold every option open your whole life long. If God is calling you, then you’ve got a responsibility to take that seriously. So I would attend to it and pursue it. I think too often today younger people want to keep the smorgasbord of options open all the time. If you are hearing the voice of God, listen to it attentively. Follow it. Take it seriously. We need you, the Church needs you, and the world needs you. So I would say, listen, follow, go.

**Would you like to share anything with the TC community today as we celebrate our centennial year?**

**Bishop Barron:** Savor the heritage that you are part of. You are a part of this great place that, for a hundred years, has been forming priests — some really excellent priests. You stand within a tremendous tradition; perpetuate it. Take that seriously and know you’re part of something great. You become part of that tradition. Be proud of it. That’s something I remain to this day very proud of. Seize the heritage and celebrate it.



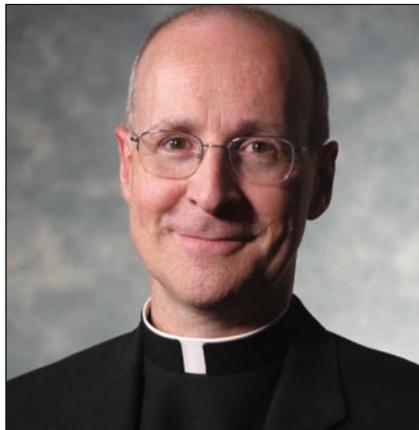
## New Centenary Book and Video Produced for Alumni Days 2017



*Alumni and seminarians during the Alumni Days 1960 reunion.*

# ALUMNI DAYS 2017: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

October 3–4, 2017



Father James Martin, S.J.

Please plan to join us in October as Theological College, the national seminary of The Catholic University of America, continues its centenary celebration, and honors those alumni marking milestones with graduation years ending in “7” and “2.” Attendees will receive a special volume commemorating Theological College’s 100-year history of seminary formation.

**Father James Martin, S.J.**, noted Jesuit author, editor-at-large of *America* magazine, and consultor to the Vatican’s Secretariat for Communication, will be the symposium speaker on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (9–11:30 a.m.). His presentation, titled, “Encountering Jesus: Meeting the Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith,” will be held in Heritage Hall in the newly renovated Father O’Connell Hall on the Catholic University campus.

**His Eminence, Cardinal Donald Wuerl (B ’63)**, will be presider and homilist for our Annual Alumni Mass on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (5:15 p.m.) in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and will also be the honoree at the Awards Recognition Dinner to follow at Theological College. A 100th anniversary video will also be premiered at the banquet.

Additionally, as part of our Alumni Days celebration, we plan to dedicate and bless two new spiritual direction conference rooms on Tuesday evening, October 3, 2017 (6 p.m.) at Theological College. The construction of these two rooms, which will take place over the summer months, is part of the Second Century Campaign for Theological College.

## Alumni Days 2017

### Tuesday, October 3, 2017

- 1–6 p.m. **Registration for Alumni Days**  
Main Lobby, Theological College
- 3–4:30 p.m. **Informal Class Gatherings/Tours**
- 4 p.m. **Alumni Association Board Meeting**  
(Open to all)
- 5:30 p.m. **Evening Prayer**  
Seminary community, TC Chapel
- 6 p.m. **Blessing of Spiritual Direction/  
Conference Rooms**  
TC Administrative Offices, 1st Floor
- 6:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**  
Seminary community, TC Vieban Hall
- 7 p.m. **Dinner** (with classmates or in refectory)

### Wednesday, October 4, 2017

- 7:30 a.m. **Morning Prayer**  
Seminary community, TC Chapel
- 8 a.m. **Breakfast**  
TC Refectory

### (Wednesday cont.)

- 9 a.m. **Annual Symposium**  
Heritage Hall (Ballroom)  
Father O’Connell Hall/CUA Campus
- 9:15 a.m. **Welcome and Introductions**
- 9:30 a.m. **Symposium Speaker:**  
Rev. James Martin, S.J.  
“Encountering Jesus: Meeting the Jesus  
of History and the Christ of Faith”
- Noon **Luncheon and Rector’s Update**  
Rev. Gerald D. McBrearity, P.S.S. (’73)  
Theological College, TC Vieban Hall
- 2–4:30 p.m. **Free Time/Registration/Tours**
- 5:15 p.m. **Annual Alumni Mass**  
Crypt Church/National Shrine  
Presider and Homilist: His Eminence,  
Cardinal Donald Wuerl (B ’63)
- 6:30 p.m. **Reception**  
Seminary community, TC Olier Hall
- 7 p.m. **Alumni Recognition Dinner**  
Seminary community, TC Refectory  
Presentation of the Olier Award

