

THE BRIDGE

Winter 2022

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



*Building Bridges
to Christ for*

100 YEARS

Also In This Issue:

Centennial Kickoff

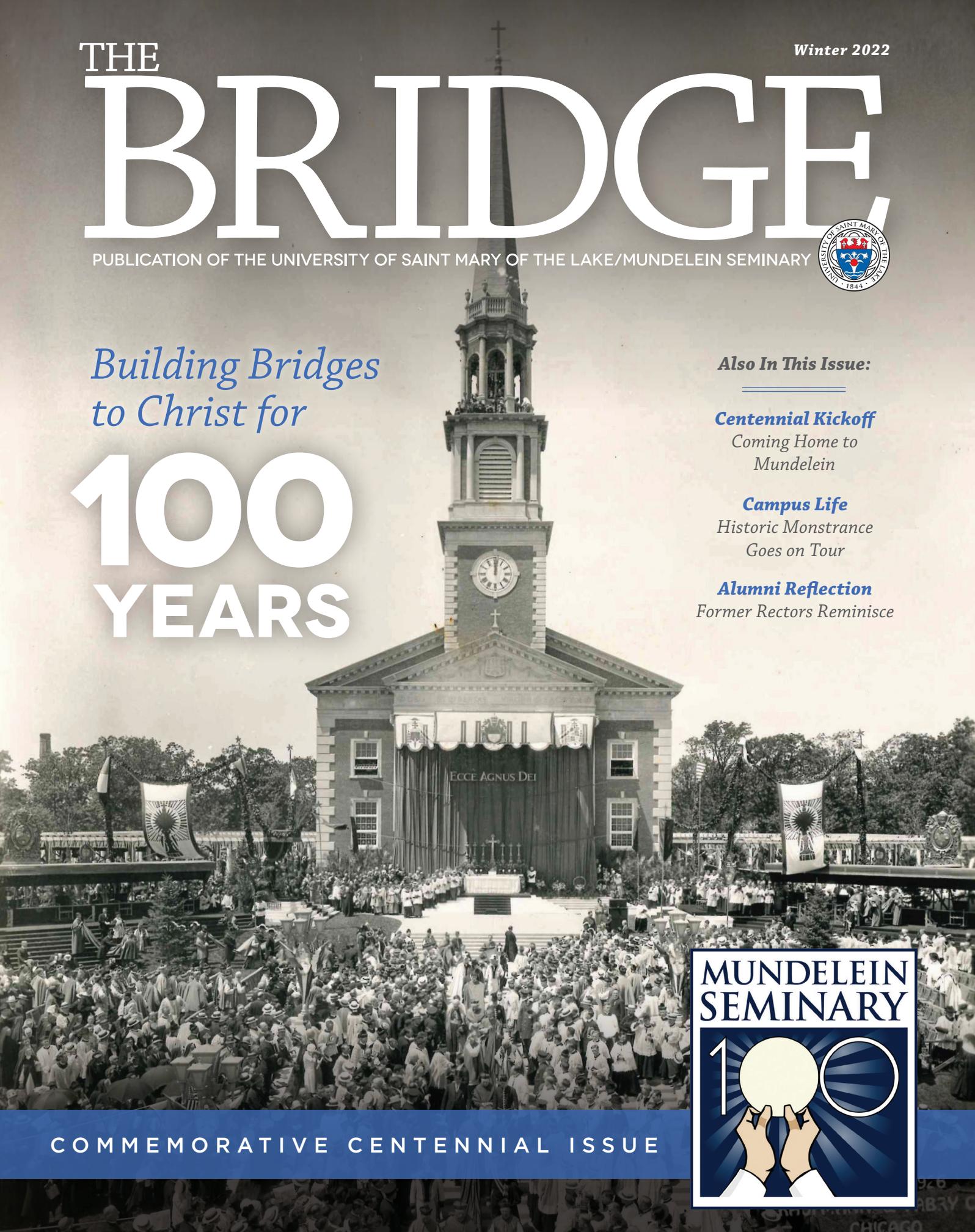
*Coming Home to
Mundelein*

Campus Life

*Historic Monstrance
Goes on Tour*

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Former Rectors Reminisce



COMMEMORATIVE CENTENNIAL ISSUE

MUNDELEIN
SEMINARY



EMBARKING ON A NEW CENTURY WITH CONFIDENCE AND HOPE

BY FATHER JOHN KARTJE

As we prepared to celebrate our Centennial Celebration Mass in September, marking the beginning of Mundelein Seminary's 100th year of preparing parish priests for the Archdiocese of Chicago and numerous other dioceses, I was originally dismayed that the entire front façade of the Main Chapel was still fully covered in scaffolding, from steps to steeple. The need for emergency repairs had forced us to move up the date for a scheduled Chapel restoration project.

But as the day of the Mass approached, I increasingly came to see that scaffolding as a hopeful sign for the future of both the seminary and the Church. At first glance, the unwieldy matrix of iron pipes and platforms seemed to focus primarily on shoring up the past, a local Church from a bygone time that had changed and was continuing to rapidly evolve. But scaffolding provides more than just a means to restore the past, it also creates a firm structure within which something new can begin to take form and from which that new vision will eventually emerge.

In this issue of *The Bridge*, you will find many accounts of Mundelein's storied past. The personal reflections of former rectors and several alumni bear strong witness to the seminary's unchanging mission through the years: to help form men into holy and effective shepherds and servants for the People of God. But you will also find many signs that point toward a hope-filled future for the Church, including profiles of several new faculty members, and, most importantly, accounts of the ministry and talents of our seminarians being exercised in service of their priestly vocations.

If you have never experienced our beautiful campus, or if it has been a while

since your last visit, I encourage you to make the journey at some point during our centennial year. Beyond the natural beauty of the landscape, there are numerous devotional spots across the campus that invite your reflection and prayer. The seminary campus is truly a blessing to the local Church, and I hope that you can visit.

Our centennial celebration will continue through the spring, so please visit www.mundelein100.org to learn about upcoming events and other ways to connect with our community in this special year. You will also be able to browse stories about the seminary's past and present or share your own about your time on campus or about a parish priest who has positively impacted your faith life.

From my own days as a seminarian, then as a faculty member, and now as rector, Mundelein has been extremely influential in my own priestly formation and the exercise of my ministry. As you enjoy reading the following pages, you will discover how pivotal the mission of this seminary has been in the history of the American Catholic Church, and why our mission today is needed more than ever.

As I write this shortly before Christmas, I am happy to note that the scaffolding is



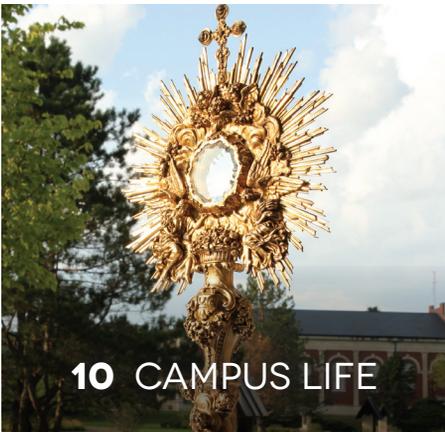
“In this issue of The Bridge...you will also find many signs that point toward a hope-filled future for the Church, including profiles of several new faculty members, and, most importantly, accounts of the ministry and talents of our seminarians being exercised in service of their priestly vocations.”

coming down. As it does so, what is being revealed is a humbling respect for the men and women of the Church over the past 100 years, and a reverent confidence in tomorrow's priests and the People of God whom they will shepherd and serve.

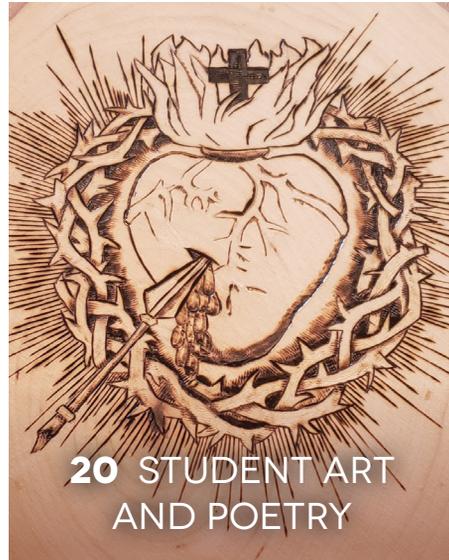
Together with you, in Christ—for the past 100 years and into the next century—we are Mundelein. We form parish priests. ■



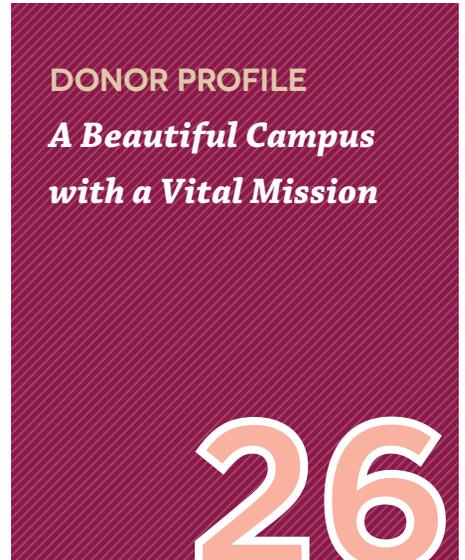
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The seminarian-authored magazine of



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

Winter 2022

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The 28th International Eucharistic Congress in 1926 holds its concluding ceremonies at Mundelein Seminary. The ceremonies attract an estimated 800,000 pilgrims to the seminary grounds.

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FATHER ARTURO FELIX, OFM | Formation Advisor

BY LEE NOEL | 1T, DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

Father Arturo Felix, Order of Friars Minor Conventual OFM Conv., recently sat down with *The Bridge* after joining the Mundelein Seminary faculty over the summer as a formation advisor. During an afternoon break from his new role as a formation advisor, Father Arturo shared about his life before he was ordained as a Franciscan priest in 2016, why he enjoys certain movies, and how coronavirus restrictions transformed his prayer life, along with some evangelization tips. Here is Father Arturo, OFM Conv., in his own words.

COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND WHERE YOU GREW UP?

"I was born and raised in Southern California, where I grew up Catholic with two sisters and one brother. Both of my parents are Catholic and my sisters currently work in retail while my brother wants to go to culinary school."

WHAT ABOUT YOUR TEENAGE YEARS AND YOUR DISCERNMENT FOR THE PRIESTHOOD?

"As far as seminary goes, I was looking at priesthood from the age of 14... after seeing the altar servers at Mass I thought, 'Hey, I would like to do that!' That drew me closer to the Eucharist, to the altar, to the sacrifice going on there, and to my parish priest, Father Santos Ortega. He was just a very great man. All of those things brought priesthood into my mind."

HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR INTEREST IN SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI?

"I had to pick a patron saint for Confirmation. St. Francis (of Assisi) stood out for two reasons. One was his radical dependence on God, and the second one was a little more interesting. In his lifetime he was called an alter Christus, "another Christ..." So in my mind, my parish priest and this alter Christus were like one and the same thing... pretty inspiring!"

HOW DID YOU COME TO THE DECISION TO ATTEND SEMINARY?

"After considering a state university or joining the military, I decided to attend college seminary for the Diocese of San

Bernardino. After their first two years of classes and living at a formation house, the diocese would send students to a minor seminary for their last two years to finish up philosophy courses. So my bishop sent me to Loyola (Chicago), and our opening retreat was at no other place than Marytown. The Franciscans had been on my mind for a while, and that spiraled into thinking about Franciscan life. After finishing up my two years, I had another choice to make, and I figured I might as well give a shot to the Friars! After professing my simple vows I took theology classes at Mundelein for three and a half years. Following that, I professed my solemn vows and was ordained a Franciscan priest."

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?

"I like to read, especially philosophy, theology, and the philosophy of science. I also like to watch movies, especially movies that make you think, make you ponder things. Some of my favorites are the 'Matrix' trilogy and a movie from 2011 called 'Drive', and I'm a big 'Star Wars' fan, too."

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED OR BEEN REFLECTING ON DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC?

"Two things stood out. The first one is the hidden mystery of God. Celebrating Mass by ourselves... but still understanding that this mystery, even though it's 'hidden' from the world because no one is here... it's still efficacious... The second lesson I



learned is the priest as intercessor. I was thinking during the times of restrictions, 'How am I bringing the things of the people to God?' Celebrating the Masses 'by yourself,' instead of thinking about the congregation in front of me, I was bringing everything I know from my parishioners giving it to God. The focus shifted from giving God's mystery to the people to taking the people's misery and going through and giving it to God."

DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS FOR EVANGELIZATION?

