

Summer 2021

THE BRIDGE

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



Go to ST. JOSEPH

Celebrating St. Joseph as a model for priests

Campus Life

Seminarians participate in weekly all-night Eucharistic Adoration

Pandemic Events

Mundelein Seminary brings community together with online events throughout pandemic

Faculty Trip

Reflections on Uganda from a grateful "Mzungu"

ST. JOSEPH: MODEL OF AFFECTIVE MATURITY

BY FATHER JOHN KARTJE

This year, as the universal Church follows Pope's Francis' call to celebrate Saint Joseph, we at Mundelein Seminary are remembering Jesus' earthly father in a variety of ways, including special prayer services and a speaker series (about which you can read more in this issue).

While we rightly honor Joseph as a loving and protective husband and father, we can often overlook his own internal discernment in the face of the extremely challenging choices that were placed before him. For example, what was he turning over in his heart as he “decided to divorce [Mary] quietly” (Matt 1:19), and how did he reconcile those feelings with the extraordinary message delivered to him in his dream about the truth of Mary's condition? It is all too easy to take Joseph's actions for granted, while forgetting the remarkable witness he offers us as a master discerner of the workings of the Holy Spirit within his mind and heart.

In fact, Joseph's process of discernment beautifully models a quality that is absolutely critical for every candidate for the priesthood to possess: affective maturity. While it may not be a concept that is widely known outside of seminary circles, “affective maturity” has been an integral part of seminary formation for decades. The various Church documents that address priestly formation consistently stress that a man must possess affective maturity to discern his vocation freely and fully. In *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, St. John Paul II writes that “affective maturity, which is the result of an education in true and responsible love, is a *significant and decisive factor* in the formation of a candidate for the priesthood” (PDV 43; emphasis added).

As the name implies, affective maturity encompasses the ability of a man to responsibly acknowledge what he is feeling in any given situation (joy, fear, awe, etc.) without being controlled by his visceral reactions. Father Thomas Cheruparambil,

a seminary formator in India, describes it as “the capacity to manage emotions constructively and smoothly. It requires awareness about one's emotions, especially negative ones, due appreciation and acceptance of them as part of self and the ability to control them reasonably.” Affective maturity requires a high degree of self-knowledge and a willingness to honestly name and address one's own history and the vulnerabilities (with their associated self-defense tactics) that often develop out of our systems of family dynamics and other relationships.

Affective *immaturity* presents a serious obstacle to one's development in priestly formation. If, for example, a man is harboring a narcissistic personality; or if he is carrying the weight of never having addressed his parents' broken marriage or a hidden addiction; or if he struggles to relate in a healthy way to women; then help and healing in these areas must begin before he could ever freely live into the roles of shepherd or servant, or willingly embrace self-sacrificial love after the heart of Christ. Even though a seminarian may be capable of obediently fulfilling the tasks that he is assigned, if he lacks affective maturity, he will not truly be undergoing priestly formation. His will be a false self who struggles to openly receive the graces of the Holy Spirit.

So how does one grow in affective maturity? St. Joseph provides a good example of this process. When presented with Mary's shocking news, he was not “ambushed” by feelings of rage or betrayal of the kind that so often lead to crimes of passion. Rather, he was led by his vir-



tue to a solution of “quiet divorce.” It all might have ended there, but Joseph was a man whose heart was open to listening for the word of God—that was likely the fruit of a life of prayer. So when the Lord's words came to him in a dream, he could embrace them and act upon them, even though he may have still harbored some doubts or uncertainties. At that point, he could not have completely comprehended Jesus' true identity or fully understood all that he would accomplish. And yet he stayed with Mary, acting contrary to his original “virtuous” decision in favor of divorce. A man of affective maturity can recognize his emotions and understand where they are coming from, while not being controlled by them. This allows him to be attentive to God's will and to have the trust to follow it, even when the consequences of doing so are not absolutely clear.

As you'll see in this issue of the *Bridge*, today's seminarians grow in affective maturity in ways that are not so different from St. Joseph. By encountering God's presence in myriad and sometimes surprising ways, they can learn to trust His will more deeply and to not be governed by their fears or disappointments.

FATHER JOHN KARTJE
is the president and rector of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary.

St. Joseph, pray for us. ■



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On the cover: In this special Year of St. Joseph, the Mundelein Seminary community is participating in a variety of activities to grow in understanding of this holy man who served as Jesus' earthly father. Seminarians completed a 33-day consecration to St. Joseph and monthly speakers have come to the seminary campus to offer reflections on various aspects of St. Joseph's spiritual character.

PHOTO BY MATT PAOLELLI

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Very Rev. John Kartje
RECTOR/PRESIDENT

Lee Noel
Duy Nguyen
Ryan Mau
Dan Korenchan
WRITERS

Matt Paoelli
SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF MARKETING
& COMMUNICATIONS,
STAFF ADVISER



FAITH Catholic

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Lynne Hsu
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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LEARNING TO LISTEN

DEACONS GAIN FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION CLASS

While “spiritual direction” might be a known concept among seminarians and priests, many lay people are not familiar with the practice or might not fully understand its purpose and value.

“I always say there is only one spiritual director in the whole world, and that’s the Holy Spirit, but we’re often not well attuned to what the Spirit is doing in our own lives because we’re distracted, we have things going on or we may not like what the Spirit is nudging us to look at,” said Father John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary and veteran spiritual director. “Spiritual direction is a time-honored tradition in the Church of one person accompanying another, helping them to become more aware of what the Holy Spirit is doing in their life — particularly how that is being manifested in the person’s prayer life.”

Training future priests to provide spir-

itual direction as part of their ministry has long been a standard part of the curriculum for seminarian formation, but the past spring semester was the first time that Father Kartje taught the class himself. The enrollment for this course comprised fourth-year deacons who were mere months from their ordination to the priesthood.

“Pope Benedict XVI once told a group of priests that people expect them to be a spiritual guide, and I’ve never forgotten that,” he said. “Every parish priest should feel capable and qualified for accompanying someone in that way.”

