

THE

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BRIDGE

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



FOR HEALING, FOR HOPE

*During a time of crisis for the Church,
seminarians join parishioners in prayer*

Parish Profile

*Deacon's 'second home' is full of joy,
learning and fellowship*

Donor Profile

*Dr. Eileen Knight: Supporting
seminarians in prayer — and
in time, talent and treasure*

Feature Story

*Three Mundelein classmates
ordained bishops*

FORESHADOWING THE FUTURE IN EVERY MOMENT OF FORMATION

BY FATHER JOHN KARTJE

This past January, we were extraordinarily privileged to host the American bishops on retreat. In response to Pope Francis' urging, this unprecedented event provided our Church's shepherds with the opportunity for serious self-reflection and contemplative prayer. Thanks to the tireless efforts of dozens of volunteers, professional security personnel from multiple agencies, and every one of our USML employees, the logistics flowed smoothly and provided an atmosphere entirely conducive to the intended spirit of their gathering.

Early one morning that week, I happened upon one of the bishops who was out walking around our lake. I started making a general comment to him about how it might feel strange returning to seminary life after so many years. But he cut me off and pensively remarked that he, and every one of his fellow bishops, "all began in a place like this." And of course, he was right. Whether they attended Mundelein or not, every bishop started out as a seminarian. In those early years of their vocations, did they ever imagine that they would be gathered one day on such an occasion, at such a time in the history of the American Catholic Church?

Beginnings matter. They can be joyful or anxious, filled with hope or dread, excitedly gazing toward the future or sadly longing for the past. Nearly all beginnings are challenging, and the stakes can be high. The choices we make early on in life often chart our course for decades. As the bishops gathered for prayer and reflection, I was more aware than ever of the importance of seminary formation. For a few brief years, the seminarian is accompanied by his formators and

professors who seek to help him grow in his relationship with the Father, so that his identity might become ever more configured to that of Christ — the Good Shepherd, beloved Son, and chaste spouse of the Church.

To be sure, a priest's ongoing formation continues long after he leaves seminary, but one could hardly overemphasize the significance of his early foundations. It is during seminary that he learns to deepen and integrate the four dimensions of intellectual, pastoral, human, and spiritual formation. The type of man he will be — as a servant, as a leader, as a pray-er, as a spiritual father — all begin to take shape during seminary. The beginning of priestly formation matters so much because its goal and purpose is so crucially important.

As you read through this issue of *The Bridge*, don't view the articles simply as updates on what is currently happening in the seminarians' lives. Rather, see them as the foundational moments of the future priests (and perhaps even bishops) you hope to have serving you and your family one day. Among the people you'll encounter are a transitional deacon with



a palpable excitement to be with the people in his parish — teaching them about Christ, celebrating the sacraments with them, but also learning from them what it means to be Church. You'll hear from a seminarian who has been formed since his childhood by the extraordinary spirit of stewardship in his diocese. And you'll encounter the enthusiasm and dedication of several new faculty members who are eager to accompany our men closer to the heart of Christ by helping them develop their skills for ministry and teaching.

In each of these encounters, and in countless others, you are witnessing a foreshadowing of the future — a foreshadowing of hope that is ultimately not grounded in our human efforts, but in the eternal hope

of the Holy Spirit. Please know that your prayers and words of encouragement help the men receive that hope and embrace it ever more faithfully.

Now, more than ever: Together with you, in Christ, we are Mundelein. We form parish priests. ■

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



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Parishioners, seminarians and faculty members pray during a Healing Novena Mass at Mary, Seat of Wisdom parish in Park Ridge, Illinois, on Sept. 9, 2018.

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BY KYLE TIETZ | 2T, ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

While her path may have been unexpected, Marie Pitt-Payne's story of how she came to the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, and to her new role as assistant dean of its Graduate School of Theology, shows a remarkable cohesion as an educator committed to formation in the Church.

"None of it was my idea," Pitt-Payne said. "The God of surprises brought me here."

She credits her parents for instilling a life-long love of learning.

"My parents were Scottish immigrants," Pitt-Payne said. "My father never went to college, and that was something he wanted for his kids."

Taking that wish to heart, she pursued a liberal arts degree at Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, Calif., focusing on the great books of philosophy, theology and Western civilization. There, she also met her husband of 25 years.

Moving to the Midwest in 2000, Pitt-Payne encountered an unexpected circumstance: her husband was diagnosed with mental illness. After focusing her energy on raising six children, Pitt-Payne returned to school, obtaining a master's degree in theology and Christian ministry from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio.

It was a surprising invitation from her pastor that brought Pitt-Payne into Catholic education administration and formation. Working at parishes in the

Archdiocese of Chicago, she went through several programs at what was the precursor to USML's Institute for Lay Formation.

Here, Pitt-Payne was introduced to the four dimensions of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. Though Pope St. John Paul II outlined these aspects in his document on priestly formation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, they have found wider application.

After her time in Chicago, Pitt-Payne said she had a phenomenal experience developing outcomes for students at a Catholic high school in Wisconsin. As with the Lay Institute, her work was guided by the four dimensions of formation.

It was an invitation from Dr. Linda Couri, director of the Institute for Lay Formation, that brought Pitt-Payne to the USML campus. Recalling the time she spent as the institute's associate director and an adjunct faculty member, Pitt-Payne has nothing but praise.