"It would depend on the situation for how I would word this, but the basic idea would be, 'we're not called to be necessarily good people or be nice people.' What the faith gives us, what Christ gives us, what the Church gives us is the fullness of humanity. We are seeking fulfillment, and really the revelation of Christ brings that fullness of humanity to the forefront. So if

we accept what Jesus says, if He is who He says He is, ultimately He brings us the fullness of who we are, the fullness of humanity. If we are fully alive, that's what God glories in, and not just glories in, but that's what he seeks for us, so anything less than that is us not being fully alive." ■



LEE NOEL
is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Cheyenne.

FATHER JACQUE BELTRAN | Vice-Rector and Director of Admissions

BY DUY NGUYEN | 2T, DIOCESE OF SAN JOSÉ

“I remember kneeling down before the altar and praying the rosary every night, every single night.” That’s how Father Jacque (Jake) Beltran recalls his family’s daily prayer routine and how prayer has been a big part of his life. “The sailors always say, it’s important to do PT time or physical time. More importantly, we should not forget the other PT time – prayer time.”

This centennial school year, it is with great joy that the University of Saint Mary of the Lake welcomes Father Jake Beltran. Mundelein Seminary is a very familiar and dear place to Father Beltran because he was here as part of the formation faculty from 2001 to 2012. With extensive pastoral experience and three years of active-duty service with the Navy, he brings new breadth and depth to the formation department, as well as taking on the role of vice-rector of the seminary.

Father Jake Beltran’s home country is the Philippines, where he was born and raised with seven siblings: five brothers, and two sisters. “As a middle child, you have to develop the art of survival in order to learn how to negotiate up and down,” he said jokingly. Apparently, religion runs in his family. Two of his cousins are priests, and one later became a bishop. His younger brother Father Andre is also a priest and a graduate of Mundelein seminary.

Just like the prophet Isaiah, whom the Lord called from his mother’s womb, Father Beltran believed the Lord planted

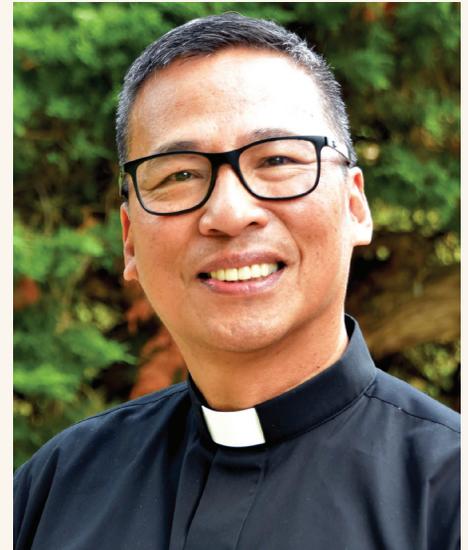
the seed of vocation early in his life. As a devout Catholic family, his parents and his siblings gathered together every day at 6 p.m. to pray the rosary. What was most memorable for him growing up was serving at 4:30 a.m. Mass at the age of 10 with his younger brother. The church was right across the street from his house. Early morning Masses are very typical for tropical countries such as the Philippines.

At the age of 13, he entered minor seminary and continued to college seminary. It was during his internship year that he was blessed to witness the love of the pastor for the people and, especially, his love for the Eucharist. The encounter affirmed his vocation to the priesthood. “He was totally impressive as a spiritual father,” he recalled as he was explaining the meaning of priesthood.

A life-changing experience for Father Beltran during the priesthood was working in a rural parish with indigenous people. “It was truly a challenge, especially during the first four years: no electricity, no running water, dirt roads and all that,” he said.

Yet looking back, it was one of his best pastoral assignments. It is a reminder for him to be always mindful of the “preferential option” for the poor. “It gives us a sense of the true meaning of the Church, being able to journey and live with the poor, and, at the same time, seeing the joy of how the Gospel is preached and how they are living the Gospel,” he said.

Father Beltran spent three years in active-duty service with the Navy. Of the eight chaplains assigned to the USS carriers and carrier strike group, Father Beltran was the only Catholic priest. He recalled being transported by helicopter and flying to many different ships and strike groups



to help celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments. A history of military service runs in his family. His father served in the army to support the U.S. during World War II. It was this connection that brought his family to the U.S. He soon followed to reunite with his family in Chicago.

His advice to seminarians is “to have dedicated time to discern the vocation to which God is calling them and to discern prayerfully.” He added, “The Church needs priests who are healthy, who are joyful, who are balanced, who are passionately in love with the Lord and the people of God, and who are truly servants of all.”

He commends the seminarians to look up to St. John Vianney, the patron saint of all priests. We are reminded that through “his love for the Lord and the people, that he was truly a teacher, priest, and shepherd.” We need to let the Eucharist be

the center and the source of our lives and our holiness.

Father Beltran loves being outdoors. He is an avid tennis player. His favorite dishes are Adobo, Sinigang, and seafood. He is humbly and joyfully looking forward to being the vice-rector and helping to form future priests. ■



DUY NGUYEN

is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of San José.



FATHER RICHARD HALVORSON | Formation Advisor

BY PATRICK KENNEDY | 1PT, DIOCESE OF ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

It is exciting to have Father Ric Halvorson back on campus and he is excited to be back as well. The last time he was here at Mundelein for an extended time, Father Halvorson was a seminarian himself and was ordained in 2004. Now Father Halvorson joins Mundelein as a new member of the formation staff. He is also grateful for the chance to be back in his home state — having grown up in East Dubuque, Illinois before his former job with Coca-Cola took him out to Kansa City, Kansas. It was there that Father Halvorson felt the call to the priesthood and after 10 years in Kansas City entered Mundelein seminary in the fall of 1999. Having spent the last 17 years as a pastor, returning to campus has been quite a transition. But he also sees transition as an opportunity “to relearn some things and be open to new things.”

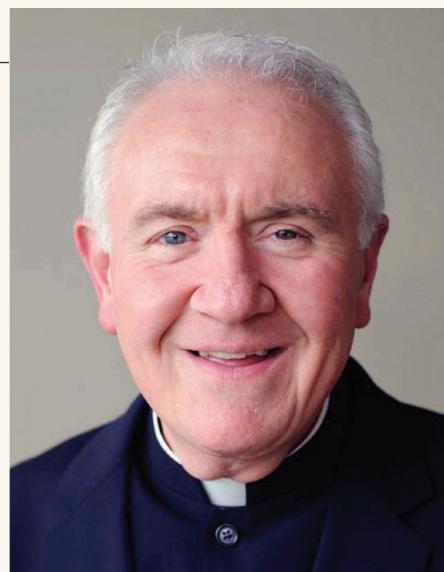
During his time as a pastor and in seminary, Father Halvorson had been very cognizant of the presence of the Holy Spirit. On Clinical Pastoral Education as a seminarian, whenever he was faced with a difficult situation, he remembers making sure to call on the Holy Spirit for help, something he continues to practice to this day. He sees that sense of the presence of holy spirit in one’s life as an important part of the formation process. The work of the Holy Spirit is after all what led him to the priesthood and back to Mundelein as a formator. Because of the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in his life, Father Halvorson sees it as a privilege to walk with seminarians during their time of discernment

and see where the Holy Spirit is leading them.

Father Halvorson is also excited to bring his experience as a pastor to Mundelein Seminary.

“Relying on the Holy Spirit helps you to be present to the people that we are ministering to,” he said. “It’s not just what we say, it’s how we are present to the people.”

He notes that nowadays things are so polarizing and “no one seems to find common ground.” For Father Halvorson, growing in one’s ability to be present to others is a key part of the formation process for seminarians at Mundelein. “I hope with my experience as a pastor to help guys to just realize the importance of being present. We think we



need to have all the answers, and even if we have all the answers, that might not be where the people are. If you are set in your ways you might miss the presence of the Holy Spirit. You might miss an opportunity to be



PATRICK KENNEDY is a first-year pre-theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

present to people,” he said. As the skill of being present to others becomes all the more important in the priest’s task of accompanying others, Father Halvorson hopes to show us that it can be done, and we do not have to get caught up in divisions. Please pray for Father Halvorson and the seminarians that he serves as he continues his work as a formator. ■

KEEP UP WITH YOUR FUTURE PARISH PRIESTS.

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WWW.USML.EDU/NEWSLETTER



FATHER JOHN GUTHRIE | Director of Worship and Formation Advisor

BY JARED RUTNICKI | 3T, DIOCESE OF JOLIET

HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PRIESTLY VOCATION AND HEAR YOUR CALL?

“Thoughts of a priestly vocation began early in my life. I was a little boy when I first started “celebrating” Mass in the living room. After high school, I went to St. John’s, a Benedictine college in Minnesota. Then I taught in an all-black Catholic high school in Montgomery, Alabama. There, I lived with priests who each had their unique personality and gifts. I realized I could be totally who I was as a person and also be a priest. God accepts and forms our own individual humanity. As I lived and prayed with the priests, the thought of seminary kept coming back.

I attended the North American College and the Gregorian University in Rome. The best part about being in Rome was the catholicity. I loved going to papal audiences, Urbi et Orbi addresses, and seeing people from all continents. In particular, I remember a particular Pentecost Vigil when the Veni Sancte Spiritus was sung, each verse in a different language. It was like another Pentecost.”



WHAT ARE SOME ASSIGNMENTS YOU’VE HAD IN THE PAST?

“My love and my passion is being in a parish. I’ve been the pastor of four parishes (some clustered), ranging in size from 15 families to 1,500 families. I spent three years on staff at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington serving in the office for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations. I was also vicar general for the Diocese of Bismarck.

I have been blessed with a lot of perspectives on the Church. I know what it is to see things from the perspective of the parish and an entire diocese as well as from the national and international perspective. All of these have expanded my vision of the Church.”

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES? WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST OR ARTWORK?

“I like to play golf, keep up with friends, read, and go to art museums. I’m partial to authors like Graham Greene, Dostoyevsky, and Mann. Good literature and art help one to see grace and beauty in the midst of life. It opens your eyes and having a sense of beauty is crucial in the life of a priest, especially in preaching and celebrating the sacraments. Beauty is an important part of liturgy and helps people enter into the faith; it helps to develop one’s human spirit and a sense of compassion and empathy.”

WHO INSPIRES YOU?

“My parents. They were interesting ... and interested ... people. They had an openness and a curious spirit. In high school, I had an elderly teacher who was a Benedictine nun who introduced me to the liberal arts. A professor in college, Father Godfrey Diekmann, taught patristics and made me feel like I was in the presence of the Fathers. These teachers were wonderful because they had incredible knowledge and a passion for their material.

My ordaining bishop was an incredible leader. He had an expansive vision of the Church and was constantly thinking outside the box. I also had a fantastic spiritual director in seminary, Father George Aschenbrenner, SJ. He introduced me to Ignatian spirituality and showed me how relevant it is for the diocesan priesthood.”

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MOST ABOUT WORKING HERE?

“When you’re in a parish, your parishioners are the focus of your ministry. Here, the seminarians are. I’m looking forward to teaching the seminarians and learning from them. I will be 60 next year and hanging around with a younger generation brings new energy and zeal. I’m excited about what I have to offer them but also about what they have to offer me.

I’ve been celebrating liturgy for many years. What I love about liturgy is that it incarnates theology. Everything about liturgy flows from the theological disciplines. This new assignment gives me

the opportunity to reflect on these things with the staff and seminarians here.

I said yes to this assignment because I saw it as an opportunity to grow. When one is ordained, you don’t know what’s going to be asked of you, but you have to be available to do it. Being available is essential to being a priest. I’m grateful to be here.” ■

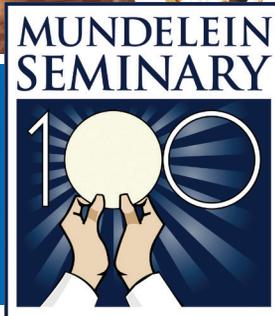


JARED RUTNICKI is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Joliet.



MUNDELEIN SEMINARY

*Together with you
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Coming Home to Mundelein: HUNDREDS GATHER TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL MASS

BY DEACON RICHARD RIVERA | 4T, DIOCESE OF TUCSON

For centuries, Christians have made pilgrimages with a spiritual purpose to holy places. Friends, new and old, flooded the campus of Mundelein Seminary on October 17, 2021, for a pilgrimage of sorts; for many it was a pilgrimage home. Surrounded by hundreds of people, including alumni priests, religious, bishops, and His Eminence Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, His Eminence Cardinal Wilton D. Gregory, Archbishop of Washington, spoke these words at the 100th anniversary Mass of Mundelein Seminary, “We are members of a fraternity of friendship, whose very center is the Lord Himself.”

