

Winter 2023/Spring 2024

# THE BRIDGE

PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY



## THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Meditations  
by Mundelein  
Seminarists*

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# CELEBRATING GOD'S GRACE

## *and Mary's "yes" to His call in Today's World*

BY FATHER JOHN KARTJE | RECTOR/PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

**Upon entering the grounds of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake** and approaching the campus buildings, one is immediately struck by the beauty of the rising steeple of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception—the architectural centerpiece of our campus. As we celebrate the chapel's centennial anniversary, I often reflect on the fact that this sacred building also constitutes the spiritual center of our mission to form parish priests, deacons, and lay ministers.

In acknowledging Mary's title as the Immaculate Conception, the Church recognizes that, from her first moment of life, Mary received the grace that would help her continually offer her "yes" to God's call. Learning to receive the unconditional love which God con-

***"Each of these parish encounters provides our students with an experience of Marian receptivity, a chance to both say yes to their vocational call as well as to witness what that acceptance looks like within a Church setting..."***

stantly offers to each of us lies at the heart of the formation process for ordained and lay ministers.

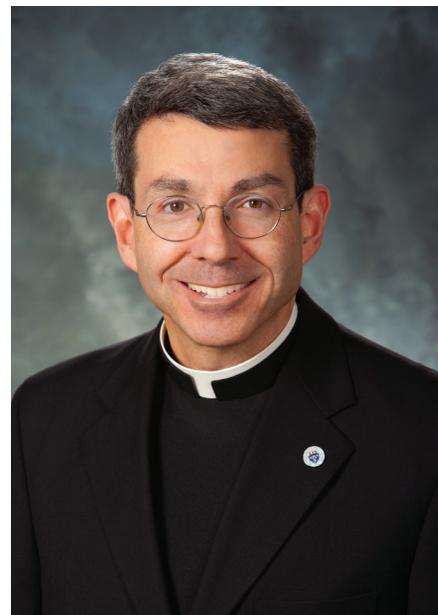
In this issue of *The Bridge*, you will encounter some powerful examples of how we are striving to help our students cooperate with God's grace to become more receptive to His transforming love. For example, our new School for Parish Leadership and Evangelization is uniquely oriented toward forming the hearts and

minds of parish ministers to help their people grow closer to Christ by accepting the fruits of their baptism. This happens as our students are instructed in methods of the new evangelization which are specifically focused on the challenges and opportunities of parish life in the 21st century.

Because we are a diocesan seminary and university, we can place our students in a wide spectrum of parish sites, including Hispanic and Polish communities, with whom we have close ecclesial and pastoral connections. Each of these parish encounters

provides our students with an experience of Marian receptivity, a chance to both say yes to their vocational call as well as to witness what that acceptance looks like within a Church setting that might be very different from the ones with which they are most familiar.

Other examples you will read about here include our encounter-based formation paradigm, *Cor Iuxta Meum* ("after my own heart", cf. Jer 3:15), which has



been transforming the entire curricular and pastoral development throughout the seminary and university. A key tool of this program has been our pioneering implementation of simulation pedagogy, generously supported by the Lilly Foundation. You will also get to know one of our recently hired faculty members who has been helping us integrate encounter-based formation into her classroom.

I hope you can visit our campus soon and avail yourself of the beautiful grounds and unique architecture—especially the Main Chapel—which have been graced by our patroness Mary, the Immaculate Conception, for over 100 years. I feel certain that the intercession of Mary will help your own heart to better receive the love of her Son and thus be a better witness of the Church in the modern world. ■

*Young in Christ.*

**FATHER JOHN KARTJE**  
Rector/President

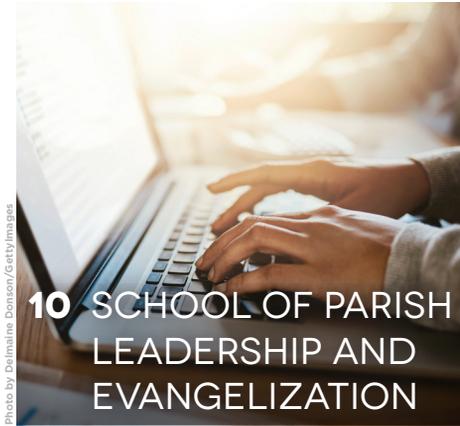
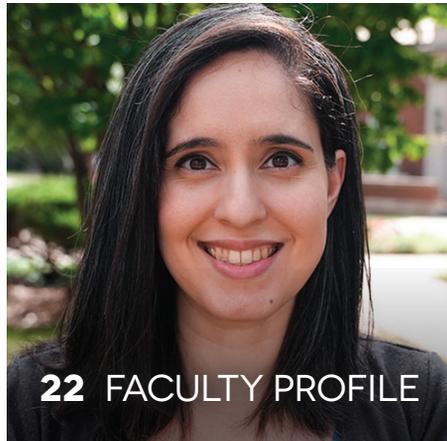


Photo by Delmaine Danson/Getty Images

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**On the cover:**

*The exterior of the chapel of the Immaculate Conception at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois.*

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of THE LAKE

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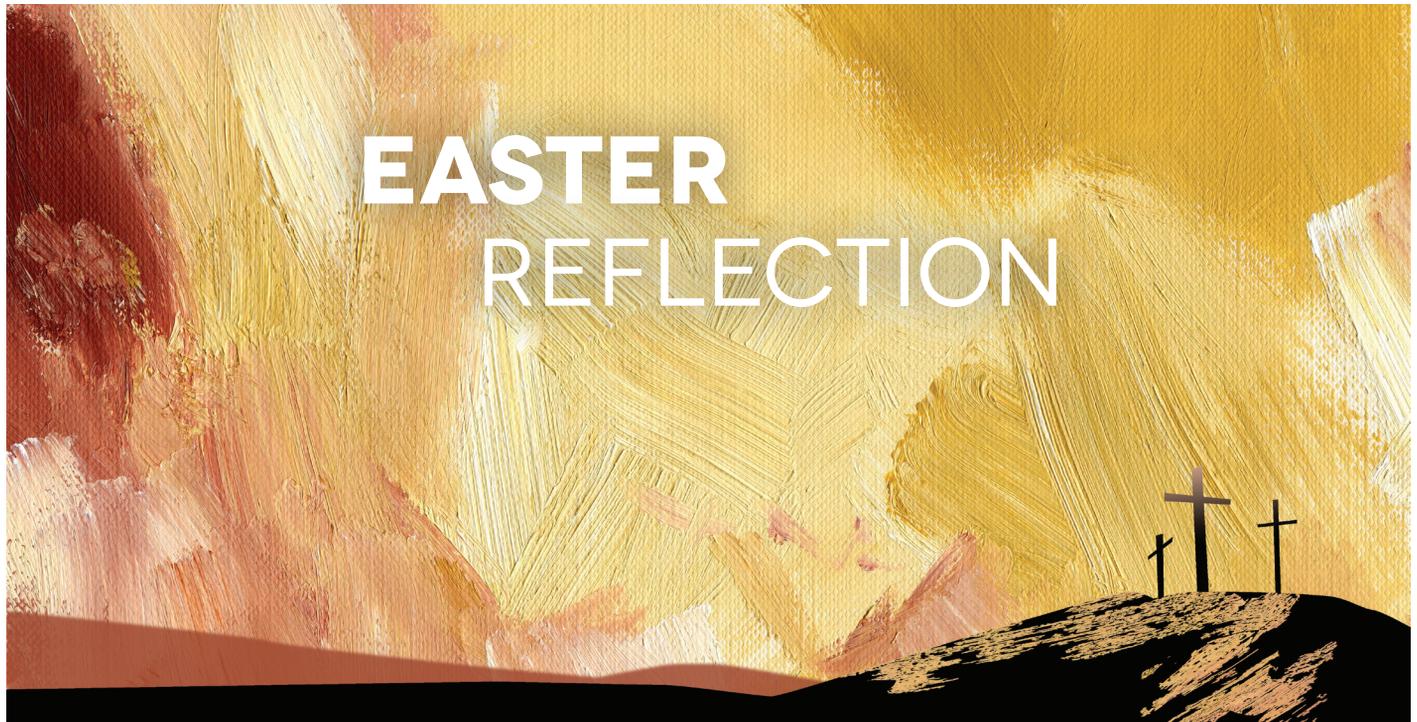


Photo by gDArty/Getty Images

BY KEVIN D. MAGAS, PH.D. | ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SACRAMENTAL AND LITURGICAL THEOLOGY

**Every Easter we are invited to embrace the joy and newness of life** made possible by Christ’s resurrection from the dead. As a hymn from the Byzantine paschal liturgy proclaims, “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!” Yet Easter is not simply the memory of a historical event in the life of Christ 2000 years ago. Christ was raised from the dead so that we too might die to sin and share in his resurrected life of glory.

But how do we participate in Christ’s resurrection, an event which can seem far removed from us today? The Church believes that through the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church the mysteries of Christ’s life become our mysteries. The sacrament of baptism is the very foundation of our entrance into Christ’s paschal mystery. According to St. Paul: “We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown

into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection (Rom. 6:3-5).

For this reason, the liturgies of Easter continually call to mind our baptism. Every Easter, children and adults in the RCIA are baptized and brought into the life of the Church. The font is blessed and Easter water sprinkled upon the people, as we hear about how God has used water throughout salvation history to cleanse and renew his people. The entire assembly is invited to reject Satan and profess their belief in Christ

through a renewal of baptismal promises. The Easter candle is lit, reminding us of the source of the light given to us when we received our baptismal candles.

The prayer of blessing over the Easter Water on Easter Sunday petitions God: “may this water remind us of our baptism, and let us share the joy of all who are baptized this Easter.” Every Easter invites us to examine our conscience concerning our baptismal promises. How have we died to sin? How have we lived the joy of the resurrection? With each passing Easter, we are challenged to keep our baptismal light burning brightly so that we may one day bring our baptismal robes unstained into the heavenly kingdom. ■



**KEVIN D. MAGAS, PH.D.**  
Assistant Professor in the Department of Dogmatic Theology

Photo by Leslie Schwartz Photography



## Priesthood

# ORDINATION CLASS OF 2024

Seminarians	Diocese
Anthony Onu	Albany, NY
Colin Patrick	Atlanta, GA
Jared Kleinwaechter	Atlanta, GA
Juan Vargas	Chicago, IL
Martin Nyberg	Chicago, IL
Timothy Berryhill	Chicago, IL
Dane Dickinson	Davenport, IA
Gregory Lambert	Dubuque, IA
Nicholas Baker	Grand Rapids, MI
Luis Fregoso	Joliet, IL
Joseph Anthony Sales	Las Vegas, NV
Justin Ramza	Peoria, IL
Grant Colborn	Rockford, IL
Jeffrey Filipski	Rockford, IL
Duy Nguyen	San Jose, CA
Robert Lamorena	San Jose, CA
Ryan Mau	San Jose, CA
Kyle Rink	Seattle, WA
Caleb Kuestersteffen	Wichita, KS
Matthew Cooke	Wichita, KS
Miles Swigart	Wichita, KS
John Washington	Yakima, WA

## Diaconate

# ORDINATION CLASS OF 2024

Seminarians	Diocese
Lee Noel	Cheyenne, WY
Cristian Garcia	Chicago, IL
Kevin Menard, SJC	Chicago, IL
Hung Le	Dubuque, IA
Gregory Clever	Jefferson City, MO
Christian Sinclair	Joliet, IL
Vincent Omondi	Joliet, IL
Dennis Marcos	Lubbock, TX
Benjamin Schoonmaker	Peoria, IL
Francis Strong	Peoria, IL
Jack Watt	Peoria, IL
Ian Ordonez	Rockford, IL
Ryan Noorae	Rockford, IL
Larry Curtis	San Bernardino, CA
Thanh Ho	San Jose, CA
Thien Bui	San Jose, CA
Joseph Tapia-Beeman	Seattle, WA
Grant Huslig	Wichita, KS
Joseph Mick	Wichita, KS



# THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Meditations by Mundelein  
Seminarists*



BY REV. DAVID MOWRY, S.T.L., DMIN.  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, WAUD CHAIR OF HOMILETICS

***I love the campus of the university. I love how it changes throughout the year.*** Every season brings a different accent to the grounds and buildings: awash in golden sunlight during the summer, adorned with the reds and oranges of fall, and budding tender and green in the spring. But perhaps there is no season I love more here than winter.