To be an effective spiritual director, a priest must be able to listen attentively

and identify how the Holy Spirit is working through the experiences, especially when their parishioners don’t necessarily have the theological vocabulary to articulate such things for themselves.

“A director has to learn to listen to someone talking about their prayer or what’s going on in their family and distill out the spiritual movements from the more human or emotional movements,” Father Kartje said. “They’re not mutually exclusive — they’re woven together — so that takes time.”

The course began by exploring the academic approach to spiritual direction, with the deacons navigating through readings from St. John of the Cross and Jesuit and Carmelite traditions related to the practice.

But then things got a lot more practical. Father Kartje asked each student to record a 10-minute interview with another seminarian who was not taking the class. The conversation had to relate to a spiritually significant event or prayer experience in the interview subject’s life. These recordings became the “textbook” for the rest of the semester, with the deacons analyzing the conversations as if they were part of authentic spiritual direction sessions.

“They really were very attentive and adept at noticing some of these movements of the Spirit — ‘this is what spiritual resistance looks like’ or ‘this is what affective joy looks like,’” Father Kartje said. “I know they found it to be a powerful experience, and I think some of them may have been surprised at how effective they were.”

Deacon Michael Kelly of the Diocese of Yakima said the class offered him a challenge that he is excited to accept after ordination.

“I think the most important thing I took away from the class was confidence,” he said. “After weeks of teaching us the material in a really personal and engaging way, Father John adjured us all strongly to get out there and give spiritual direction our best shot.”

Given the importance of the subject, Father Kartje is attempting to sprinkle elements of spiritual director training throughout the formation curriculum so that seminarians gain experience even before they take this class in their fourth year of theological studies.

“What we’re starting to do with first-year seminarians is develop exercises and practicum models where they’re engaging in meaningful spiritual conversations,” he said. “Learning how to listen with a discerning heart is 90 percent of what needs to be achieved by a good director, and that’s something we can start working on at the beginning of a seminarian’s career. It’s as much of an art as it is a skill.”

Deacon Elliot Zak of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana said the course helped him understand the importance of becoming an effective spiritual guide for his eventual parishioners and encouraging them to have a vibrant prayer life.

“The faithful have a hunger for God and express that in a variety of ways, but at the crux of their longings and questions to priests is this: Teach me how to pray and show me how to follow Jesus Christ in the spiritual life,” he said. “For this reason, being immersed in the spiritual life and being willing to guide people in the spiritual life is a weighty responsibility for the priest of Jesus Christ.” ■

LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.

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generation of holy parish priests.*

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Internship is one of the most anticipated programs of seminary formation. The men who return from internship in the fall are so full of energy and joy as they share their experiences of working in the Lord's vineyard, bringing Jesus to people and people to Jesus. You see a difference in the men after internship — a greater maturity and acceptance of “what it looks like” to be a priest.

Having witnessed so many of my own friends fall more in love with Christ and their vocation on their internship, it was something I had looked forward to for years. Excitement built up over many semesters as I prepared to be sent out like the disciples were.

Then, COVID-19 hit. Expectations and assumptions thought reliable suddenly became questionable. I was concerned about what my internship would be like. *Will my class have internship at all? If we do, what will we miss out on? Will our experience be good enough?* The devil seized on many uncertainties in my heart, seeking to discourage me in the months leading up to the start of internship in late January. It was in these moments when I could only offer the desperate prayer of my soul, the prayer of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: *Lord, may your will be done!*

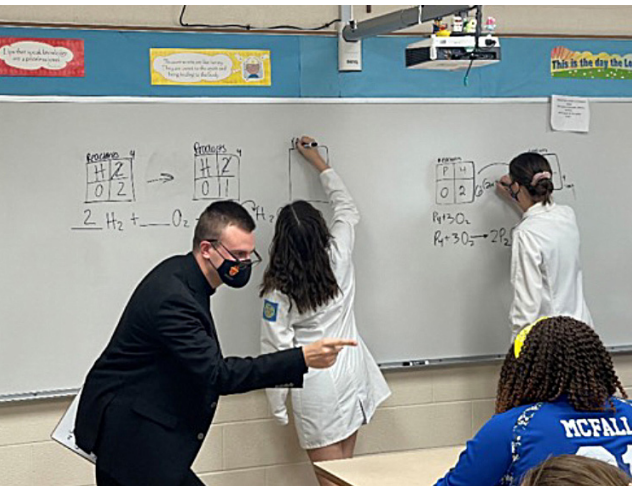
To say that our Lord Jesus provided everything to me during internship is an understatement. God the Father was generous, and he lavishly poured forth his generosity upon me during those three months. Ample opportunities for teaching, listening, leading and praying abounded.

When I arrived at St. Damian Parish in Oak Forest, Illinois, the priests quickly immersed me in the daily life of their in-

‘GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD’

A REFLECTION ON PASTORAL INTERNSHIP IN A COVID WORLD

DAN KORENCHAN | T2, CHICAGO



“To say that our Lord Jesus provided everything to me during internship is an understatement. God the Father was generous, and He lavishly poured forth His generosity upon me during those three months. Ample opportunities for teaching, listening, leading and praying abounded.”

credibly vibrant community. I found myself teaching the faith in the school classrooms, leading catechetical small groups of parishioners and school teachers, and answering parishioners’ questions about the faith. Despite religious education being mostly online, these sessions were still weekly opportunities to gather, laugh, and learn together. Both in the parish and the school, I saw the priests and staff work creatively to bring parishioners together as much as possible.

Liturgically, I saw how hungry the parishioners were to be led in prayer and fed

with the Eucharist during such difficult times. Livestreamed daily Mass, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet were all heavily attended, both in-person and virtually. Funerals and weddings were also frequent, giving us precious moments of human affection and sympathy — even if socially distanced and covered by facemasks.