From its striking architecture to the national emblems that were proudly displayed, Cardinal Gregory reminded all in attendance of how Mundelein’s campus intentionally brings together two distinct architectural styles, that of the Colonial Revival and of Rome’s Renaissance. Intended to incorporate the Roman traditions of Catholicism with American cultural traditions, Mundelein Seminary was to be a new place embracing Catholicism in a uniquely American culture. “Mundelein needed an American clergy,” said Cardinal Gregory. “He needed to prepare a united presbyterate, even coming from varying cultures and speaking varied

languages.” To meet the spiritual needs of the Catholic population in Chicago, the property was purchased and the seminary was opened in 1921. For priests, former seminarians, former faculty members, and staff, the centennial weekend was an opportunity to re-explore a campus that has been the seedbed of countless encounters with God.

After the Mass, pilgrims became friends while participating in an outdoor brunch followed by tours and a variety of talks. While introductions were made, and the campus was explored, new friends became old friends who shared personal experiences and unique moments of grace.



From countless small communities, a large community formed including bishops and laity; religious and married; young and mature. “It occurred to me that I’ve been a part of this community for almost a quarter of its existence, when you include my time as a seminarian and then my time here after,” remarked Father John Kartje, rector and university president.

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

“I join you in giving thanks for the numerous priest alumni who, over these many years, have served the church in Chicago, the United States and throughout the world as preachers of the gospel and faithful shepherds of God’s people. I pray that this anniversary may also inspire a renewed commitment on the part of the whole seminary community to grow in holiness and in conformity to the heart of Jesus through prayer, study and zeal for the spread of His Kingdom.” (Excerpt from Pope Francis’ Apostolic Blessing on Mundelein’s Centennial)

Family members and parishioners could be seen proudly embracing their seminarians throughout the day as slivers of heaven seemed to break through during the day. Recalling the extraordinary sacrifices and gifts of others, the Holy Father recalled the blessing of those who have been generous in contributing to the formation of priests. Father John Kartje, rector and university president, seemed to reiterate the same sentiment as he remarked on the construction scaffolding currently encapsulating the chapel’s steeple, “I hope you all realize how critical a part of the scaffolding here you are. A seminary like this only happens because of the work of many hands.”

In the same spirit of gratitude, seminarians joyfully served in every capacity throughout the day’s festivities. Seen doing everything from proudly serving food to humbly guiding tours



around the incredible campus, the seminary community embraced pilgrims and welcomed them into their home.

A PERSONAL NOTE

“Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common.” Acts 4:32 (NAB)

Acts 4:32 may seem like a far off dream but here it is reality. As a deacon in his final year of formation, I found this event to be an extraordinary example of what has become our ordinary lives. The blessing of Mundelein Seminary is not defined by events like this but, in reality,



events like this highlight the blessing of Mundelein Seminary. Certainly this event was extraordinary in its very existence but it was concurrently ordinary as this fraternity of friendship continually seeks to welcome others, and to share the blessings of God. A joyful “Mrs. K” dropping off sweets, or a seminarian welcoming others into his home, is often more normal than unique.

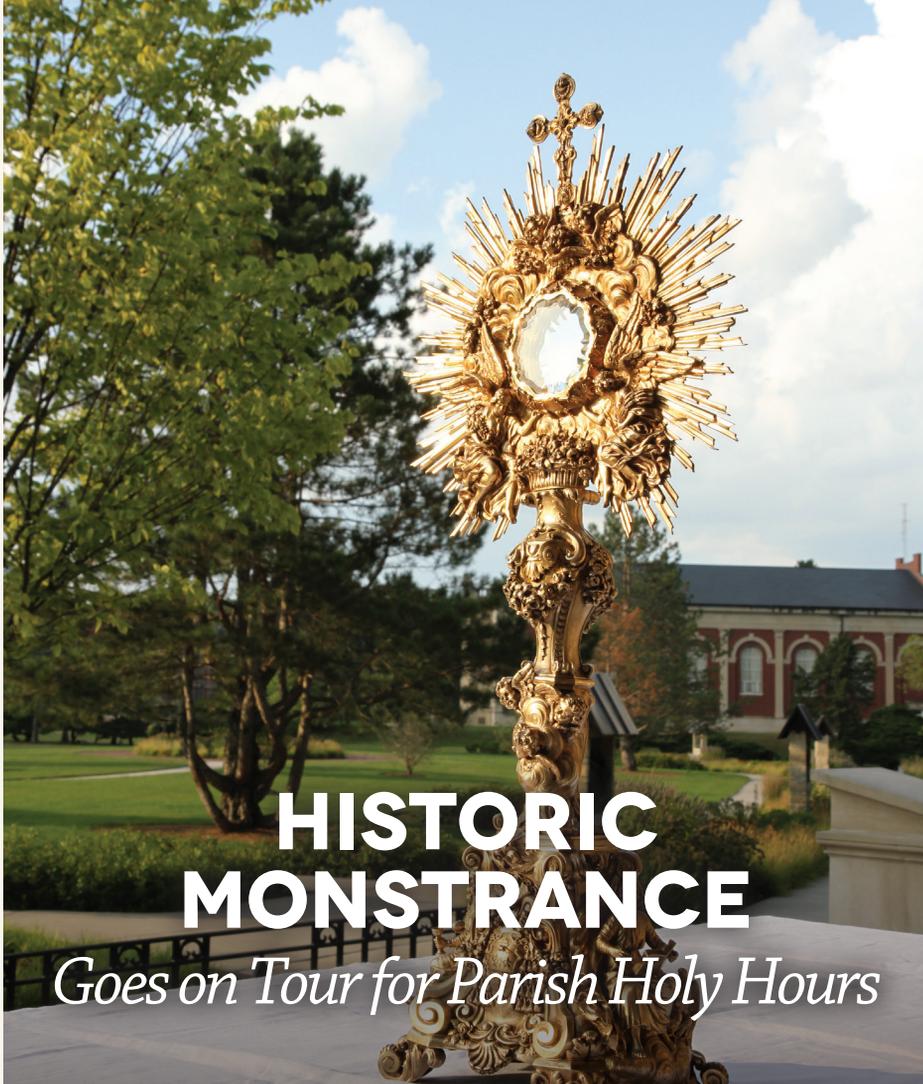
Certainly here all join a “fraternity of friendship.” This is a privileged place where we all grow in unity under one purpose; that of Jesus Christ. The Centennial Mass was a great celebration of the vision and desire of Cardinal Mundelein, bringing together a fraternity of friendship, that finds Christ as its center and ultimate goal. ■



DEACON RICHARD RIVERA

is a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Tucson.





HISTORIC MONSTRANCE

Goes on Tour for Parish Holy Hours

BY DEACON BEN THOMSEN | 4T, ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA

It could have been a scene from centuries ancient. Silence permeates the building along with the smell of incense in the air. Dozens of faithful are present, scattered across the pews in the church, some being nuns in their habits, but still, all is silent. The candles illumine the focal point, the altar, elevated higher than those there. Above all, sitting upon this altar is the golden monstrance with gold rays emanating from its heart. Situated in its heart is the Host, the Eucharist, the Body of Christ. The Body given to us nearly two millennia ago. What was this described scene?

On October 1, 2021, this golden monstrance of the 1926 International Eucharistic Congress at Mundelein Seminary made its way down to St. Emily's Parish in Mount Prospect, Illinois. The Eucharist was exposed to view in the center of the golden monstrance and adoration

began in the early afternoon, continuing through benediction in the early evening. Here the faithful adored God made present in the Eucharist and benediction bestowed blessings on the faithful with verbal adoration to God the Almighty. Adoration was directed to God for the

sake of vocations as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mundelein Seminary this year. This was the first stop on a tour of Holy Hours for vocations being held in parishes across the Archdiocese of Chicago throughout the centennial year, and St. Emily's paved the way.

Father James Presta '86 and Father Hank Lyon '20 led the ceremonies. Toward the end of adoration and prior to benediction, Father Presta gave a brief reflection to those present. "Mundelein, monstrance, and mission" was the theme of the reflection, connecting all three of the themes to adoration. As the day was also the feast of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, he connected her resting with God in heaven as those rested there before the presence of the Eucharist. He exhorted prayers on behalf of vocations for the good of the Church.

Benediction followed. Five Seminarians from Mundelein (Deacons Joe Wagner and Ben Thomsen, Nick Baker, Evan Glowzinski, and Matthew Howard) were present, and assisted Father Lyon in leading the benediction. They approached the altar with the monstrance and Eucharist and gave reverence. At the foot of the altar they sung praise and prayed. Then two of the seminarians followed Father Lyon, now wearing a humeral veil, to the altar where he lifted the monstrance up and blessed the people. Returning to the foot of the altar, the Divine Praises were chanted. Finally, the Eucharist was removed from the monstrance and placed in the tabernacle, ending the ceremony.

Afterward, the worshipers met with the seminarians and priests before departing.

"To be recently ordained a priest and to hold up this monstrance with the Host, which is way holier than myself, is an honor," Father Lyon said. "That it passed through the hands of priests, bishops, and cardinals is a sign of the continuation of the one priesthood — the Church's apostolic succession."

The seminarians serving at the holy hour appreciated the opportunity to meet with local parishioners and join them in adoration.

"It is a joy to be able to stand before the presence of our Lord in the flesh," said Nick Baker, a seminarian for the Diocese of Grand Rapids.



“Indeed, it is one thing to know of God’s presence that is before us always, but it is quite another to be before his presence manifested physically in the Eucharistic host...”

Indeed, it is one thing to know of God’s presence that is before us always, but it is quite another to be before his presence manifested physically in the Eucharistic host which we believe to be the Body and Blood of Christ under the appearance and accidents of bread and wine. Although this sacrament requires faith and reasoning beyond the mere appearance of things (a sort of reversal of Adam and Eve judging by mere appearances), it gives a local point for our bodies to turn toward. We are creatures not just of mind or spirit, but also of a body. The tangibility of our faith accounts for the whole human, our bodies and souls, not just our souls, ever so more important as that might be. The Eucharist allows the people to gather physically around the spatial presence of God.

The body is not something that must be shut off entirely, but rather has a role to play in the prayer itself. In order to achieve the higher forms of prayer such as contemplation, we may be tempted to think the body is utterly irrelevant. Although interior silence is critical, Eu-

charistic adoration provides a use for the body and a way for one to appreciate their closeness to the Lord and more easily enter into silent adoration before Him. The body then becomes a sort a vehicle for prayer, and the whole person is taken up into it.

Beyond these mere psychological practicalities, it is not nothing to bring oneself into the very real and actual presence of God in the flesh. This then is a very “Catholic” (according to the whole) way of prayer and a form of devotion centuries ancient. Body and soul, it continues to this very day.

It is fitting to celebrate the seminary’s centennial by hosting these Holy Hours for vocations at parishes where Mundelein’s alumni priests and seminarians are serving the faithful. We are united

in gratitude for the seminary’s legacy of forming priests to serve as a holy bridge between God and His people, while also praying that more men will discern the call of the Holy Spirit to serve the Church.

The monstrance tour will continue through next spring, so please visit www.mundelein100.org to view the full schedule of Holy Hours for Vocations. ■



**DEACON
BEN
THOMSEN**

is a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Atlanta.

LEARNING FROM THE PEOPLE *in Springfield-Cape Girardeau*

BY NICK ZUMMO | 3T, DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Building friendships with the clergy and parishioners in my home Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau has been an impactful experience for me. However, doing so has not always been easy. Going to school five hundred miles away from home makes it difficult to remain involved there. This distance was one of the reasons I was excited to return to my diocese for my internship semester. I knew I would have time with my local community.

Each seminarian in my class had this opportunity to spend time at home. In the spring of second theology, every man gets the chance to live in a parish in their diocese. It provides an opportunity to learn from one of their local priests. Last semester I was privileged to go to Sacred Heart Parish in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, for an internship. The parish is in the southeast corner of Missouri. During my time there, I learned from Father Daniel Robles and the many kind parishioners.

One of the first things Father Robles told me when I arrived was, “I will not do anything differently because you are here. You will get to see all my strengths and weaknesses. I only ask that you forgive me for my faults.” I was both surprised and moved by the way he welcomed me. He demonstrated great authenticity and a sense of service. He often did little things for me, like prepare the coffee. Through our time together, I learned a lot about his way of life.

Living at the parish as if I was a new associate pastor was a great opportunity. It allowed me to live as we will after or-

dination. During my time in Poplar Bluff, I visited the sick, attended various meetings, and spent time with families — each of which is common in the priesthood.

The way my pastor serves the community was also educational. His ministry is closely tied with his gifts and talents. Father is very personable and always makes himself available. If there was a gathering, you could bet that he would be there. Those two qualities improved his relationship with parishioners. I quickly learned how much the people loved and appreciated his significant involvement.

His gregarious nature impacted my image of priesthood. It has become something I hope to cultivate for myself. Preaching and teaching are crucial, but nothing builds bridges quite as well as a happy and holy disciple. I observed this during my

internship experience. Informal time spent with people was impactful. Father would invite groups of people over for coffee simply to chat. This time for relaxation gave the people a chance to know him as a person. Those times built trust and comfort between them. Those little gestures helped to make the relationships necessary to lead others into a deeper relationship with God.