In the grip of cold, in the stillness of nature waiting for rebirth, I notice with fresh eyes the parts of campus that do not change throughout the year. Without the riotous color of nature to distract me, I see those things that too often fade into the background. I notice the buildings I enter and exit every day, and I notice what is written on them. Virtues are written above the doors of the residence halls in

*“For 100 years, the walls of the Chapel have proclaimed the same message in season and out of season: God dwells here and has come to dwell among us through the Blessed Virgin.”*

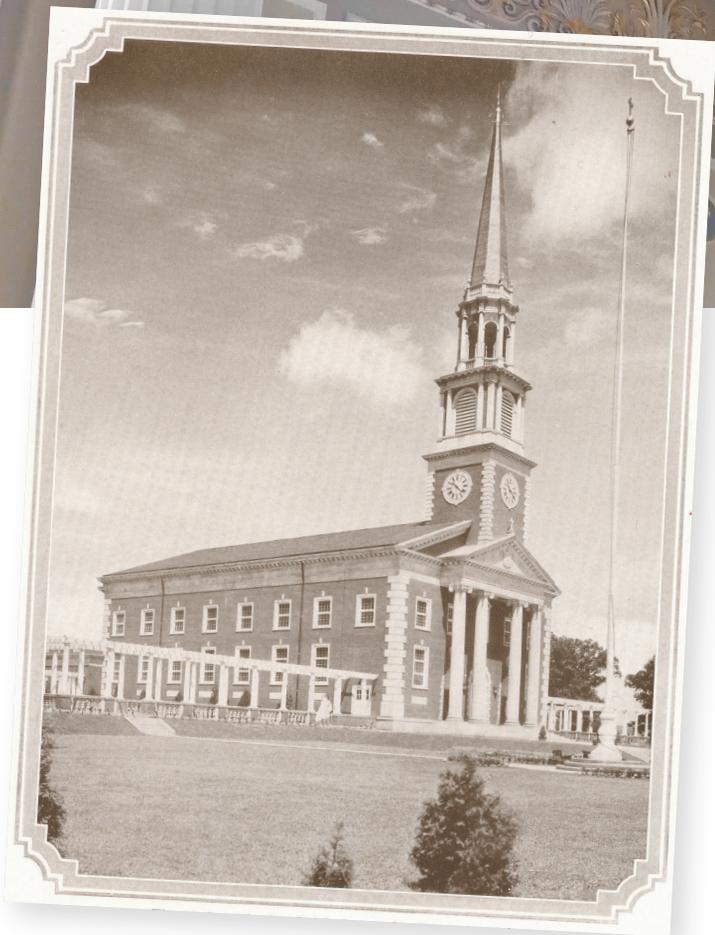
hopes that they reside there along with the students. The names of those worthy of emulation stand out to me inside the library and outside the auditorium. And at the center of the campus is the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the building with the most profound

message of all. For 100 years, the walls of the Chapel have proclaimed the same message in season and out of season: God dwells here and has come to dwell among us through the Blessed Virgin.

To celebrate that unchanging message at the heart of our campus, and indeed at the heart of our faith, the seminarians have put together a collection of meditations on the inscriptions found

in our chapel. I have been privileged to serve as editor on this project. I have been consistently impressed by how well our candidates for ordination have

integrated the message of faith written on the walls of the chapel. It is my pleasure to share with the readers of *The Bridge* the introduction to that collection of meditations, entitled *The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception: Meditations by Mundelein Seminarians*.



### ***Deo et Beatae Virgini Sacrum***

## Dedicated to God and the Blessed Virgin

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception stands at the heart of the campus of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. The centrality of the Chapel to the life and work of the university explains the symmetrical arrangement of the buildings around it. Its physical elevation as the highest point on campus points to its high dignity as a *sacrum*, a holy place. The details lovingly lavished upon its facade inform all who ap-

proach this holy place both what the chapel is and what those within it hope to be: a temple dedicated to God and to the Blessed Virgin.

The holiness of this place was evident from the beginning of its history. Two years after its cornerstone was laid, the chapel welcomed the throngs of the faithful who gathered for the 1926 Eucharistic Congress, pouring off the specially commissioned trains that brought them

from Chicago to Archbishop George Mundelein's newly built seminary. His vision for this holy place was inscribed on his heart and mind before being realized in stone. Mundelein wanted all who came to this holy place to venerate the Mother of God under whose patronage he placed the work of preparing men for the priesthood.

The inscription over the main doors of the chapel has greeted the men who come here to prepare for priesthood for a century. They have benefitted from the generosity and sacrifices of all those whose names are inscribed within the chapel: Cardinal Mundelein of course, but

also the long list of benefactors who made this holy place possible. Their names and the names of their loved ones memorialized for decades on the walls of the chapel stand as witness to the enduring faith of the Church in our God who continues to call men to serve as priests. This faith ensured that the name the seminarians and students of the university would see more than any other was the name of Mary, the Mother of God. The walls of the chapel proclaim the titles of the



Blessed Mother, drawn from the Litany of Loreto. The proclamation of faith within this chapel, however, was never meant to remain inside its walls. The inscription over the main exit of the chapel, repeating the Lord's command in the Gospel of Matthew, stresses the responsibility laid upon every visitor to this holy place: "Go, therefore, and teach" (Mt 28:19).

To commemorate the centenary of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the seminarians of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake have taken up that responsibility. In a booklet to be published later this year by ACTA Publications, they share the fruits of their encounter with God and the Blessed Virgin in this holy place. These meditations open the richness of the many names we have lovingly given to Mary and have enthroned on the walls of the chapel. Each title reveals something about Mary, as each facet of a polished jewel reveals a beautifully different refraction of the light. Each new revelation of her is at the same time a revelation about God, the source and origin of that light of grace that makes Mary worthy of all the titles

we give her. The seminarians have encountered that light of grace in this holy place in many ways: through the celebration of Mass, in quiet hours of prayer, and in welcoming guests to a campus formed by faith. In this booklet, they share with us the light of grace they have seen in God and the Blessed Virgin. We hope these meditations are a source of prayer and inspiration, whether one has visited the chapel or not.

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception exists as a *sacrum*, a holy place, in which God shares his grace as freely with us as he does with the Blessed Virgin. By praising and loving her in this holy place, we learn to be as responsive to God's grace as she was when the angel came to her. The doors of the chapel swing open. The throng of the Eucharistic Congress presses in. A hundred years' worth of students crowd the door. We are invited to enter this holy place with them and take up the century-long litany of praise to God and the Blessed Virgin.

**Look for our booklet of meditations later this year, published by ACTA Publications. ■**



## NEW SCHOOL, NEW INITIATIVES, *same great programs*

BY THEODORE JAMES WHAPHAM, PH.D.  
DEAN, SCHOOL OF PARISH LEADERSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION

**On July 1, 2023, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake launched its newest major initiative,** the establishment of the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization/Escuela de Liderazgo para la Evangelización (SPLE/ELE). The school was formed by bringing together the outstanding programs of four institutes whose mission and programs date back decades: the Institute for Lay Formation, the Institute for Diaconal Studies, the Liturgical Institute, and the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral.

Together, these institutes sponsored 12 different programs at the graduate and adult education levels and are helping to form nearly 400 students. From the Doctor of Ministry degree to formation for the permanent diaconate, and Spanish language programs in lay ministry, the programs in SPLE are designed to prepare men and women for service to the Church in a variety of roles. By bringing them together under a common mission and leadership, the university created the opportunity to develop synergies between these programs and expand the ways in which the university lives out its mission to conform the world to Christ.

In the six months since its establishment, SPLE has

launched several exciting new initiatives, including a major grant award, a new ambassador program, and plans for improvements to online learning.

### **Thriving Congregations Grant**

In early December, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake announced that it had received a \$1.25 million grant from the Lilly Foundation. The goal of the grant to engage alumni, parishioners, and the Archdiocese of Chicago in reflecting on the ways that lay women and men serve the Church through their volunteer service, leadership, and even careers. While the reality of the laity serving the Church is nothing new, the challenges

to helping equip the faithful to serve in our parishes continue to evolve over time. This grant will help us to engage in dialogue with a series of focus groups to discuss the kind of formation that we will need in the coming years to respond to priest retirements, changing demographics, and parish mergers.

We are working now to form a series of small groups made up of individuals interested in and experienced in lay ministry who can help us think through the needs to respond to the Church's needs. These communities will meet for an opening retreat scheduled for this fall and will follow up over the course of the 2024/2025 academic year to reflect on this issue with the goal of making recommendations of how the new school can help the Church to respond to these new realities.

Drawing upon the recommendations of these focus groups, we will then work to develop a curriculum in both English and Spanish to respond to these needs. The grant will then support pilot programs so that we can measure and refine the results to ensure we are meeting the community's needs. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting process, please contact Aura Martinez at [amartinez@usml.edu](mailto:amartinez@usml.edu).

### **Calling All Alumni!**

In connection with the grant, this year the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization will be making an explicit effort to connect with all our alumni. As we continue the work of bringing together the institutes into a new school, we want to hear from the graduates of our programs about their experiences and about what made their formation special and memorable. We want to make sure that as we grow and develop, we are intentional about preserving the best elements of the excellent work that these programs have already accomplished.

The first way that we plan to connect with our alumni is through a survey. In the coming months, we will be sending out via email a survey that will give those who have graduated from the institutes the opportunity to share what was most meaningful about their time at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. How did your formation help you to be more successful as a person of faith and as a member of the Church? How are you using your certificate or degree today?

We also want to learn from our alumni about how their ministry has changed since they finished with us and their ideas about the things they wished they had had the opportunity to learn about earlier. The survey's findings will help the focus groups think about lay ministry and help the faculty and staff of the school reflect on how to build on the successes of our programs.

A second way that we would like to connect with our alumni is through the development of an alumni and ambassadors' network. For many of our students, the experience of forming a community and learning from fellow students and faculty members is as valuable as the information learned in the formal classroom. The goal of the alumni and ambassadors' network is to help extend this sense of community beyond the initial formation of our programs to provide a place of mutual support and encouragement beyond the experience of our programs.