"I have great esteem for what they do at the Institute — integrated formation that puts pastors and lay people on the same page so that they are a step ahead

when serving God's people," she said.

When the position of assistant dean in the Graduate School of Theology opened, Pitt-Payne transitioned to the faculty of Mundelein Seminary. The role is being reshaped, and Pitt-Payne has ideas of where she would like to take it.

One focus for her is outcome assessment. "How do we determine if we are meeting outcomes, especially in a graduate program that is not purely academic?" Pitt-Payne said. "Student achievement is more profound than just an A in theology class." Pitt-Payne hopes to draw on her extensive experience in education to ensure the best formation for seminarians.

Another focus is faculty support. Faculty members are often the forgotten parties in formation, according to Pitt-Payne, and they need resources to be successful as well.

She sees a strong connection between the formation at Mundelein Seminary and that of the Lay Institute.

"From being in parishes and seeing the pain that division can cause, it is a great gift to the archdiocese to have pastors and lay formators united in the capacity to serve," Pitt-Payne said. Human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation is now more relevant than ever to her work, she believes.

In her endeavors, Pitt-Payne draws guidance from saints of the tradition. She cites Don Bosco's proactive approach to education, a method built on kindness and authenticity, rather than reaction. A favorite phrase is that of Blessed John Henry Newman: *cor ad cor loquitur*, "Heart speaks to heart."

Reflecting back on her experience, Pitt-Payne notes the joys and sacrifices that have been part of forming her family — high school students, lay leaders and now seminarians. Through all of this, the Mass remains her favorite prayer and lifeline.

"The desire to live this, to bring my sacrifice and unite it to the sacrifice of Christ on the altar, is the core of what I try to do." ■



KYLE TIETZ

is a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

FATHER DAVID MOWRY BRINGS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PRIESTHOOD TO HOMILETICS CLASS

BY JAMES GUARASCIO | 3T, DIOCESE OF JOLIET

With his well-known enthusiasm and quick wit,

Father David Mowry has quickly taken to his new role at Mundelein Seminary. Mowry is the new instructor of homiletics, continuing where his very own homiletics professor, the legendary Father Daniel Siwek, left off.

“I have big shoes to fill,” he said. “But it’s an honor.”



DEACON MICHAEL L. LEWIS, 4T/EL PASO

Father David Mowry, left, teaches deacons in a Narrative Preaching class.

A priest from the Diocese of Joliet, Mowry grew up in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn. He has two younger siblings and a family history of working in professions as varied as law, business and religion. His great-grandfather was a Lutheran pastor, his grandfather an FBI agent and his uncle a circuit court judge.

“I had no idea what I wanted to do,” Mowry said, recalling his childhood. But in retrospect, he said it is clear to him now that the Holy Spirit was at work from an early age.

“When it was time for the ACT, I was filling out the information for the test, and on the sheet, there was a little box marked ‘intended major,’” Mowry said. After thinking through the many possibilities, he remembered, “Out of nowhere, a voice said, ‘Well, there’s always the priesthood!’”

As time went on, the idea of the priesthood seemed more fitting. Speaking of his youth, Mowry said, “I never had any qualms about being up on stage.” At Glenbard West High School, he starred in numerous theater productions and enjoyed public speaking. Later, in college seminary,

he found great interest in the English literature giants such as William Shakespeare, T.S. Elliot, Evelyn Waugh, G.K. Chesterton and John Henry Newman.

“Using the English language well to teach the faith was attractive for me,” Mowry said. And now, looking back, he added, “I used to tell people that my first year of seminary was the happiest year of my life. That was true until the first year of my priesthood.”

After serving as an associate pastor for three years at Immaculate Conception Parish in Elmhurst, Ill., and two years at St. Mary Immaculate in Plainfield, Mowry said his bishop asked him to consider teaching at the seminary.

“All I’ve ever wanted to be is a parish priest,” he said. Yet, after much prayer and thought, he came upon the idea of becoming a homiletics professor. After that decision, Mowry said he felt great joy.

During his first months as a new faculty member at the seminary, Mowry was tasked with teaching his classes and beginning his doctorate in preaching at the Aquinas Institute of Theology

in St. Louis — he obtained the licentiate in sacred theology in May — while also serving as the director of ongoing formation for the priests of the Diocese of Joliet and as the temporary administrator for both the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus and Sacred Heart Parish in Joliet. But now that his parish responsibilities have been lifted, he said he is happy to be able to focus full-time on his new students.

“I hope that they are authentic witnesses and that they are always prepared to preach,” Mowry said. “The greatest joy of a teacher is to see students succeed, and that is a joy that I look forward to sharing — to be able to see my students succeed as priests, as preachers, as ministers, and as representatives of Christ and his Church.”

Being a relatively young priest, he admitted, “I know there’s a lot that I still have to learn. But I love being a priest and I hope to bring that enthusiasm.” ■



JAMES GUARASCIO
is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Joliet.

FROM THE PEWS IN PERU TO THE BIBLICUM IN JERUSALEM, SISTER MILA DIAZ BRINGS WEALTH OF VARIED EXPERIENCE TO SCRIPTURE STUDIES

BY PATRICK WILLE | PT2, ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

During a meeting with her spiritual director before she entered religious life, Sister Mila Diaz Solano was asked when she felt happiest. She eagerly responded, “Every Sunday!”