My time with the community also had a significant impact on me. One of the providential things about priestly ministry is that it is a two-way street. No priest can accomplish everything by himself. The work of ministry is a collaborative effort among the priest, the Lord, and the people. When we work in cooperation, it is a graced experience. Building friendships within the parish was significant for me. I received a lot of gratitude and support. I offered my time and talents. Yet, not once was I outdone in generosity or kindness. In this way, I saw that the priest is both giver and receiver.

One of the most helpful things I received from the parishioners at my internship parish was their feedback. This process primarily came from 10 pa-



“One of the most helpful things I received from the parishioners at my internship parish was their feedback.”

parishioners who composed the “vocation committee.” They helped to guide me toward the priesthood by sharing their observations of me. Some comments I had never considered. For example, the shoes a priest wears in the sanctuary are important. They can become distracting. Others mentioned the preaching styles that have been most influential for them. Their feedback helped me to be more aware of how my actions impact the people in the pews.

Feedback on my public speaking was among the most helpful parts. During my internship, I gave several gospel reflections. The practice of speaking and frequent feedback helped me to



Nick Zummo

improve my abilities. The process made me more confident. I also developed a sense of what my preaching style will be moving forward. Parishioners routinely expressed, “the less you read from notes, the more you connect with the people.” As a result, I gradually moved from reading what I wrote to relying on memory and bullet points. That movement in style was well received and fits with the style I want to cultivate. I will use their feedback to connect with listeners going forward.

I learned a lot during the internship and appreciated the opportunity to spend time in my home diocese. The example of my pastor played an important role in shaping my image of the priesthood. He affirmed my good attributes while also giving me goals for the future. I’m also thankful that he introduced me to many priests within the diocese. In that way, he helped me see our clergy’s culture and the way the diocese

“I learned a lot during the internship and appreciated the opportunity to spend time in my home diocese. The example of my pastor played an important role in shaping my image of the priesthood.”

works. The fraternity among our clergy is something I am very much looking forward to after my ordination.

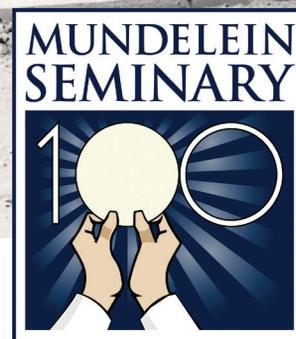
Similarly, I am very thankful to have grown closer to the people of my internship parish. Their feedback was helpful, but, what’s more, I enjoyed walking with parishioners on the road to discipleship. The relationships with the people are what made the internship joyful and meaningful. I’ve often found

myself telling friends, “If Bishop chooses to send me back there after ordination, that would be just fine by me.” I’m excited to see what the adults do next and who the kids will become as time goes by. In summation, God was at work throughout my internship, and I’m excited to see what he has in store for each of us going forward. ■



NICK ZUMMO
is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

Mundelein's HISTORY & FUTURE



BY JOHN WASHINGTON | 2T, DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

Mundelein Seminary is celebrating 100 years of forming priests in its current location and under its current form on its beautiful campus in the town that shares its name. However the school's history stretches farther back than the buildings and campus that are visible today. The first bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Most Rev. James Quarter, was able to secure a charter from the State of Illinois for the University of Saint Mary of the Lake on Dec. 14, 1844. The vision of this first frontier shepherd was to have an institution that could provide not only priests, but one that could train the core professions of a growing city such as doctors and lawyers as well. However it was not to be, amid financial difficulties and other priorities in the burgeoning Chicago area, the original seminary closed its doors in 1866.

In the interim years after 1866, Chicago would send its young men to be trained in other schools across the country, often depending on ethnic and linguistic background. German students would be sent to St. Francis in Milwaukee, Polish students to Saints Cyril and Methodius in Detroit, and Irish students to Saint Mary's in Baltimore. It was also common to send certain students abroad to Europe as well, particularly to Rome or Louvain in Belgium. Chicago was a city of immigrants, and the Church in Chicago was a Church of immigrants as well, the training of its priests being so scattershot was not good for the

longterm health of building a single united Church with an American identity. The situation would prove untenable as the city of Chicago had a population of nearly 1,000,000 people and 800 priests in 1916 and still no seminary of its own. This situation would change, and change tremendously when the Archbishop-designate George Mundelein arrived to take possession of his new See in the same year.

“I believe there is no theological seminary there... and if the Lord spares me long enough, Chicago will have a seminary.” Mundelein told reporters this as he was getting on the train in Brooklyn, New York where he had been auxiliary bishop, to take his appointment in 1916. World War I slowed his plans, and forced the grand vision to wait until a more peaceful time, but Mundelein bided his time on other projects, never ceasing his plan. In fact, as early as 1917, the land that the seminary currently sits on was already in the sights of the archdiocese. It was owned by A.F. Sheldon’s “Sheldon’s School of Scientific Salesmanship,” and included several hundred acres along with a lake. The economic distress of the war had driven Sheldon’s school out of business and by 1918, the archdiocese had purchased this initial plot and surrounding plots for a total of about 1,000 acres. When the war concluded, and a generous donor named Edward Hines made a donation in memory of his son, the Lieutenant Edward Hines Jr. who had died in the late war, Mundelein made his announcements to the public.

The plan for the great university was drawn up by the young Chicago architect Joseph W. McCarthy. An apprentice to the great planner Daniel H. Burnham, McCarthy had impressed Mundelein with several church designs early in

their acquaintance. He now offered the great talent the opportunity that would seal their lifelong friendship and working relationship — the chance to design the whole university campus. While Mundelein entrusted the design to McCarthy, he still kept the decision-making power in his own hands, being sure to personally approve designs, decorations, and themes. This was to be Mundelein’s seminary. All around were to be symbols of American culture, incorporated directly into the seminary itself, it was to be “American on the outside, but Roman on the inside.” The very look of the seminary was going to put one of the cardinal’s goals for the institution in motion, to portray American Catholics as being able to dutifully be both American, and Catholic. In short, Mundelein wanted it to be an engine of Americanization for his seminarians, and, in turn, for the whole of the archdiocese as “Mundelein’s priests” arrived in parishes in the following years.

The general plan, was to be laid out in the shape of the cross with the focal point to be the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception. Today the way that the campus appears was executed

almost flawlessly in accord with the plans as they were laid down in 1920. The first students arrived and began their studies in 1921, one hundred years ago, and the focus of this year’s celebrations. The first buildings to go up were the ones that the school would

“The first students arrived and began their studies in 1921, one hundred years ago, and the focus of this year’s celebrations. The first buildings to go up were the ones that the school would need to support the student residents and faculty...”

need to support the student residents and faculty, such as the philosophy dorms (now the conference center), convent (Prist Center), refectory and powerhouse. It was to be a self-sustaining place. A farm large enough to grow all sorts of foodstuffs would also be built and maintained on land that today belongs to the campus of Carmel Catholic High School. The center of the whole project, the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, was finished in 1926, where in 1924 at the dedication of the cornerstone, the cardinal said, “May it prove to be through them (the



Early construction at Mundelein, 1924



Laying of the cornerstone for the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, May 1924

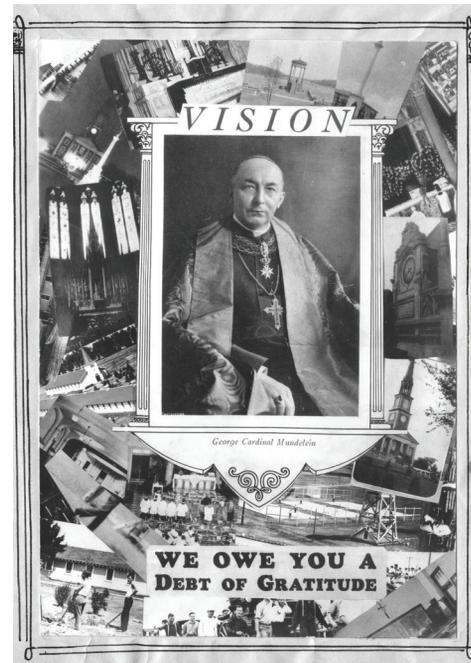
priests being formed), a powerhouse of grace and comfort for you, for your children, and your children’s children, through many generations to come.” In the following few years as classes filled in behind the first, Mundelein continued to build as he needed according to McCarthy’s plans, with the final majestic piece falling into place in 1934 in the form of the auditorium that today bears the cardinal’s name in his memory.

While the campus was being built out building by building, a vision coming to fruition, another huge goal was being prepared for by the Cardinal the Archdiocese of Chicago, to host an international Eucharistic Congress. In 1924 the Holy Father granted Cardinal Mundelein’s request that the 1926 International Eucharistic Congress be held in the city of Chicago. It was only the second time that an event of this magnitude would be held in the Western hemisphere and the first time in the United States. The first of these events held in the 1880s had only attracted around 3,000 people, but by the time the announcement was made about Chicago, it was estimated that the crowd would be over a million. In the run up to the

event in June of 1926, it was boasted by the archdiocesan newspaper at the time that at least one bishop presided over Mass in every parish church in the city on the opening day of June 20. The grounds of the seminary played a central role in the celebration of this great festival dedicated to the Eucharist as well. The closing ceremonies, a Mass and great procession of the Eucharist, were conducted in front of the then newly finished chapel of the Immaculate Conception and around the lake on campus. A crowd from 700,000-800,000 people came to participate in what was the largest religious event in the history of the United States until that point. All of these pilgrims came to the campus of the seminary in one of the most intricate transportation miracles of the era, dedicated train lines brought hundreds of thousands of them from the city to a specially built platform and station that let off at the main entrance of the seminary grounds on Route 176. Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary then played its part, not just in the history of the Church in Chicago but also a central role in the history of the city itself. The Congress was one of the primary events that helped “put Chicago

on the map,” and it was all at the hands of Cardinal Mundelein. Cardinal DuBois of Paris, was said to have remarked at the time, “L’archeveque de Chicago fait des miracles – The Archbishop of Chicago works miracles.”

Among the buildings and events that surrounded the seminary as it was being founded, were the seminarians





Steeple being built

“Mundelein’s whole approach can be summarized by his quote, “the best has been given to you, I now expect the best in return.”

and faculty who were truly the life of the institution. Life at the seminary in its earliest years looked much more monastic, as the seminary formation of Cardinal Mundelein himself had been, and he wanted it as such in the first rule of life for seminarians that was personally written by the cardinal. Each door was knocked on at 5:35 a.m. and each man wakened by the call, “Benedicamus Dominus! (Let us praise

the Lord)” and each man was expected to respond in kind, “Deo gratias! (Thanks be to God)” Then 15 minutes after rising, everyone was expected in chapel to begin the morning prayers, Mass, and morning announcements. Classes and studies occupied a large part of the day, and everything at the seminary was organized around class rank which was arrived at by grades, and formation notes (sometimes in a rather arbitrary way by the cardinal himself). Newspapers, magazines, radios, and most novels were not allowed to seminarians, neither was it permitted to leave seminary grounds without written permission of the rector. Generally the only time seminarians were allowed to visit home was on Christmas or for serious family emergencies. It was a disciplined and structured life, all aimed at turning out men who would be good servants of the Church.

However, while the life under Mundelein at the seminary may have seemed austere, Mundelein also had a reputation for being personally attentive to the formation of his priests, and seemed to enjoy the

genuine admiration of his seminarians. While this was owed to his own personality, it was also the result of deliberate planning on the part of the cardinal, who intended his seminary to serve as the engine for a single-minded, Americanized, and loyal clergy. He had every intention that the men he brought to formation would become good Americans and holy priests regardless of the backgrounds that any of them might

have carried with them. The cardinal went above and beyond to provide the ideal environment for development of the ideal young American man. The campus design did feature a pool, bowling alley, ball courts, and fields, and any number of artistic outlets. The summers too were always spent in the north woods of Wisconsin, if men didn’t have an alternate assignment, at the villa camp owned by the archdiocese, and the cardinal was always present for the largest social functions to interact. There was not a single point of the life of the seminarians that Cardinal Mundelein didn’t aim to address in forming them into holy priests. Mundelein’s whole approach can be summarized by his quote, “the best has been given to you, I now expect the best in return.”

In 1939, having accomplished many of his ambitions, and transforming the Church in the city of Chicago, Cardinal Mundelein died at his villa on the campus of his seminary. His funeral was one of the largest in Chicago’s history. He laid in state in Holy Name Cathedral for several days, before eventually being brought back to Mundelein where final respects were paid to him before he was laid to rest behind the main altar of the seminary chapel, a place he had labored so hard to bring into reality.