By connecting alumni with one other as well as with our current students, we can help develop a network of those who are involved in volunteer and professional ministry so they can learn from the innovative ideas of their colleagues and support each other amid the challenges that we all encounter.

Finally, the alumni and ambassadors' network can also help us share the good news about the programs in the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization so that others can have the same great formation experience that our alumni encountered and keep the spirit alive in the next generation of those serving the needs of the Church.

**If you are interested in helping us to plan and develop our alumni and ambassadors' network reach out to Becky Castillion at [rcastillion@usml.edu](mailto:rcastillion@usml.edu) and she can help connect you with us.**

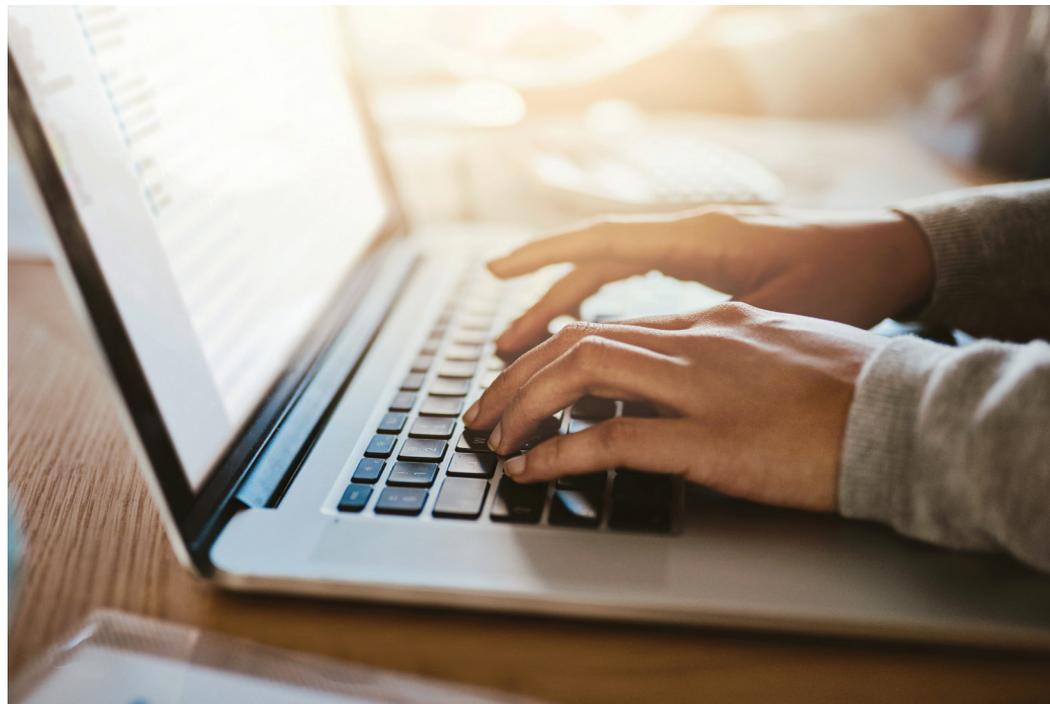


Photo by Delphine Donson/Getty Images

### **Expanding our Reach through Technology**

In the Spring of 2020, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, like so many others in the world did during the pandemic, made a rapid transition to distance learning. Prior to this time, most of our classes were only available in person — many of them only on the campus in Mundelein. During this transition we learned a tremendous amount about how to use technology to expand access to the formation we offer. For example, many in the region would love to take our classes, but due to their work and location in the area, travelling weekly to campus is not possible. Our move to online and high flex class offerings has made it easier for a wide range of students to join us.

In addition to supporting reflection on the contempo-

rary needs of lay ministers, our Lilly grant is also helping us reflect on what we have learned during the move online and to improve the resources we can offer some of our distance students. The first step in this process will be the selection and launch of a new learning management system (LMS) during 2024. While our faculty and students have been able to connect using Microsoft Teams, this application was designed for corporations to use in helping promote collaboration among work groups. Other platforms, like Blackboard, were developed in the early 2000s to support student learning (both onsite and online), and they made steady progress in supporting teaching and learning.

We are excited that we will be able to launch a new LMS beginning with a small set of classes this summer and

expanding to all our courses this fall. We believe that the new system will allow us to increase the quality of our online education. We will also be able to use this new software to support formation activities in the years to come so that we can share our resources with other dioceses in the area that do not have their own seminaries or Catholic universities.

The first year of the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization has been an exciting one with many new initiatives and projects that will help us to build on our long tradition of serving the Church. We hope to be able to connect with all our alumni and friends in the days and weeks ahead and look forward to hearing from all the supporters of the seminary community on how we can all work together to advance the mission of the Church. ■

# CELEBRATION OF MUNDELEIN AN EVENING OF TRIBUTE

BY MAUREEN MCGRAIN | MAJOR GIFT/PLANNED GIVING OFFICER

**Preparing for a large dinner event hosting several hundred guests is not an easy endeavor.** Music, flowers, invitations, venue — all the planning and execution is something akin to a wedding reception. When honorees are added into the mix, we move into another level of event. We have Mundelein Seminary’s signature event: Celebration of Mundelein — An Evening of Tribute!

On Thursday April 18, 2024, Mundelein Seminary marked its 31st year of hosting the Celebration of Mundelein — An Evening of Tribute. With over 300 guests in attendance at the Union League Club in downtown Chicago, most came from the Archdiocese of Chicago while others attended from other dioceses that send their seminarians to Mundelein. They came to celebrate and support the storied history of our century-old seminary built by Cardinal Mundelein in 1921.

The first Evening of Tribute (before “Celebration of Mundelein” was added to the title) was held in 1993 during then-rector the Very Rev. Gerald Kicanas’s tenure at the seminary (now Bishop Emeritus Gerald Kicanas, Tucson, Arizona). According to Mary Bertram, executive assistant to the Rector Very Rev. John Kartje, “That first year it was all hands on deck (with the seminary staff), stuffing envelopes, making phone calls” to plan and execute this first of its kind dinner. While many events take time to grow into success, according to Bertam, “there were easily 250-300 people” celebrating at the Drake Hotel with Archbishop Cardinal Bernadin (Chicago archbishop 1982-96). This first signature event was an immediate success!

From the first Evening of Tribute until now the As Those Who Serve Award

is bestowed on an ordained clergy, priest, or bishop who exemplifies “extraordinary witness to and promotion of the Catholic faith.” It was decided that a lay member of the Catholic community should be honored as well. In 2003, Cardinal Francis George (Chicago archbishop 1997-2015) introduced the Christo Gloria award. In Cardinal George’s words, the honor is for “outstanding lay Catholics whose lives exemplify the teachings of the Gospel.” Both awards continue today. (See the side bar for details about this year’s 2024 honorees, Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, CM and Mr. Joe Paprocki, DMin.)

This year’s event was moved to the Union League Club. According to the university’s manager of fundraising and stewardship events, Jillian Frick, the move was done to “refresh the event.” She shared that her favorite part of this signature event is not only seeing all the moving parts come together, but to see the joy on the faces of the honorees and their guests when they receive their awards. She also added, “Troubleshooting and correcting mishaps without guests knowing it is what makes this event great.”

According to Frick the seminarians’ presence is key to the success of the event. It is mandatory for all third and fourth year seminarians from every diocese studying at Mundelein Seminary to participate

by being assigned various tasks that are focused on the guests. Seminarians who are singers and those whose diocese purchased a table are also required to attend. Each seminarian in attendance is seated at a table with guests, providing them an opportunity to personally thank the guests, for their support while sharing about their call to the priesthood. “As I work with seminarians for the event,” Frick stated, “it is so satisfying to see how eager and excited they are to greet our guests and share their stories of discernment.”

The Celebration of Mundelein — An Evening of Tribute has evolved from its early days but continues to attract friends and benefactors who recognize, appreciate, and support the importance of a major seminary within the Archdiocese of Chicago. As Father Kartje so eloquently stated, “In the words of the Second Vatican Council, a seminary should function as the heart of the diocese it serves.” He goes on to draw the connection stating, “The triad of heart, bridge, and parish priest beautifully captures both the reason the Mundelein Seminary exists and the mission the Holy Spirit impels us to pursue.” This is precisely the reason why The Celebration of Mundelein — An Evening of Tribute just celebrated its 31st year!

**If you would like to continue The Celebration of Mundelein — An Evening of Tribute with a gift to support our seminarians studying at Mundelein Seminary discerning Christ’s call to the priesthood, please scan the QR code. Make your gift today!**





## AS THOSE WHO SERVE | HONOREE

### **Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, CM**

Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, CM, is a Vincentian priest answering the call of his community founder, St. Vincent de Paul, of serving Christ in the poor. His career has always been grounded in service to the poor through his positions in higher education, healthcare, and not-for-profits deeply reflecting Mundelein Seminary's qualifications for the As Those Who Serve Award.

Currently Father Holtschneider serves as president of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU). He led DePaul University (Chicago, Illinois), the largest Catholic college in the US from 2004-17. His other positions in higher education have included executive vice-president of Niagara University, clinical associate professor of higher education at SUNY-Buffalo, New York, and associate dean and associate professor of higher education policy at St. John's University, Queens, New York.

As a national expert on university sponsorship and governance, Father Holtschneider holds degrees in mathematics and theology and a doctorate in higher education policy from Harvard University. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard and continues to lecture at the university on both governance and strategy in higher education.

In addition to his professional career, Father Holtschneider has served as board chair and chief operations officer of Ascension, the nation's largest non-profit Catholic health system. He currently is a board member of the American Council on Education (ACE). He is the secretariat chair (executive committee) of National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU) and is past chair of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California. Father Holtschneider currently chairs The National Pastoral Migratoria providing services to recently arrived immigrants to the United States. As a co-founder and board chair of The Institute for Global Homelessness, he serves in addressing worldwide street homelessness in partnership with the United Nations.

**Congratulations Father Dennis Holtschneider, CM, for being honored by the Mundelein Seminary/USML community with the As Those Who Serve Award.**

## CHRISTO GLORIA | HONOREE

### **Mr. Joe Paprocki, DMin.**

Educator, author, and faith formation consultant, Joe Paprocki, DMin., is the national consultant for faith formation for Loyola Press and has been in pastoral ministry for over 40 years. He has authored over 20 books, including his most recent, *8 Steps to Energize Your Faith*.

Joe began his career as a religion teacher at a Catholic high school after receiving his undergraduate degree from Loyola University, Chicago, in theology and history with a certification in secondary education. During his tenure as a high school religion teacher, he pursued his Master of Pastoral Studies degree at Loyola. In 2008 he completed his DMin. at University of Saint Mary of the Lake.

He has also held positions as director of religious education at an archdiocesan parish of the southeast side of Chicago and then moved to the Office for Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Chicago as a consultant for catechist formation. In Joe's own words, "some of my favorite people in the whole world!"

In 2002, Joe had the opportunity to join Loyola Press to work on "creative and cutting-edge catechetical resources." He currently holds the position of national consultant for faith formation. He has presented in over 150 dioceses in North America on various topics including faith formation and catechetical leadership. Joe blogs about his catechetical experiences and insights at [www.catechistsjourney.com](http://www.catechistsjourney.com).