As an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion and an occasional preacher, it was mesmerizing to see the people of God respond to our ministry with gratitude and joy. You could see what the parish was to them: a refuge, a home, where God’s presence in word and sacrament was ready to nourish them.

There was so much to pray with at the end of each day. Questions, concerns and fears were still present, but I was slowly realizing how God was answering my prayers. It is enough. Even in abnormal times, God is still present

and working! What was also beautiful to behold was God continuously drawing His people together despite circumstances and limitations. COVID-19 may have taken away many in-person gatherings from the parishioners, but not the Holy Spirit.

We pray in the Our Father, “Give us this day our daily bread.” This is exactly what God does! I was privileged to witness this each day on internship. Worrying about what would happen in the future took me out of the current moment, where God was already present and working. Each day at Mass, we ask him to give us what we need, just for that day. When has He not done so? He has promised his faithfulness always, and will not allow sin — or a virus — to stop Him from working in our hearts. He takes His love for us with absolute seriousness. Therefore, the only thing to be concerned with is this moment, this person, this situation right in front of me, because here and now is where God is present.

Speaking on behalf of all my classmates returning from internship, we are grateful for the prayers and support we received during such a joyful, challenging, and

intense time of formation. The harvest is indeed abundant, and we are privileged to be Christ’s laborers. May the Holy Spirit stir up the hearts of many more men to join us in this great labor of love! ■





CELEBRATING

MUNDELEIN SEMINARY'S
Centennial



For 100 years, seminarians from dioceses across the country and around the world have come to the beautiful Mundelein Seminary campus to discern their call to serve as holy parish priests.

Over the last century, thousands of men have walked these grounds and answered the call of the Holy Spirit, fulfilling the dream of Cardinal George William Mundelein, the third archbishop of Chicago. His bold vision led to the construction of the current campus, which began operating and welcomed 50 seminarians on Oct. 5, 1921.

This fall Mundelein Seminary will kick off its Centennial Celebration with a variety of opportunities to reflect on the history of the institution, honor the contributions of the alumni priests who are building bridges to Christ in faith communities around the world, and thank the many friends and benefactors who make it possible for the seminary to continue its vital mission into the next 100 years.

Be sure to follow Mundelein Seminary on social media for more details on the #Mundelein100 celebration and ways you can connect! Here are a few upcoming events and opportunities:

CENTENNIAL KICKOFF MASS

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception | 9:30 a.m., Oct. 17

Join us for Mass followed by a variety of activities to explore the history of our campus and the process of forming your future parish priests.

THE VISION OF CARDINAL MUNDELEIN

McEssy Theological Resource Center | Opens Sept. 1

Check out this new library exhibit to learn more about the construction and early years of the Mundelein Seminary campus through photos and artifacts.

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS ADORATION TOUR

Various Parishes | Begins Fall 2021

Throughout the centennial year, parishes in local dioceses will host a Holy Hour for Vocations with the treasured monstrance originally used at the 28th International Eucharistic Congress on the Mundelein Seminary campus in 1926. Contact us at socialmedia@usml.edu if your parish is interested in hosting a Holy Hour!





FROM VALLEY TO VALLEY

BY RYAN MAU | T1 DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

Sometimes when I introduce myself to someone in California, I have been asked the question, “Why wouldn’t you stay in Los Angeles, instead of coming to San Jose?”

I will often respond by telling them that there was just something about the area that has convinced me to stay. It could be the weather. It could be the people that I’ve met so far. Still, to this day, I’m not too sure. But I know that God wants me to be in Northern California.

Growing up in the San Gabriel Valley, I never thought that I would have been led up north. Those who live in Southern California will sometimes think of our

neighbors to the north as rivals! So it was very weird for me when I decided to move to the “South Bay” in 2015 to go to school at San Jose State University (SJSU). Little did I know when moving from the San Gabriel Valley to the Santa Clara Valley that I would fall in love with the area and want to spend the rest of my life there.

One of the things that instantly drew me to the Diocese of San Jose was the welcoming atmosphere. I started going to Mass

regularly at the SJSU Newman Center, which is just off campus, and I was very happy to be there. While the community is still growing, I was able to take part in it and immerse myself into the culture of the community and the diocese itself. The people that make up the diocese are vibrant and eager to understand the relationship that they have with God and how He plays a part in their daily lives. We only have 50 parishes for about 600,000 Catholics, so some communities are small and intimate, whereas in Los Angeles, there are many more Catholics, so it might be difficult to get to know people as personally.

It is especially exciting this year, as



“I think our diocese reflects (St. Joseph) in many ways, but one of the ways I think that best reflects us to St. Joseph is our commitment to serving each other and to giving ourselves to the Lord, just like St. Joseph did in his commitment to raising Jesus to be the man that he became.”

we are also celebrating our 40th anniversary as a diocese. Combined with the announcement of the Year of St. Joseph, we have begun to have special celebrations throughout the diocese. The diocese has also set up pilgrimage sites at various locations, and I hope to be able to visit them while I am serving this summer. I love learning about history, and one of my goals is to learn about the history of the diocese, and how it has shaped these faith communities into who we are today.

I think that one of the things that makes me most excited about serving in the Diocese of San Jose is that I get to interact and

and to continue to increase their relationship with God. There is also a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and to St. Joseph. Our diocese is made up of people from all over the world, especially Mexico and Vietnam. The devotions to Our Lady of Guadalupe and to Our Lady of

work with people who have a burning zeal for loving our Lord. We are a young diocese, so I think in some ways, we are still developing our identity for who we will eventually become. The parishioners of the diocese have some very good ideas and are always looking to expand their knowledge

La Vang are so beautiful to see!

The importance of St. Joseph also cannot be understated. He is the patron of our diocese, after all! I think our diocese reflects him in many ways, but one of the ways I think that best reflects us to St. Joseph is our commitment to serving each other and to giving ourselves to the Lord, just like St. Joseph did in his commitment to raising Jesus to be the man that he became. ■





Go to ST. JOSEPH

Celebrating St. Joseph as a model for priests

BY DUY NGUYEN | 1T, DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

In early March of 2020, Mundelein Seminary faced a challenge that the world had never seen before: the COVID-19 pandemic. As the seminary developed ways to respond, it stayed focused on its mission to form priests who could react to the changing pastoral dynamics across the country.