In the decades since Mundelein’s vision was laid out, the mission of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/ Mundelein Seminary remains unchanged — to form a Church in every aspect, from the clergy to the laity, that draws ever closer to her Savior.

The footprint has grown beyond the Archdiocese of Chicago to embrace the whole Church worldwide. People from all around the world, and from many diverse backgrounds have passed through the gates to carry the message of Christ out of it with a reinvigorated enthusiasm for the gospel. ■



JOHN WASHINGTON

is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Yakima.

On a Mission

NEW VIDEO SERIES HIGHLIGHTS SEMINARIAN SERVICE PROJECTS

BY ROBERT LAMORENA | 2T, DIOCESE OF SAN JOSÉ

It was all at God's invitation. God invited me to go on this mission so that I could encounter Him. He fulfilled my hope to find Him where I went; where He sent me, I found Him there.

On a Mission is a Canary Grant Project that explores how Mundelein Seminary lives out the mission to love and serve God and the Church. My hope is for the project to amplify the charity and service projects of seminarians at Mundelein Seminary to cultivate a culture of service on campus and beyond. Funding for the project was provided by the Msgr. Canary Theological Education Grant, a grant awarded to seminarians and faculty members in alternating years to allow them to pursue a project outside of standard formation and teaching responsibilities.

I submitted the grant application at the prompting of my formator, a person on the formation staff who advises me on all things related to formation. A formator is like an academic advisor or a college counselor. My formator, Sister Kathleen Mitchell, suggested that I do a project focused on social justice issues and how they are

addressed at the seminary; that is when I started brainstorming. At the time I was watching different documentaries and video series about life including art, food, culture and nature. This inspired me to do a video series focused on the charitable work and life of my seminarian brothers. With the idea on paper, I submitted the application, and in October 2020, I was awarded the grant.

When I started the project, I had a passing interest in videography. I mostly made travelogues, short videos about the trips I would take with family and friends. However, knowing that this project would be intended to reach a wider audience through social media, I knew I needed to improve the quality of the videos I made. With the grant, I upgraded my sound equipment and procured new editing software.

My recommendations on social media and YouTube quickly became about the best techniques for making videos. There were videos about how to get the best sound and the best lighting. I was keenly aware of my amateur status, but my ignorance did not deter me from

learning. I discovered new methods and learned new skills that helped me make the series a vehicle for sharing the faith.

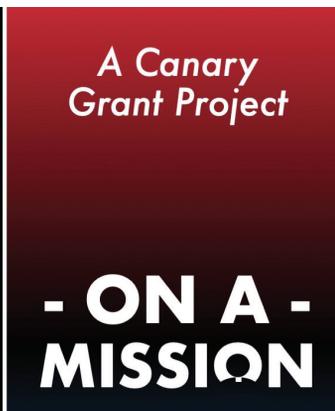
While the Canary Grant helped me with getting the equipment and software to make the videos, I still needed to come up with the content for the series. I knew the project would be a ministry of some kind and I wanted the project to help people encounter God. I, myself, wanted to encounter God in the project. In doing the work that included tediously matching audio with video clips, synching videos and editing them to transition among different camera angles, and writing descriptions to post alongside the videos, I wanted to find God in the work... and I did find Him.

I use notebooks to jot down my creative ideas. Flipping through the pages there are song lyrics, sketches and random dia-

... I WANTED TO SHOW HOW THE CHARITY AND SERVICE PROJECTS OF MY SEMINARIAN BROTHERS WERE THE FRUITS OF A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

grams from brainstorming sessions for retreat talks. Included among these ideas are pages dedicated to On a Mission. Bible verses and buzzwords surround "Episode One" on one page and "Episode Two" on another. I had originally planned for four episodes and now there are seven.

While I was brainstorming, I wrote down verses that helped me root the project in Scripture. The verse that guided me the most was 1 John 4:19, which says, "We love because He first loved us." In developing a video series about service projects, I asked, "What motivates people to serve?" Some might say "the Golden Rule" or a love for humanity, but for a Christian, our motivation to serve is Christ Himself. It is Jesus who calls us to love and serve one another and it is Je-



sus who demonstrates that love so greatly on the Cross. “We love because He first loved us.” With this video series, I wanted to show how the charity and service projects of my seminarian brothers were the fruits of a loving relationship with God.

Seven episodes later, I can tell you that God is evident in each of the stories of my seminarian brothers. For me, each story is an encounter with God. Often, I find Him in the person being served, sometimes I find Him in the one who is serving, and at other times He is in the service itself, the act of love. *Ubi caritas est vera, Deus ibi est.*

With the videos published to YouTube, it is of importance to recognize the support that made this project possible. First, I am grateful to Rev. Msgr. John Canary, Father John Kartje, Matt Paoelli, Mundelein Seminary, and USML for their support. I am grateful to Juan Carlos Vargas for hosting the series. I am thankful to my seminarian brothers who volunteered their time to share their stories of how they encountered God through their service and charity. Thank you, John Washington, Nick Zummo, Jared Rutnicki, Father Mauricio Espino, Dane Dickinson, Deacon Christian Melendez-Cruz, and Ian Ordoñez. Thank you to Sister Kathleen Mitchell for inviting me to apply for the grant in the first place.

And sincerely, thank you to all who have watched, shared, and liked the videos on whatever platform or video service you were able to see them. Your support is encouraging as I continue in formation. Sharing these stories, the testimonies of my seminarian brothers, was one small way I could share how the Gospel is lived out in the here and now. Thank you for watching and listening to my brothers’ stories. I hope their stories inspire you to love and serve the Lord.

Continued prayers as we continue on. ■



ROBERT LAMORENA

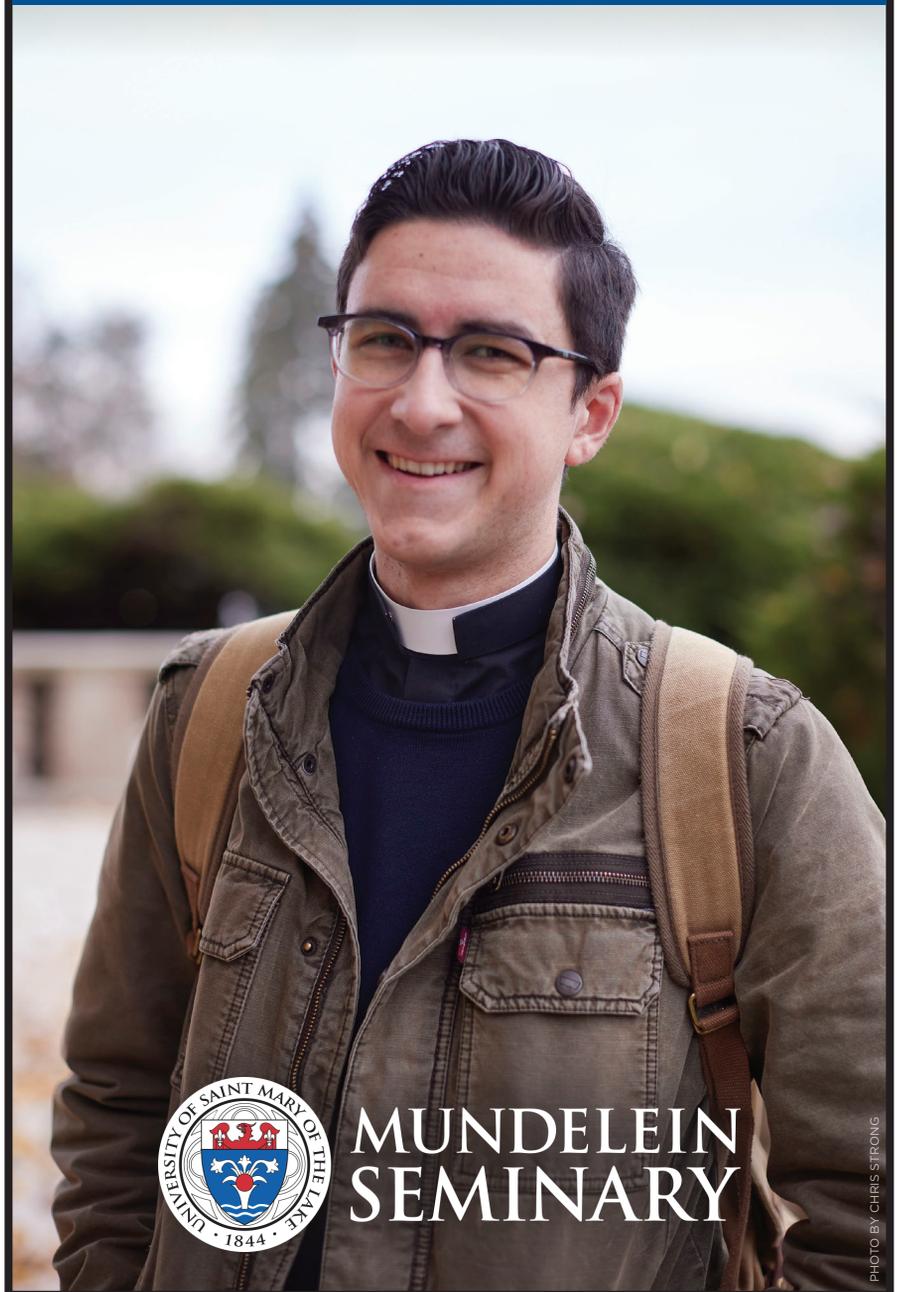
is a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of San José.

Watch episodes and subscribe to On A Mission on YouTube:
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LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH.

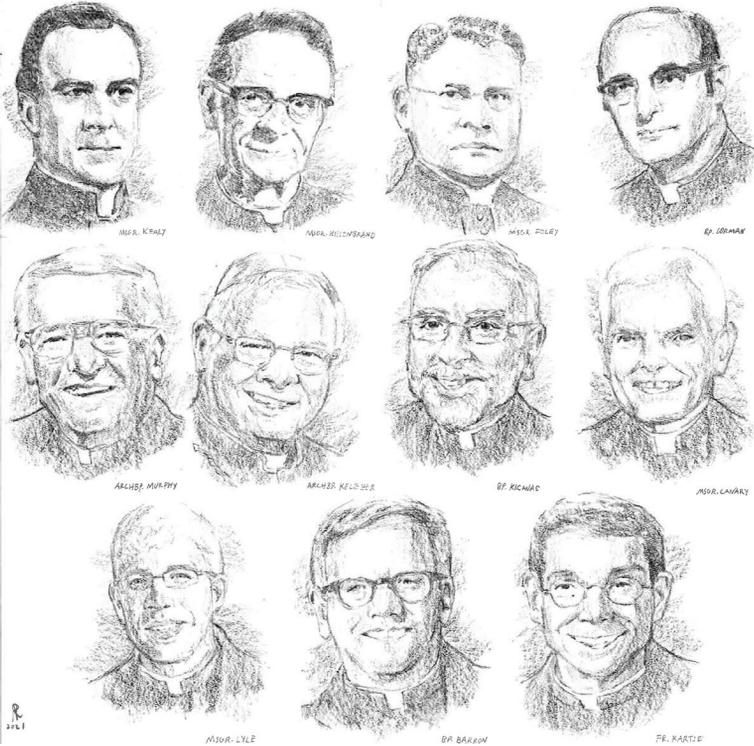
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Sketches of Mundelein Rectors

by Ryan Noorae
1T, Diocese of Rockford



The Fog

by Brother Quinn Huston
1T, Canons Regular of St. John Cantius
Archdiocese of Chicago

A dark, dank fog hangs over my head
And its ponderous weight feels much like lead
It clouds my vision and robs me of light
Sapping my vigor and souring delight

The ways of the world prance ever along
Bereft of true light that gives rise to song
My melancholy world sits by and groans
“Where is the starlight that once filled my bones?”

But alas, the world slowly suffocates
And, in place of joy, grief proliferates
My heart beats chill, no sunrise to glimmer
My bleak horizon only grows dimmer

The fog only chokes and stifles the day
Fostering tensions and causing dismay
Stifling hope with its victims constricted
Sorely endured with wounds self-inflicted

Yet the light shines forth, no darkness to stay
For the fog overhead but veils the day
From daylight no shadow can engender
For fog but hides the truth in its splendor

Shine on, dear light, draw me close unto thee
Dispel the night and end my misery
Take me to heights where the truth doth flourish
Enlighten my mind and my soul nourish

The light above calls us forth from this earth
Away from this world and unto true mirth
Where joys do abound, where hearts may find rest
In elysian peace and paradise blest

Woman, You Sat

by Ian A. Ordoñez | 1T, Diocese of Rockford

Woman, you sat alone with God enthroned,
And felt the Sea within grow strong and tame;
For Him, your womb, we are beaten and stoned,
A Holiness contained in spoken Name.
Woman, you sat in everlasting wait
For the deep pangs of the dawning good King,
Whose mercy knows no bound, all hearts to sate,
Whose glory angels voice and saints do sing.
Woman, you sat a mother at the crèche,
Your hand on the Foot that did crush the fiend,
A baby’s foot within your pregnant flesh,
To end the reign of sin; our hearts redeemed.
Hail, O Lady, the Lord awaits in you,
Glory to the fruit of your womb, Iesu!
All glory to the fruit of your womb, Iesu!



