

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE | THE NATIONAL SEMINARY OF THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

The **Crossroads**

The Alumni Magazine for Theological College | Fall 2024



**ORDINATIONS
2024**

**SPIRITUALITY OF
THE PRIESTHOOD**

**LITERATURE:
FACULTY FAVORITES**



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Rector

Rev. Gladstone Stevens, P.S.S.

Media and Promotions Manager

Suzanne Tanzi

Contributing Writers

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S. • Stephen Parker
Dcn. Daniel Roberts • Rev. Gladstone Stevens,
P.S.S. • Blake Thompson • Wheeler Wilson

Graphic Designer

Julie Swarr

Photography

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S. • Nicholas
Hoelscher • Cuong Le • Thach Nguyen
Patrick Ryan, Catholic University • Rev. Chris
Seibt • Suzanne Tanzi

Ordination Photos by Diocese

Charleston: Douglas Deas/*The Catholic Miscellany* • Dallas: *The Texas Catholic*/
Ben Torres and Michael Gresham • Fort
Worth: *North Texas Catholic*/Juan Guajardo
• Louisville: *The Record*/Marnie McAllister
& Ruby Thomas • Maronite Eparchy of
Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles: Paul
Ghafari • New York: *The Good Newsroom*/
Damon Webster • Pittsburgh: Diocese of
Pittsburgh/Chip Kelsch • Richmond: *The
Catholic Virginian* • Rock Hill Oratory:
Douglas Deas • Santa Fe: Archdiocese of
Santa Fe/Leslie Radigan • Syracuse: *The
Catholic Sun* • Washington, D.C.: *Catholic
Standard*/Mihoko Odawa

Theological College

401 Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington, DC 20017
202-756-4914
www.theologicalcollege.org

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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SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCES

The 2024–2025 Rector’s Conferences are themed, “The Spirituality of the Priesthood,” following closely upon last year’s theme, “The Theology of the Priesthood.”

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The new dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, Joseph Capizzi, Ph.D., shares his journey and vision.



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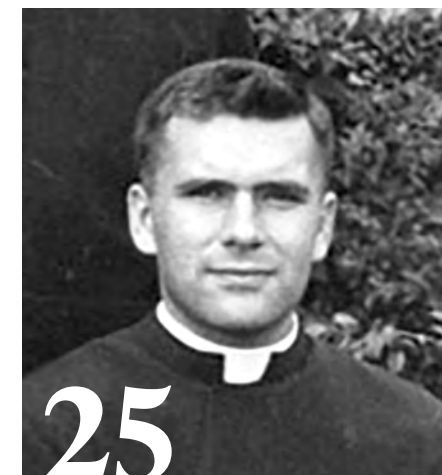


ORIENTATION

This year’s well-orchestrated and attentive orientation week welcomed an enthusiastic cohort of new seminarians to the house.

JOURNEY OF A BASSELIN

Almost 70 years since receiving his Ph.L., a former TC seminarian expresses his deep gratitude for the Basselin Scholars Program.



Reasons for Hope

Dear Friends of Theological College:

My first year as head of this venerable institution was filled with countless graces, and this year is also proving to be a time of great blessings. It would be difficult for me to overstate my feelings of gratitude and hope at this moment in time.

I cannot help but think it providential that our Holy Father has declared that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year and the theme will be “Pilgrims of Hope.” This, I believe, provides a much-needed occasion to reflect upon the theological virtue of hope. St. Thomas Aquinas writes in his work *Compendium theologiae*, “... what is truly the virtue of hope is not the hope we have in ourselves, nor even in another man, but only in the hope we have in God.” What the Angelic Doctor wants us to understand is that we are not limited to our own resources when carrying out the work entrusted to us. Through hope, we are given the strength to endure challenges and hardships in the sure and certain knowledge that God accompanies us on our life path and gives us the requisite graces we need in order to accomplish our tasks.

This is such a needful message in our world today. It is far too easy to be discouraged in this climate of bitterness and partisanship. We live in a society that seems to have lost its way at so many levels and in which confidence in our institutions is at a historical low. Hope adds to faith the grace to live in the confidence that God remains true to his promises and that no power can ultimately thwart his will.

It is my conviction that Theological College is called to be a sign of hope. As the seminary of the national Catholic University, TC is well-placed to be a reminder of the presence and action of God in our current moment.

The solid intellectual formation we provide allows our men to fulfill the mandate we find in *1 Peter 3:15*: “Be prepared to give reasons for your hope.” The many and varied pastoral opportunities afforded by the Archdiocese of Washington allow our men to be living signs of hope to people who so desperately need it. The friendship and support of the alumni and friends of TC have given me so many reasons for hope, and it is my heartfelt wish that TC can be a source of hope for all of you.

In conclusion, dear alumni and friends, let us continue to pray for each other as we enter the new year.

Blessings,

Rev. Gladstone (Bud) Stevens, P.S.S.
Rector

Rector Stevens, with Student Government President Deacon Daniel Roberts, received new members of the TC community who signed the *Book of Welcome* at the opening Mass in August (shown here with First Basselin Cameron Huhlein of Birmingham).



Tenth National Eucharistic Congress

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S.
Vice-Rector

Theological College was well-represented at the Tenth National Eucharistic Congress held at Lucas Oil Stadium and Indiana Convention Center from July 17 to 21. As part of The Catholic University of America, the biggest sponsor of the Conference, the seminary was highlighted at the exhibitor booth. Along with Dr. Susan Timoney, the associate dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies, TC's rector, Father Bud Stevens, and vice-rector, Father Chris Arockiaraj, welcomed the Eucharistic Congress attendees and promoted the uniqueness of the TC formation program and the various degree programs hosted by Catholic University.

A good number of young men who showed interest in entering seminary were encouraged and directed to follow-up with their desire. Many bishops and priests also stopped by, expressing appreciation for the priestly formation program offered at TC and Catholic University. Added to all of this was the joy of meeting so many TC alumni priests and bishops at the exhibitor booth and at the Congress.

The rector commented, “The Congress was an incredible witness of God’s love for his people. What I sensed deeply in Indianapolis was that Christ continues to guide, direct, nourish, and strengthen his flock through the gift of the Eucharist. It was like being part of the multitude Our Lord fed with miraculous bread during his earthly life. This event was astonishing and memorable. What an important reminder for all priests in this age. We are but servants of the Shepherd.”



Revival is not something we do. It's God stirring up the hearts of his people.

— National Eucharistic Revival



The vice-rector and rector met many TC alumni at the National Eucharistic Congress, including Jon Hawkins (B '18), left, and Father Matthew Browne ('19), second from right.

Nearly 60,000 Catholics gathered at this historic event, which was held 81 years after the previous Eucharistic Congress in 1951. The goal of the Congress was to “renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist.”

At the closing Mass, the papal envoy, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, an alumnus of Catholic University and the pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, said that Eucharistic renewal should lead us to become “missionary disciples.” The Eucharistic Congress was an invitation to priests, including seminary formators, to continue creating opportunities in pastoral and formation settings for seminarians and lay people alike to grow closer to Our Lord in the reality of the Eucharist. ■

Our New Theology Dean: Dr. Joseph Capizzi

School of Theology and Religious Studies

Blake Ryan Thompson

*Third Theology, Diocese of Fort Worth
Representative, Seminarians/Pastoral Studies,
School of Theology and Religious Studies*

Dr. Capizzi, you've completed your inaugural year as the dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies. What is your assessment of this time of transition?

The transition has been smoother and I like it much more than I anticipated. When people first heard I was being offered the position they would say things like, "My condolences," and now I always correct them, "No condolences at all." This has really been a wonderful opportunity to serve my colleagues, the faculty, and the students. There's so much that we do already and that we can continue to do to serve these communities well, and perhaps even better in some regards than we have in the past. I'm super enthused about this. I still have my foot in teaching – I teach one class a year. Actually, I'll be teaching seminarians this spring. The thing I miss the most is the research, the reading and writing that I really love to do. Now, it's more reading things like administrative documents. There's still a lot of work to be done, but I'm really enjoying the role.

How did you get here, from professor to dean?

I think serving as the executive director for the Institute of Human Ecology (IHE) established that I can run things. I gained administrative skills that I never had to use before as a faculty member. I did serve for a time as associate dean for graduate studies, so I had that experience, as well, but the IHE put me in a position to hire and evaluate people.

I was hired in 1997 to teach moral theology. I think I've earned the respect of my peers as a pretty straight shooter, someone who doesn't hide what he thinks about things. They have a clear sense of what I think about different aspects of the school and the education of seminarians and so forth.

The faculty has changed significantly over the past 27 years. When I came here, I was eager to have my voice heard, while I was also in need of experience. Over time, people came to see that I love the school and I love serving the Church. I have ideas and am willing to collaborate on those ideas. Eventually, people recognized that I could do this and so far, so good!

You mentioned your ideas. What were some of your intentional foci and goals in your inaugural year?

Last year, we lost a number of faculty members, and in response, my first priority became how to advocate for those positions. We've since hired five faculty members — an enormously successful process of refreshing the school. I'm currently working on three more hires and a part of that involves trying to fix the budget and inefficiencies where we find them.

Upon becoming a dean, three things struck me as priorities. First, the faculty: what are our strengths, how can we reinforce them, and how can we retain people? Second, our graduate students: how can we revitalize the graduate program, which has been lagging? Third, the seminarians: how can we strengthen our relationship with TC and collaborate to draw more seminarians to the university? We are continuing to work in these three areas. These are integral pieces of the vision of the school and present a great opportunity for us to articulate and pursue that mission.

You spoke of the relationship between Theological College and the University. How do you engage with your peers there in the mission of educating and preparing good, holy, and knowledgeable priests?

This is a growth area, frankly. Father Bud Stevens and I have an excellent working relationship. Sharing a bit of our back story, and a total coincidence, his childhood friend is the husband of my wife's college roommate! So we had a kind of built-in connection. We immediately clicked last year. Working with Father Bud and Father Chris is very easy.