This reply was instrumental in her decision to become a Dominican sister, as well as to delve into studying the Bible. A love of Scripture that began when hearing it proclaimed at Mass each week has led her to a role as Mundelein’s new assistant professor of biblical studies and homiletics.

Diaz was born in the Peruvian Central Andes, where she studied accounting in college and then started working at a hospital. Meanwhile, she had been volunteering alongside a group of religious sisters at a local parish, where she served as a catechist to children and organized the choir. This time in the parish led her to reflect on what brought her the most happiness, she said.

“In that parish, I really felt like I was acting as an instrument of God,” Diaz said.

After expressing to her spiritual director the happiness that parish life brought to her, Diaz entered religious life with a community of Dominican sisters, whose motherhouse is in Springfield, Ill.

She first came to Chicago to study at the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) more than 10 years ago. It was during her studies for a master’s degree in theology from CTU that she discovered her passion for scripture. She went on to receive a licentiate of sacred Scripture (SSL) degree from the Studium Biblicum Franciscanum in Jerusalem, and is currently pursuing a doctor of sacred Scripture (SSD) degree from the École Biblique et Archéologique Française in Jerusalem, a Dominican institution specializing in archaeology and biblical exegesis.

The invitation to join the faculty at

Mundelein Seminary came after she met a number of seminarians and faculty in Jerusalem, where she gave them a tour of her school during their annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

“I had been invited many times,” Diaz said with a smile, “but my plan had always been to go back to my country and help there. However, I knew that there would be great fruit in teaching future pastors because they are going to be an influence for the rest of the Church through their preaching. It helps everyone when preaching comes from a deep study of the Scriptures.”

Diaz hopes to bring a critical perspective of reading the Scriptures.

“That has been my foundation and education,” she said. “I have seen the fruits of doing a critical study of the Scriptures. It is amazing to see how the Spirit worked through the hands of the authors of the Old and New Testaments.”

Diaz has had a breadth of experience in study and formation across the world. She knows 10 different languages, including Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic. In Peru, she did missionary work for three years in a rural area of the Central Andes, where she served as co-administrator of a parish. She also worked in the formation of young Catholic leaders regarding the social teachings of the Church for the Diocese of

Chosica in Lima and the formation of the laity and religious sisters at the Instituto Bartolome de las Casas.

“In a way, I am coming from the pews,” she said. “If I can bring in a different perspective from the people who are listening and receiving the Word of God from preaching, I think that will be a big part of my contribution.” ■



PATRICK WILLE

is a second-year pre-theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.



DEACON MICHAEL L. LEWIS, 4T/EL PASO

THERE AND BACK AGAIN: DR. STEVEN SMITH COMES HOME TO HIS ‘DREAM JOB’ — TEACHING SCRIPTURE AT MUNDELEIN

BY DEACON MICHAEL L. LEWIS | 4T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO

Dr. Steven Smith grew up Catholic on the North Side of Chicago, then joined a megachurch and earned a master’s in theology from an Evangelical college. After that, he returned to Catholicism, earning a doctorate in the New Testament and early Christianity from Loyola University Chicago. Now, after 10 years teaching Scripture to Catholic seminarians in Maryland, Smith returns to his hometown and to his “dream job” — associate professor of biblical exegesis at Mundelein.

“I’m a Chicago boy, so it’s really a homecoming for me,” Smith said. “I’ve wanted to teach here for a long time. The first time I was here, I was 8 or 9 years old and came for something in the Main Chapel. I just remember being overwhelmed by all the beauty here. The faculty also attracted me. I don’t get the sense that they spoon-feed anyone. I think seminarians are challenged here — and in a lot of different ways.”

Smith comes to Mundelein after teach-

ing seminarians and other students at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. There, he taught classes in both the Old and New Testaments and found exploring biblical interpretation and inspiration to be the most interesting to seminarians. It led him to write a book on the topic in 2012, *The Word of the Lord: 7 Essential Principles for Catholic Scripture Study*.

“I love the historical background of Scripture, the context,” Smith said. “I love

getting into, for example, why did Jesus choose to teach in parables? What was going on in Jewish culture at the time? I love language, especially Hebrew and Greek. I try to ignite curiosity about the depth of Scripture, a sense of inviting people deeper.”

Smith said this is his main goal in the classroom: to get students to stretch their biblical muscles.

“I try to help them know what they know, know what they don’t know, and know what they think they know,” Smith said. “The answers are sometimes very surprising, even shocking, to guys.”

Smith said he is always mindful of what seminarians will be doing once they leave Mundelein.

“After your ordination, you will be going out to be shepherds. So, how do you, as a shepherd, handle Scripture?” he said. “You have to have a relationship with Scripture, just like you have a relationship with God. You have to develop a certain spiritual competency. While I can’t turn the classroom into a kind of ‘lectio-palooza,’ I do try to take a moment, and have a moment of prayer. I don’t try to force it. But guys know there’s going to be a prayerful component in my classes.”

Smith also looks to give students a distinctively Catholic perspective on Scripture.