On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal Church, Pope Francis declared the year of St. Joseph in the apostolic letter *Patris Corde (With a Father's Heart)*. Throughout this special year in the Church, the Mundelein Seminary community is joining in the celebration with a variety of opportunities to grow closer to Jesus' earthly father.

Beginning in January, the seminary community began gathering for monthly evenings of reflection about St. Joseph. After vespers and

exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a guest speaker offered reflections on an aspect of St. Joseph's life and spiritual character, based on Pope Francis' *Patris Corde* and the Litany of St. Joseph. Speakers include priests, bishops and laypeople from various dioceses and backgrounds. The talks are available for online viewing at www.usml.edu/year-of-saint-joseph and will continue to be posted monthly through November.

Father John Kartje kicked off the series with a meditation on St. Joseph as a model of affective maturity for managing our emotions when making

decisions. Our first monthly speaker, Bishop Joseph Perry, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, started the year with a reflection on St. Joseph as a beloved father. Bishop Perry likened the home of St. Joseph of Nazareth to a first seminary for the first priest, Jesus.

"St. Joseph is the model for all Christian men who seek to do the will of God for their life," he said. The type of father that is proposed to all seminarians and priests is similar to St. Joseph, because "he is the father without begetting his son in the flesh." Bishop Perry concluded by recommending that we look up to St. Joseph because he can help us in our ongoing formation to become holy men.

Apart from the reflections throughout the year, the community was also invited to join a 33-day spiritual journey to deepen our relationship with God through St.



Joseph. Little is written about St. Joseph, yet enough is known about him to paint a picture of the man who was a father to Jesus while on earth, and the most chaste spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His greatness is hidden in his

faith, obedience and humility; he is a man whose actions speak louder than words. He stays in the shadows so others can shine more brightly.

For many of us who wanted to learn more about Joseph, the consecration was a perfect opportunity. The participants were gifted a book for the consecration entitled *The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Father Donald H. Calloway. Each day, we learned to follow in the footsteps of St. Joseph by reflecting and meditating on his life and his virtues through the writings of other saints and countless stories of people who have run to St. Joseph for help and have never been left unaided. Perhaps the

best part was ending each day with the Litany to St. Joseph, whose titles and virtues we aim to imitate.

We were joined online in this consecration journey by more than 100 Mundelein Seminary supporters and friends who participated online in a Facebook group. Several seminarians led weekly Q&A sessions in which they dove deeper into selections from the book and shared stories about their vocations, their seminary experiences and their own devotion to St. Joseph.

“It moved me to think about how St. Joseph ultimately lived a life of priesthood without being granted the title of priest,” said Deacon Joby Joseph, a seminarian for the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago. “There’s more to his life than is mentioned in the Scriptures, and that’s been a great starting point of prayer for me.”

On March 19 — the feast of St. Joseph and the day of the consecration — we were blessed to hear Cardinal Blase Cupich’s reflection on St. Joseph as an obedient father, whose vocabulary amounts to his action.

“If there was any word that he spoke,

it was the name of Jesus because he was responsible for giving the name,” he said. Cardinal Cupich blessed the bracelets containing a medal of St. Joseph and handed them out to each seminarian who completed the consecration.

It was a joyous moment to embark on a spiritual journey with our brother seminarians and to deepen our relationship with God through St. Joseph. What an extraordinary and amazing grace it was that God had bestowed on St. Joseph. To be trusted

“To be trusted with the care of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and the Most Blessed Woman among all women was not something to be taken lightly.”

with the care of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity and the Most Blessed Woman among all women was not something to be taken lightly. God the Father must have made sure that the chosen man was capable of handling what was at stake.

In St. Joseph, God found a man after his own heart. Father St. Joseph, pray for us. ■





SPENDING TIME WITH THE LORD IN 'NIGHTWATCH'

Seminarians participate in weekly all-night eucharistic Adoration

BY LEE NOEL | PRE-THEOLOGY II, DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

Sacred. Transformational. Powerful. Holy.

If you heard about a tradition that evoked thoughts such as these, how would you respond?

Eucharistic Adoration is described by the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in a way that perfectly captures the transcendence of this long-standing practice. The truth, beauty and goodness that are encapsulated by Adoration are outlined in CCC paragraph 2628.

“It exalts the greatness of the Lord who made us and the almighty power of the Savior who sets us free from evil,” the Catechism states. “Adoration is the homage of the spirit to the King of Glory, respectful silence in the presence of the ever greater God.”

Interestingly, what is excluded from this description is any mention of the time during which Adoration takes place. At Mundelein, it has been a privilege to witness the beginnings of Nightwatch, a weekly overnight period when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adorers to come and spend time with the Lord. Examining the history of nighttime Adoration, seeing its development at Mundelein and reading the words of proponents of Adoration has allowed me

to reflect more deeply on my experience with Nightwatch.

Overnight Adoration as its own practice began in Rome in 1810 and was first picked up by the Archdiocese of Boston in 1882, which soon blossomed into multiple cities along the East Coast implementing this devotion. Their original mission was a simple one: “to provide ‘adorers for our Eucharistic Lord during the lonely hours of the night ... to atone for the coldness and indifference of so many Catholics ... to atone for the many sins committed during the night.’”

After developing its roots in Rome, overnight Adoration has surely developed into a unique experience wherever it is celebrated, and the same can be said at Mundelein. There is now a roster of students who have signed up to cover one-hour shifts from 8 p.m. on Thursdays and ending at 7 a.m. on Friday. Adoration begins with solemn exposition of the Eucharist, during which the Blessed Sacrament is placed in the monstrance and fully displayed on the altar in the Deacon Recreational Hall Chapel

while opening prayers and hymns are proclaimed. Then begins what most men have come to experience: silent contemplation in front of our Lord.