In the future, we hope to strengthen our collaboration between the intellectual formation and the other aspects of the formation of our seminarians. We don't have enough



As former executive director of the Institute for Human Ecology, Dr. Joe Capizzi hosted numerous lively discussions and presentations, such as this one on "Catholic Social Teaching in Practice."

opportunities as intellectual formators to give feedback to the other formators, and they don't have enough awareness about what goes on at our end. We are working to address disjunctive points. There is a reasonable criticism that there's not enough of a translational "How do I move this intellectual concept to a more practical apparatus that helps me in priesthood?" Now is a great moment to address and fix this together.

To switch gears a little, you're a husband and a father. How does your vocation influence your role at the University and as an intellectual formator?

Great question! My family has always had a big influence on me. Once, when Father O'Connell was the President of the University and we were on some Catholic news program together, the interviewers asked me the question, "What is your spiritual life at Mass?" I responded, "Look, I'm just trying to keep my kids quiet in the pew. Six kids, different ages... there's no spiritual life happening in the pew, unless you want to say that's a spiritual life." So, my practical life is that of being a lay person who has priests and religious in his life and in the lives of his family members, who has the challenges of being a lay person and a husband. These always inform the way I think about the men in my classroom, and the priests I hope they become. I hope they become men who are responsive to someone in my situation.

My state in life provides a certain kind of grounding and accessibility I bring to the classroom, a kind of humanization of what we're engaging in. On the one hand, it is a high-level intellectual activity but, on the other hand, we're teaching it because we are forming the kinds of men and leaders the Church needs. I hope my teaching is always informed by that grounding, that whole-person way of formation of men who

can understand that, for example, family men are dealing with so much more than just showing up on time to Mass.

When you're not running the department, what are some of your hobbies and interests?

I love to cook and can cook anything. I used to work at a diner on the grill. I'd open it up at 5 a.m. and cook until 2 p.m. I find baking very therapeutic, and it's something I can do during the work week. I also love to mow the lawn. About eight years ago, my wife and I bought a piece of property in Virginia, and I love to go there and just ride the tractor. It allows me to think; it's so quiet and peaceful. I love the smell of the land and the beauty that connects me to the divine. You see God in all these things.

My wife is from New York. I was born in New York but she is much more of a New Yorker. She didn't get it when I first said, "Let's buy this land." But now she does. She didn't realize how much life there is in a field of grass. When you go to a field and see all the bugs and the butterflies and the birds and the other crazy things that live in the grass — the detail and intricacy and so many different beings — it's incredible. It's a universe, in a way: the staggeringly beautiful handiwork of God the creator. Not a hobby, but I do love all this!

Finally, what advice would you give the men in formation at TC who study at Catholic University?

Finally, what advice would you give the men in formation at TC who study at Catholic University?

First, to the bishops: please send your men to us! And to the seminarians: reach out to people. Even now, I'd love to have more seminarians, priests, and bishops reaching out to me with constructive criticism, to hang out, and be immersed in the life of the university – those who are around them – as much as possible. And also, coming as no surprise from an intellectual formator: keep learning. Our tradition is bottomless; it's amazing and as beautiful as what I just described in the field. When you dive in, you don't realize how much there is... but it's all there, and it's a wonderful thing. So, my advice is to keep learning and be a part of the community. ■



Bishop Michael Olson (B '89) of Fort Worth was the main celebrant for the Alumni Day Mass.

Alumni Day 2024

Suzanne Tanzi

On October 2, 2024, more than 30 Theological College alumni gathered for the annual Alumni Day reunion. The evening began at the Crypt Church with the Memorial Mass of the Holy Guardian Angels, presided by Bishop Michael Olson of Fort Worth. Led by Father James McKearney, P.S.S., the newly formed Schola offered stunning musical accompaniment. Father Dan Carson, Alumnus Lifetime Service Award recipient, was the homilist.

Father Carson had recent cause to call upon the guardian angels during a health crisis, and he encouraged those present to acknowledge and treasure the angels' generous presence. "How often do you call upon the guardian angels to help you in your journey of life and in living out your faith?" he asked. Using the words of one of his parish's youngsters, he quipped, "Adults are old and they forget they have guardian angels!" It was a welcome reminder to become like little children, during this nostalgic event marking the passage of time during which, with the aid of angels, we can grow closer to Christ.

Back at TC, attendees reconnected and continued their reminiscences over a sumptuous banquet, opened by the welcome of the rector. Father Bud warmly recognized the anniversary alumni and recent graduates who attended. He also praised Father Carson's suitability as award recipient, extolling him as a priest of admirable character and sacrifice, an inspiring example and a gifted mentor for our seminarians.

In his acceptance speech, Father Carson recalled his beginnings at TC. On his first day, he wondered if seminarian life was really for him, until Father Mel Blanchette put him at ease. He was also helped by then-rector Father Hurst's insistence to "Trust the Providence that brought you here." These words remained close to his heart throughout seminary and into his seven assignments (including two at the chancery) over the ensuing 12 years: "Trust in Providence has brought me through many joys and challenges along my path." ■

“
The Lord has put angels
in charge of you to guard
you in all your ways.

— Psalm 91:1-2

Lifetime Service Awardee

Rev. Daniel B. Carson
Archdiocese of Washington
Class of 2012

Rev. Daniel B. Carson, M.A., S.T.L., received Theological College's 2024 Alumnus Lifetime Service Award in recognition of a lifetime of outstanding service as a Church leader, educator, and charismatic shepherd. He serves as the pastor of Saint Peter's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., where he has mentored numerous Theological College seminarians over the years. He previously served as the vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Father Carson credits his parents' example of faith, love, and sacrifice with fostering his vocation to the priesthood. He is the youngest of four children raised in Bowie, Md., where his family was part of Sacred Heart Parish.

Father Carson received a B.A. in economics from the University of Maryland and an M.A. in accounting from Strayer University. Before discerning his vocation, he served as a computer specialist in the White House and for a research office in the U.S. Senate. Following his government placements, he worked as a management consultant on Wall Street.

Father Carson entered Theological College in 2008 and was ordained a priest in 2012. He was elected the representative for the Class of 2012. "The strong fraternity at Theological College fostered my success in navigating six years of studies, and the spirituality of the Society of Saint Sulpice was a great support and inspiration. The overall formation program prepared me well for the realities of parish life."

After his ordination, Father Carson served as parochial vicar at Saint Pius and Holy Redeemer Parishes, assistant to Bishop Barry Knestout, administrator at Saint Francis Xavier Parish, and pastor at Saint John Vianney Parish. He then served as vicar general and moderator of the curia.

Father Carson has been pastor of Saint Peter's on Capitol Hill since 2022. He enjoys being able to offer spiritual support to members of Congress and their staff, providing spiritual direction for parishioners, mentoring seminarians

and new priests, and teaching classes at Saint Peter School. "I appreciate seeing the working of the Holy Spirit, especially in our youngest students because their minds are so open."

Father Carson was instrumental in starting Saint Peter's migrant relief outreach in 2022 and the parish's Saint Vincent de Paul ministry in 2023. He serves on the Archdiocese of Washington Priest Council, the Archdiocese of Washington public policy group, and as a Catholic Extension Society parish partner. ■

Father Dan Carson accepts the Alumnus Lifetime Service Award from Rector Stevens.



The Catholic University of America: Promoting and Living the Mission

Theological College supports the University's renewed commitment to the Catholic ethos, as witnessed by its new branding campaign and enthusiastic implementation of the Virtue Grant. The presence of our seminarians and faculty on campus and their collaboration there with peers and colleagues in this shared responsibility will profoundly help the University bring to light the gift of the Church in the world.

Lead with Light

"Our new brand platform, 'Lead with Light,' encapsulates who we are as an institution, highlighting our dedication to academic excellence, a warm and welcoming community, and where Christ is at the center of everything we do," said University President Peter Kilpatrick. "We are proudly proclaiming to the world that this University has momentum and that we are leading the way in providing an authentically Catholic education where our students thrive."

Crucial to the brand are four pillars:

- 1. Love God, Love Neighbor**
We pray together, we treat others with respect and compassion, and we serve those most in need.
- 2. Probe Further Into the Unknown**
Guided by the light of both faith and reason, we live lives of discovery, asking more profound questions in search of new knowledge.
- 3. Connect and Engage**
Together, we are charting a course toward the future in our country's most influential city, engaging with issues, conversations, and events that shape our lives and our communities.
- 4. Be Who You Were Made To Be**
Cultivate a deep understanding of yourself, your purpose, and your potential. Discover who you are and how you will lead in service to the Church, nation, and world.



The Virtue Grant

Catholic University has won a \$1 million Institutional Impact grant from the Educating Character Initiative to expand programs designed to cultivate virtue for the University's 3,100 undergraduate students. This grant will enhance the University's ability to foster character development among its students, aligning with its mission to cultivate virtue and leadership.

The Educating Character Initiative, part of Wake Forest University's Program for Leadership and Character, supports institutions in integrating character education into their curricula. The University will develop and carry out new programs aimed at character building, ensuring that all undergraduate students benefit from these initiatives. ■

Feature ORDINATIONS 2024

Holy Orders

Between May 18 and June 29, 19 Theological College alumni were ordained to the priesthood for ministry to the People of God in nine different dioceses: Father William Mobley for the Diocese of Dallas; Father Benjamin Grothouse for the Diocese of Fort Worth; Father Kenneth Nauert Jr. for the Archdiocese of Louisville; Fathers David Birkdale, Vincent Castaldi, and Paul Kucharski ('23) for the Archdiocese of New York; Fathers John Kist, Daniel Kushner, and Nicholas Clinton (1-T, '20) for the Diocese of Pittsburgh; Father Seth Seaman for the Diocese of Richmond; Father Jacob Romero for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe; Father Benjamin Schrantz for the Diocese of Syracuse; and Fathers Joseph Heisey, Joseph McHenry, Dylan Prentice, Nathaniel Roberts, Stephen Wong, John Winslow (B '20), and Joseph Gonzalez (Pre-T '20) for the Archdiocese of Washington.