Five wood-burned images

by Jacob Hugo | 2T, Diocese of Saginaw

The Host

*by Brother Quinn Huston
1T, Canons Regular of St. John Cantius
Archdiocese of Chicago*

Pray, come my friend, and enter in
My home is thine indeed.
Come rest a while and eat thy fill
And let me help thy need.

Thou wand'rest in the snow alone
No sun to shine the way,
So weary from thy labors long
Stay here till break of day.

But thou, dear friend, sore wounded art
And in sore need of care,
Deprived at length of healing salves
With pain beyond compare.

Sit down and let me bind thee up
And rest a little while.
The aches and sighs betray thy pain
From walking every mile.

And when my friend is bandaged thus
No fresh pain to ensue.
A banquet shall I make for thee
The choicest bounty due.

When thou shalt eat my choicest fare
And strength has been restored,
Come sleep within my chambers warm
Where peace and rest accord.

O wand'ring friend, so far from home
And longer still to go
I wish to ease thy burden great
And charity bestow.

Dear friend of mine I am thy Host
Desirous of thy good.
Thou hast done well, take heart again
Thy pains lie on my Rood.

Ever Forward, Never Back

*by Brother Quinn Huston
1T, Canons Regular of St. John Cantius
Archdiocese of Chicago*

One step I take into this path
And many more to go.
The path that lies before me now
Shall bring both weal and woe.

I shall advance, and doubtless true
That oft shall I falter.
But all shall find their meaning clear
Upon the holy altar.

For I shall take the Good Lord's road
I put my trust in Him.
He shed his blood for me, His son
Outpoured from piercé limb.

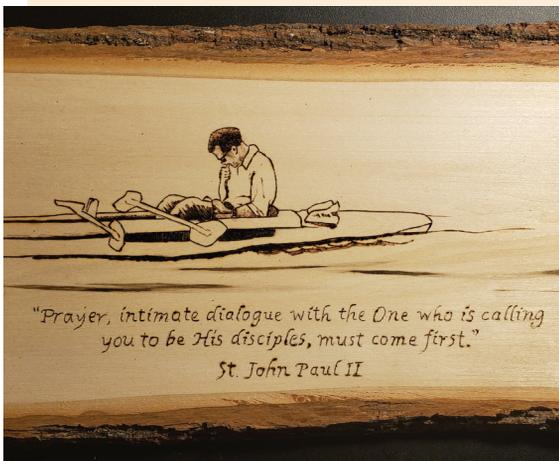
For me, His son, He gave His all,
All given up for me.
To free me from the chains of sin
And grant me liberty.

He looked upon this son He loved
And wished to bless him more,
To love one who no love received
His wholeness to restore.

And now my song is one of love
My sins are now forgiv'n.
His warm embrace encloses me
Love to the unloved giv'n.

I see myself, no more in dark
I stand in light Divine.
Away with darkness, get away,
And disappear in fine!

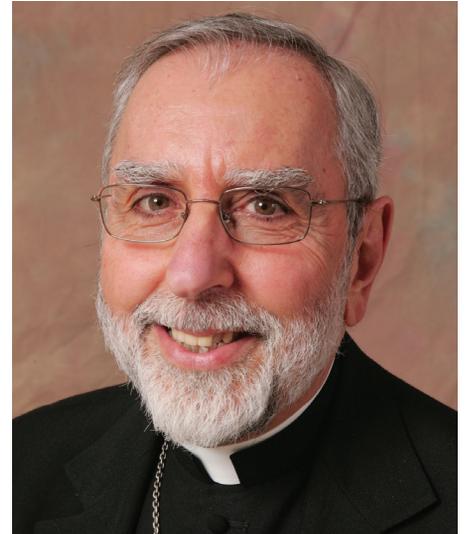
No more shall darkness lay its claim
All misery shall cease.
I shall at length arrive at home
To everlasting peace.



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

FORMER RECTORS LOOK BACK ON MUNDELEIN'S ENDURING LEGACY

In our centennial year, we are asking our alumni, supporters, current and former faculty and staff members to share stories and memories of their time on the Mundelein Seminary campus. The stories are being collected on our centennial website at www.mundelein100.org. Below are thoughts from some of our past rectors.



Bishop Gerald Kicanas '67
Rector, 1985-1995

As a student at Mundelein, I experienced the sharp changes that took place after the Second Vatican Council. Msgr. Malachy Foley was replaced by Bishop John Gorman as rector. The seminary opened up and the rule was relaxed. It was a time of great change—an exciting time. I remember vividly a gathering held in the auditorium involving presentations by some of the giants of the Second Vatican Council. There was a renewed sense of what it meant to be Church.

When I returned to Mundelein as rector, it was a very different place than when I was a student. The seminary community was becoming more and more diverse, welcoming students from many different dioceses around the United States as well as becoming a culturally diverse community. The faculty became more inclusive of priests, religious and laity. The seminary began to serve not only priesthood candidates but diaconate and lay students as well.

It was a great honor to accompany men considering the priesthood. I loved to experience their enthusiasm to serve and their eagerness to make a difference. I enjoyed being part of a faculty of teachers and formators who were so committed to their ministry.



Bishop John Gorman '52
Rector, 1966-1973

I was ordained in 1952. Our class had 50 priests ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

For many years, the Church was in a defensive mode due to the revolutions of the 16th and 17th centuries. The Church was apart from the world.

Seminaries always reflected the Church and its mission. Therefore, their training has always been apart from the world.

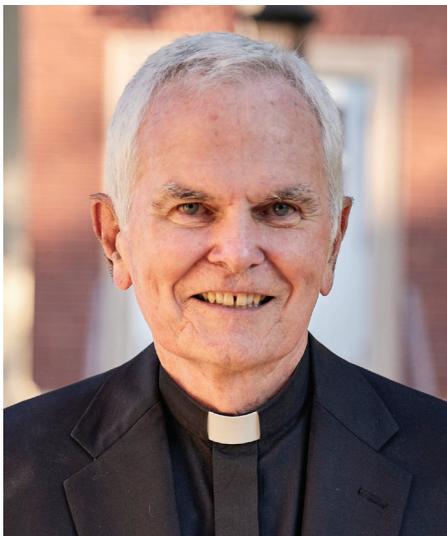
Seminary buildings were far from the world, and traditional theology and programs reflected the distance. Criteria for ordination were spiritual readiness, academic competence and obedience to seminary rules. Seminarians were kept apart from each other, since silence was required in residence buildings.

I was appointed rector of the major seminary in 1965, the year Vatican II ended. The Council changed the way the Church saw itself. Instead of being apart from the world, it saw itself in dialogue with and in service to the world.

Vatican II also challenged seminaries to change. Theology was to have a pastoral dimension. Sacred Scripture was to be read through modern literary expertise. Programs and expectations were to be related to parishes. Input from parishes were to be part of evaluation for ordination.

Seminarians lived in a “camarata,” or a group, and were to have regular meetings. They shared their experiences with each other. A parish priest, who was trained in group dynamics, lived with them. They no longer lived apart from each other.

Our seminary continues to grow and develop with the spirit of Vatican II through competent and dedicated leadership. They are certainly all in our prayers.



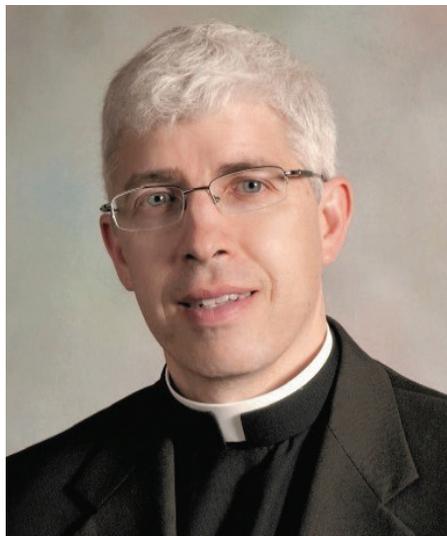
Msgr. John Canary '69
Rector, 1995-2006

Mundelein Seminary really is a holy place. I have been blessed to arrive on these holy grounds three different times—as a seminarian in 1963, as a faculty member in 1975 and as rector in 1995.

As a faculty member, I worked with my colleagues to develop a comprehensive program of formation that aimed to integrate the personal, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral components. These days were a labor of love, and eventually the program started to receive some national recognition.

One important initiative during my time as rector was the beginning of a scripture study program in the Holy Land for the third theologians. This experience added so much to the seminarians' program of preparation.

But the real blessing of my last time on campus was the seminary faculty and the seminarians. My classmates like to kid me by saying, "You have never been a pastor!" (which is true) But I always tried to approach my work as rector as if I were a pastor to the faculty and students. I loved working with them as we sought together to provide the best preparation possible for men who were preparing for priesthood. It was a grace to be a colleague with such talented and faith-filled people.

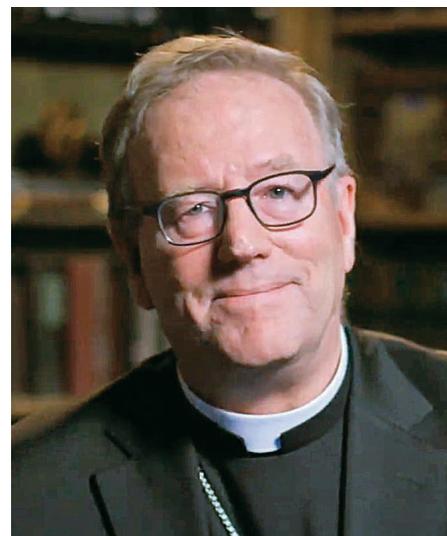


Msgr. Dennis Lyle, '91
Rector, 2006-2012

As Cardinal Newman writes in his prayer *My Mission in Life*: "I am a link in a chain; a bond of connection between persons."

I was ordained from Mundelein in 1991 and returned in 2000 to teach and later serve as the rector. There were many moments when others in this chain of life supported me in my work and I hope I was able to support them in their need. All times and places offer challenges, and between the years 2005 and 2010, we buried four seminarians from Mundelein. Those who lived through those experiences became aware of our fragility and the bond of connection between us.

As a priest and a pastor, I am keenly aware of my role as a "bond of connection between" the people we serve, the diocese in which we live and the universal church. Many pastors have gone before us and many more will follow. Yet, the mission entrusted to each generation of priests aims to link and bind us to Christ and one another. To accomplish this every priest must imitate the Good Shepherd and put on that love that is the "bond of perfection." (Col 3:14)



Bishop Robert Barron '86
Rector, 2012-2015

Mundelein Seminary has shaped me in decisive ways. My three years as rector were some of the most joyful of my priesthood. I spent much of my adult life on that gorgeous campus — first as a seminarian, then as a professor and then for three years as rector. What years those were ... growing in the midst of this community of prayer and study and contemplation and pastoral commitment as a human being, as a Christian, and as a priest.

I can't think of anything right now more important in the life of the Church than to cultivate a place like Mundelein Seminary. It's already formed generations of priests. We need priests now desperately in our culture. We need people to speak of God, to speak of Jesus Christ, to speak of the sacraments, to go forth and to minister in the spirit of Jesus. Mundelein is a place where such people are being formed.

Mundelein is a place where such people are being formed, so let's pay tribute to Mundelein as we enter into the centennial year and, above all, let's support it financially and with prayer. ■

Visit www.100.usml.edu/stories to read more reflections and to share your own #Mundelein100 stories and photos.

2022 Academic Calendar and Upcoming Events:

- JAN. 11** Spring Semester begins
- JAN. 14-16** Father Pat O'Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament
- JAN. 19** Institution of Acolyte Mass and Dinner
- MARCH 10-11** Meyer Lecture featuring Bishop Robert Barron '86
- APRIL 6** Centennial Mass of Healing for Victims of Clerical Abuse (livestream)
- APRIL 10-19** Holy Week/Easter Break
- APRIL 21** Celebration of Mundelein
- MAY 2-6** Final Exams
- MAY 7** Convocation
- MAY 8** May Crowning
- JUNE 19-24** Summer Scripture Conference
- JUNE 25** Summer @ The Seminary event
- JULY 7** Alumni Golf Outing

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit usml.edu/events.



■ JOLIET BISHOP HONORED AT CELEBRATION OF MUNDELEIN

Due to COVID-19 limitations, the 2021 Celebration of Mundelein was a more intimate event held on campus on July 9 and streamed online on July 21. Bishop Ronald Hicks '94 of the Diocese of Joliet received the *As Those Who Serve* Award.