Joe and his wife of 41 years, Joanne, live in Evergreen Park, Illinois. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

**Congratulations from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake community to alumnus Joe Paprocki, DMin., for receiving the Christo Gloria Award. ■**



# UNIVERSITY OF ST. MARY OF THE LAKE/MUNDELEIN SEMINARY **CREATES SIMULATION LAB** THROUGH PATHWAYS FOR TOMORROW INITIATIVE

BY ANDREW M. HOLMES | DIRECTOR COR IUXTA MEUM SIMULATION CENTER  
ARTICLE REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM ATS

**The University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML)/ Mundelein Seminary**, through the Pathways for Tomorrow Phase 3 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., recently opened its innovative Cor Iuxta Meum Simulation Center.

## The Cor Iuxta Meum Project

The fundamental motivation behind the Cor Iuxta Meum Simulation Center is the realization of true integral formation in seminary education, synthesizing the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions through encounter-based formation. The initiative's name comes from Pope St. John Paul II's influential exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, Latin for "I will give you shepherds." *Cor iuxta meum*, the second half of Jeremiah 3:15, concludes the verse with, "after my own heart."

The simulated encounters are carefully designed to contribute to the seminarian's growth in affective maturity through awareness of emotion in the self and other, appreciation and acceptance of emotion in the self and other, and the ability to appropriately control emotion in the self. These affective maturity indicators were developed after careful study of the Program of Priestly Formation, which defines affective maturity as "the ability to live a true and responsible love," demonstrated through "prudence, vigilance over body and spirit, compassion and care for others, ability to express and acknowledge emotions, and a capacity to esteem and respect interpersonal relationships between men and women." Based on this understanding, a foundational element of the simulation at Mundelein is the consideration of three unique perspectives: (1) the learner, (2) the formation advisor, and (3) the Standardized Parishioner (SP). The SP is a professional simulation actor hired and trained to standardize moments with the goal of generating empathic resonance. By triangulating these three perspectives, the seminarian begins to form a picture of his growth in affective maturity. Formation advisors then have valuable insights on which to base ongoing formation opportunities.

## State-of-the-art technology and data collection

The newly constructed simulation lab at USML, designed to be a vital component of the Cor Iuxta Meum Project, boasts three distinct simulation rooms with unique environments that might be found in a typical parish: a large conference room, a

pastor's office, and a small meeting room. Large-screen monitors, webcams, and a Microsoft Teams conference system add the ability to simulate virtual meetings, reflecting the hybrid spaces used in today's post-pandemic world. Each room is fully configurable and outfitted with cameras, microphones, and one-way mirrors, while sophisticated SimCapture software automatically records multiple camera angles, audio, and data for every simulated encounter.

## The simulation process

A typical simulated encounter begins well before the day of the simulation. Seminarians study core texts supporting the theme of compassion. Arriving at the simulation lab on the day of the assigned encounter, learners are oriented to the equipment. They agree to respect phenomenal realism and psychological safety considerations such as how to exit a simulation if they feel uncomfortable, who will be observing, and who will have access to the video recordings and for how long.

Learners complete a pre-encounter self-assessment that sets a baseline for their awareness and understanding of their own balanced, compassionate care. After reading the door notes detailing the specifics needed to engage with the parishioner, they begin the simulation by pressing Start on the student kiosk that initiates the SimCapture software, begins the recording, and starts a timer on the connected





PHOTO CREDIT LESLIE SCHWARTZ

in-room PC. As the learner enters the room, the formation advisor observes through a one-way mirror. They are assisted by a simulation operator, who monitors and adjusts the camera angles in real-time.

When the encounter ends, after about 20 minutes, the seminarians complete a post-encounter survey and proceed to one of three designated debrief rooms outfitted with PCs and large monitors. There, they meet with the formation advisors in a process called Debriefing with Good Judgment to guide learners in reflection and post-encounter compassion reset and recovery. Formation faculty additionally record their perceptions using a rubric while the SPs complete the Parishioner Perception Survey. Quantitative and qualitative data are gathered through rubrics, surveys, transcription, reflections, and annotations.

### How the concept developed

The idea first arose when Father John Kartje, USML rector and president, began exploring the curriculum innovations implemented at several of the nation's top medical schools. He recognized striking points of connection between the challenges posed by seeking to form caring, competent doctors and similarly qualified priests and lay ministers. The benefits of simulation in medical education were immediately evident.

Marie Pitt-Payne began her tenure as academic dean at Mundelein Seminary in 2019, when she and Kartje further examined the 50-year tradition of medical simulation and its potential use in the seminary. Pitt-Payne collected evidence in her dissertation, *With Due Respect for Humanity: Engaging*

*Affectivity Through Simulation in Catholic Seminary Formation*. She found that “the simulation method cultivated new levels of emotional self-awareness, introduced a new kind of holistic learning grounded in reality, provided a space to work through fear and self-doubt, and enabled a surprising shift in focus from content delivery to a more fully human personal encounter.”

The method continues to evolve in consultation with Jim Carlson, vice president for interprofessional education and simulation at Rosalind Franklin University, and Dominic Vachon, who is based at the Hillebrand Center for Compassionate Care in Medicine at the University of Notre Dame and whose novel research in biology, neuroscience, and psychology frames the field of compassion science. With pastoral vocations experiencing challenges like those of the healthcare professions, Mundelein has modified Vachon's Clinical Compassion Mental State Process for use in encounter-based simulation scenarios

at the seminary.

### Present use and future expansion

Seminarians at USML have already begun to experience pastoral encounters in a safe and supportive simulated environment. These scenarios mirror those that parish priests engage with daily, such as marital issues, spiritual direction, struggles with Church teaching, or challenges with parish council and staff meetings. They complement seminarians' real-world engagements in their teaching parishes, internships, and vocational synthesis, providing an opportunity for constructive and thoughtful debriefing and feedback from seminary faculty before any potential feelings of isolation experienced by newly ordained priests can develop. The hope is that seminarians engaging in simulation encounters will acquire the self-knowledge that provides the foundation for compassion and pastoral insight.

Through the Pathways grant, USML collaborates with the Seminary Formation Council and five additional Catholic seminaries. Beginning this summer, the goal is to expand the methodological reach by identifying non-Catholic institutions that are interested in simulation. **If your institution is interested in conducting a simulation through the Cor Iuxta Meum Simulation Center at USML, or if you are interested in learning more, contact Andrew Holmes, director of the Cor Iuxta Meum Simulation Center, aholmes@usml.edu. ■**



**ANDREW M. HOLMES**  
*director of the Cor Iuxta Meum Simulation Center at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake /Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois.*

# A BOOST FOR THE WINTER BLUES

*Seminarians Take to the Basketball Court in Friendship, Prayer, and Competitive Spirit*

BY MARY KELLY | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**From Friday, January 26, through Sunday, January 28, Mundelein Seminary held its annual Father Pat O'Malley Basketball Tournament** in the Seminary's gymnasium. The tournament was named for Father Pat O'Malley following his death in 2013. O'Malley was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago by Cardinal Stritch in 1957. He had four parish assignments and served as a school superintendent and as vicar for priests until 1997 when he retired to Mundelein, where he served as a teacher, spiritual director, and cam priest.

Ten seminaries from across the country competed in Pool Play to earn a spot in the Championship Bracket. The final four were: St. Joseph Seminary from Covington, Louisiana, the Lakers from Mundelein Seminary, Sacred Heart Seminary from Franklin, Wisconsin, and Conception Seminary from Conception, Missouri. St. Joseph Seminary placed first, and Conception Seminary came in second. The Mundelein Lakers defeated Sacred Heart in the Consolation Round.

The Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus has supported the annual basketball tournament since 1994. The Knights have assisted the Seminary with gymnasium repairs, replacing the original floors laid in 1933, repairing the roof, and donating a new scoreboard. Thereafter, they have consistently supported the event with a donation of \$10,000 per year.

Since 2002, Ron Ziemba and his wife, Diane, have attended the tournament representing the Knights. They received the Christo Gloria award from the Seminary in 2019 for their years of work supporting vocations to the priesthood.

Speaking about the 2024 tournament, the Ziembas said, "The tournament was so well organized by Deacon Collin Patrick. We noticed how everyone was helping out, including one of the priests mopping the court! All the Mundelein Seminarians were gracious winners and good sports when they didn't win. Thank you to Father John Kartje for continuing to host the tournament."

On the 20th anniversary of the tournament in 2020 then-rector Father John Canary said, "This was one of those uplifting winter events, a boost for the winter blues."

**See highlights from this year's tournament at [www.usml.edu/events](http://www.usml.edu/events). ■**



## Reflection

BY DEACON COLIN PATRICK

All my life I've loved sports. Basketball was the first organized sport I played as a kid. We had a basketball hoop on the street where I grew up. I used to go outside and practice — not allowing myself to go inside until I made 100 shots! I was a little crazy back then (still am), but I think sports are a great way of instilling discipline, working towards a goal, and simply having fun.

When I arrived at Mundelein for my first year of seminary in 2017, I was impacted by the Pat O'Malley Tournament later that year (January 2018). I thought it was the coolest thing. I had the opportunity to watch a lot of the upperclassmen (men who have since left and are now priests) go out and play hard games of basketball! The tournament also allowed me to connect with guys from other seminaries ... the whole event fostered great fraternity amongst brothers from across the country. Even though we were opponents on the court, we share a united purpose off the court.

General McArthur once said, "On the fields of friendly strife





are sown the seeds that on other days, on other fields, will bear the fruits of victory.” At the end of the day, and as much as I love sports, the basketball tournament is simply a means to an end. The true goal for what we do at Mundelein is to prepare men to serve as priests of Jesus Christ. With this in mind, our scripture slogan for this year’s tournament was taken from Jeremiah 3:15: “I will give you shepherds after my own heart.” Truly, our hearts were beating within us (especially the basketball players) during intense games in our home gymnasium! But our hearts were most alive, and burning within us (cf Lk 24:32) whenever we gathered in our Immaculate Conception Chapel to worship Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. ■



## USML CELEBRATES LUNAR NEW YEAR

In a heartwarming display of cultural unity, our seminarians joyously celebrated the 2024 Lunar New Year with a special liturgy on Wednesday, January 31 in the University’s Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Mass was celebrated by Father Dominic Nguyen (class of 2023) that blended traditional Catholic rituals with the rich tapestry of Asian culture. Later that day, seminarians participated in an evening of Vespers in the Deacon Chapel followed by dinner and festivities in the Deacon Rec Hall. Menu items included Heo Quay, a Vietnamese dish consisting of roasted crispy pork belly and Cha Gio, Vietnamese spring rolls. ■



On January 23, Bishop Michael McGovern from the Diocese of Belleville presided over the Acolyte Installation Mass, an annual ceremony for individuals aspiring to the priesthood, marking a significant step towards Holy Orders. In this ritual, seminarians undergo the installation as lectors first and then progress to acolytes in the subsequent year.

The role of the acolyte encompasses service at the altar, supporting the priest and deacon. This includes preparing the altar, handling sacred vessels, and, when necessary, distributing the Eucharist to the faithful as an extraordinary minister.