Between March 3 and June 1, eight TC seminarians and two alumni were ordained to the transitional diaconate for six different dioceses, one eparchy, and one oratory: Deacon Elias Hazkial ('24) for the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, Deacon Isaac McCracken for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Deacon Cole McDowell for the Archdiocese of Louisville, Deacon Daniel Roberts for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Deacon Andrew Clark for the Diocese of Richmond, Deacon Johnni Do Bonfim Silva, C.O., for the

Rock Hill Oratory, Deacon Michael Villavicencio for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, and Deacon Justin Damask (B '21) for the Diocese of Charleston. Brother Bertrand Marie Hebert, O.P. (B '18), and Brother Gregory Marie Santy, O.P. (B '17), were ordained deacons for the Order of Preachers on January 27.

Please join us in prayer-filled congratulations for their "yes" as they continue on paths of love and service!

Ordinations to the Priesthood



Benjamin Schrantz with Bishop Douglas Lucia after the Syracuse ordination.



Benjamin Grothouse accepts the chalice from Bishop Michael Olson (B '89) during his ordination for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Jacob Romero, right, with TC faculty member Father Robert Cro. P.S.S., center, and Santa Fe diocesan brother, Deacon Michael Villavicencio, after ordination.



Nicholas Clinton (1-T, '20) at his Pittsburgh ordination.



Kenneth Nauert Jr. with Archbishop Shelton Fabre at the Louisville ordination.

Seth Seaman at his ordination for the Diocese of Richmond.



Ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington: far left, Stephen Wong; fifth and sixth from left, Joseph Heisey and Joseph Gonzalez (Pre-T '20); from far right, John Winslow (B '20), Nathaniel Roberts, Dylan Prentice, and Joseph McHenry.



William Mobley offers blessings for those who attended his ordination for the Diocese of Dallas.



After the Diocese of New York ordination: Vincent Castaldi and David Birkdale to the left and right, respectively, of Cardinal Dolan; Paul Kucharski is at the far right.



John Kist (left) and Daniel Kushner at the Pittsburgh ordination.



Ordinations to the Diaconate

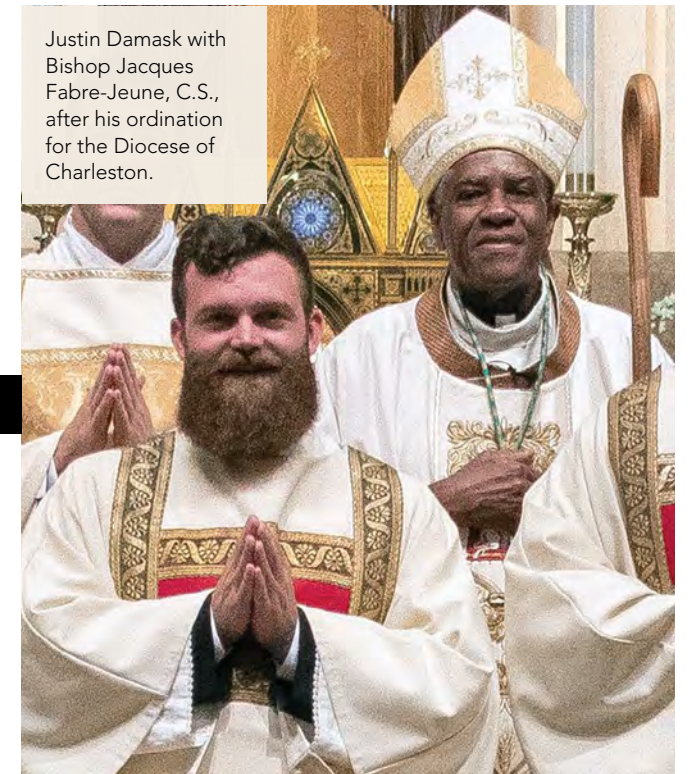
TC's newest deacons include, from left, Isaac McCracken (Fort Worth); Johnni Do Bonfim Silva, C.O. (Rock Hill Oratory); Cole McDowell (Louisville); Daniel Roberts (Pittsburgh); Michael Villavicencio (Santa Fe); and Andrew Clark (Richmond).



Elias Hazkial was ordained a deacon for the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles.



Former Basselins Brother Bertrand Marie Hebert, left, and Brother Gregory Marie Santy, right, with TC alumnus Father Chris Seibt at their diaconate ordination for the Order of Preachers.



Justin Damask with Bishop Jacques Fabre-Jeune, C.S., after his ordination for the Diocese of Charleston.

SEMINARY LIFE

Orientation and Welcome

Suzanne Tanzi

Encountering the warm and fraternal hospitality unique to Theological College seminarians and faculty, the 2024-2025 cohort of newcomers to Theological College appreciated a well-orchestrated orientation week that began with move-in to freshly appointed accommodations and individual room blessings by our resident deacons. The trajectory of the week covered all the realities that make up a life of formation under the four major dimensions of development for priest candidates – human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral. These dimensions were served by each day's theme: Welcome, Spirituality, Academics, Community Life, Recollection, and Prayer.

After four full but joyful days, the orientation team and the new seminarians met the returning seminarians and eight student priests – all told, representing 17 dioceses, one oratory, and one abbey. The welcome-back barbeque and movie night (see p. 16), held in the inner courtyard on Friday, allowed for the first of many opportunities to get to know fellow brothers on the path of discernment. The introductory weekend concluded, as usual, with liturgy and a convivial reception on Sunday.

Setting the tone for the year in his opening Mass homily, Rector Stevens focused on the positive challenges of the discernment process. He asserted that “romanticism needs to fade away in order to have a conversion of convictions, of hope, so that new motivations, new reasons can enter in to maintain our commitments.” This is true for all relationships, he pointed out; even Peter most likely had other motivations, initially, to follow Christ.

In Father Bud's experience, he has heard the most successful priests relate that what sustains them in the priesthood is not the same as that which led them to the seminary. “There are no bad reasons to enter the seminary, but some reasons are more sustainable than others. Some need to be transfigured, converted, to be in keeping with God's intentions.” These “more



true reasons” should be allowed entry into the heart through the grace of the Holy Spirit, and they lead in unanticipated directions.

The rector concluded, “My hope for you this formation year is that we become a discerning, prayerful community together, that we will come to the same conviction that Peter reaches: that only Jesus has the words of eternal life. Let's work to ensure that we have real, substantial reasons that will carry us all to the end of life's journey.”



It is evident that the seminarians and priests here are serious about the Gospel and that they work to maintain an atmosphere of faithful fraternity and love of Christ.

— Cameron Huhlein
(1-B, Birmingham)



Matthew Fichter
(1-T, Washington)

My first impression from orientation is that TC is a very welcoming, generous, down-to-earth community and environment. It has been easy to fit in and make this my new home. I am also inspired by the staff and my seminarian brothers in their devotion and dedication to the task of priestly formation. This witness has energized me and given me a greater sense of excitement as we begin the new semester.



Cameron Huhlein
(1-B, Birmingham)

Coming into orientation week, I was nervous to be in a new city, a new seminary, and to be surrounded by new people. But very early on, I found the community — particularly my brother seminarians — to be very welcoming and helpful. It is evident that the seminarians and priests here are serious about the Gospel and that they work to maintain an atmosphere of faithful fraternity and love of Christ.



Carl Baumann
(1-PreT, Richmond)

Upon arrival at TC, I was immediately impressed by the organization of orientation. Deacon Dan Roberts and co-leader Jeff Ambreit put together a website to streamline the communication process, presenting the clear and simple on-boarding steps in one place — including all the information that the University would need from us to get started. Throughout the week, we had plenty of time to take breaks between sessions while following a straight-forward plan that covered all the bases. By the time Sunday Liturgy rolled around, when we were officially accepted into the community, I was excited to begin classes on Monday.



Xavier Polisetty
(1-T, Fort Worth)

During orientation, I loved the overview on spiritual formation that Father Bud and Father Jaime gave us. It was an important reminder of the centrality of Adoration in our everyday life. Their reflections on Adoration as a foundational part of our faith, from the story of creation to Father Olier's spirituality to our liturgical life as a community, gave me a renewed energy and focus in my own personal prayer that I will be exploring throughout the year and beyond.



Peter Nguyen
(1-T, Ft. Worth)

One of my favorite experiences was exploring the D.C. area during the annual scavenger hunt, seeing these landmarks and monuments for the first time, and doing it with other new guys! Then (12,000 steps later), another incredible experience of the week was praying a Holy Hour every day in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament with the orientation team and the priests. It was very cool to see the fruit of Christ's work in the lives of all these men, who are at different points in their journey.



Seminarian teams followed clues throughout D.C. for their scavenger hunt competition.

SEMINARY LIFE



New seminarians enjoyed the welcome-back barbeque with faculty and returning students.

Movie Night: *On the Waterfront*

Deacon Daniel Roberts
Diocese of Pittsburgh

During orientation week, we showed the movie *On the Waterfront* (1954). Besides its status as an American classic, the award-winning film features one of the strongest portrayals of a priest ever put to screen. Father Barry (Karl Malden) isn't the lead character, but in the first minutes of the movie, he is urged by Edie Doyle (Eva Marie Saint) to stand up to the corrupt union henchmen who murdered her longshoreman brother, Joey.

From this point on, Father Barry becomes a vocal advocate for justice and a catalyst for much of the movie's action. Like Joey, dockworker and former boxer Terry Malloy (Marlon Brando) is controlled by the corrupt boss of the local union. Through the course of the film, however, Father Barry

befriends Terry and acts as his moral compass, helping him to become a leader in standing up to the mob and transforming his community.

On the Waterfront is well known for Brando's performance, which includes the famous line, "I coulda been a contender." However, it's Malden's priest character who, step by step, helps Terry Malloy to become a true contender. Father Barry isn't in it for himself. Rather, he is content to work – mostly behind the scenes, yet sometimes at the risk of his own life – for the well-being of the souls entrusted to his care. He also realizes that his flock includes his whole local community. For people of faith today, particularly men called to the priesthood, Father Barry remains as an example of courage in the face of persecution.

The cohort of new TC community members pause on their Sulpician pilgrimage for a photo in front of the Historic Seminary Chapel at St. Mary's on Paca Street.