“If you got a degree from one of the Protestant schools of theology around Chicago, you might only focus on how to exegete the text, and how to preach it,” he said. “But I want to make sure you have the acumen to not only preach, but also handle yourself in conversations with people about the Bible. You’ll engage a diverse group of people in ministry — from cradle Catholics to non-Catholics. How

can you help all those people as best as possible with the Word of God?”

Having moved back to the Mundelein area this fall, Smith said he’s happy to be able to openly root for the Cubs again and eat decent Chicago-style pizza.

“I love and have missed Chicago more than I knew,” Smith said. ■



DEACON
MICHAEL L.
LEWIS

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

Deacon John Kladar, a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Rockford, greets preschoolers at the parish school.

DEACON'S 'SECOND HOME' IS FULL OF JOY, LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP

BY DEACON JOHN KLADAR | 4T, DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

The Catholic community of St. Charles, Ill., has been connected to St. Patrick's Parish since 1853. As the area has grown over the last 165 years, the parish has grown right along with it. Today, the parish has two church locations serving more than 4,600 families, and is now the second-largest parish in the Diocese of Rockford.

Anyone who spends any amount of time at this parish will quickly come to appreciate the community's great sense of belonging and its intentional aim to help each parishioner grow in knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. I think this is chiefly because of the type of culture that the three priests, led by pastor Msgr. Steve Knox, a 1989 Mundelein graduate, hope to encourage.

I began my time at St. Patrick's parish in June 2017 after my third year of theology and spent more than a year there during my pastoral year. It was a great place to be assigned because of the breadth of activities continually happening within the life of the parish. Between an energetic school and more groups and activities

than I can name, it is a parish that certainly keeps you on your toes. The parish was quick to welcome me and make the St. Charles area a second home for me.

CONTINUING TO LEARN

The parish has many wonderful traits. But one of the most inspiring is that its members are always striving to learn more about their faith. This thirst for knowledge is something that the priests and I have been happy to respond to, especially through the parish's quarterly talk series. These are great opportunities to go deeper into sacred Scripture, as well as the culture, history and teachings of the Church. After the talks, we meet in smaller groups, which is a great way for

the learning to continue, as well as to foster community within such a large parish. Besides the talk series, there are active groups for men, women and youth, where community life is promoted while continuing to ground the parish in the truths of our faith.

LAUGHTER IS A GIFT OF THE SPIRIT

Joy is an important sign of the life and spirit of a place. And, I don't think I have laughed more in my life than during my time at St. Patrick's. The reason for this, I think, starts with life at the rectory. With both associate priests having been ordained within the last couple of years, it is a young rectory, and I've found our time together filled with a good amount of laughter. This joy of living a life for Christ flows into our interactions with parishioners, and that spirit of joy is evident in the parish. One example is a group called the Holy Rollers, a group of parishioners who get together and go bowling every two weeks. The associate priests and I attended when we were

able, and while my skills at bowling are not particularly impressive, we would consistently fill the bowling alley with laughter as we enjoyed this great opportunity for fellowship with parishioners.

TEACHING FUTURE CATHOLICS

Of the many beautiful aspects of this parish, its school was by far my favorite to experience. There are around 600 kids at the school between its preschool and elementary school. It was always life-giving to spend time with the kids. Whether it was reading to the kindergarten class or playing with the kids during recess, one of the best parts of my day was being able to visit with the students. At least once a week, the priests and I would visit each class. Because it is a high priority for the priests to have a consistent presence at the school, we would make a strong effort to attend the school's sports activities and various school functions, too. I was also able to teach religion to the sixth-graders. Being a teacher is an important skill for priests, so it was great to improve my skills in this area.

EUCCHARISTIC AT HEART

The Mass is truly the heart of this parish. Between the two church locations, there are 10 Masses every weekend. There is a great devotion to daily Mass as well and I think this is a large reason the parish is doing so well. This community of people, who are devoted to receiving our Lord in the Eucharist every day, is the true backbone of the parish. When I



As part of his deacon-year ministry in the seminary's Teaching Parish Program, Kladar assists at weekend Masses and often baptizes the parish's newest members.

think of the many life-giving activities of the parish, most of those who help lead these many groups attend daily Mass on a regular basis.

During my pastoral year, I was able to minister as a lector, altar server and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. This year, as a deacon, it has been a tremendous joy to be able to serve the parish within that ordained capacity. With Mundelein's Teaching Parish Program, I go back to the parish almost every weekend. I am able to assist at the altar at Mass, to preach regularly and to help the other priests and deacons baptize.

A LASTING EXPERIENCE

If you talk to priests about their first assignment after ordination, you will usually hear that it was a grace-filled experience for them. While each assignment holds a unique place in the heart of a priest, there is something different about one's first assignment. It is there that each newly ordained priest gets to learn about spiritual fatherhood, the sacraments and living out his priestly vocation. Priests will tell you that the friendships you make at your first assignment will last your entire priesthood.