For the next 11 hours, at least one student is present at all times, but generally there are two or three men in the chapel for Nightwatch. During this time of prayer, I have not always found it to be easy. In fact, I have found it to be quite challenging, plenty of times nodding off or feeling afterwards as if I didn’t grow much spiritually during that time. However, I think that Jesus is calling us to look exactly in those difficulties, because He will be present there the most.

After discussions with a spiritual director, I have found that Jesus is simply calling us to be present to Him, not necessarily “doing” anything, but just basking in His presence, adoring Him and His love. What’s more, in the context of overnight Adoration, we have the unique opportunity to grow in virtue as we make the sacrifice of getting up in the middle of the night to be with Jesus and develop a deeper longing to be with Him, patiently listening for His words to move in us.

I am still growing in my faithfulness to the devotion of overnight Adoration, but I am continually inspired by the witness of my classmates who are devoted to spending time with Jesus in the middle of the night. The combination of sacrifice with the calm and stillness uniquely afforded by the darkness of night gives an essence to Adoration that is not found during the day.

I am moved as well by the words of the author of *In Sinu Jesu*, who wrote on Nov. 12, 2012, that Jesus said to him, “Visit Me, and remain with Me by night, and I will work for you, and with you, and through you by day.” Like the shepherds in Luke 2:9 who were “keeping the night watch over their flock” when the angel of the Lord appeared to them to announce the birth of Jesus, maybe we can use their example as motivation to spend time at night anticipating the arrival of Jesus into our own hearts in the form of prayerful Adoration. ■

MAKING CONNECTIONS IN A SOCIALLY DISTANT WORLD

Mundelein Seminary brings community together with online events throughout pandemic

For our seminarian community, the COVID-19 pandemic forced an instantaneous switch to distance learning in front of a computer instead of the lively camaraderie of classrooms. A socially distanced reconfiguration of living, learning and worship spaces on campus allowed everyone to return to in-person learning by the beginning of the 2020-2021 academic year.

The normally bustling campus was closed to visitors and all in-person events were cancelled. The seminary calendar, normally filled with joyful gatherings, had to be cleared of the events that provide meaningful opportunities to connect with faculty and seminarians, gather for fellowship and offer prayers and financial support toward our mission of forming parish priests.

We had to think creatively about how to use technology and social media to reinvent existing events and create new ways to connect with our supporters.

Thanks to livestreaming, families of seminarians in dioceses across the country could virtually attend touchstone ceremonies such as the institution of lectors and acolytes. Pre-recorded presentations of the annual Christmas Concert, May Crowning and the Celebration of Mundelein allowed record numbers of viewers to join our community for these celebrations, pray with our seminarians and view the beautiful grounds where their parish priests are formed. Visit www.usml.edu/virtual-events-2020 to view these presentations.

We also raised a record amount of funds during these events, which arrived at a very uncertain time.

“With worries of staff furloughs and

mounting bills, it was truly inspiring to see our donors increasing their support for the seminary in our time of greatest need,” said Holly Gibout, vice president of development. “The mission of forming parish priests cannot be accomplished without the generosity of our friends, and we are so grateful to everyone who helped keep us moving forward at such a critical time.”

Local regulations introduced challenges of social distancing, making the production of these pre-recorded events more complex. With singers needing to stand at least 10 feet apart from one another, the Christmas Concert performance moved from the Mundelein Auditorium stage to the entire reverberant sanctuary space of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, with multiple cameras and an intricate audio system capturing the beautiful voices and music.

“We’ve never had to do this before, and we had to adapt quickly to accomplish it under the given time constraints while maintaining a high level of quality,” said Linda Cerabona, Mundelein’s director of music. “I am incredibly proud of how well everything came together and that the online format allowed us to share the fabulous musical talents of our seminarians with a wider audience than ever before.”

The challenges continued six months later, as a smaller choir ensemble abided by the same regulations in the private seminarian chapel to record music for the 2021 virtual May Crowning.

“We all experienced the joy of performing together, even though our cha-

pel was empty,” Cerabona said.

In a normal year, hundreds of conferences and gatherings are hosted in the historic conference center on campus, but the pandemic forced a prolonged closure and loss of more than \$1 million in much-needed revenue. Such a large loss would have been devastating if not for the renewed support of seminary donors, who offset a large portion of the lost income through their generosity. Several of the reinvented virtual events raised much more money online than previous in-person years, thanks to the cost savings of hosting the event online and through matching gift challenges



from anonymous donors that doubled the impact of each gift.

As the world slowly reopens from the pandemic, Mundelein Seminary will continue to offer online options for a wider audience to join in these community celebrations.

The seminary hosted a small in-person Celebration of Mundelein on Friday, July 9 to honor Bishop Ronald A. Hicks '94 of the Diocese of Joliet with the “As Those Who Serve Award,” but that was only a small part of the celebration. An online presentation featuring highlights from the gathering and additional content will stream online at www.usml.edu on Thursday, July 22 at 7 p.m. We hope you can join us! ■



Talk about your son's vocational journey to the priesthood. Did you see this priestly vocation taking shape earlier in his life?

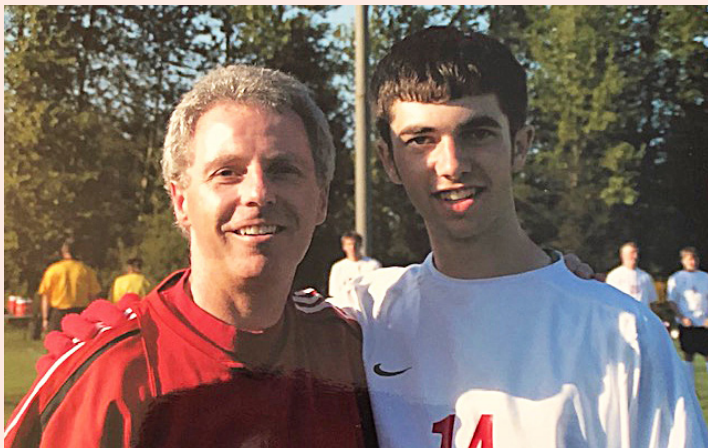
I had an inkling of it, but I didn't know how serious it was. Looking back, there were signs that I should have seen, and I just didn't recognize them. For example, when he was younger, we went to church as a family every weekend, but when Lent came around, I remember Justin and I used to go to Stations of the Cross and he was fascinated by that.