Father Michael McGivney House of Propaedeutic Formation. It seems to me a sign of hope that a place of such rich history and spirituality will once again be a locus of learning and prayer that will hopefully carry on far into the future of the Church. As a person with a devotion to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, I was quite moved to be able to pray with her relic in the very house she inhabited and to learn more of her life. Truly, both places are hidden gems of the early American Church still with us and bearing fruit today. ■



Annual Sulpician Pilgrimage

Nicholas Hoelscher
First Theology, Diocese of Fort Worth

I was humbled and amazed at the breadth of Church history that the orientation tour of "Sulpician sites" in Baltimore covered, and the oversized impact the Sulpicians have had in the Church in America. After those of us who are all new to Theological College arrived in Baltimore to visit the sites, we started at the modest beauty of the seminary chapel and residence of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and moved to the breathtaking Our Lady of the Angels Chapel. Especially striking to me was learning of the great influence those locations and the people they housed, formed, and sent forth had on the life of the budding Church there and especially how that same tradition is continued today here at Theological College through our Sulpician formators. I am also glad to hear that the site of the first seminary in the United States will once again be a house of formation — it has just been renovated and named The Blessed



The 2024 Student Government Association: Top row from left, Deacon Andrew Clark (Richmond), 4th Theology Class Representative; Nicholas Hoelscher (Fort Worth), First Theology Class Representative; Blake Thompson (Fort Worth), Third Theology Class Representative; Wheeler Wilson (2-B, Orlando), Basselin Scholars Representative; Robert Weisberg (2-T, Fort Worth), Social Justice Committee Chairman; Deacon Cole McDowell (Louisville), SGA Vice-President and Community Life Chairman; Bartek Sobkowicz (Washington), Second Theology Class Representative; Amos Stinson (PT-2, Louisville), Pre-Theology Class Representative; Quang Nguyen (2-T, Fort Worth), Prayer and Worship Committee Chairman; Jake Nadeau (3-B, Charleston), Hispanic Affairs Committee Chairman and Archbasselin. Front row, from left, Stephen Parker (3-T, St. Augustine), SGA Treasurer; Deacon Daniel Roberts (Pittsburgh), SGA President; Nino Castellano (2-T, Pittsburgh), SGA Secretary.

Student Government

Deacon Daniel Roberts
Diocese of Pittsburgh

This fall, the meetings of the Student Government Association and its four committees have been very well attended. This is a testament to the caliber of seminarians, who are genuinely engaged and taking an active role in the Theological College community and beyond. Some of our initiatives included the following:

- The Social Justice Committee hosted a talk by Mary McClusky, assistant director for Project Rachel Ministry Development at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Ms. McClusky spoke to TC seminarians about pro-life ministry in the parish, zeroing in on ways we can care for those who suffer from post-abortion trauma.
- The Hispanic Affairs Committee hosted a panel from the Missioners for Christ, who shared their experiences of ministering to the poor in Honduras. And Father Guadalupe Vargas, from the Diocese of Fresno, presented and conversed with seminarians on the topic of understanding Hispanic ministry and culture.

- The Prayer and Worship Committee continues to seek ways of fostering the spiritual life of the house. This year, it is specifically focused on how we can deepen our devotion to the saints.
- The Community Life Committee hosted a variety of successful events, including the Mini Sedes Cup golf tournament (see p. 18) and the Fall House Party. During the Fall House Party, the Social Justice Committee ran a fundraiser to benefit Catholic Relief Services' efforts to respond to recent hurricanes and other disasters. The TC community broke last year's fundraising record, bringing in more than \$6,600 for charity!

Once again, the generosity of the men has illustrated their passion and commitment to living as disciples of Christ, both for each other as brothers and for the community outside the seminary walls. ■

TC Sports Blog

Wheeler Wilson

First Basselin, Diocese of Orlando

The Theological College Ravens football team, led by QB1 Stephen Parker (3-T, St. Augustine), finished the intramural flag football regular season with two wins and two losses — its best regular season record since time immemorial. The team made the play-offs for the first time, losing a close game against one of the league's best teams in the first round. Archbasselin, team captain, and WR1 Jake Nadeau (3-B, Charlotte) retired following the final game and his three years of dedicated service to the team, commenting modestly, "I was just there."

The Theological College Ravens three vs. three outdoor basketball team likewise claimed the best regular season record since time immemorial, winning two regular season games and a first-round playoff game. The future is very bright for both the football and basketball programs, which will each be returning nearly all of their players next season.

Community Life Committee (CLC) Chair Deacon Cole McDowell (Louisville) organized this year's in-house Mini Sedes Cup, a contest of miniature golf played on holes designed by our very own seminarians. Robert Weisburg (2-T, Fort Worth) won "Best Concept" for his intricately designed Candy-Land-themed hole, and McDowell's Margaritaville-themed hole won "Best Decorated." In terms of the actual golfing, Stephen

“

Not only are intramurals a ton of fun, they are also part of our mission to bring Christ to every part of life. At the end of each game, we conclude with a prayer, no matter who is on the opposing team, as a statement that all things, great or small, ought to be done for love of God.

— Jake Nadeau
(3-B, Charleston)

Parker (3-T, St. Augustine) won the first-place prize. CLC Chair McDowell had this to say: "I was extremely impressed with seminarian participation in the tournament this year. Despite having ten fewer seminarians than last year's enrollment, we had enough volunteers to offer a full 18-hole course, which surpassed last year's offering. The event was a great success, showcasing the creativity, generosity, and enthusiasm of these men. It really helps to bolster the unity of our house."

Finally, the Theological College Ravens volleyball team began their season in late October with a close loss. Xavier Polisetty (1-T, Fort Worth) and Tung Ho (1-T, Louisville) both had standout performances. The team looks forward to a successful season. ■



Wheeler Wilson (2-B, Orlando) scores a touchdown in an intramural competition against rivals from the John Paul II Seminary.



Father Stevens concludes his Rector's Conferences with the singing of the *Salve Regina*.

Rector's Conferences: The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest

Stephen Parker

Third Theologian, St. Augustine

Last year, Father Bud Stevens' Rector's Conferences centered on the "Theology of the Priesthood." Father Stevens spoke of the necessity of the priesthood, its sacramental dimension, and the priesthood of Jesus Christ made manifest in the promises of obedience, celibacy, and prayer. While these promises order men towards lives of sanctity and self-offering for others, it is only through great dependence on God, who orders men ontologically and sacramentally, that anyone can approach this great vocation. Through this lens, Father Stevens explored this year's topic, "The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest."

He began by inviting us to consider what the spirituality of the priesthood is. While there are elements that define the spiritual life, such as devotion to the Eucharist, Mary, and the saints, they are not unique to the priesthood. The priest's spirituality must be defined by particular and distinct habits and ways of life.

Father Stevens highlighted the example of Father Dan Carson, Theological

College alumnus and pastor of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill (see p. 7). While charged with shepherding politicians on both sides of the aisle, Father Carson's priesthood lies in raising a Catholic vision that emphasizes the perspective of God, not man. This is the defining mission of the priesthood, to repair the vision of the world for the Sacred Order. The priest must raise humanity's vision, and hope, from the world around him to the Kingdom not of this world.

In his second conference, the rector distinguished the spirituality of the diocesan priesthood from others. He recognized that many priests have individual devotions, a combination of various religious charisms or spiritual practices, fit to diocesan pastoral life. However, the diocesan priest is called to a life outside the exclusive pursuit of personal sanctity, prioritizing the sanctity of the people he shepherds.

His spirituality is defined by his depth of love for the people of God, which must inflame his entire life and be lived authentically. It leaves no room for self-centeredness or a sense of entitlement. In giving his entire self, he serves the others' supernatural end. In conforming

his heart completely to the heart of God, it will be open to the pain and suffering of others, encountering parishioners as Christ would. This act of love cannot merely be a part of his life, but must consume his entire being. It is the role of formation to invite a man to grow in holiness so that he can displace his sense of self and act fully on behalf of God.

Father Stevens reflected on what it means for the diocesan priest to conform his life to Christ, exhibiting that the diocesan priest must commit to a life of adoration. In this state, he acknowledges God as he is and discovers who he himself is through God's loving gaze. He conforms to the reality of the person of Christ in whose person he acts.

Father Stevens then focused on acting "in persona Christi." The priest not only acts in Christ's person during Mass, but is also called to give a concrete vision of Christ's presence in the world. The French School of Spirituality holds up Saint Vincent de Paul as such an example. In a world steeped in war and poverty, Saint Vincent recognized the need for the priest to be the image of God, and himself sought to be Christ. Father Jean-Jacques Olier, the Sulpician founder, endeavored to form other Saint Vincents: men striving to be the public witness of Christ, striving to be saints. He recognized the diocesan priest as being oriented toward action, able to disclose God's work in worldly events, and reflective of Christ in his virtue.

The diocesan priest is called to literally reflect the virtues of Christ in the world. In order to accomplish this, he must surrender the world's vision of virtue for that of Christ. He must become Christ in everything, not for himself but for all those in his care. That is the spirituality of the diocesan priest. ■



Jubilee Year 2025

Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S.
Vice-Rector

Every Jubilee Year provides a unique opportunity for the faithful to have a profound and intimate encounter with Jesus, who is the door to salvation. Jubilee Year 2025 comes to us as God's gift and a reaffirmation of God's love for us and hope in us.

The Holy Door of Hope. During this liturgical year, the people of God worldwide devoutly enter through the designated holy doors of cathedrals/basilicas/shrines to gain a plenary indulgence after fulfilling other requirements. The true door is Jesus himself: "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture" (*Jn* 10:9). The door symbolizes hope, newness, and the beginning of a pilgrimage toward salvation. Choosing to cross the threshold of the holy door means we confess that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of all. As John the Baptist did, priests may point to the Door (Jesus), but as *alter Christus*, we become the door through which the faithful may safely come in and go out and find pasture (spiritual nourishment).

As Saint Pope John Paul II wrote, "The priest, by virtue of the consecration which he receives in the sacrament of orders, is sent forth by the Father through the mediatorship of Jesus Christ, to whom he is configured in a special way as head and shepherd of his people, in order to live and work by the power of the Holy Spirit in service of the Church and for the salvation of the world" (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, no. 12).