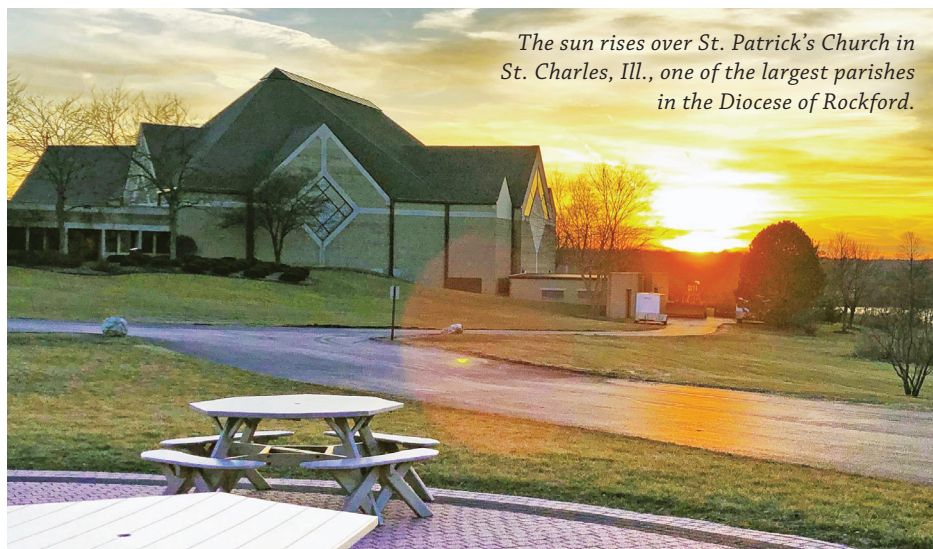
While I am very much looking forward to my first assignment as a priest, I feel very doubly blessed because I have already had such a

formative experience through my time at St. Patrick's in St. Charles. Beginning with my pastoral year, and now as a deacon assisting there this year, I have learned a great deal and know I will take what I have learned from this experience through my entire priesthood. ■

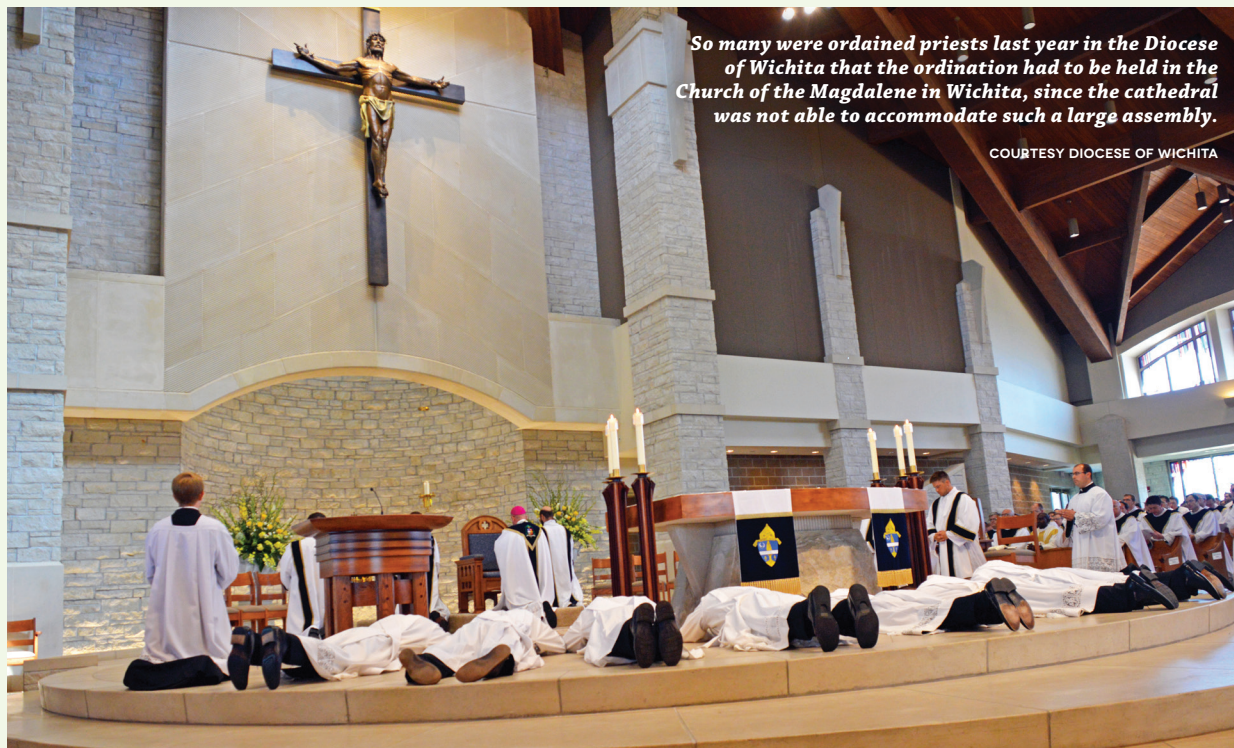


DEACON JOHN KLADAR

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



The sun rises over St. Patrick's Church in St. Charles, Ill., one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Rockford.



‘A GRATEFUL RESPONSE’: STEWARDSHIP IN THE DIOCESE OF WICHITA

BY HAYDEN CHARLES | 3T, DIOCESE OF WICHITA

On either side of the sanctuary at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kansas, two murals depict a variety of men and women, young and old, turned inward toward the altar. Clothed in white garments, these people bring a number of gifts, ranging from harps to gold to incense — all offerings to God. These murals are beautiful, and certainly aid visitors to the Cathedral in prayer. However, they are also instructive, telling a story about the Diocese of Wichita and the living faith of her members.