Justin and I had actually talked about this vocation when he was in high school and college. After college, he had a great career, but one day he called me and said, 'Dad, I think I want to go into the priesthood.'

I had gone through a similar experience when I was younger, where I had a good job and was making a lot of money but felt so empty at the end of the day. My father encouraged me to go into public service, sensing that I was missing the feeling of helping people. If I hadn't had that experience myself, I might not have understood what Justin was experiencing. But it all made sense to me, and that's when I knew it was a calling for him.

FROM 'FATHER AND SON' TO 'FATHER AND FATHER'

Father Justin Ryan '18, a priest for the Archdiocese of Seattle, was blessed with parents who nurtured his vocational discernment from a young age. His father, Terry Ryan, recently reflected on his son's vocation and the importance of supporting the formation of parish priests.



When you see your son engaged in his priestly ministry, how does it make you feel?

It warms my heart to see Justin serving God in this way. When he was growing up, I coached him in three different sports, and he was quite an athlete, but I was more impressed that he tried his best and also treated everybody right. It's been a joy watching Justin in this new role and seeing his impact. I've attended several Masses at his parish and some of the parishioners have gone out of their way to tell me how much they appreciate having him at their parish. I've heard so many great stories where he's made a difference in other people's lives and it's so rewarding.

“I COACHED HIM IN THREE DIFFERENT SPORTS, AND HE WAS QUITE AN ATHLETE, BUT I WAS MORE IMPRESSED THAT HE TRIED HIS BEST AND ALSO TREATED EVERYBODY RIGHT.”

You have been a stalwart supporter of Mundelein Seminary, even after Father Justin graduated and was ordained. Why do you think it's important for people to support the seminary?

We need more priests. Not just for “the Church” — we need them for our communities and for our salvation. Life is beautiful and special, but this isn't our permanent home. We need more priests so we can have better communities so we can all find salvation.

Mundelein is a very special place, and Justin used to call me frequently from there and tell me what was going on, and it was a great way for me to try to understand and appreciate the place as much as he did. When my wife Roberta and I came to campus for graduation, I was finally able to walk the grounds and see how special it is for myself. We need to support our seminaries so we can produce more great priests like Father Justin.

What do you think other parents can do to encourage vocations within their family and community?

Go to Mass and bring your family with you. Talk to your children about vocations and help them discern those things as they're growing. Get involved in more

“IT'S NOT JUST SERVING OTHERS—IT'S A WONDERFUL, SPIRITUAL, REWARDING LIFE, AND I'VE LEARNED THAT FIRSTHAND FROM MY SON, FATHER JUSTIN.”

Catholic events. I remember Justin and I once went to a convent to see a relic of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. We would often go to the Stations of the Cross together. Those are ways of deepening your faith and setting an example for our children so that they understand and appreciate our faith even more.

People often tell me that I must be a great dad because I “made a priest.” If I made a priest, I would have three priests and a nun, because we have four children. So this wasn't me, this was Justin, and it is a special calling from God. I hope and pray that other families get to experience having a priest in their family because it's so beautiful.

You need to see the big picture. What if your son could be the best priest in the United States but he never got that opportunity? It's not just serving others — it's a wonderful, spiritual, rewarding life, and I've learned that firsthand from my son, Father Justin. ■

REFLECTIONS ON UGANDA

from a grateful 'Mzungu'

BY SISTER KATHLEEN M. MITCHELL, FSPA

Uganda will always have a special place in my heart and in my life. Long before I was asked to be the seminary representative for our seminarians being ordained for the Ugandan Diocese of Kiyinda-Mityana, I felt a stirring in my heart when I listened to them share about their beautiful country. So when they asked me to go for their ordination, I felt particularly blessed. My joy multiplied when they invited me to spend more time with them in their villages after their ordination, getting to know their families and the wonderful people there.

On May 1, Father Francis (Falasiko) Matovu and Father Peter Walusimbi were ordained at St. Noa's Cathedral in Mityana, Uganda, and I was blessed to meet their bishop, experience the brotherhood among their priests, visit their seminarians and religious and travel to some of the remote "out stations" (mission parishes) in their diocese.

Since this was my first time in Africa, I am deeply grateful for the blessing of going to Uganda and experiencing such a vibrant, faith-filled people. Uganda may be known for its natural beauty and its safaris, but at a far more profound level, for those willing to risk an authentic encounter, you can discover the deeper cultural richness of Uganda and the serene, friendly Ugandan people who prioritize relationships and the needs of others above all else.

During my time in Uganda my relationship with the word "Mzungu" shifted greatly. Groups of children called after me "Mzungu! Mzungu!" ("White person!" "White person!") — and people came up to the car

window or waved at me on the motor-bike shouting "Mzungu!"

At first it was a little disconcerting to have people calling you "Mzungu" so often, but I soon began to understand that Ugandans are genuinely curious and excited to see a Mzungu and want to engage and possibly make a new friend. Furthermore, in the villages, it is a novelty to have a white visitor. Relationships are important to Ugandans and a foreign friend is especially interesting, but all relationships in Ugandan society are deeply treasured and nourished. Even extended family and friends are often considered brothers and sisters, and



frequently others care for children when their parents can't provide for them.