Throughout the diverse roles of his priestly ministry, Bishop Hicks has remained a beacon of holiness, a model of humility and a champion for the marginalized. Watch the full event including Bishop Hicks' acceptance speech at www.usml.edu/celebrate-2021.

MundeLines



■ BISHOP JOHN R. GORMAN HONORED AT RECTOR'S CLASSIC

The 30th annual Rector's Classic Golf Outing at Pine Meadow Golf Course was held on Sept. 23, 2021. The highlight of the event was the awards dinner honoring Most Reverend John R. Gorman with the 2021 *In Service of One Another* Catholic Humanitarian Award. A 1952 alumnus, Bishop Gorman served as the fourth rector of Mundelein Seminary from 1966-1973. "His spirit of servant leadership is what we try to instill in our seminarians," said current rector Father John Kartje at the award presentation. See photos and watch Bishop Gorman's acceptance speech at www.usml.edu/2021-rectors-classic-awards.



■ EXHIBIT EXPLORES CARDINAL MUNDELEIN'S LEGACY

To celebrate Mundelein Seminary's centennial, a new exhibit entitled "The Vision of Cardinal Mundelein" is now on display in Mundelein Hall in the refectory building. The installation features photos and artifacts telling the story of Cardinal George Mundelein and his extraordinary vision for the Mundelein Seminary campus. Visitors can view the exhibit from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. Find full campus visitor information at www.usml.edu/visitors.

WELCOME WEEKEND INCLUDES CAMPUS SERVICE AND EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

As new seminarians joined the Mundelein community for the fall semester, the annual Welcome Weekend featured opportunities to grow in faith and fraternity. A community service day saw new and returning seminarians cleaning out unused furniture from numerous campus buildings and installing a new sand volleyball court behind the Theology Building. Another new addition to the weekend's activities was a Eucharistic procession from the Pope St. John Paul II Chapel to the Lourdes Grotto using Cardinal Mundelein's historic monstrance that was originally used at the closing ceremonies of the International Eucharistic Congress held on campus in 1926.



INSTITUTION OF LECTORS

On Oct. 25, 2021, sixteen seminarians were instituted in the ministry of lector. The main presider of the Mass was Bishop Oscar Cantú of the Diocese of San José. As an important step on the path to Holy Orders, the new lectors will now proclaim the readings of sacred Scripture at Mass for the community.





A Beautiful Campus WITH A VITAL MISSION

BY FATHER TOM FRANZMAN, '70

Although my family traveled around the Chicago area quite a bit when I was a youngster, I don't recall ever visiting Mundelein with them. Being from the West Ridge neighborhood of the far North Side of Chicago, we often went even further north to see the sights and try out the restaurants that were plentiful. My mom, a teacher in the public school system, had said that if we could go somewhere as a family after Mass on Sunday, and have a nice early lunch or dinner, she was all for it. Cooking on Sunday was not her favorite sport. Yet with all our traveling around, I don't ever recall making it to Mundelein Seminary.

I was thinking about priesthood as a possible vocation for myself from somewhere around the sixth grade. The Sisters of St. Joseph, who taught in our parish school, encouraged me to go to Quigley, and my family was supportive of that, and so I went. I had taken piano lessons from one of the sisters, and eventually switched to the organ, and so when I went to Quigley, Msgr. Meter, the music director, latched on to me to be part of the choir. I guess I could sing okay, too.

One of the great traditions at Mundelein was a day each year when Mass would be celebrated in one of the Eastern Rites of the Church. The whole seminary community would be in attendance. The liturgical music that needed to be sung was in a Slavic language, and was always music written for SATB choirs. (For the un-initiated, that is Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices in a four-part choir.) Since Mundelein had

only tenors and basses, the Quigley kids who were still singing boy soprano and alto parts at the cathedral every Sunday—myself included—took the bus ride to Mundelein, to complete the choir.

That was my first visit to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake. The beauty of the place was amazing to me, and I was struck by the commitment to priesthood, and the joy of the seminarians I met that day. I knew some of them from my own parish, St. Margaret Mary, and it was great to see where they were now, since they had previously attended Quigley as I was presently doing. The whole community welcomed us, and we shared lunch with them, and then were able to use the gym and the ball fields, and even explore the grounds until we had to leave again later in the afternoon.

I remember one other thing from that day so well. Msgr. Meter said that around 1 p.m. he would be over in the auditorium playing the Wurlitzer Theater Organ installed there since it was built in 1934. Being a fledgling organist, I certainly wanted to hear that played, because it is such a unique instrument in the world of pipe organs. What a thrill that was for me. He played a number of show tunes, and even part of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. As I found out later, he had played that organ many times for Cardinal Mundelein, when he was simply Charlie Meter, a theology student at Mundelein. Cardinal Mundelein, who lived at the seminary, would sometimes return late from the city, but not be quite ready to retire for the night. He would ask someone to "go get Mr. Meter out of bed because I

would like to hear the organ." Msgr. Meter told us years later that the cardinal loved to hear marches played, and so he learned every march he could—just to be ready to play for the cardinal. After Meter was ordained, Cardinal Mundelein sent him to further music studies in Rome, and eventually made him director of music for the Archdiocese of Chicago and Holy Name Cathedral.

Of course, I have spent many days since then on the campus at Mundelein. It remains for me a place of wonder, of beauty, of prayer, of serenity, and of learning, where I was able to move toward priesthood, something that has profoundly been my life for over 50 years.

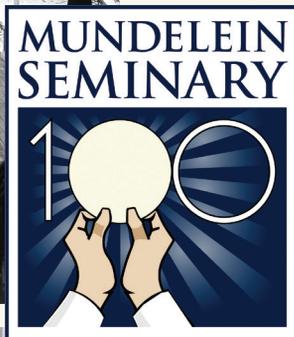
I was assigned to the faculty at Mundelein when the idea of a Legacy Society came around. It appealed to me for a number of reasons. I was fully engaged in the seminary, and very aware of its mission to form and educate seminarians for the Archdiocese of Chicago and many other dioceses around the country and around the world. I knew firsthand how complex the mission is, from identifying and preparing future faculty members who may be needed in a few years, to the immediate needs of keeping the campus safe, maintained, and responsive to the needs of faculty, seminarians, and staff every day. Every aspect of these few things I have mentioned needs prayers, planning, financial resources, and good people to bring them to fruition.

I saw the Legacy Society as a good vehicle to help all these things come to pass. Planning for future needs along with immediate ones is much aided by gifts that are known to be coming available in the ensuing years. I also realize that giving directions about my wishes to family members makes it much easier for them to handle my affairs when that becomes necessary. The Legacy Society helps that process immensely, and so I am happy to be part of it from its earliest days.

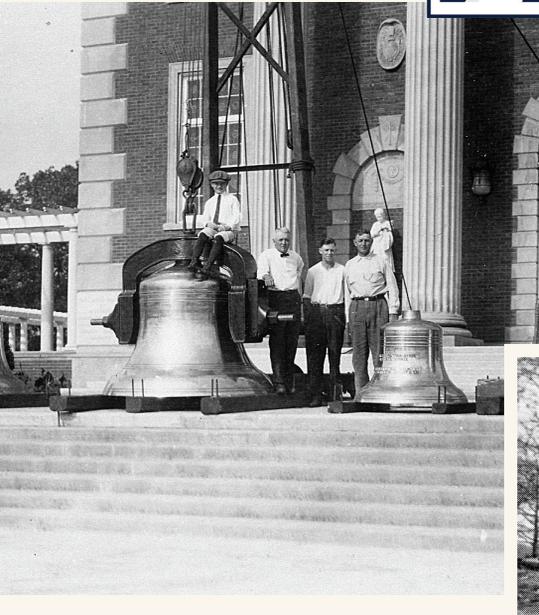
Learn more about how you can support Mundelein Seminary through the Saint Mary of the Lake Legacy Society by visiting www.usml.edu/ways-to-give ■

“A WORKSHOP OF GOD”

Looking Back on 100 Years of Building Bridges to Christ



One hundred years ago, the first group of seminarians entered a philosophy classroom on the campus of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake at what would one day be known as Mundelein Seminary, located in what would one day be known as Mundelein, Illinois. The audacious dream of Cardinal George Mundelein to build a Catholic seminary that would serve the whole nation was just getting started. One hundred years and thousands of ordained priests later, Mundelein’s dream is alive and well. Browse the timeline below to learn more about the people and events that make Mundelein Seminary such a unique and holy place.



June 3, 1844

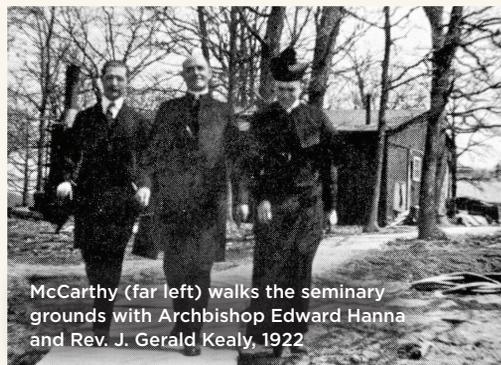
The University of Saint Mary of the Lake is founded by Bishop William J. Quarter, the first bishop of Chicago. It is the first institution of higher learning in Chicago.

One of its four schools, the Divinity School, which would become Mundelein

Summer, 1919

Cardinal Mundelein commissions Joseph W. McCarthy, a Catholic architect who apprenticed under Chicago planner Daniel H. Burnham, to develop plans for St. Mary of the Lake. McCarthy was Mundelein’s go-to architect, designing 28 new churches across the Archdiocese of Chicago between 1916 and 1945.

(Left) In this 1922 photo, McCarthy (far left) walks the seminary grounds with Archbishop Edward Hanna and Rev. J. Gerald Kealy, Mundelein’s first rector.



McCarthy (far left) walks the seminary grounds with Archbishop Edward Hanna and Rev. J. Gerald Kealy, 1922

April 27, 1920

As the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrates its diamond jubilee, Cardinal Mundelein announces plans to revive the University of Saint Mary of the Lake under the original 1844 charter. A donation of \$500,000 from Edward Hines of the Hines Lumber Company would be used to start construction of the major diocesan seminary on property in the town of Area.

Today that sum would be equivalent to a gift of \$6.8 million.

Seminary, operated until 1867. The university closed and the building was destroyed in the Chicago Fire in October 1871.

1918

A site for a major seminary for the Archdiocese of Chicago is found in the little village of Area, Illinois, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

The village was named after a local business school that once stood on the seminary grounds. The name stood for Ability, Responsibility, Endurance and Action.

Spring and Summer 1920

The process of draining and cleaning the property, re-damming the lake and installing the infrastructure of roads, bridges and utilities for the seminary begins.



Centennial Timeline

October 5, 1921

Saint Mary of the Lake starts its first year of operation with 50 philosophy students and five priests. Initially, an old school building is used. A large classroom and study hall are located on the first floor and sleeping quarters on the second floor.

Msgr. J. Gerald Kealy is appointed first rector of the seminary.

January, 1922

Students move into the new Philosophy Dormitory.

1924

Theology students begin their studies and the civic boosters of Area rename their community as the village of Mundelein.

May 25, 1924

Days after Mundelein returned from his installation as a cardinal at the Vatican, a ceremony for the laying of the cornerstone of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception takes place, marking the official dedication of the seminary. A crowd of 30,000 attend the ceremony.

June 7, 1925

The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, the centerpiece of the seminary campus, is consecrated at ceremonies on Trinity Sunday.

Modeled after the First Congregational Church in Old Lyme, Connecticut, which Cardinal Mundelein had visited as a boy, the main chapel fulfilled his architectural vision for the seminary as distinctly representing American Catholicism, which coincided with his dreams of the seminary one day forming priests for dioceses across the country.

The chandelier hanging in the chapel is one of two given by the Austrian government to hang in facilities in the United States. The other hangs in the White House in Washington, D.C.

June 24, 1926

The 28th International Eucharistic Congress holds its concluding ceremonies at Mundelein Seminary. The ceremonies attract an estimated 800,000 pilgrims to the seminary grounds.

September 18, 1926

Eleven members of the first class of St. Mary of the Lake are ordained by Cardinal Mundelein.

1928

The Dioceses of Springfield, Belleville, Rockford and Peoria, which together with the Archdiocese of Chicago form the ecclesiastical Province of Illinois, begin sending candidates for the priesthood to St. Mary of the Lake.



Ordination class, 1928

1934

St. Mary of the Lake Seminary grows to become the largest diocesan seminary in the United States and becomes the first American institution to be honored as a Pontifical Theological Faculty, authorized to confer the degrees of bachelor, licentiate and doctorate in sacred theology.