Since 1985, the local Church in Wichita has practiced diocesan-wide, parish-based stewardship. This practice began in the 1970s with Father Thomas McGread at St. Francis of Assisi Parish on the west side of Wichita. McGread’s vision was relatively simple: Unite the parish in the sharing of each individual’s and family’s gifts of time, talent and treasure for the

service of God and his people. His experiment caught on, and after more than 100 listening sessions throughout the diocese, the Most Rev. Eugene Gerber, bishop of Wichita from 1982 to 2001, decided to bring the concept to all of his parishes. Full implementation of this stewardship plan took time and effort. But gradually, the faithful of Wichita have come to em-

brace it as a unique way to respond to the call to follow Jesus and to live the Gospel.

The results have been astounding. In 2016, the average Mass attendance among Catholics in Wichita was 52 percent, well above the national average of 22 percent. Eucharistic Adoration has become very popular. More than one-third of the parishes have 24/7 Adoration chapels, while 63 of the 90 parishes have some sort of Adoration opportunity available. Vocations to the priesthood have been cultivated as well. The past two years have seen two classes of 10 men ordained to the priesthood, eight of whom were Mundelein graduates.

In what may be the greatest outgrowth of the stewardship model, the Diocese of Wichita is able to provide Catholic education to students virtually tuition-free thanks to the commitment of each parish to support their students financially. Stewardship allows Catholic education to be made available and affordable for

students across the diocese, leading to solid Catholic formation for many young people. Tuition is typically not paid by individual families, but is funded by the commitment of parishioners to tithe to their parish regularly.

This fact gives rise to a temptation when thinking and talking about stewardship. Many people immediately focus on the financial implications and the ability of families to send their children to Catholic school as long as they are tithing. However, Wichita Catholics have come to see it as bigger than that.

“Stewardship is much more than a ‘pay to play’ scheme,” said Father Michael Brungardt, a newly ordained priest who studied at Mundelein from 2015 to 2018. “When talking to people from other dioceses, I have found that they often seem to have the impression that ‘stewardship’ is our fancy word for tithing or service hours. Really, when you see a person or a family living *stewardship*, you understand that it is a way of life. It is a way of life that fosters authentic solidarity and subsidiarity throughout the diocese. What it boils down to is not money, but to an authentic practice of the faith.”

The all-encompassing nature of stewardship is expressed well in the definition given by the diocese: “Stewardship is the grateful response of the Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gift and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.”



This mural of the saints bringing forth their offerings can be found in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita.

COURTESY DIOCESE OF WICHITA

This sharing of gifts is about so much more than money. As seen in the fruits produced by stewardship, it involves a commitment of the entire person — who may give his time to Jesus in his local parish’s Adoration chapel or volunteer at the Lord’s Diner, an effort to feed the poor in the diocese that involves volunteer groups from various parishes in order to provide a meal to the hungry each and every night of the year.

Another person may give her talent in singing in the Sunday choir at her parish or in teaching a weekly religious education class for those not enrolled in Catholic school. Treasure is certainly a part of each parishioner’s gift of self, but to look exclusively at the financial aspects of stewardship is to fail to see the entire picture.

The nature of stewardship is that each parish fosters the communal life of the local Church as well. For instance, a family who is able to send their children to Catholic grade school and high school thanks to the generosity of their fellow parishioners becomes connected to a parish, and more than willing to continue giving to the parish even when their last child has graduated.

The encouragement to get involved in the parish in terms of time and talent enables parishioners to walk the journey of faith alongside one another, allowing them to become missionary disciples together. In short, the stewardship way of life changes everything for members of a parish, binding them together and aiding their mutual growth into the community of disciples God is calling them to be.

For many of the Wichita seminarians at Mundelein, the stewardship way of life has been incredibly formative, playing a prominent role in getting them to seminary in the first place.

“I attended Catholic schools all my life, and I’ve always been at least some-



Students pray during Mass at St. Patrick's School in Wichita.

COURTESY DIOCESE OF WICHITA

what active in my parish,” said Deacon Matt Siegman, who is in his final year at Mundelein before ordination to the priesthood in May. “Over all that time, I did not realize that I was being taught to give back in response to all of the good gifts God had given me. I had a good job, good friends, and was not in need of anything, and I was generous in giving my time and money to the Church. But the question of how to give back to God kept coming back. It finally dawned on me that the only way I could respond adequately to all the gifts God gives me is to give him my entire life.”

For Siegman, and many more young men from the Diocese of Wichita, the response to the many gifts they have received has been to enter the seminary and discern a call to the priesthood. Their vocations have been outgrowths of the culture of stewardship in which they have been formed. They have grown up practicing offering themselves to God, to their families and to their parishes through giving their time, talent and treasure.



HAYDEN CHARLES is a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Wichita.

As they come to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for ordination to the priesthood, the murals on either side of the sanctuary stand as beautiful reminders: their vocations would not be possible without the abundant gifts God has given them in and through the stewardship way of life. ■

The Most Rev. Mark Bartosic, the Most Rev. Robert Casey and the Most Rev. Ronald Hicks, all classmates of Mundelein Seminary's Class of 1994, were ordained bishops on Sept. 17, 2018, in Holy Name Cathedral.