During the installation rite, Bishop McGovern entrusted each candidate by placing the paten, containing the hosts for the Mass celebration, into their hands. He conveyed these words: “Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. May your life reflect the worthiness of your service at the table of the Lord and his Church.” ■

## Spring Seminarian Calendar

### Friday, May 3, 2024:

Spring Semester ends after classes.

### Saturday, May 4, 2024:

Convocation Community Mass at 11 a.m.  
Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

Convocation Ceremony at 2 p.m.  
Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium

### Saturday, May 11, 2024:

Diaconate Ordination, Chicago,  
10 a.m. Holy Name Cathedral

### Saturday, May 18, 2024:

Priesthood Ordination, Chicago,  
10 a.m. Holy Name Cathedral

## 2024-2025 Calendar of Events

**April 18, 2024:** An Evening of Tribute — 31st Annual Celebration of Mundelein

**May 5, 2024:** May Crowning with an event to follow honoring the support and philanthropy of Bill McEssy

**May 23, 2024:** Quigley Alumni Mass and Reception

**July 11, 2024:** Alumni Golf Outing

**September 12, 2024:** 33rd Annual Rector's Classic Golf Outing

**September 25, 2024:** Class Sponsorship Mass and Luncheon

**October 13, 2024:** The Rector's Mass

**November 6, 2024:** Fourth Annual Legacy Society Mass and Luncheon

**November 7, 2024 (Tentative Date):** 32nd Annual Seminary Salutes — Rerum Novarum

**December 8, 2024:** Sounds of the Season Christmas Concert

**December 14, 2024:** Advent Retreat

**February 13, 2025:** Paluch Lecture Series

**March 6 & 7, 2025:** Cardinal Meyer Lecture Series

**April 14, 2025:** Lenten Reflection

**April 24, 2025:** An Evening of Tribute — 32nd Annual Celebration of Mundelein

**May 4, 2025:** May Crowning



## Convocation

### Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m. CDT

Following Mass in the chapel, candidates who have completed their course of studies receive degrees and certificates in lay ministry, graduate, and diaconal formation programs will proceed to the auditorium for the convocation and an outdoor reception.

### Agenda

11 a.m. — Convocation Community Mass at Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

2 p.m. — Convocation Ceremony at Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium



## Mass and May Crowning

### Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 10 a.m.–2 p.m. CDT

Please join us for a Special Mass and May Crowning at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Cardinal Cupich will be the main celebrant and homilist.

### Agenda

10 a.m. — Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception

11 a.m. — May Crowning in the Grotto

11:30 a.m. — Lunch Reception (*Complimentary Lunch honoring the philanthropy of Bill McEssy. All are welcome. Registration required*)

Attendees can enjoy a self-guided tour or explore the campus grounds on their own. The bookstore/gift shop will also be open and public restrooms are available. Rich Daniels will be providing music.

For more information or any questions, please contact Jillian Frick at 847-970-4938 or email [jfrick@usml.edu](mailto:jfrick@usml.edu).



*“Mr. McEssy has supported the educational and spiritual goals of the seminary in ways large and small.”*

## MR. BILL MCESSY LUNCHEON AND PUBLIC RECOGNITION

All are invited to a complimentary barbecue luncheon and public recognition of Mr. Bill McEssy, long-time, generous benefactor of Mundelein Seminary. The celebration will include the music of popular artist Rich Daniels and his band.

Mr. McEssy has supported the educational and spiritual goals of the seminary in ways large and small, from complementing the Feehan Library with the McEssy Theological Resource Center, thus assuring that Mundelein remains a premier home of theological scholarship, to creating a garden for St. Thérèse and another in memory of Cardinal Francis George, enhancing the natural beauty of the grounds, to sponsoring the construction of the Welcome Center in response to the more recent addition of programs, conferences, and courses that bring many more visitors to campus, and, significantly, endowing the McEssy Chair in Theology and supporting scholarships for students, enhancing the primary emphasis of teaching and learning at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML). In addition, Mr. McEssy served on the USML/Mundelein Seminary

board from 2002-2017, ten of those years as chair. He has worked closely with four Mundelein rectors — Monsignor John Canary, Monsignor Dennis Lyle, Bishop Robert Barron, and Father John Kartje. When the luncheon concludes, you may spend a few hours roaming the 1,100-acre home to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake in the full glory of spring, including the recently re-opened “old bridge,” another

of Bill’s quiet contributions, that once again allows panoramic views of the grounds.

We hope to share with you the joy of spring renewal and the Easter season, our gratitude for your support, and the completion of another academic year of doing what we love: forming parish priests.



**To register:** This complimentary event is open to the community; however, registration is required. Registrations can be made at [usml.edu/may-crowning](http://usml.edu/may-crowning), or by contacting USML development office, [jfrick@usml.edu](mailto:jfrick@usml.edu). ■

## DEACON GREG LAMBERT TO BECOME FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRIEST ORDAINED IN IOWA

BY NATE TINNER-WILLIAMS | CO-FOUNDER AND EDITOR OF  
*BLACK CATHOLIC MESSENGER*

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*The date has been set for the priestly ordination of Deacon Gregory Lambert* — believed to soon become the first African American ordained as a Catholic priest in Iowa.

The 29-year-old Florida native serves in the Archdiocese of Dubuque and will receive holy orders on Saturday, May 25, in a Mass at the Cathedral of St. Raphael celebrated by Archbishop Thomas Zinkula at 10 a.m. CT.

Lambert's will be the first ordination celebrated by Zinkula in Dubuque, with the archbishop having been appointed shortly after Lambert became a transitional

deacon. Lambert has served at the cathedral for his diaconate year, assisting at Mass (including the installation of Archbishop Zinkula), preaching homilies, and teaching confirmation classes.

Lambert, who took an unconventional path to his vocation, was baptized a Catholic as an older child in a Hispanic family. They formerly practiced Buddhism, wherein Lambert “first

learned to pray,” according to an interview with the archdiocese last year.

As a Catholic adolescent, he was inspired in his faith through a local youth group and entered seminary for the Diocese of Orlando right out of high school.

After seven years of schooling — and multiple visits to Iowa to see his brother in the sparsely populated, mostly white state — Lambert took a year off from seminary. He moved to Iowa in 2020 before re-entering formation for the priesthood, this time in Dubuque.

“Switching dioceses was challenging. [Lambert] faced skepticism and roadblocks, echoing the struggles of historical figures like Ven. Augustus Tolton and Father Norman DuKette,” reads a January press release from Catholic Notebook announcing his ordination.

Tolton was the first Black priest in the United States Catholic Church, ordained

overseas in 1886 due to racism among American bishops. He is now on the path to sainthood. DuKette, the 12th African American Catholic priest, studied at Loras College in Dubuque before his ordination in 1926 as the first Black priest in what was then the Diocese of Detroit. (He was soon exiled to Flint, Michigan, after being racially profiled and shot by the police.)

In the vein of these and other history-making African American priests, Lambert hopes to be “a beacon of hope and inspiration” for young Black men seeking to follow their calling.

“I'm just happy to be a part of this great history,” he told *Black Catholic Messenger* in 2023, referring to the legacy of DuKette and the significance of likely being the first Black Catholic ordained in Iowa.

“I'm going to be the first African American priest ordained in [the archdiocese's] 186-year existence. It's wild to me.” ■



Bishop Emeritus Richard Pates of Dubuque, left, and Deacon Greg Lambert at the latter's transitional diaconate ordination in May 2023. (EIN News Wire/Catholic Notebook)

# JUST LIKE KLOCK WORK

## Larry and Cheri Klock

BY MARY KELLY | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



*“Larry and Cheri Klock have been long-time dedicated supporters of the Seminary. Their generosity, thoughtfulness, and commitment to future priests is much appreciated.”*

– Brian Schmisek, Ph.D.  
Provost, Vice President for Development  
and Marketing Office of Academic Affairs

**We are grateful for our many supporters whose generosity and partnership** make it possible for us to fulfill our mission to form a Church that consecrates the world to God, according to the heart of Christ through the Holy Spirit, and our vision to form priests, deacons, and the laity for parish leadership, ministry, and evangelization — adhering to timeless Truth while adapting to constant change. Your prayers and gifts, no matter the amount, have been instrumental to our ability to fulfill our mission and vision.

In this issue of *The Bridge* we are featuring special friends of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML)/Mundelein Seminary, Larry and Cheri Klock. The Klocks have been friends and financial supporters for the last 24 years. And just like Merriam-Webster’s definition of “Clock Work ‘kläk-wørk,’” they have been instrumental in the inner workings of our beloved university and seminary.

In February of this year, Cheri and Larry generously hosted a reception at the

Grey Oaks Country Club in Naples for 24 old and new friends who welcomed Father John Karte and heard about his vision for the future of USML and Mundelein Seminary. They are very proud of their son, Sean, who currently serves on the board of advisors and has been a force in his leadership of the annual Rector’s Classic Golf Outing, a major fundraiser for Mundelein Seminary.

**You recently hosted a wonderful gathering of University of Saint Mary**

**of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. What was that like and what motivated you to host the reception?**

**RESPONSE:** We had an opportunity to welcome Father Kartje to warm and sunny Naples, Florida, where he shared insights on new initiatives at USML to a group of 24 current and potential USML advocates.

**How did you first connect with University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary?**

**RESPONSE:** Almost 30 years ago, Father Hennessey offered Cheri and a dear friend his time and wisdom. This provided spiritual guidance to develop and lead Bible study at the Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest, Illinois.

**What motivates your generosity to University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary?**

**LARRY:** A combination of things. The Church needs to combat and recover from the rise of secularism along with self-inflicted scandals, which have damaged its credibility. Creating new priests who embrace the teachings of Christ will provide the foundation needed in the 21st century. This cannot happen overnight, and offering our time, talent, and treasure on a sustained basis is essential if USML is to succeed.

**CHERI:** Mundelein is a vibrant community of men discerning their call to the priesthood. One can feel the power of the Holy Spirit moving over these young men, which gives me inspiration and hope for the future. It is essential that we have holy and well-formed priests so we have future generations of faith. I am motivated by a quote of St. Theresa of Avila, who said, “If I were to meet a priest and an angel, I would salute the priest before the angel. The latter is the friend of God, but the priest stands in his place. I kiss the ground where a priest has passed.” Can you imagine how sacred the grounds of Mundelein Seminary are?

**Why is it important that others support University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary?**

**RESPONSE:** Having the ability to accomplish USML’s mission will require financial support from a wide range of sources. Donors should realize that they are also part owners of the seminary and responsible for its care in order to continue its success. ■

# AN INTERVIEW WITH Dr. Maria Barga

BY MARY KELLY | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**We are pleased to present an interview with Dr. Maria Barga, Assistant Professor at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML)** and a noted biblical scholar, who has recently been featured in a video seminar for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Sunday Seminar Series on *Rezando los Psalmos* (Praying the Psalms). This introduction serves not only to highlight Dr. Barga's significant contribution to the series, which is available for viewing on our website, but also to offer a glimpse into her personal and professional journey. Through this Q&A, readers will gain insight into Dr. Barga's background, her motivations for becoming a biblical scholar, and the impact she hopes to have on her students and the wider community, all framed against the backdrop of her recent acclaimed seminar.