On December 29, 2024, the Holy Father will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter and pass through it first. The faithful follow him, symbolizing that the Church is journeying together with the Holy Father, the successor of St. Peter, who wrote, "Come to him [Jesus], a living stone, rejected by human beings but chosen and precious in the sight of God and, like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood..." (*1 Pet* 2:4-5). Just as the living stones together make a spiritual house, the synodal Church walking together makes a pilgrim Church. Thus, during this Jubilee Year, titled "Pilgrims of Hope," we pass through the door in



Pope Francis is always the first to enter the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

solidarity with others: saints and sinners, rich and poor, and people of every color, ethnicity, language, and nationality.

Pilgrims of Hope. Man cannot live without hope. Our lives are filled with great and small hopes. But without God, our hopes become meaningless (*Rom* 5:5). Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "This great hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain. The fact that it comes to us as a gift is actually part of hope. God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety" (*Spe Salvi*, no. 31).

Pope Francis draws our attention to the world that is severely distressed and afflicted by war, division, hatred, loss of desire to transmit life, an increase of migrants and refugees, and greater disparity between the rich and the poor. He invites us to become pilgrims of hope and to develop a social covenant supporting and fostering hope. In his "Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee of the Year 2025," Pope Francis directs our focus to a certain population that needs our care, such as prisoners, the youth, the sick, the elderly, migrants and refugees, and the poor (*Spes Non Confundit*, nos. 10-15).

During this Jubilee Year, it's worth recalling our role as priests, bishops, parents, and leaders to become beacons to others, especially those in need. "Pastoral charity itself impels the priest to an ever deeper knowledge of the hopes, the needs, the problems, the sensibilities of the people to whom he ministers, taken in their specific situations, as individuals, in their families, in society and in history" (*PDV*, no. 70). ■

THEOLOGIANS FOR OUR TIMES

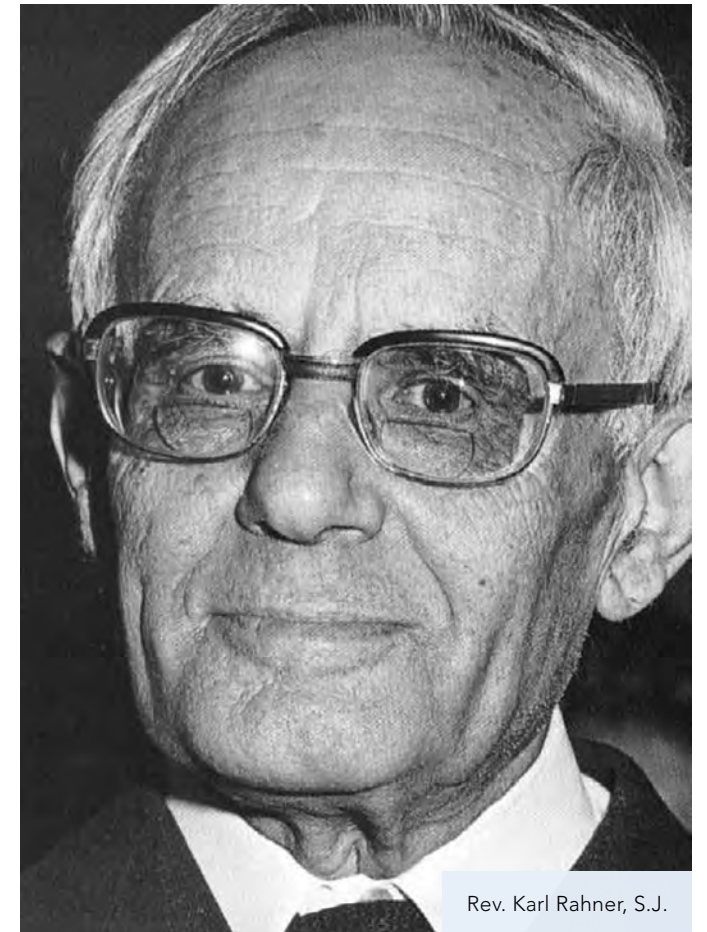
Rev. Karl Rahner, S.J. (1904–1984)

Rev. Gladston Stevens, P.S.S.
Rector

This past summer, the Holy Father issued a document titled, "Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis on the Role of Literature in Formation." Here, His Holiness highlights the power of novels and poems to purify the mind and liberate the imagination. While he commends the practice of serious reading to all men and woman, the Pope believes that a seminary program that fails to foster an appreciation of great works of literature runs the risk of leading to "intellectual and spiritual impoverishment of future priests, who will be deprived of that privileged access which literature grants to the very heart of human culture and, more specifically, to the heart of every individual."

Because Pope Francis references Father Karl Rahner in support of his position, I want to use this opportunity to discuss one of my favorite essays, "Priest and Poet." In this article, written in 1958, Rahner makes the claim that priests and poets participate in a common vocation; namely, ministry of the Word. Rahner states that "the word is the embodied thought" and thus words by their very nature reflect something of the mystery of the Incarnation. Hence, it belongs to the responsibility of both priests and poets to en flesh thought in words in such a way as to open new horizons of meanings, which expands the possibilities for human existence. The poet and the priest deal not with just any words but with primordial words — that is, words that speak to the depth of reality and lead one to grasp the mysteries that penetrate our lives. Rahner writes, "In every primordial word there is signified a piece of reality in which a door is mysteriously opened for us in the unfathomable depths of true reality in general."

The priest, too, must make use of primordial words. What differentiates his vocation from the poetic one is that the primordial words entrusted to him come from God. The priestly task is not to communicate his own artistic vision but to give expression to the divine poetics that form the basis of the created order. In proclaiming God's primordial words, the priest can make God's artistry echo within a community of faith and have the Lord's voice heard and lived. A poetic word



Rev. Karl Rahner, S.J.

can elevate a person. What Rahner is saying is that a priestly poetic word can also transfigure and redeem if it is truly at the service of the Divine Word.

We live, sadly, in a culture of debased language. We use words to manipulate, distort, and abuse. One of the great divine gifts, language itself, bears the mark of our fallenness. Both Pope Francis and Karl Rahner offer us resources for a deeper appreciation of how words, literature, and poetry can be truly counter-cultural forces and be employed for God's greater glory and the amelioration of the human condition. It is my great desire that the men of Theological College will be true poets as well as priests and thus authentic instruments of Our Divine Author. ■

See page 23 for inspiring literature and spiritual-guide favorites from the faculty of Theological College!



At the outset of Advent, Sulpician faculty and the Provincial Council of the Society of St. Sulpice celebrated Liturgy together, on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. From left, Fathers Chris Arockiaraj; Robert Cro; Neal Mulyata; Daniel Moore, Provincial Superior; Bud Stevens, Provincial Consultor; Jaime Robledo; Martin Burnham, Provincial Consultor; James McNerney; Ronald Witherup, Interim Provincial Secretary; and Cornelius Hankomoone, Provincial Consultor.

Faculty News

Father Bud Stevens, P.S.S., rector, has been teaching eschatology at The Catholic University of America, and next semester will be teaching ecclesiology. He has also accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Advisors of the Encyclopedia of Catholic Theology. This online resource seeks to provide a contemporary presentation of the teaching of the Catholic Church, making the profundity, vitality, and beauty of the faith intelligible and accessible to all.

Father John McNerney, Director of Basselin Scholars, attended the 40th Annual Eric Voegelin Conference in Philadelphia in September. He presented a paper titled, “Recapturing ‘Fraternity’ as a Forgotten Dimension of the Political,” and he chaired the panel “Art and the Symbolization of Order.”

Father Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S., vice-rector and coordinator of pastoral formation, is now Sulpician representative of America for the international generalate meetings of the Society of St. Sulpice.

Rev. Neal Mulyata, P.S.S., B. Phil., S.T.B., is our newest formation faculty member, having joined the faculty at Theological College in September. A native of Zambia, he entered the Society of St. Sulpice in 2018 and became a temporary member in 2020. He came to Theological College with six years of formation faculty experience in two different seminaries in Lusaka, Zambia.

Ordained a priest in 2001, Father Mulyata has 17 years of experience as a diocesan priest. He has served in three parishes, as the head of the Zambian Bishops Conference religious programs communications department, and, for the diocese, as the radio station manager, vicar general and human resources manager, and pastoral coordinator.

Father Neal enjoys reading, gardening, and exercise. He is interested in psychology, anthropology, and philosophy. As he grows in his understanding and appreciation of American culture and its dynamics, he is hopeful that the Theological College engagement will be an opportunity to deepen his priestly and Sulpician experience of formation. He anticipates that this year will be an amazingly rich experience full of life lessons!

The Role of Literature

Inspired by Pope Francis’ recent document, “Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis on the Role of Literature in Formation,” *The Crossroads* explored this topic at a personal level with Theological College’s faculty, men of diverse interests and backgrounds who have more than 125 years of combined seminary formation experience.



Rev. Bud Stevens, P.S.S.
Rector

Two of my favorite novelists are Anthony Trollope and William Somerset Maugham, and William Blake is one of my preferred poets. Regarding theological interests, I have favorites to whom I return for inspiration, such as Rev. Hans Urs von Balthazar, St. John Henry Newman, St. Augustine, and Rev. Matthias Scheeban (see *The Crossroads*, Spring 2024, p. 27).



Rev. Chris Arockiaraj, P.S.S.
Vice-Rector and Coordinator of Pastoral Formation

My favorite author in the field of philosophy is Rev. Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.; in psychology, Carl Jung; and in theology, Pope Benedict XVI.



Rev. Robert Cro, P.S.S.
Dean of Men and Coordinator of Human Formation

I mostly read non-fiction. My favorite author is the historian Peter Brown. (He is also an absolutely masterful speaker, I may add.) In terms of pure literature, I always have been partial to the classics, especially Homer. Regarding theology, I enjoy reading the early Church Fathers. My favorite modern theologian is Rev. Adolphe-Alfred Tanquerey, P.S.S. (1854–1932).