THREE MUNDELEIN CLASSMATES ORDAINED BISHOPS

CLASS OF '94'S BARTOSIC, CASEY AND HICKS
NAMED NEW CHICAGO AUXILIARIES

BY RYAN BRADY | 2T, ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

The ordination of bishops is something that doesn't happen very often. Since the year 2000, there have been dozens of priestly and diaconal ordinations in Chicago — where hundreds have been ordained priests and deacons — but only five ceremonies where 10 bishops were ordained. Though the episcopal ordination rite is rare, when Fathers Ronald Hicks, Mark Bartosic and Robert Casey walked to the sanctuary of Holy Name Cathedral together on Sept. 17, 2018, the sights, sounds and smells of an ordination were familiar. Twenty-four years earlier, they lay prostrate together in the same cathedral sanctuary to be ordained priests. And the smell of chrism and incense, the tears of joy from their family and the cheers of an adulatory crowd were as vivid now as they were then.

The three newly ordained bishops have journeyed together for some time now. All three named last fall by Pope Francis to be auxiliary bishops of the Archdiocese of Chicago were classmates together at Mundelein Seminary and ordained priests by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin on May 21, 1994. Full of love for Jesus Christ, his Church and his people, their ministry will bless the Archdiocese of Chicago for a long time to come, said Cardinal Blase Cupich in his ordination homily. “You’ve worked with them. They’ve been your pastors. They’ve been with your families,” he told the assembly. And though they share many similar qualities — a love for the marginalized, and much experience ministering to the poor, for example — the individual skills and gifts God has given them have resulted in very different journeys and remarkable stories to tell.

FROM MINISTERING TO ORPHANS TO MINISTERING TO SEMINARIANS

Bishop Ron Hicks is the vicar general for the Archdiocese of Chicago. He was appointed to that position by Cardinal Blase Cupich on Jan. 1, 2015. Prior to that, Father Hicks had spent his priesthood in multiple parishes, on the seminary formation team and in a particularly special place that is dear to his heart.

Hicks began discerning his call to priesthood as a young man at St. Jude the Apostle Parish in South Holland, Ill. He



Cardinal Blase Cupich (right) congratulates Bishop Ron Hicks after his ordination Sept. 17, 2018.

COURTESY CHICAGO CATHOLIC

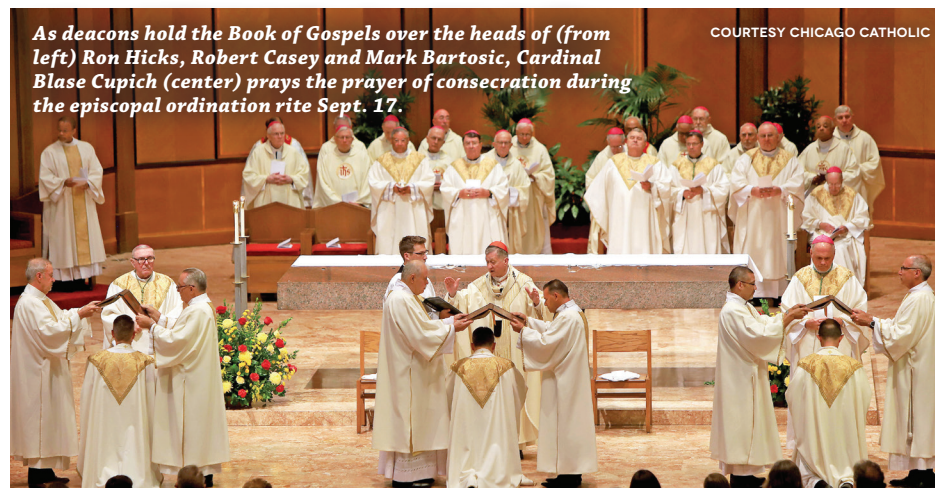
graduated from Quigley South Preparatory Seminary in 1985. Following Quigley, Hicks graduated from Niles College Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Though he recognized a call to priesthood, he felt something more was needed of him.

Hicks spent a year at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH), an orphanage in Mexico, living and caring for the young people who lived there. It would prove to be an experience truly of “smelling

like the sheep,” which Pope Francis repeatedly calls his shepherds to. There, Hicks began to live a life of love and solidarity with the poor. He returned to the United States with a passion for ministry to Hispanics.

Hicks served for three years as an associate pastor at two parishes before being called to seminary formation at St. Joseph College Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1999. After six years working in seminary formation, Hicks returned to Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, this time as a resident of its program for El Salvador and regional director for the organization’s homes throughout Central America. He was responsible for nine NPH orphanages and 3,400 orphans.

Following his five-year term as regional director, Hicks returned home to Mundelein Seminary as a professor of theology and, later, dean of formation. Hicks’ love for the priesthood and for the poor were a great gift to the seminarians of Mundelein Seminary. The infectious care he has for others was and is a great model for men aspiring to be priests.



As deacons hold the Book of Gospels over the heads of (from left) Ron Hicks, Robert Casey and Mark Bartosic, Cardinal Blase Cupich (center) prays the prayer of consecration during the episcopal ordination rite Sept. 17.

COURTESY CHICAGO CATHOLIC



Before being named vicar general of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2015, Hicks was a faculty member at Mundelein Seminary, seen here teaching a class of first-year theologians in 2014.