Although it's certainly not possible to characterize an entire country, my impression is that Uganda is filled with smiling, vibrant and welcoming people! Wherever I traveled, Ugandans wanted to say hello, have a conversation, and introduce me to others. I quickly learned that, in Ugandan culture, greetings are important and can be lengthy. I was able to learn a few phrases in Luganda, the language spoken in the areas I visited, and when I greeted groups of people in Luganda, they clapped and cheered.

Although English is the official language of Uganda and is taught in schools, in the villages where I was, Ugandans spoke Luganda and many of the adults knew little English. Children are learning but may be shy to try out their English. I found Ugandan English to be very distinctive, with a bit of British formality and some colorful Ugandan qualities added on! It can also be very direct, and





the accents and cultural differences on both sides can make conversations quite interesting!

My days in Uganda were blessed and full: from attending first Masses and celebrations, to dancing with Ugandan school children, to having conversations with wonderful people living in great poverty in rural villages. I spoke to many classes of elementary and secondary school children; visited health clinics, an orphanage and a youth center; gave out religious articles, clothes and books that I brought with me; and visited with the families of Father Peter and Father Francis. I even had a chance to take several rides to schools and back on the “boda bodas” — the motorbikes for hire. That is an experience unto itself! It was the



rainy season in Uganda, and often by the time we arrived we were soaking wet and covered in the distinctive Ugandan orange-colored mud — but smiling!

While in Uganda I learned that the country moves at its own pace and isn't in a hurry. On a daily basis, I witnessed that schedules are very flexible. Even so, Ugandans are very busy working, cooking and raising children. Many have deep financial concerns and are barely scraping by. Even though Ugandans have a lot going on in their lives, they always seem to have time for others and show infinite patience with daily chores and lengthy Masses and speeches. Sunday Mass can be much longer than here in the United States, but people showed genuine joy to be there and to express their faith in a communal way! Sunday Mass may be scheduled at 9 a.m., but there is the usual line of people waiting to go to confession before Mass can begin. Everyone waits patiently. The Ugandans I

was blessed to be with are people of deep faith who pray, dance, and sing while in church. At the end of Mass, there are inevitably a number of lengthy speeches, and I soon learned that I would be asked to say a few words, too. Children singing, beautiful drumming and dancing, and then a meal together can follow this. The church is the heart of the village, and everything takes place there.

Although I saw the big, bustling city of Kampala, Uganda, several times, the majority of my time was spent in rural villages where people get by with very little. I learned to make friends with matoke, boiled and mashed plantains, which is the “daily bread” for many. One of the villages where I spent time was Kijjomanyi, a poor village with no electricity. There I was blessed to be with the village children in their crowded, dark classrooms at St. Maria Goretti School. Life is difficult in this village. People spend much of their time struggling to simply get by: fetching water and washing clothes outdoors; cooking outside for long hours over an open fire; walking long distances on the muddy dirt roads and looking for work to provide for their families amidst soaring unemployment. Despite their struggles, the people have a deep sense of togetherness and of care and concern for one another. I saw them find time to dance, to chat, to welcome one or two more at the table and to receive an unexpected visitor.

This Mzungu may have found many people in the villages of Uganda who live in great poverty, but more importantly she found people who are rich in so many ways: rich in gratitude and joy, rich in selflessness and generosity, rich in genuine love for God and others.

Weebale Nnyo Uganda — thank you very much Uganda! You will always have a place in my heart! ■





PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

Alumni sibling priests reflect on their calling to 'the family business'

Growing up in a devoutly Catholic household in southern Indiana, the six Etienne siblings probably never imagined that four of them would end up choosing vocations to consecrated religious life. But today, two of the siblings are married with children, while the rest have devoted their lives to serving the Church: Father Bernie Etienne '93, Archbishop Paul Etienne of the Archdiocese of Seattle, Benedictine Sister Nicolette Etienne and Father Zach Etienne '04.

So how did it happen? Fellow Mundelein alumni Father Zach and Father Bernie recently reflected on that question and on their experience of seminary formation and priestly ministry.

"We were in a good environment to discern religious life," said Father Bernie, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in the Diocese of Evansville. "We were pretty steeped in the culture of the Catholic Church growing up, but we were all late vocations, so it wasn't that we had priestly or religious life forced on us. Our parents would have been deeply supportive if we had chosen a different career path or a different vocation. We had such a good foundation that I think it gave us the



freedom to discern this call."

Even before the siblings took the plunge, religious vocations were already part of their family life.

"Mom's brother was a priest with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and her sister is a Benedictine nun, so we always saw the human side of the priesthood and religious life," said Father Zach, pastor of Good Shepherd Catholic Parish in the Diocese of Evansville. "It would be nothing to have a Sunday party at our house and have a priest show up and say Mass in the back yard. We thought all Catholic families did that, but it turns out we were just weird."

Having siblings in "the family business" of the priesthood provides a built-in fraternal support system, but also made for some unexpected situations and maybe a little sibling rivalry. When Father Zach began to discern his call, his older brothers were already serving as vocations directors and hoping he would choose to enroll in seminary for their respective diocese — Father Bernie in Evansville and Archbishop Paul in Indianapolis. Evansville ultimately won out.

"The nice thing, too, is that it wasn't long after that battle that Paul got removed as vocations director," Father Bernie joked.

When he moved into Mundelein Seminary, Father Zach recalls other seminarians reacting to the peculiar sight of a vocations director installing carpet in his room, not realizing that Father Bernie was his brother.

Both brothers have positive memories of their time at Mundelein Seminary,





**“THE PRIESTHOOD
ALLOWS YOU TO DIVE
INTO THE INTIMACY
OF RELATIONSHIPS
AND GET TO THE
HEART OF WHO
PEOPLE REALLY ARE.”**

another throughout the pandemic. For Father Zach, relationships are at the heart of why he loves being a priest.

“The priesthood allows you to dive into the intimacy of relationships and get to the heart of who people really are,” he said. “People would never share the things

made you feel like a peer in one sense, but they were on another plane, and I just really admired those men.

with ‘Zach’ that they have shared with ‘Zach the priest,’ and it has been a huge blessing.”

where they gained experiences and established friendships that have sustained them throughout their priestly ministry.