The auditorium is completed, bringing the total number of buildings on campus to 14.

1936

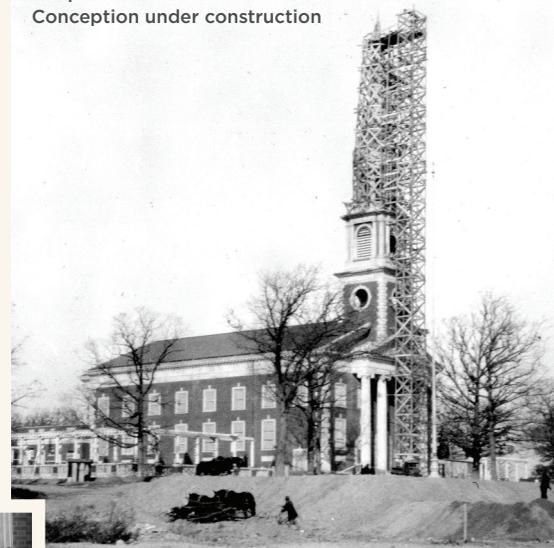
Rev. Msgr. Reynold H. Hillenbrand is appointed rector. A proponent of both the liturgical movement and specialized Catholic action derived from the papal social encyclicals, Msgr. Hillenbrand shaped an entire generation of Chicago priests.

His charismatic leadership helped to make Chicago a laboratory for social action and Church reform, which in many ways anticipated the Second Vatican Council.

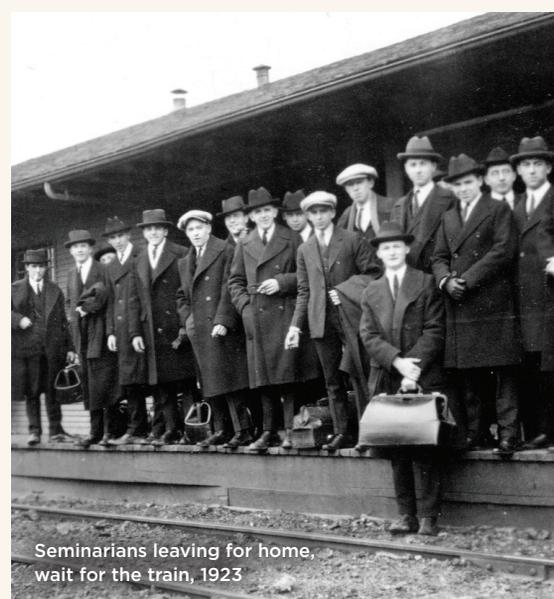
October 2, 1939

Cardinal Mundelein dies of a heart attack in his home at the seminary at the

Chapel of the Immaculate Conception under construction



28th International Eucharistic Congress



Seminarians leaving for home, wait for the train, 1923

age of 67. He is buried in a tomb located behind the main altar of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

March 9, 1943

A Navy airplane made an emergency landing atop a parking lot on the seminary campus. The event was recorded in the Philosophy Chronicle, a scrapbook kept by seminarians for many years throughout the institution's early years. The report noted that "the only casualties were one slightly damaged plane and one very frightened, but very fortunate young Navy cadet."

1944

Cardinal Samuel Stritch, the successor to Cardinal Mundelein, appoints Msgr. Malachy P. Foley as the third rector. Msgr. Foley was known for his personal piety and priestly example. During his long administration, the United States would enter World War II. The need for military chaplains drew many priests into the service, which required the seminary to accelerate its training to fill the positions which they left.

May 1955

Bishop Fulton Sheen visits campus and addresses the seminarian community. Bishop Sheen encouraged the seminarians to be good speakers, but to "be humble about it. God will be working through you."

Outside lecturers frequently addressed the seminarians, including Dorothy Day in 1938, the first time a woman ever spoke at the seminary.

1961

Under Cardinal Albert Meyer, the seminary system is reorganized with the opening of a second minor seminary called Quigley South and a two-year liberal arts college seminary called Niles College. The Mundelein campus program now offers upper-class college studies in philosophy followed by a four-year theology curriculum.

1966

Msgr. John R. Gorman is named fourth rector of St. Mary of the Lake and leads the seminary through the turbulent transitions of Vatican II.



Cardinal Mundelein funeral, 1939

1973

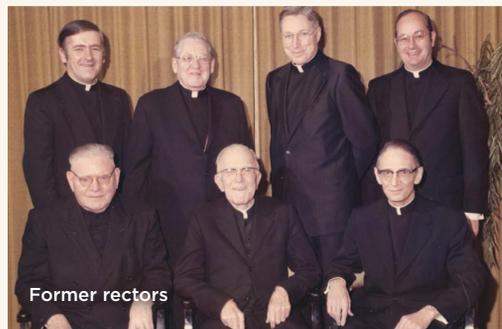
Father Thomas J. Murphy becomes the fifth rector of the seminary. Under Father Murphy, a comprehensive formation program was conceived and implemented. It anticipated the approach of the future Program on Priestly Formation, which sees formation as having four dimensions: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

Father Murphy's passion for parish ministry led to an emphasis on supervised field education as part of the seminary program.

1976

In cooperation with the Archdiocese of Chicago's Center for Pastoral Ministry, the seminary began a program of study leading to the doctor of ministry degree.

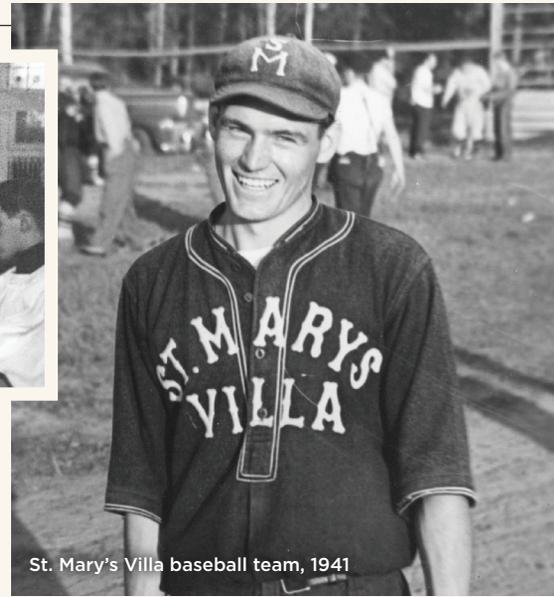
Also, in September, the seminary celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first ordinations to the priesthood at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.



Former rectors

1978

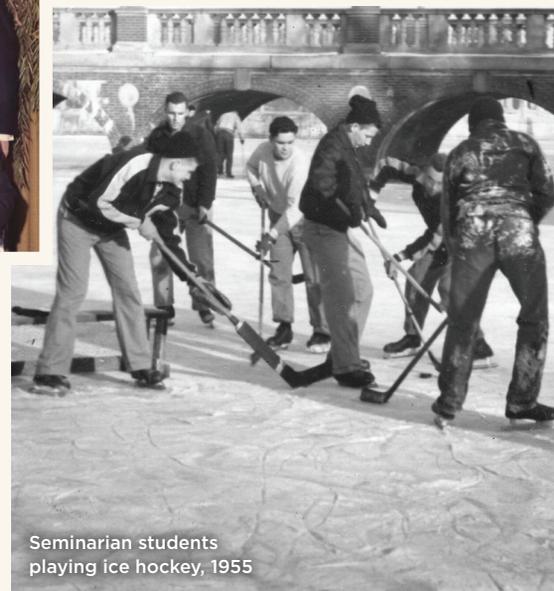
The Very Reverend James P. Keleher was appointed the sixth rector. Father Keleher began a national outreach, offering the programs of the seminary to dioceses around the country. The number of sending dioceses ultimately increased to the point that seminarians from other dioceses outnumbered Chicago seminarians by the mid-1980s.



St. Mary's Villa baseball team, 1941



1969 ordination



Seminarian students playing ice hockey, 1955

Centennial Timeline

1984

In December, Cardinal Bernardin appointed the Very Reverend Gerald F. Kicanas as the seventh rector of St. Mary of the Lake. Father Kicanas developed the seminary's outreach to other dioceses, both nationally and internationally, building the foundation for our service today of around 30 dioceses.

1986

Cardinal Bernardin announces a new development in April 1986, which includes a new school: The Center for Development in Ministry (CDM). The CDM's purpose would be the ongoing development of all those in ministry in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The University of Saint Mary of the Lake now consisted of three schools: Mundelein Seminary, the Pontifical Faculty of Theology, and the Center for Development in Ministry.

The Albert Cardinal Meyer Lecture Series is established.

1995

In February, the Very Reverend John Canary is named as the eighth rector of Mundelein Seminary and president of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake.

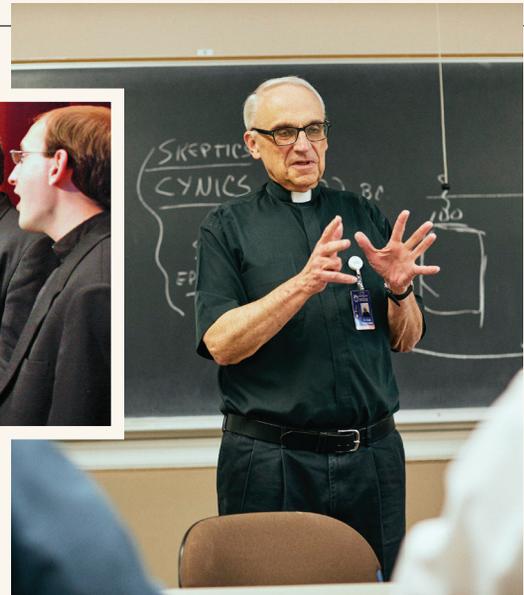
Father Canary led the University through reaccreditation and its first comprehensive strategic planning process. One of the outcomes was the decision to undertake a major campaign for the renovation and restoration of the Feehan Memorial Library, the first building program since 1939.

2000

Under the direction of Cardinal George, in February 2000, the Archdiocese of Chicago dissolves the Department of Ministry Formation and transfers the Diaconate Formation Program, the Lay Ministry Program and the Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake.

2001

Cardinal George establishes the Liturgical Institute at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, which was dedicated to training, research, and publication in the fields of sacramental theology and liturgy.



2004

On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Cardinal George dedicates the renovated Feehan Memorial Library and the newly constructed William and Lois McEssy Theological Resource Center. This addition to the library increased storage capacity and study space, and also brought state-of-the-art technology to the study of theology.



2006

Cardinal George appoints Rev. Dennis J. Lyle as the ninth rector/president of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary. Father Lyle devoted his rectorship to further developing the seminary board as an effective advisory body for the archbishop and rector. He also attended to the care of the physical plant, increased staff development, and spent much of his time giving individual attention to seminarians.

2012

Cardinal George appoints Very Rev. Robert Barron as the tenth rector/president. Under Father Barron's direction, the formation programs were given a new integrating logic and the academic program under-



went a curriculum revision. Father Barron also led a restoration of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception and a renovation of the Theology House Chapel, rededicating it to Pope St. John Paul II and the new evangelization. Nineteen new stained-glass windows were commissioned commemorating the great figures of history whose lives and ministries exemplify evangelism.

Additionally, he focused on establishing endowed chairs in dogmatic theology, biblical theology and preaching.

2015

Archbishop Cupich names Rev. John Kartje as the eleventh rector/president of Mundelein Seminary. He has overseen the building of an addition to the campus rectory which became Mundelein Hall and now houses a campus welcome center, bookstore, alumni room and multi-purpose gathering space.

His leadership is guided by the Vatican document “The Gift of Priestly Formation,” which “sets out an integrated vision of future clerics, taking full account of all four dimensions that involve the person of the seminarian: human, intellectual, spiritual, pastoral.”

2019

Responding to the call of Pope Francis, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) convenes for seven days of prayer and unity at Mundelein Seminary from January 2-8. The preacher to the Papal



Household, Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, serves as the retreat director. The bishops gathered in prayer seeking the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to respond to crises facing the Church in the United States.

2020

Through the generosity of the seminary Board of Advisors, investors and other partners, a cross-shaped solar array is installed on the northern end of the university campus to provide 20 percent of the institution’s power and save around \$1 million over the life of the system.

It is the first solar array on a Catholic seminary campus in the United States and is visible from 20,000 feet above.



“The selection, the training, the formation of the future leaders of the million and more citizens who form the rank and file of the membership of the Catholic church... that is the contribution I would leave behind me as archbishop of this great diocese of Chicago.

That is the work that will last and keep known to men my name long after the scarlet robes I wear have molded in the tomb, and the red hat of the Cardinal swung high in the vaulted heights of my Cathedral.”

– Cardinal George Mundelein





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Together with you in Christ, we are Mundelein. We form parish priests.

2021-2022 Mundelein Seminarians and Faculty