## Where did you grow up? Describe your childhood.

**DR. BARGA:** My parents moved from Puerto Rico to the U.S. mainland in the 1980s, finally settling in the Jonesboro/Fayetteville area of Georgia, where I spent the majority of my childhood. My parents were, and continue to be, very active members of the parish community. They passed on their love for the Church and service to the community to me and my siblings. Theological discussions were common at the dinner table, and my parents were very intentional in forming us in the Catholic faith.

## Where did you study? What motivated you to become a biblical scholar?

**DR. BARGA:** I did my undergraduate studies at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. My interests initially lay in classical archaeology, but I also majored in French and Spanish because of my love of languages. Finding that I preferred

my language classes to archaeology, I decided not to pursue graduate studies in that field, but I did not know what else I should do. So, I got a job at a law office and continued to volunteer in my parish. It was in teaching confirmation classes to high schoolers and first Communion classes to bilingual middle schoolers that I realized the need for a deeper understanding of Scripture in the parish. For me, Scripture has always been my family history, informing and deepening the richness of my Catholic faith and liturgical worship. I wanted others to enjoy and benefit from this richness, which is why I began to look into biblical programs. The program at The Catholic University of America drew my attention because of its emphasis on ancient languages, which meshed with my interest in languages.

## Where were you previously?

**DR. BARGA:** Just prior to coming USML, I taught Sacred Scripture at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. I was there for three years, during which time I taught courses ranging from Salvation History to the Gospels to Psalms and Wisdom Literature. I also taught electives on suffering in the Bible and a comparative course on the Bible and the Qur'an.

## What attracted you to USML/ Mundelein Seminary?

**DR. BARGA:** First of all, I was attracted by a strong calling from God to look into teaching Sacred Scripture here at USML. This may sound cliché, but I have no better way to express this reality. There were many very good reasons for me to continue teaching at the Josephinum; however, much prayer and discernment led me to be open to coming to USML. This was further reinforced when I spoke with faculty and



students, especially during my campus visit. The spirit of faith tied in with the intellectual endeavor showed through each person I encountered as did their warmth and hospitality.

## What do you like best about teaching at USML?

**DR. BARGA:** That is a difficult question to answer because there are so many things I like about teaching at USML. I will focus on two that stand out the most for me. First, I enjoy teaching the seminarians, getting to know them and seeing their dedication and passion for the Faith. I am impressed by their willingness to engage with difficult questions and the challenges of breaking open the Word of God for people today. Second, I very much appreciate the faculty and staff here at USML. Along with their welcoming dispositions, the collaborative and collegial interactions have made me a better professor and, I think, a better person.

## What courses do you teach at USML?

**DR. BARGA:** Thus far, I have taught Introduction to the Old Testament and to the New Testament as well as Psalms and Wisdom Literature, Synoptic Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, Pentateuch and Histories, and Prophets.

## Who inspires you?

**DR. BARGA:** My husband inspires me. His dedication to our family and to the Church motivates me to do the

*“Dr. Barga is such a welcome addition to the faculty! She is an exceptional scholar who found her call to the academic community in the midst of a generous desire to serve more effectively as a catechist. That is a disposition which serves as an inspiration to us all – faculty and students alike.”*

– Marie Pitt-Payne, Academic Dean,  
Mundelein Seminary

same. He sees the work I do at USML as a calling, as part of my vocation. Without his support, I would not be able to do the work I do, both at home and at USML. Also, my parents inspire me with their love for the Catholic faith and their life-long service to the community. They taught me to share God’s love with others at every moment, at every encounter.

**What impact do you want to have on your students?**

**DR. BARGA:** In the academic field, it is easy to think that the focus is on textbooks, exams, and coursework. I would like students to see the humanity of the intellectual endeavor. The conversations we have in class are opportunities of encounter with each other, as well as with the professor. With this perspective, each class prepares them for encountering others in future ministry, not simply in conveying content but in the ability to recognize each other’s, and their own, humanity and our fundamental need for God and for community.

**Any personal stories, hobbies, or other interests you would like to share?**

**DR. BARGA:** I enjoy reading science fiction, especially anything by Timothy Zhan. I also like to paint with acrylics and oils when I have a chance. ■

# IT’S TEE TIME



**Mundelein Seminary will hold its 33rd annual Rector’s Classic Golf Outing and Awards Dinner on Thursday, September 12, 2024.** Individuals will experience the beauty of Pine Meadow Golf Club in Mundelein, where

they will be treated to a BBQ lunch to build up their strength for a shot gun-best ball tournament. The event includes giveaways and a special surprise gift for each golfer. Individuals and foursomes are welcome and sponsorships are available.

Last year’s event was a sell-out, so you will want to purchase your tickets when you receive the invitation. The registration page is live on our website.

The festivities will continue into the evening, when we will proudly honor the lifetime achievements of Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Chairman, Misericordia Foundation, with the 2024 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin In Service of One Another Catholic Humanitarian Award. Separate tickets for those who are only able to attend the reception will be available. For more on Sister Rosemary’s extraordinary life, please see the article on page 24.

**For more information** on registration and sponsorship, please contact Jillian Frick, special events manager for the USML Development office at [jfrick@usml.edu](mailto:jfrick@usml.edu). ■

**2024 Rector’s Classic Golf Committee**

- Sean Klock, *Committee Chair*
- Brian Callahan
- Marty Endre
- Mike Rigali
- Bob Galecke
- Dan Love
- Tim Schlessler
- Tom Kiley
- Todd Helfrich



## AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SERVICE:

*Honoring Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Chair, Misericordia Foundation*

**T**he University of St. Mary of the Lake and Mundelein Seminary will proudly honor Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Chair of the Misericordia Foundation on September 12 with the 2024 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin In Service of One Another Catholic Humanitarian Award. Sister Rosemary is a member of the Sisters of Mercy. A native Chicagoan, she attended parochial schools and taught in several archdiocesan schools while continuing her studies. In 1959, Sister Rosemary earned a B.S. in Social Science. She then earned a Master of Arts in Sociology from St. Louis University in 1966 and a Master's in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago in 1969. She was appointed administrator of Misericordia in 1969. She has also received nine honorary doctorate degrees — from the University of Notre Dame, St. Mary's College of Notre Dame, Loyola, DePaul, Lewis, St. Xavier, Marquette, Dominican, and MacMurray Universities, as well as numerous awards and honors.

Misericordia began providing services for persons in need in 1921. Operated by the Sisters of Mercy, it first served as a maternity hospital on the South Side of Chicago. In 1954, it turned its attention to another group in need of special care — children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sister Rosemary was appointed Misericordia's Executive Director in 1969. At that time, there were no services for children with disabilities, so she started a variety of programs designed to help the children achieve the highest level of independence possible. In 1976, Sister Rosemary, 39 children and 35 dedicated staff members moved to the former site of Angel Guardian Orphanage on the North Side of Chicago at 6300 North Ridge. It was an abandoned campus with dilapidated buildings.

A visionary who devoted more than 50 years to the community that has become the Misericordia of today, Sister Rosemary's leadership over the years has led to a far-reaching program that includes 600 children and adult residents, an Outreach Program serving more than 200 families, 1,100 employees and thousands of volunteers both on and off campus. Nearly 400 people currently are on Misericordia's waiting list. Sister was integral in establishing Misericordia as one of the nation's leading communities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It has become

a model for others in providing a wide range of residential options, educational programs, vocational training, therapy and medical services, social and recreational activities, health and fitness, and opportunities for spiritual growth.

In addition, Misericordia provides a full continuum of care to meet the diverse needs of the population it serves, including four on-campus Quinlan Terrace Homes designed to address the evolving healthcare needs of its aging residents. Misericordia also has 14 homes off campus in various neighborhoods called CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangements). It also has introduced a new Adult Enrichment Program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living at home with their families. The program offers job training, work opportunities, and a variety of social and recreational activities. In an effort to reach out to families on its waiting list, Misericordia is planning to build initially up to 10 new homes on three acres of land directly south of its main campus. It also is opening a new, drive-thru Hearts & Flour Bakery and Café on Ravenswood Avenue two blocks south of its main entrance.

On December 8, 2021, Misericordia announced major changes in its fundraising and leadership roles. The Misericordia Foundation was established and is responsible for the fundraising efforts to support Misericordia Home. Sister Rosemary transitioned from executive director of Misericordia Home to Chair of Misericordia Foundation. She remains steadfast in her commitment to provide opportunities for all those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live lives that are as fulfilled, meaningful, and independent as possible. She holds strongly to the belief that Misericordia's children and adults not only have the right to life but to one worth living.

**Please join us on September 12** as the USML/Mundelein Seminary community gathers to honor her outstanding humanitarian service and celebrate her contributions to Misericordia on behalf of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Invitations and registration details to follow. In the meantime, please contact Jillian Frick, development manager of special events at [jfrick@usml.edu](mailto:jfrick@usml.edu) for more information. ■



# MEET MARY BERTRAM

BY MARY KELLY | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



**Enter the Rector/President's office in the Administration Building of USML/Mundelein Seminary** and you will be greeted warmly by Father John Kartje's executive assistant, Mary Bertram.

Within moments you are captivated by the remarkable image on her computer screen. It is a photo she captured on her cell phone camera several years ago on a beautiful spring day as she was exiting the administration building on

her way to lunch. Against the backdrop of brilliant blue sky, you see perfect white plumes of vapor trail lines left by two airplanes intersecting to form a perfect cross in the sky. "I was so moved that I just had to snap a photo. It was a sign that this is where I need to be."

This image and her recognition of that particular moment speaks to Mary's great faith and the personal moments of happiness and tragedy that occur in the life of all human beings. But Mary is most grateful that during her 33-year career at USML/Mundelein Seminary, she has shared both joy and sorrows with the support of a compassionate and loving community.

The Deerfield High School graduate was just 23 years old when her sister met Rev. Martin Zielinski in late summer of 1991 following mass at St. Patrick Church in

Wadsworth. Father Zielinski who was serving as Academic Dean at the Seminary, mentioned that he was seeking secretarial support for his office. Mary had recently been

Mary, he was a very respected ecumenical scholar and a fascinating individual. The two of them had a special friendship. Three years ago, Mary was invited to serve as executive assistant to the Rector/President Fr. John Kartje, and Father Baima the following week and began work with Father Zielinski on the first day of work on the new job but

Three weeks into her new job, Mary's mother died unexpectedly, without Mary being able to tell her about her recent marriage engagement. "Father Zielinski was so kind to me," said Mary. "He became our family priest and shortly thereafter served as Academic Office, Mary saw celebrant for my marriage to Dave. Their wedding photos were taken on the grounds of the Seminary. Later, Father Zielinski presided over her grandmother's funeral. She continued her work for many years in the Academic Office, reporting to Rev. John Lodge and subsequently to Rev. Raymond Webb. Sheher desk, and grades were printed on Carbon paper. She assisted in the assembly of seminarian and faculty handbooks and worked one of the easiest people to talk to, and Father Webb whoduring her busy career, her currently serves as Professorhusband suggested she step down Emeritus in the Department of Pastoral Theology at the Seminary was equally wonderful," she said. "With his passion for the Holy Land, he used to re-build on faith and receive so many scholarly compassion. I may hit the snooze button on my alarm a bit a hard time keeping them organized," she love waking up and coming to work recalled with a smile. every day."