## CLASS NOTES

### 50s

**Monsignor Joseph Riedman, '56**, of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, class representative and dedicated priest serving the Church for over 60 years, continues to minister to the faithful in his archdiocese during his retirement by offering Masses and hearing confessions on a weekly basis. Monsignor Riedman is also contacting his remaining class members to join him in attending the 2017 Alumni Days reunion this fall.

**Rev. Theodore Lewandowski**, a retired priest of the Diocese of Rockford who attended Theological College from 1957 to 1959, and a faithful supporter of the seminary through the years, continues to assist parishes in the Green Bay Diocese, especially around New London, Wis.

### 60s

**Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle, B '62, TC '66**, of the Diocese of Albany, pastor emeritus of Mater Christi Parish in Albany, continues to minister to the faithful after his retirement in June 2016, as a substitute sacramental minister in various parishes throughout his diocese. Additionally, Father Doyle serves as a board chairman at Albany County Airport; as a member of the Committee on Mission Integration and St. Peter's Hospital Partner's in Albany; and as an author through his incisive "Question and Answer" column that is published weekly in some 100 Catholic newspapers throughout the English-speaking world. Reflecting on his formation at Theological College, Father Doyle commented that his seven years at TC provided a "unique seminary experience" since he was able to participate in the community life on the campus of The Catholic University of America as well as in the national life of our country by living in Washington, D.C., all while receiving a strong spiritual formation from the Sulpician priests with a "great community of men" in the seminary.

### 70s

**Monsignor Paul Langsfeld, B '72**, of the Archdiocese of Washington, ordained in 1977 by Cardinal William Baum at St. Matthew's Cathedral, celebrates his 40th anniversary of priesthood this year. Monsignor Langsfeld comments on this significant jubilee, "I'm so grateful I had the opportunity for such a rich and varied ministry in the Church."

### 80s

**Mason Wiggins, B '80**, of the Diocese of Saint Augustine, has entered Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass., and will be ordained to the priesthood in 2020.

### 00s

**Rev. Adrian Porras, '01**, of the Diocese of Charlotte, pastor of St. Barnabas Parish in Arden, N.C., will be leading a pilgrimage

to Europe centered on the theme, *Our Lady's Miraculous and Healing Presence in Fatima and Lourdes*. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Year of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima, this pilgrimage will take place November 6–17, 2017. In addition to visiting Fatima and Lourdes, this grace-filled journey will include visits to holy sites associated with Saint Teresa, Saint John of the Cross, and Saint Ignatius of Loyola, in Salamanca and Avila, Spain.

**Rev. Gregory Dube, '07**, of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, was named rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland on August 1, 2016. Additionally, he has been transferred from his ministry as pastor at Holy Savior Parish in Mexico, Maine, to become pastor of the Portland Peninsula and Island Parishes, a cluster of five parishes located in the most populated and diverse area of the state.

### 10s

**Rev. Steven Walker, '12**, of the Diocese of Arlington, parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church in Falls Church, Va., offered Mass at Divine Mercy Care and Tepayac OB/GYN Pro-Life Medical Practice in Fairfax, Va., on April 21, 2017. One of the directors commented on the generosity of Father Steven and the other priests who offer Mass for them: "We are so blessed by and grateful to the priests who come to offer Mass at Tepeyac. You are the spiritual fuel behind the daily work that happens here. Please come back often. Our doors are always open to you."

**Rev. Pawel (Paul) Tomczyk, '15**, of the Diocese of Paterson, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on April 20, 2017, and was awarded a Ph.D. from the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America. Father McBrearity, P.S.S., rector of Theological College, commented that Father Pawel's achievement was "remarkable" since he was able to "successfully pursue this degree while being fully involved in his formation for the priesthood at Theological College and in the midst of his first pastoral assignment in his diocese." And, as Father Pawel's dissertation director, Prof. John Grabowski, remarked, "The achievement is made more amazing because of the fact that Pawel is just 26 years old!"

**Rev. Anthony Amato, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Salvatore R. Matano on June 3 for the Diocese of Rochester.