Rev. James McKearney, P.S.S.
Director of Music

I love reading the masters of the French School of Spirituality, such as Rev. Jean-Jacques Olier and Rev. Pierre de Bérulle and others. My favorite writers are Emily Dickinson, Flannery O’Connor, and Charles Dickens. Currently, I am exploring the philosophy of Charles Taylor and the synthesis of his writing by Andrew Root. I am keenly aware of the problems of contemporary culture as it relates to the Church, and Root synthesizes this well in his many books. I regularly read the writings of St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Rev. Hans Urs von Balthasar, St. Augustine, and other theologians writing in the field of liturgy and the sacraments, especially Rev. Louis-Marie Chauvet, former professor at the Institut Catholique. I also enjoy reading books on preaching and spiritual direction.





Rev. Neal Mulyata, P.S.S.

Formation Faculty

I enjoy reading from a number of authors from various disciplines. In psychology, the writings of Daniel Kahneman, Malcom Gladwell, and books based on Carl Jung’s findings have been quite impactful for me. John Maxwell and Robin Sharma’s books, though not strictly on psychology but on leadership and self-improvement, are great reads. St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Augustine of Hippo are among my favorites in both philosophy and theology. Rev. Paul Murray, O.P., and Rev. Peter van Breeman, S.J., have written books on various aspects of the spiritual life and are inspirational and profoundly reflective. Recently, I’ve gotten interested in anthropological findings on the history of mankind and evolution by Yuval Noah Harari.



Rev. Jaime E. Robledo, P.S.S.

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation and Liturgy and Coordinator of Intellectual Formation

My favorite literary author is the Colombian Nobel Prize winner

Gabriel García Márquez. I especially enjoy his novels *Cien años de soledad* (*One Hundred Years of Solitude*) and *El amor en los tiempos del cólera* (*Love in the Time of Cholera*). Regarding theological interests, I like Irenaeus of Lyon from the patristic era and Rev. Karl Rahner, S.J., and Rev. Hans Urs Von Balthazar from the modern era. I especially enjoy Rahner’s “Essays on Spirituality.” Ratzinger’s writings are for me a point of reference in my ministry, as well. Recently, I have been delving into the thoughts of Klaus Berger on the significance of biblical spirituality and rereading some of the writings of Cardinal Maria Martini, S.J., which focus on the deep connection between biblical scholarship and Christian spirituality.



The task of believers, and of priests in particular, is precisely to “touch” the hearts of others, so that they may be opened to the messages of the Lord Jesus. In this great task, the contribution that literature and poetry can offer is of incomparable value.

— Pope Francis



Rev. John McNerney

Director of Basselin Scholars

A short list of favorite literature would include Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazov*, Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Albert Camus’ *The Plague*, Walker Percy’s *Love in the Ruins*, and Flannery O’Connor’s *Wise Blood*. The modern-day writer Marilynne Robinson and her books like *Gilead* are a joy to read. Poets like William Butler Yeats, Patrick Kavanagh (see “Advent” where he says, “And Christ comes with a January flower”) and Seamus Heaney (“St. Kevin and the Blackbird”) are always a source of inspiration. Philosophical interests are in the writings of Søren Kierkegaard, Gabriel Marcel, Emmanuel Levinas, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Paul Ricoeur, St. John Paul II, David Walsh, and Jean-Luc Marion. The journals of Kierkegaard, for example, are always captivating for me to delve into. ■

Stay tuned for seminarian literature recommendations in the Spring 2025 issue of *The Crossroads*!

ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumnus: Rev. Joseph Friske Basselin Class of 1956 Diocese of Saginaw; Archdiocese of Munich and Freising

Full of gratitude for over 60 years of priestly ministry catalyzed by his time in the Basselin Scholars Program, Rev. Joseph Friske shared his reflections and his priestly journey with *The Crossroads* from his home in Munich.



Rev. Joseph Friske.

Father Friske, what sparked your interest in the priesthood?

As a boy, I went to Munich in May 1947 with my mother and brother to join my father, who was working on war crimes trials in the former Nazi concentration camp, Dachau. We lived next to wooden barracks where prisoners were held in merciless conditions. In September, we moved to Munich, a city 85% bombed out. I still remember streets as lanes leading through rubble of destroyed buildings.

Seeing the fragmented world around me, I realized that God had dedicated me to bringing divine hope to those in hell: threatened loss of humanity, fear of death, isolation. I felt that I was meant to learn God’s wisdom and follow him wherever he would lead.

How was your entry into the Basselin Program, shortly after your return to America in 1951?

When I came, I was in shock. The life I had absorbed in Dachau and Munich was real. I had much to learn in a totally different life in Washington. I earned my Ph.L. degree with a thesis titled, “A Study of the Influence of Aquinas on Bellarmine in the *De Laicis*.” But I left TC with a richness that went far, far beyond academic achievements.

Where did you go to major seminary?

I went to the University of Innsbruck, to study under the Jesuits, including three future Vatican II experts: Josef Jungmann and Karl and Hugo Rahner. Hugo’s power of speaking inspired me for the rest of my life. After three years, I had to return to Saginaw due to health concerns, finishing at St. John’s Provincial Seminary in Michigan.

When were you ordained, and why did you move to Germany?

I was ordained for the Diocese of Saginaw on June 2, 1962, and served there continually until 1985. In that year, I went twice to the Vatican’s Congregation [now Dicastery] for the Clergy in Rome for advice on how to speak most effectively. The experts encouraged me to follow my insights. I understood that this learning required access to excellent libraries as well as world-class art and architecture. So, I obtained permission to return to Munich, where the cardinal graciously accepted me to work for him and to pursue my efforts of learning to speak personally. I lived and worked for 20 years in my assignment at St. Augustinus Parish with the saintly pastor there until retirement in the adjacent parish of Saints Peter and Paul in Kirchtrudering. There, the Engl family invited me to live with them in their own home.



The Basselin cohort of 1955-56. Then-seminarian Joseph Friske is in the bottom row, far right.

How has your retirement there been?

Wonderful! Kirchtrudering is a suburb of Munich that is 250 years older than 800-year-old Munich, and the home is a designated “historical monument.” In 1970, the Engl family bought the house, hence the name “Engl Haus,” which means “Angel House.” The spirit of the Engl family has sanctified it. Today, it is an example of an early Christian “house church,” such as found at Dura Europa, now reconstructed in Yale University.

Since retirement, my focus has widened from parish to general life, enjoying my neighbors and friends in the area. I recently celebrated my 90th birthday at Engl Haus as a joyful family feast. The well-wishing and spirit of conversation in seven languages and three dialects, among a myriad of Christian and Muslim religious affiliations, was an overwhelming blessing for us all!

Regarding the richness you took away from the Basselin Scholars Program, can you share some of your reflections with our current Basselins?

The spirit of “*arete*” (excellence) in the Basselin Program was an outstanding help for an ever-growing fullness of life. This word, from classical Greek, initially expressed the fulfillment of one’s purpose in life. (The heroes of Homer’s *Iliad* were striving for *arete*, with strength, bravery, and wit.) Christian *arete* is the same word, enlivened by a different spirit, the Holy Spirit of the Trinity, whose power is creative love and strength in weakness, e.g., birth in a stable, dying as a criminal on a cross. The Basselin spirit is Christian, but more importantly and practically Trinitarian.

Trinitarian life has its own excellence and its students are judged by the spirit of their speech. Personal speakers, inspired by Trinitarian life, learn to be humble and empathetic, offering themselves to another, enriching the life of the listener and promoting family.

As an image of God, the Basselin perceives light in darkness and order in chaos. He can offer divine hope to individuals, freeing them from time and space as a prison. Trinitarian speech is an integration of science and faith, bringing life-enhancing communion. Thus, Trinitarian academic philosophy develops into the realm of divine wisdom.

This spiritual journey of wisdom is like an “exodus” along an unknown path. A guide is absolutely necessary, both to explain as well as to overcome discouragement and failure. For Dante, this was Beatrice; for Basselins, it is Theotokos, Mary, virgin-mother of Jesus, and the Father’s Son become flesh through the Holy Spirit.

Seminarians should take seriously Pope Francis’s apostolic letter on the importance of clerics reading literature [see previous article]. For example, I profited recently from the boost I got reading *Beowulf* in comparison with the rhetoric of the *Book of Revelation*. Both were written with fiery words to motivate Christians to maintain their identity when challenged. In an age dominated by the “smart phone,” the practice of setting that aside and dedicating some time daily to reading literature will bring a joy akin to breathing fresh air.

You feel a close personal connection to the Basselins, past and present...

Who is better prepared than we Basselins to make visible divine wisdom and spirituality, supporting dogma, morality, and liturgy? May God protect, guide, and bless my “fratelli”!

Father Friske offers his e-mail for any who might like to be in touch: joefriske@googlemail.com.



Msgr. Roger Scheckel (Basselin Class of 1978; TC 1984), of the Diocese of La Crosse, accepted a gift from the rector in celebration of his 40th anniversary of ordination.

Class Notes

Congratulations to our golden anniversary alumni from the Class of 1974, our silver jubilarians from the Class of 1999, and those from the Class of 2014 celebrating a decade of priestly service, as well as all who are marking a meaningful anniversary milestone this year.

60s

Chorbishop Seely Beggiani, ’61, writes that his latest book, *Introduction to Syriac Spirituality: A Thematic Approach*, was published by St. Maron Publications.

Monsignor Stanley J. Russell, ’61, of the Diocese of Wilmington, class representative, recently retired after 63 years of faithful service, 50 years of which he served as pastor. He has the special joy of living in his family home in Bellefonte, Del., while continuing to serve the diocese in its various ministerial needs.

70s

Rev. Christopher Ruggles, ’77, of the Diocese of Tyler, has retired as pastor and tribunal dean and judge for the diocese. He now resides in New York City.

00s

Rev. David Raymond, ’03, of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, recently retired from active ministry, after having served as the pastor of the Parish of the Precious Blood in Caribou. He continues to assist in parish ministry.

10s

Rev. Chad Green, ’11, of the Archdiocese of Seattle, has been assigned as pastor of a two-parish family, Christ the King in Seattle and St. Luke in Shoreline, after having served as pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace in Sammamish.