There’s a long line of priests that had a tremendous influence on me.”

As Father Bernie approaches 30 years of priestly ministry, he said he finds peace in the idea that God is putting him exactly where he is meant to be.

“In those years that I was there in the late ’80s and early ’90s, the formation team of priests were just wonderful role models,” Father Bernie said. “They

Father Zach said he values the friendships he made with his classmates at the seminary. A group of them have regularly traveled together on vacation over the years, and they connected frequently via Zoom calls to support one

“Mundelein really prepared me for pastoral ministry, and I’m very grateful for the tools that I was given,” he said. “It hasn’t always been easy, but I know this is what I was called to do. If you like a nice challenge, priesthood is a good life.” ■

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■ 2020–2021 CHESTER AND MARGARET PALUCH LECTURES

Dr. William Murphy was the 2020-2021 Chester and Margaret Paluch Lecturer in Theology at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. Dr. Murphy is currently serving as professor at the Pontifical College Josephinum and editor of the *Josephinum Journal of Theology*. The first lecture in October 2020 was titled "Liberalism, Conservatism, and Social Catholicism for the 21st Century." The second lecture in April 2021 was titled "St. Paul, St. Thomas and Social Catholicism as Agent of Societal Reconciliation." Watch the 2021-2021 Chester and Margaret Paluch Lectures at: usml.edu/paluch-october-2020/



■ ALBERT MEYER LECTURE SERIES ON CATHOLIC–JEWISH RELATIONS TODAY

The Rev. Dr. David Neuhaus, SJ, superior of the Jesuit Community, Pontifical Biblical Institute, Jerusalem and former patriarchal vicar for Hebrew-speaking Catholics of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, delivered two lectures — "Salvation and the Jews" and "The people of Israel, the land of Israel and the state of Israel" — with responses from The Rev. Andrew Liaugminas, lecturer in the Department of Dogmatic Theology at USML/Mundelein Seminary and The Rev. John Pawlikowski, OSM, professor emeritus of social ethics at Catholic Theological Union. The lecture recordings are available at usml.edu/meyer2021

■ 2021–2022 MONSIGNOR CANARY THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION GRANT

Congratulations to Father Carlos Rodriguez '10, the seminary's director of counseling services, who was the 2021-2022 recipient of the Monsignor John Canary Theological Enrichment Fund grant. In his application, Father Rodriguez proposed to use the funds to complete his Certified Sexual Addictions Training (CSAT) so that he can use his knowledge and skills to expand his ability to help seminarians with these struggles as well as develop a parish-based intervention program to address issues of sexual addiction among Catholic men. "The hope is to combine some basic principles of psychology and addiction recovery with some of the more practical spiritual and theological elements found in Theology of the Body and our understanding of fatherhood as experienced through St. Joseph," said Father Rodriguez.



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



■ A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE TO ALL DEPARTING FACULTY AND STAFF

This year, we have a number of faculty and staff who will be leaving the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. Please keep the following departing faculty and staff in your prayers as they move on to retirement or new endeavors:

Father Patrick Boyle
Father Larry Hennessy
Father Bradley Zamora
Father Elmer Romero
Father Edward Pelrine
Father Ronald Kunkel
Father Gerardo Carcar
Sister Judith Haase
Dianne Giovannetti
Roger Gaura
Anne Webb Ross
Dorothy Riley
Jay Dzik
Tim Deram
Catherine Sims
Angela Pasyk
Luz Alvarez
Bob Alexander
Grace Rivelli

We want to warmly congratulate and thank all of them for their generous contributions of talent, time, and service in support of our mission to form the next generation of parish priests and leaders for God and his people.



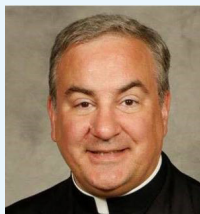
Mrs. Marlene F. Byrne

Marlene began serving as a member of the USML Board of Advisors in January 2021. Marlene is the CEO of Celtic Chicago, Inc., a branding and marketing agency focused on B2B clients in the industries of chemistry, food production, manufacturing and agriculture. Marlene has served on the Midwest Board of Directors of NPH USA, the fundraising arm of *Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos*, a group of nine homes for orphaned and vulnerable children in Central and South America. She serves as a guest lecturer on business marketing for the MBA program at the Kellogg School of Management. Marlene graduated with a B.A. in mass communications from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She has authored seven books. Marlene and her husband Brian have three adult children (Samuel, Matthew and Maggie) and a dog named Riley.



Mr. William M. McErlean

Bill began serving as a member of the USML Board of Advisors in January 2021. Bill was a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP, where he litigated a variety of complex, high-stakes commercial cases in courts and before arbitrators nationally. Bill retired at the end of 2020. He has a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center. Bill and his wife Sue have been long-time supporters of Catholic Charities and, in particular, its Loss program. Bill was on the first school board at Old St. Mary's and chaired the capital campaign that built Old St. Mary's school.



Most Reverend Michael McGovern, '94

Bishop McGovern, a Chicago native, attended the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1994. He has served as pastor of the Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest and St. Raphael in Old Mill Creek, Illinois. Pope Francis appointed him the ninth Bishop of Belleville, Illinois, on April 3, 2020.



Mr. Joseph Nemmers

Joe began serving as a member of the USML Board of Advisors in January 2021. He was born and raised in Libertyville, and he is a graduate of Carmel Catholic High School and Arizona State University. He retired from Abbott as executive vice president of medical products, and he serves on the board of a leading DNA testing firm and is active with the Diocese of Phoenix. He is the immediate past chair of Carmel Catholic and is a founder of Christ the King Jesuit College Prep in Chicago and St. John Paul II Catholic High School in Phoenix. He has volunteered in the Church and the community for four decades. He and his late wife had four sons, all grown, and now four grandchildren. He remarried in 2018 and has five grown stepchildren. He and his wife live full time in Scottsdale, Arizona.



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