**Rev. Benjamin Barr, '17**, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 24 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

**Rev. Michael Baynham, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Edward J. Burns on June 3 for the Diocese of Dallas.

**Rev. Benjamin Garcia, '17**, was ordained by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on June 17 for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Please remember Theological College in your estate plans.

**Rev. Timothy Iannacone, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on June 24 for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

**Rev. Mark Kowalski, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo on June 3 for the Diocese of Richmond.

**Rev. Matthew Lyons, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Robert J. Cunningham on June 3 for the Diocese of Syracuse.

**Rev. Miguel Melendez, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Francis X. DiLorenzo on June 3 for the Diocese of Richmond.

**Rev. Harry Prieto, '17**, was ordained by Bishop Frank J. Caggiano on June 24 for the Diocese of Bridgeport.

**Rev. Michael (Casey) Sanders, '17**, was ordained by Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz on May 27 for the Archdiocese of Louisville.

**Rev. Andrew Wakefield, '17**, was ordained by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on June 17 for the Archdiocese of Washington.

**Rev. Daniel Waruszewski, '17**, was ordained by Bishop David A. Zubik on June 24 for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

### *In Memoriam*

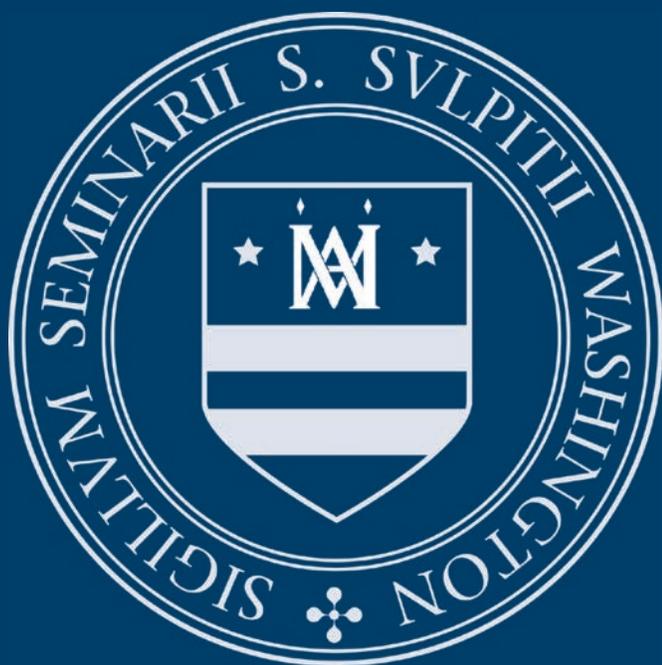
† **Cardinal William H. Keeler**, fourteenth archbishop of Baltimore, died on March 23, 2017, at his residence at St. Martin's Home for the Aged in Catonsville, Md., at the age of 86. Cardinal Keeler served as the archbishop of Baltimore from 1989 until his retirement in 2007. He served as a member of Catholic University's Board of Trustees during those years as well. An international leader in Catholic-Jewish relations and the restorer of America's first cathedral, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore, Cardinal Keeler was also a friend to the Sulpicians in Baltimore — and those at Theological College — during his service there as archbishop. During the homily of the Mass for Christian burial on March 28, offered by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, archbishop of New York, Cardinal Keeler was remembered for being an "indefatigable, friendly, ever-unflappable gentleman of faith," one who took seriously some advice offered to priests by Saint John Paul II: "Love for Jesus and his Church must be the passion of your life." "He not only knew the quote, he lived it and radiated it," Cardinal Dolan said. Cardinal Keeler is interred at the Basilica of the National Shrine in Baltimore.



*Despite less than optimal conditions, seminarians enjoyed a weekend of skiing and relaxation at the end of February at Whitetail Ski Resort in Mercersburg, Penn. This all-expenses-paid trip was offered by a friend of the seminarians who works at the resort.*

Please remember Theological College in your estate plans.

**THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE**  
**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA**  
401 Michigan Ave., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017



## *Save the Date*

**Theological College Alumni Days**  
**October 3–4, 2017**

Honoring TC classes ending with 2s and 7s

**5th Annual Sedes Cup Golf Classic**  
**Friday, October 13, 2017**

Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, Md.

For more information, contact  
**Theological College Development Office**  
202-756-5510 or [callahank@cua.edu](mailto:callahank@cua.edu)