Rev. Kenneth Marlovits, ’14, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been appointed pastor of Archangel Gabriel Parish, a three-church cluster based in Robinson Township. He previously served as the director of the Office of Priestly Vocations for the diocese.

Rev. Keith Burney, ’16, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been made pastor of Saint Michael Parish in Ridge, Md., after having served as pastor of Saint Ignatius of Loyola (Hilltop) and Saint Catherine of Alexandria (Port Tobacco).

Rev. William Frei, B ’16, of the Diocese of Charleston, began serving last January as parochial vicar of St. Mary’s in Greenville, with duties at San Sebastián Mission, after having served in Columbia as parochial vicar of St. Joseph Catholic Church and as chaplain of Cardinal Newman School.

Rev. Justin Miller, ’16, of the Diocese of Rochester, has been named parochial vicar of Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece, N.Y., and Holy Cross Church in Rochester, after having served as parochial administrator of St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport.

Rev. Wade Bass, ’18, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed pastoral administrator of Our Lady of Angels in Allen, after having served as chaplain at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Rev. Aaron Kelly, B '18, of the Diocese of Rochester, recently received his licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University and has been assigned as part-time parochial vicar of St. Kateri Tekakwitha in Irondequoit, with a part-time assignment in the diocesan tribunal.

Rev. Christopher Masla, '19, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed pastor of Christ the King, Abingdon, and St. John the Evangelist, Marion, after having served as administrator.

Rev. Cassidy Stinson, '19, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed pastor of St. Jude in Christiansburg, after having served as administrator.

20s

Rev. Garrett Bockman, '20, of the Diocese of Dallas, has been appointed formation advisor at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, after serving as parochial vicar of All Saints Parish in Dallas and chaplain of Saint John Paul II High School in Plano.

Rev. Nicholas Clinton, 1-T '20, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was ordained on June 25, and assigned as parochial vicar of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, a four-church cluster based in Pittsburgh.

Rev. Anthony Ferguson, '20, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed administrator of Holy Spirit, Christiansburg, and Holy Family, Pearisburg, after having served as parochial vicar of St. Bede, Williamsburg, and chaplain of Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg.

Rev. Joseph Gonzalez, Pre-T '20, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and appointed parochial vicar of St. Raphael in Rockville, Md.



Celebrating Alumni Day 2024 together in recognition of Fr. Dan's award (see p. 6), former TC classmates, from left: Father Dan Carson ('12), Mr. Patrick Murphy (2-T, '10), Mr. Kevin McArdle (2-T, '09), Father Sean Prince ('12), and Father Chris Seibt (B '08; TC '13).

Rev. John Winslow, B '20, was ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington on June 15 and appointed parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer in Kensington, Md.

Rev. Thomas Lawrence III, '21, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed pastor of St. Anne, Bristol; St. Bernard, Gate City; and St. Patrick, Dungannon, after having served as administrator for this cluster parish.

Rev. Armando Herrera-DosReis, '22, of the Diocese of Richmond, has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes in Henrico, after having served as parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, Harrisonburg.

Rev. Kyle Vance, '22, of the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Md., after having served at Holy Redeemer in Kensington, Md.

Rev. Jacob Gruber, '23, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, earned his S.T.L. in scripture at Catholic University in the spring, and was assigned as parochial vicar at Archangel Gabriel Parish in Robinson Township, and as part-time chaplain at Bishop Canevin High School.

Rev. Paul Kucharski, '23, of the Archdiocese of New York, was ordained on May 25, and appointed parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph in Bronxville.

Rev. David Birkdale, '24, of the Archdiocese of New York, was ordained on May 25, and returned to TC to pursue an S.T.L. in historical theology at Catholic University.

Rev. Vincent Castaldi, '24, of the Archdiocese of New York, was ordained on May 25, and returned to TC to pursue an S.T.L. in systematic theology at Catholic University.

Rev. Benjamin Grothouse, '24, of the Diocese of Fort Worth, was ordained on May 18 and assigned as parochial vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Keller.

Deacon Elias Hazkial, '24, of the Maronite Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles, was ordained to the diaconate on May 26. He will continue his studies in Rome, pursuing a J.C.L. in Oriental (Eastern) canon law at the Pontifical Oriental Institute, while living at the Pontificio Colégio Maronita.

Rev. Joseph Heisey, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and has been assigned as parochial vicar of St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg, Md.

Rev. John Kist, '24, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was ordained on June 28 and returned to Catholic University to pursue an S.T.L. in liturgical studies.

Rev. Daniel Kushner, '24, of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, was ordained on June 28 and assigned to Divine Grace Parish, a three-church cluster serving the faithful in the Cranberry Township, Ellwood City, and Zelienople areas.

Rev. Joseph McHenry, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and assigned as parochial vicar of the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C.

Rev. William Mobley, '24, of the Diocese of Dallas, was ordained on May 18 and returned to TC to pursue a degree in canon law at Catholic University.

Rev. Kenneth Nauert, '24, of the Archdiocese of Louisville, was ordained on June 1 and returned to TC to pursue a degree in canon law from Catholic University.

Rev. Dylan Prentice, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and assigned as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda, Md.

Rev. Nathaniel Roberts, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and assigned as parochial vicar of St. Peter's on Capitol Hill.

Rev. Jacob Romero, '24, of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, was ordained on May 18 and is serving as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque, N.M.

Rev. Benjamin Schrantz, '24, of the Diocese of Syracuse, was ordained on June 1 and has been assigned as parochial vicar of three parishes in Baldwinsville: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Mary of the Assumption, and St. Augustine's.

Rev. Seth Seaman, '24, of the Diocese of Richmond, was ordained on June 1 and assigned as parochial vicar of St. Bridget in Richmond.

Rev. Stephen Wong, '24, of the Archdiocese of Washington, was ordained on June 15 and assigned as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac, Md. ■



The Pontifical North American College's Jakob Pohlman (B '23), far left, and Michael Ancil (Pre-T '23), far right, served at the Oct. 1 Mass presided by Archbishop Timothy Broglio, during which retired NBA player Gordon Hayward was received into the Catholic Church at Saint Sebastian Outside the Walls in Rome. Saint Sebastian, the patron saint of athletes, is Hayward's confirmation name.





In Memoriam



Rev. Eugene Kutsch, '51, of the Diocese of Dubuque, died on April 10, 2024, at the age of 96.

Father Kutsch was educated at St. Mary's, Dubuque, Loras Academy, and Loras College. He was ordained a priest by

Archbishop Leo Binz in Christ the King Chapel on June 2, 1951.

Father Kutsch served in the following assignments: assistant pastor, St. Boniface Church, New Vienna; faculty member, Loras Academy; dean of men, Loras College; pastor, St. Francis of Assisi Church, Fayette, and St. Francis Xavier, Hawkeye; team ministry, St. John's Church, Waterloo, and St. Nicholas' Church, Evansdale; pastor, St. Jude's Church, Cedar Rapids; and pastor, St. Anthony's Church, Dubuque. Following his retirement in 1999, he assisted in sacramental ministry in several of the Dubuque churches for a number of years.

Father Kutsch served on a number of archdiocesan boards, councils, and committees. He also was a member of the board of directors and assisted with fund raising for Advocator Welfare Answering Service for 15 years. He was a co-founder of the Iowa Community Development organization that resulted in Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement. He was president in 1991 of Dubuque Area Christians United. In his retirement, he served on the Board of Directors of Stonehill Franciscan Services, Dubuque Food Pantry, and Steeple Square.

Archbishop Thomas Zinkula presided at the Mass of Christian Burial on April 17 at St. Anthony Catholic Church with interment in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Dubuque. Memorial donations may be made to Catholic Charities, the Dubuque Food Pantry, Hospice of Dubuque, or Stonehill Care Center.



Rev. James J. Caldarella Jr., '69, of the Diocese of Worcester, died on Jan. 25, 2024, at the age of 80.

Father Caldarella graduated from LaSalette Minor Seminary in Hartford, Conn., and he received his associate

degree from LaSalette College in Altamont, N.Y. In 1964, he took simple vows after attending LaSalette novitiate in Bloomfield, Conn. In 1966, he received a bachelor's degree from LaSalette Major Seminary in Ipswich and he completed his studies for the priesthood at Theological College and Catholic University.

In 1968, he joined the Diocese of Wheeling, W.Va. In 1969, he was assigned as a deacon at St. Anthony Church, Follansbee, while teaching religion at Madonna High School in Weirton. In 1970, he was assigned as a deacon to St. Thomas Church in Thomas and its mission churches and later to Immaculate Conception Church in Clarksburg.

In 1971, he came to the Diocese of Worcester serving as a deacon first at Notre Dame, Southbridge, and then at St. Paul Cathedral. On Oct. 23, 1971, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan. He was then assigned as associate pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Worcester. In 1973, he was named a co-pastor of Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Milford. During this time, he received a master's degree in education from Boston College. In 1978, he was appointed associate pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Worcester.

In August 1983, he began studies in leadership in formative spirituality at Duquesne University in Pittsburg, while also assisting the Oratorian Fathers with campus ministry at the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. In 1984, he received his master's degree and the next year a certificate in leadership in spiritual direction from Duquesne.

He was named associate pastor of Our Lady of Loreto Parish, Worcester, in 1985. In 1987, Father Caldarella was appointed

pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, Princeton, where he served for 28 years. During that time, he conducted retreat weekends and week-long directed retreats at St. Joseph by the Sea Retreat House in New Jersey. On July 1, 2014, he was appointed minister to priests, while remaining pastor. In 2015, he was appointed as full-time diocesan minister to priests. He retired in 2018 and moved to Old Saybrook, Conn. He continued to serve on the diocesan review committee. As he was granted faculties for the Diocese of Norwich, he continued to assist various parishes in the diocese.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Feb. 2 at St. John Church in Old Saybrook. Memorial donations may be made to Maryknoll, a Catholic non-profit mission, or to a charity of choice.