*"Mary was an administrative assistant of the academic dean during my time in that office. She was generous, always accommodating, very willing to help with anything, and always want to learn more, which is a great virtue." – Father Raymond Webb*

*"Mary has been a tireless supporter of our mission in priestly and lay formation for several decades. It would be impossible to exaggerate the impact she has had on the lives of countless priests and ministers over the years. As Executive Assistant in the Office of the Rector and the Office for Academic Affairs, Mary has helped countless students navigate the intricacies of their academic programs, their canonical paperwork in preparation for ordination, and even the byzantine immigration processes for our international students. I could not envision the success of Mundelein Seminary and USML over the past 30 years without the contributions that Mary has made." – Father John Kartje*

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She fondly remembers the last academic dean she reported to – the late Rev. Thomas Baima. According to

# We are Mundelein. We form Parish Priests.

BY MARY KELLY | SENIOR DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**This is the tagline we use at Mundelein Seminary** where our mission, simply stated but profoundly engaging, is to form parish priests who are prepared and excited to bring others to Christ.

Father John Kartje, Rector/President, has written, “In the words of the Second Vatican Council, a seminary should function as the heart of the diocese it serves. It provides a bridge between the individual parishes, led by their parish priests, and the entire diocesan community led by its bishop. Furthermore, a diocesan priest should serve as a bridge between his people and the Lord, healing them to enrich their own spiritual journey. This triad of heart, bridge, and parish priest beautifully captures the reason that Mundelein Seminary exists and the mission the Holy Spirit impels us to pursue.”

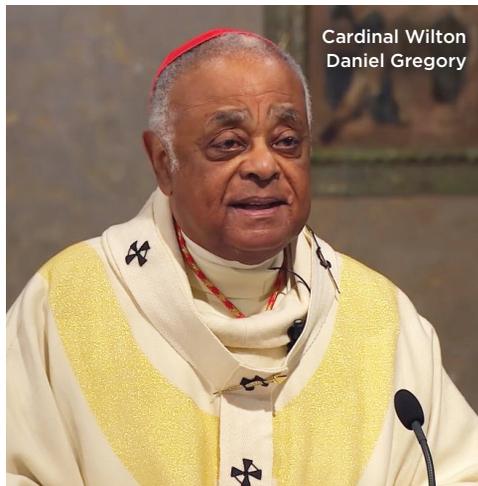
Records show that in preparing priests, Mundelein Seminary also prepares bishops, archbishops, and cardinals. Over the last 75 years, 48 Mundelein alumni have gone on to serve as bishops, archbishops and cardinals, playing a crucial leadership role within the Catholic Church. Here are just a few of those alumni who have been named bishops, with a complete list in the sidebar.

Starting with the first, the late **Bishop William A. O’Connor**, Class of 1928, was ordained bishop on March 7, 1949 and led the Diocese of Springfield, Illinois, for more than 25 years until his retirement in 1975.

More recently **Bishop Frank R. Schuster**, Class of 1999, was appointed an Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle by Pope Francis on March 8, 2022, and he was ordained bishop on May 3, 2022. He serves as an extension of Archbishop Etienne’s pastoral ministry to parishes, faith communities, ministers (both clergy and lay), and parishioners in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Two Mundelein Seminary alumni have been appointed as cardinals. The late **Cardinal Edward M. Egan**, Class of 1958, served as archbishop of New York from 2000 to 2009, the spiritual head of a realm of 2.7 million parishioners. Cardinal Egan was one of America’s most visible Catholic leaders, invoking prayers for justice when terrorists struck on September 11, 2001, and escorting Pope Benedict XVI on his historic visit to the city in April 2008.

***“This triad of heart, bridge and parish priest beautifully captures the reason that Mundelein Seminary exists and the mission the Holy Spirit impels us to pursue.”***



Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory

**Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory**, Class of 1973, has served as Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., since 2019. Pope Francis elevated him to the rank of cardinal on November 28, 2020. He is the first African American cardinal. Cardinal Gregory previously served as an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago from 1983 to 1994; as bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, from 1994 to 2004, and as

*(cont'd on next page)*

## Mundelein Bishops & Archbishops

Bishop Alfred L. Abramowicz  
Bishop Victor H. Balke  
Bishop Robert Emmet Barron  
Bishop Mark Andrew Bartosic  
Bishop Kevin M. Birmingham  
Bishop Romeo R. Blanchette  
Bishop Edward K. Braxton  
Bishop Robert Gerald Casey  
Bishop Anthony C. Celino  
Bishop Edwin M. Conway  
Archbishop William E. Cousins  
Bishop Michael R. Dempsey  
Cardinal Edward M. Egan  
Bishop Raymond E. Goedert  
Bishop John R. Gorman  
Bishop Thomas J. Grady  
Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory  
Bishop Jeffrey S. Grob  
Bishop James R. Ham  
Bishop Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop Raymond P. Hillinger  
Bishop John C. Iffert  
Bishop Thaddeus J. Jakubowski  
Bishop Roger L. Kaffer  
Bishop Francis J. Kane  
Bishop John Richard Keating  
Archbishop James P. Keleher  
Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas  
Archbishop Jerome E. Listecky  
Bishop Timothy J. Lyne  
Bishop John R. Manz  
Archbishop Paul C. Marcinkus  
Archbishop John L. May  
Bishop Michael George McGovern  
Bishop William E. McManus  
Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy  
Bishop William A. O’Connor  
Bishop Cletus F. O’Donnell  
Bishop Edward W. O’Rourke  
Bishop Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop Ernest J. Primeau  
Bishop George J. Rassas  
Bishop Alberto Rojas  
Bishop Frank R. Schuster  
Bishop Edward James Slattery  
Bishop Louis Tylka  
Archbishop John George Vlazny  
Bishop Raymond J. Vonesh  
Bishop Aloysius J. Wycislo

## USML APPOINTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS TO THEIR **BOARD OF ADVISORS**

**W**e are happy to announce the addition of five accomplished individuals to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake's (USML) Board of Advisors. These members bring an array of expertise and experience from their diverse backgrounds, which will enhance the board and the mission of USML.



**REV. MSGR. MILAM JOSEPH**

Reverend Monsignor Milam J. Joseph, a priest of the Diocese of Dallas, and USML's 2023 Cardinal Meyer Lecturer, is the son of Lebanese immigrants and president emeritus of the University of Dallas. As a young pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Tyler, TX, he confronted the challenge of the local school district imposing tuition on undocumented students. Leveraging the church's tradition of support, his role became crucial in the Plyler v Doe case, reaching the US Supreme Court in 1982. This precedent established access to public services, including education, for immigrants regardless of legal status. Reverend Monsignor Milam J. Joseph's efforts for justice, equality, and compassion continue to resonate as a symbol of justice,

equality, and compassion for immigration rights and public services. Joseph's efforts for justice, equality, and compassion continue to resonate today.



**KEN CHUA**

Ken Chua has served as a member of the USML Development Committee since 2020 and in many ministries at St. Catherine Laboure Parish, including as Parish Pastoral Council Member, Religious Education Catechist, Youth CLUB Coordinator, and Tolton Teaching Parish team member. Ken is a retired Senior Executive for Medline Industries.



**SEAN KLOCK**

Sean Klock has served as a member of the USML Development Committee since 2020. He also chairs the Rector's Classic, one of the three main fundraising events for Mundelein Seminary. He grew up in Lake Forest and attended St. Mary's Parish. For the last 16 years, Sean has worked for Morningstar in sales for their investment management group.



**EILEEN KNIGHT**

Dr. Eileen Knight has served as a member of the USML Development Committee since 2020 and is a Professor Emerita in the Education Department at Saint Xavier University in Chicago. Dr. Knight is also a parishioner at Holy Name Cathedral and serves on its teaching parish committee that supports the seminarians assigned to each parish in the Augustus Tolton Teaching Parish program. In 2017, Eileen was appointed to the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council (APC).



**DAN LOVE**

Dan Love has served as a member of the USML Development Committee since 2020. He has been a member of St. Joseph Parish for the past 25 years where he is a Liturgy Coordinator, Sacristan, Bereavement Minister, EOM, and Tolton Teaching Parish team member. He is a retired Senior Executive for Medline Industries.

These individuals' valuable guidance and perspectives will play a crucial role in the success of our board and the mission of the university. We look forward to the positive impact they will have on our institution. ■

archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta in Georgia from 2005 to 2019. He was also the first Black president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

**Bishop Ronald Hicks**, Class of 1994, was ordained a bishop in 2018. A member of the board of advisors of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, he is currently serving as bishop of Joliet. A former dean of formation at Mundelein Seminary, he had this to say about his alma mater:

"For over a century, Mundelein Seminary has been able to adapt appropriately to the changing times, while remaining focused on excellent academics and a consistently strong formation program. As a result, it continues to form leaders with the heart of the Shepherd who serve as priests, pastors, and sometimes as bishops, too."

Perhaps a revised tagline is in order?

We are Mundelein. We form parish priests. And **bishops, archbishops, and cardinals**, too. ■



Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks, Bishop of Joliet, IL

# LONGEST SERVING AND OLDEST PRIESTS

*look back on their ministry*

BY MICHELLE MARTIN | STAFF WRITER CHICAGO CATHOLIC  
REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION OF CHICAGO CATHOLIC

**Between them, Father George Kane and Bishop John Gorman** have spent nearly 145 years in ordained ministry.

Kane, the longest tenured of Chicago's archdiocesan priests, was ordained in 1951 and has served as an assistant and associate pastor, an Air Force chaplain, a spiritual director at University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, and founding pastor of Church of the Holy Spirit in Schaumburg. Born in January 1926, he is about a month younger than Bishop Gorman, who was ordained in 1952 and is now the oldest archdiocesan priest.

Both men are 98.

## Bishop John Gorman

Bishop Gorman has served as an assistant pastor, faculty member at Quigley Preparatory Seminary and Niles College Seminary, rector/president of USML/Mundelein Seminary, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Orland Park, and, as an auxiliary bishop, episcopal vicar for Vicariate I, including Lake County and the northwest suburbs; Vicariate V, which took in a large swath of the Southwest Side and southwest suburbs, and vicar for regional services/vicar general.

In addition to his licentiate in sacred theology, Bishop Gorman also earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from Loyola University Chicago.



Bishop Gorman is incensed by a deacon during a Mass at the Poor Clare Monastery in Palos Park on March 18, 2012. (KAREN CALLAWAY/CHICAGO CATHOLIC)



After all his years in ministry, Bishop Gorman said, he has learned that the most important thing is relationships, especially relationships in the context of faith.

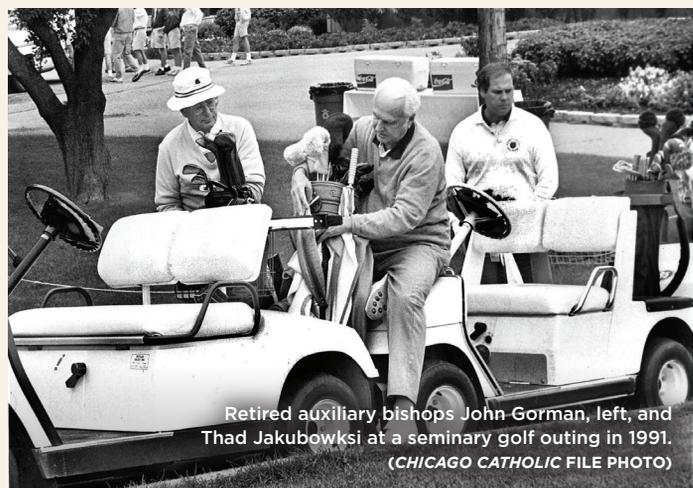
"It's living with and for the people that you serve," he said. "You watch the faith grow in them and then their families and their children, and you see how faith developed in them."

He considers himself fortunate in the relationships he had in his family as a child, he said, and in seeing the faith of the Christian Brothers at Leo High School, which he attended before he went to Quigley Preparatory Seminary.

He especially appreciated the opportunity to share his life of prayer and his faith with students in the archdiocesan seminary system, he said.

Bishop Gorman became rector of the seminary in 1965, at the end of the Second Vatican Council, and transformed the program during his eight years there from one that he described as "distant," with students kept as separate as possible from the outside world, to one that included having seminarians visit and serve in parishes.

"They were being trained to serve," he recalled. "We were heavily criticized at the time, but that was the life they were going to live."



Retired auxiliary bishops John Gorman, left, and Thad Jakubowski at a seminary golf outing in 1991. (CHICAGO CATHOLIC FILE PHOTO)



Father Kane prays during Mass on Jan. 28, 2024.  
(KAREN CALLAWAY/CHICAGO CATHOLIC)



Father Kane visited Washington, D.C., on July 12, 2023, as part of a group of veterans participating in Honor Flight Chicago. Kane was a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1963 serving in Korea. He also ministered to fighter pilots preparing to go to war in Vietnam in the early 1960s. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

### Father George Kane

Bishop Gorman brought Kane to Mundelein to serve as a spiritual director. Kane recalled that Bishop Gorman at the time often spoke of “responsible freedom.”

“I always liked that,” Kane said. “It was giving the students more freedom, but they had to be responsible with it.”

Kane said that when he was first ordained and sent to Holy Rosary Parish on the far South Side as an assistant pastor, he was “bored to death.”

The parish was run well and efficiently, and he had no complaints about the pastor or other priests. He just felt superfluous.

“I was disappointed,” he said. “I didn’t have anything to do.”

After two years, he moved to Holy Cross on 65th Street, a largely Black parish, where he felt more needed. The school was full, and many of the children were not Catholic. The pastor asked that at least one parent in non-Catholic families take instruction in the Catholic faith, after which they could decide whether to enter the church.

“The biggest thing there was introducing people to the Catholic Church from different denominations,” Kane said. “It was a constant run of

instruction classes ... We didn’t have the sense of listening, so we talked too much, but a lot of people found a meaning in the Catholic vision.”

After six years there, he served as an Air Force chaplain for four years.

After his time at Mundelein Seminary, in 1972 Kane was asked to start Church of the Holy Spirit, now part of St. Gregory of Nyssa Parish, which merged Holy Spirit and St. Marcelline.

That became the highlight of his ministry.

“I was hoping that we would get away from this ultra-authoritarian mode that the church had and get into the way of Vatican II,” he said. “That struck me as a life-giving kind of a vision, and it correlated with the best that I had in my seminary training.”

“People need to pray, there’s no question of that, and they need piety, but they also need to understand the depth of our religion and our faith,” he continued. “They have to understand the mission of our church. And the people responded to it ... Piety is not enough. I just don’t think that’s the way. I don’t think that’s the way of our Lord. He was a doer and a teacher.”

Kane was pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit for 24 years, until he retired, and he continued to assist there and at Holy Family Parish in Inverness for years as a senior priest.

When he looks back, he said, he appreciates the people he worked with: sisters and priests, but also lay staff and volunteers.

“I couldn’t have done it without them,” he said.

Bishop Gorman said the biggest change he has seen since he was ordained has been the increased role of the laity.

“It’s the authority that the laity have begun to realize about themselves as they came to understand their own baptism,” he said. “A good portion of the laity were eager to become involved.” ■



Father Kane visited Washington, D.C., on July 12, 2023, as part of a group of veterans participating in Honor Flight Chicago. Kane was a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force from 1959 to 1963 serving in Korea. He also ministered to fighter pilots preparing to go to war in Vietnam in the early 1960s. (PHOTO PROVIDED)



BY SANDI SEIDL | MANAGER OF ANNUAL GIVING AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

**A**lumni relations are the life blood of any educational institution, serving as a vital link between past, present, and future.

As graduates embark on their post-academic journeys, maintaining ties with their alma mater can prove invaluable for personal and professional growth. Acknowledging this, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML)/Mundelein Seminary prioritizes alumni relations as a cornerstone of their institutional strategies.

USML understands that its alumni are not just former students but lifelong ambassadors and stakeholders. Recognizing the potential of harnessing this vast network, the university has committed itself to fostering robust alumni relations initiatives.

Alumni relations is at heart the cultivation of meaningful connections. USML wants to actively engage with its alumni, keeping them informed about developments on campus, inviting them to events, and providing opportunities for involvement. USML will be initiating a quarterly alumni email newsletter to maintain regular communication and nurture a sense of belonging among those who are ordained, who have received certificates and degrees through the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization, and Quigley Prep graduates. Alumni were invited to the Paluch and Meyer Lecture series and the annual Lenten Retreat as well as to the Celebration of Mundelein on Thursday, April 18,

at the Union League Club, Chicago honoring Joe Paprocki DMin. and Rev. Dennis Holschneider.

**Alumni are also warmly invited to the following upcoming events as applicable to their alumni affiliation.**

- **May Crowning Mass and Picnic** on 9:30 a.m. on Sunday May 5 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on campus. *(All alumni)*

- **Mass and Reception** from 5:30-8 p.m. at St. James Chapel followed by a reception in the Parish Center with the opportunity to reconnect and reminisce with former classmates. *(Quigley Alumni only)*

- **Seminary Golf Outing** for ordained and non-ordained seminary alumni on Thursday, July 11 at Pine Meadow Golf Course. *(Ordained and non-ordained seminary alumni only)*

- **Rector's Classic Golf Outing** on September 12 at Pine Meadows Golf Club. Dinner to Follow honoring Sr. Rosemary Connelly of Misericordia, the 2024 recipient of the Cardinal Joseph Bernardin In Service of One Another Catholic Humanitarian Award. *(All alumni)*

Alumni can get more details and RSVP via [usml.edu/category/events](https://usml.edu/category/events) or contact the Development Office at 847-970-4816.

USML's approach to alumni relations is the belief that alumni engagement is a two-way relationship. It's not just about what the university can offer its alumni, but also about how alumni can contribute to the growth and development of their alma mater. Ordained and non-ordained alumni ambassadors meet regularly to provide feedback, counsel, and direction. USML wants to provide opportunities for alumni to stay connected, give back, and continue their personal and professional development.

Alumni play a crucial role in fundraising efforts. Their continued support through donations can significantly impact an institution's ability to fund scholarships, research initiatives, and infrastructure projects. Alumni who feel a strong affinity for their alma mater are more likely to give back, knowing that their contributions will directly benefit future generations of students. Alumni can give online through the website anytime via [usml.edu/give](https://usml.edu/give) as well as through many direct mail appeals and other campaigns.

Connecting with Alumni Relations is not just about maintaining ties with one's alma mater — it's about embracing a lifelong journey of learning, growth, and connection. Whether you graduated last year or several decades ago, there's never a wrong time to reconnect with your alma mater, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, and tap into the wealth of opportunities Alumni Relations has to offer. So, to all alumni out there, let's strengthen bonds, build bridges, and continue the legacy of excellence together through alumni relations. ■

**To update your contact information, visit:** [usml.edu/updates-from-alumni](https://usml.edu/updates-from-alumni)

**For information on how to become a class representative/alumni ambassador** for the Seminary, the School for Parish Leadership and Evangelization or as representative on behalf of Quigley alumni, please contact Sandi Seidl, manager of annual giving and alumni relations, [sseidl@usml.edu](mailto:sseidl@usml.edu), 847-970-4898.

**Alumni can give online** at [usml.edu/give](https://usml.edu/give).

## National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Coming to Chicago Archdiocese FIRST STOP — MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

**On the Pentecostal weekend of May 18-19, 2024, pilgrimages for the National Eucharistic Revival** will begin at four different points around the country. All four branches of this historic Pilgrimage converge in Indianapolis on July 16 for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress — a milestone within the revival and a historic moment for the Church in the U.S.

The pilgrimage known as the Marian Route begins in Minnesota and will travel through Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana, with stops through the Chicago archdiocese between June 26 and June 30. The trek through the Chicago archdiocese kicks off with a youth-focused event at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML)/Mundelein seminary from 4-7 p.m.

Rev. Robert Ryan, associate pastor of Saints Joseph and Francis Xavier Parish in Wilmette, Illinois, is serving

as co-director of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage while the pilgrimage is traveling through the Archdiocese of Chicago. A member of the Mundelein Seminary Class of 2021, he was ordained on May 15th of that year. He continued his studies at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake and graduated from the S.T.L. program in 2023.

“In 2022, I was asked to represent Bishop Bartosic on the Archdiocese of Chicago's National Eucharistic Revival Committee,” said Father Ryan. “Then, in the late summer of

2023, I was asked to take on a leadership role as the co-director of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage while the pilgrimage is traveling through the Archdiocese of Chicago.”

He said the planning team knew from the very beginning that Mundelein Seminary was an essential stop for the pilgrimage in the archdiocese. “John Kartje

**“Mundelein Seminary changed my life in more ways than I can count”**

(rector/president) refers to Mundelein as the beating heart of the archdiocese,” Father Ryan said. “As the heart of the Archdiocese of Chicago and the place where the priests of the archdiocese have been formed for over 100 years, it seemed only fitting that USML/Mundelein should be the first stop and the kick-off for the pilgrimage in the Archdiocese of Chicago.”

According to Father Ryan, Cardinal Mundelein and the seminary shaped the church in the United States in sev-

eral ways. In particular, the National Eucharistic Congress held at Mundelein Seminary in 1926 is a hallmark of American Catholicism. “To have the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage visit Mundelein Seminary is a testament to its enduring effect on the future of the American Church, especially the Church in Chicago,” he said.

Father Ryan expounded upon his personal gratitude and love for Mundelein Seminary. “On January 17, 2015, I was on retreat at Mundelein Seminary in the newly dedicated St. John Paul II Chapel when I heard the Lord speak to me from the Eucharist and invite me to be his priest. It was at this school of Mary where my heart was shaped and formed to be the man that I needed to be in order to be the priest God was calling me to be. Mundelein Seminary changed my life in more ways than I can count and continues to have a prominent place in my heart.”

**For more information on the Eucharistic Revival pilgrimage, please visit [eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org).** ■



Rev. Robert Ryan



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Pilgrimage**



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