Monsignor Anthony Marcaccio, '91, of the Diocese of Charlotte, died July 19, 2024, following complications from appendiceal cancer.

Monsignor Marcaccio felt a calling to serve the Church from a young age and served with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in Detroit from 1985 to 1986. He then entered seminary at Theological College and completed graduate studies in theology in 1991. He was ordained by Bishop John F. Donoghue June 1, 1991, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Charlotte, N.C.

After ordination, he served as parochial vicar of St. Gabriel Catholic Parish in Charlotte and then as pastor of St. Margaret Mary Catholic Parish in Swannanoa, before becoming priest secretary to Bishop William G. Curlin in 1994.

During his time as priest secretary, he served as the diocese's master of ceremonies. During his priestly ministry he assisted as administrator for brief periods at St. Elizabeth Catholic Parish in Boone, St. John Neumann Catholic Parish in Charlotte, and St. Benedict Parish in Greensboro, and he served as chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity in Charlotte.

In 2000, he was appointed pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Parish in Greensboro during a time of unprecedented growth, which included the building of a new church in 2010, the Simmons Parish Center, and the DeJoy Primary Education Center. Under his leadership, the parish's stewardship efforts received accolades from the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

Monsignor Marcaccio was on the Diocese of Charlotte Presbyteral Council for more than 20 years; he was a member of the diocesan College of Consultors; he led the Greensboro

Vicariate as vicar forane from 2005 to 2024; and he was vice chancellor of the diocese in 2002. He also served as Magistral Chaplain of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, and was a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In addition, he was committed to the mission of the Knights of Columbus, serving as a Fourth Degree Knight and former State Chaplain. In recognition of his remarkable service, Pope John Paul II named him a Chaplain of His Holiness in 2002.

His other leadership work included serving on the board of Belmont Abbey College, and on the board and as chairman of the Alumni Association of the Theological College.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Bishop Michael T. Martin, O.F.M. Conv., on July 31 at St. Pius X Catholic Church. Monsignor Marcaccio is interred next to his old friend, Bishop William Curlin, at Belmont Abbey. Memorial donations may be made to: The Marcaccio Family St. Anthony's Bread Endowment of the Foundation of the Catholic Diocese of Charlotte, P.O. Box 13588, Greensboro, N.C. 27415-3588.



We have to change our perspective when it comes to this kind of grief. Don't look at it as [a loved one being] snatched from our hand... but rather, we have given them back to the embrace of the Lord who made them. Those souls are in the embrace of Jesus Christ.

— Monsignor James Marcaccio



Well done, good and faithful servant. Come share your Master's joy.

— Matt. 25:23



In 2016, Father Brown accepted TC's inaugural Rev. Gerald Brown, P.S.S., Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry.

Rev. Gerald L. Brown, P.S.S., former Theological College formator and pioneer of the pastoral ministry program, died on Aug. 11, 2024, at the age of 86.

Father Brown studied at St. Patrick's College in Mountain View, Calif., where he earned a B.A. in 1960, and then an M. Div. from St. Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, in 1964. While at St. Patrick's Seminary, he also earned a certificate in church music from the

Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), where the Sulpicians could participate in issues concerning men's religious life on a national level. He became an influential voice in CMSM and was elected to its board and executive committee and then, in 1994, became its president. In that capacity, he was able to attend the Synod on Consecrated Life and Secular Institutes in Rome in October 1994. As a result of his participation in that event, Father Brown became a spokesman for Vita Consecrata, Pope John Paul II's exhortation on religious life issued after the synod.

During Father Brown's term as Provincial, he oversaw two important developments for the Society and the Province in 1991. The first was presiding over the bicentennial anniversary of the Sulpicians' arrival in the United States (1791) and the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Society of St. Sulpice (1641). The year of celebration included alumni events in Honolulu, Seattle, New York, Louisville, and Detroit, all places where the Sulpicians administered seminaries in the past. During that year, Father Brown also hosted an international conference of representatives of the Sulpician family and the French School of Spirituality at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

In May 1989, the Province took root in the seminary system in Zambia in central Africa. This was, perhaps, the most significant development during Father Brown's two terms as Provincial, reflecting his openness to new initiatives for the Province. In September 1994, Father Brown announced the invitation from the Zambian Episcopal Conference for the U.S. Province of Sulpicians to assume corporate responsibility for the Emmaus Spirituality Center with its propaedeutic program, which it did do in 1995.

In 1998, he was assigned to the recently established Sulpician presence in San Antonio, Tex., where he assisted the archdiocese with projects of ongoing priestly formation. Within two years, he was appointed rector of Assumption Seminary. As rector, he embarked on an extensive capital campaign for an endowment for scholarships and funds for a new residence hall for seminarians (dedicated in August 2007 as the Archbishop Flores Residence Hall). Before its completion, he was asked to return to his native San Francisco in 2004 to be the rector of St. Patrick's Seminary, where he served for five years.

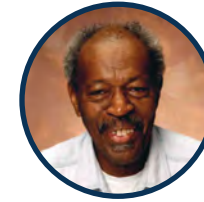
Father Brown began his retirement in 2010 by remaining in residence at St. Patrick's Seminary until moving in 2013 to

Gregorian Institute of America (1960). He was ordained for the Archdiocese of San Francisco on June 13, 1964, and joined the Society of St. Sulpice.

His first assignment as a Sulpician candidate was to St. Edward's High School, Kenmore, Wash., where he taught Latin and religion (1964-1965). He was admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 1966 and returned to the Northwest to teach at St. Thomas Seminary in Kenmore, Wash. (1966-1968). He rooted himself in the disciplines of homiletics, communications, and liturgical music — all areas which he drew upon throughout his service to the Society.

After receiving his M.A. in communications at the University of Washington in 1971, he served at TC until 1975. There he taught preaching and, in 1971, introduced a seminarian pastoral training program at The Catholic University of America, one of the first of its kind. This program led to establishing an M.A. in pastoral studies at the University. In 1975, he began a doctoral program in communications at Temple University, Philadelphia, which he completed in 1979. His graduate studies prepared him to serve the American Province of the Society of St. Sulpice in the areas of research and planning (1972-1975, 1976-1977) as well as on the Council (1973-1979) and later as two-term Provincial (1985-1997).

Father Brown was rector of St. Patrick's College, Mountain View, Calif., from 1978 to 1985. As Provincial, he received the Bishop Loras Lane Award from the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) for his contributions to seminary education. During his term, he saw the importance of a Sulpician presence in the Conference of



Raleigh "Jody" L. Lipford, former Theological College maintenance engineer and building director, died on May 3, 2024, at the age of 89.

Mr. Lipford grew up in Halifax, Va., and was a member of County Line

Baptist Church in Vernon Hill, Va., and First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C. He honorably served in the U.S. Army for two years. He came to TC as maintenance engineer and later retired as building director, after more than three decades of service to the seminary. Over the years, he successfully navigated numerous building renovations, emergencies, and facility equipment upgrades, among many other operational responsibilities. He was much appreciated by faculty, staff, seminarians, and TC contractors.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Yvonne Hayes Lipford, his daughter, stepdaughter, and granddaughter, as well as two siblings and a host of nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held on May 11, 2024, at County Line Baptist Church, with interment in the church cemetery. ■

the Sulpician retirement community in Catonsville, Md., St. Charles Villa (now called Villa Olier). At the Villa, his signature laugh filled the hallways while his strong voice as a cantor led the local community in their house liturgies.

Father Brown's Mass of Christian Burial was presided by his good friend, Father Lawrence Terrien, P.S.S., at Our Lady of the Angels Parish in Catonsville with 15 of his Sulpician confreres concelebrating. The homilist was another longtime friend, Father Melvin Blanchette, P.S.S. Interment was at the nearby Sulpician Cemetery.



Rev. William E. Hartgen Jr., P.S.S., former Theological College formator, died Aug. 12, 2024, just weeks before his 90th birthday.

Father Hartgen received a B.A. in philosophy from Mount St. Mary's

Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., in 1957 and an M.A. in religious education from The Catholic University of America in 1973.

An accomplished Church musician, Father Hartgen became well known throughout the United States for his liturgical expertise. He teamed often with Sulpician Father Eugene Walsh, a renowned pastoral liturgist who was at TC until 1978 (even serving as rector, 1968-1971). Walsh oriented Hartgen toward priestly ministry with the Sulpicians. Both authored books, articles, and tapes on the liturgical renewal that followed the Second Vatican Council.

Father Hartgen served as a member of St. Mary's Seminary & University faculty in Baltimore for 15 years before becoming a priest. He was ordained by Bishop P. Francis Murphy for the Archdiocese of Baltimore on April 30, 1976. From 1974 to 1978, he served on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary in Roland Park. During his time there, his duties included serving as co-director of its pastoral department, director of recruitment, faculty coordinator for spiritual direction, and the developer of pastoral institute programs. He also taught pastoral liturgy and contemporary religious education. He was on the faculty at TC from 1981 to 1986, teaching liturgy, assisting with the pre-diaconate program, and serving as assistant to the rector. In the meantime, he had joined the Society of St. Sulpice in 1982.

In 1997, ill health forced him to retire, and he lived out his remaining days at his home in Washington, D.C. The Mass of Christian Burial took place on Sept. 7 at St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill. Interment was at his family's plot at Gethsemane Cemetery in Reading, Pa.

Bequest

Theological College recognizes with sincere gratitude the generous bequest of **Monsignor James W. McLoughlin** of the Class of 1978, who acknowledged the lifelong impact of TC's formation program on his fruitful ministry of more than 46 years in the Diocese of Rockford. (Read his complete obituary in the Fall 2023 issue of *The Crossroads*, p. 34.)



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Incarnation be yours in
this Holy Season!

VIÉBAN FUND 2024–2025

During this time of Advent expectation,
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contribution to support Theological
College's mission of forming priests
who repeat the "yes" modeled by
the Virgin Mary!



This antique icon of Our Lady of the Sign (Russian Orthodox, 1170 A.D., St. Sofia Cathedral) symbolizes the protection of all the poor, suffering, and grieving by the intercessory power of the Universal Church, catalyzed by Mary's fiat and her motherhood of Christ.