'I HAVE BEEN IN OVER MY HEAD MY WHOLE LIFE'

In his first words to the people of the Archdiocese of Chicago on the day of his episcopal ordination, **Bishop Mark Bartosic** proclaimed loud and clear, "I love being a Chicago priest!" Prior to his episcopal appointment, Bartosic had arguably one of the most trying jobs a priest could have: director of Kolbe House, the archdiocesan jail ministry. There, Bartosic ministered to those detained in jail, to victims of crime, to families of both the detained and victims

and to those who work in corrections.

Before Kolbe House, priesthood and Chicago, Mark Bartosic grew up in Ashland, Ohio, and with his family faithfully attended Mass at the only Catholic church in town. Later, he was a student of theater at Ashland University. After his university studies, he came to Chicago in order to pursue an acting career. It wasn't long before he fell in love with the city. The diversity of culture and peoples was new and appealing to him, and Chicago's charm drew him close.

Chicago's diversity also got Bartosic

thinking about the Church and his role in it. Though acting brought him to Chicago, he would soon enter the seminary there to become a priest of its archdiocese, staying to serve the people of Chicago as a father — as a priest. The highlight of his ministry, he said, has been serving Latinos and immigrants.

At his episcopal ordination, Bartosic told the assembly a funny saying of his father: "I have been in over my head my whole life." It was his way of challenging his family to keep their faith focused on God, no matter the circumstances, he said.

BISHOP ALUMNI OF MUNDELEIN

SINCE MUNDELEIN'S FIRST ORDINATION CLASS IN 1927, MORE THAN 40 SEMINARY ALUMNI HAVE BEEN ORDAINED BISHOPS

WILLIAM COUSINS Class of 1927
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1949–1952, Bp. of Peoria 1952–1958, Apb. of Milwaukee 1958–1977

WILLIAM O'CONNOR Class of 1928
Bp. of Springfield in Illinois 1949–1975

RAYMOND HILLINGER Class of 1932
Bp. of Rockford 1954–1956, Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1956–1971

ERNEST PRIMEAU Class of 1934
Bp. of Manchester 1960–1974

ALOYSIUS WYCISLO Class of 1934
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1960–1968, Bp. of Green Bay 1968–1983

ROMEO BLANCHETTE Class of 1937
Aux. Bp. of Joliet 1965–1966, Bp. of Joliet 1966–1979

THOMAS GRADY Class of 1938
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1967–1974, Bp. of Orlando 1967–1974

WILLIAM MCMANUS Class of 1939
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1967–1976, Bp. of Fort Wayne-South Bend 1976–1985

CLETUS O'DONNELL Class of 1941
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1960–1967, Bp. of Madison 1967–1992

RAYMOND VONESH Class of 1941
Aux. Bp. of Joliet 1968–1991

J. RICHARD HAM Phil. Class of 1943
Aux. Bp. of Guatemala 1968–1979, Aux. Bp. of St. Paul and Minneapolis 1980–1990

ALFRED ABRAMOWICZ Class of 1943
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1968–1995

MICHAEL DEMPSEY Class of 1943
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1968–1974

TIMOTHY LYNE Class of 1943
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1983–1995

EDWARD O'ROURKE Class of 1944
Bp. of Peoria 1971–1990

PAUL MARCINKUS Class of 1947
Titular Abp. in the Roman Curia 1969–1990

JOHN MAY Class of 1947
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1967–1969, Bp. of Mobile 1969–1980, Abp. of St. Louis 1980–1992

THAD JAKUBOWSKI Class of 1950
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1988–2003

RAYMOND GOEDERT Class of 1952
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1991–2003



Bishop Robert Casey greets the assembly in Holy Name Cathedral after his ordination Sept. 17, 2018.

COURTESY CHICAGO CATHOLIC

LEADING LATIN AMERICANS INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

Bishop Robert Casey was raised in the southwest suburb of Alsip, Ill., and was a member of St. Terrence Parish. It was as a student at Marist High School that he began discerning priesthood, later delivering the news to very supportive parents.

After Marist, Casey began his seminary studies at Niles College. It was here that he first met classmate Ron Hicks. By the time he graduated from Niles College, Casey knew that God was calling him

to the priesthood. But where? That was the question. Casey spent a year discerning with a religious community of priests before discerning that his call was to the diocesan priesthood. He began his studies at Mundelein Seminary in the fall of 1990.

At Mundelein, Casey quickly demonstrated leadership skills that would serve him well in seminary and priesthood. It was as a Mundelein seminarian that he first travelled to Mexico to learn and practice Spanish. After ordination, Casey was assigned as an associate pastor at St. Ita parish in the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. But he also became involved with Casa Jesús, a house of discernment for Latin American men aspiring to be priests in Chicago. In 1999, Casey was named rector of Casa Jesús. After five years there, parish life beckoned, and he served as pastor of three parishes before being named bishop. He's also served on the archdiocesan Priest Placement Board and the Steering Committee for Renew My Church, the initiative to bring new and sustainable life to the archdiocese.

The afternoon of Hicks', Casey's and Bartosic's ordination, about 20 Chicago seminarians had gathered for prayer out-

side a chapel attached to the cathedral when unexpected visitors arrived. Cardinal Cupich; the Most Rev. Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States; and the three bishops-elect made their way into the chapel and invited us to join them. More than a little amazed, we observed as the three men about to be ordained bishops made the prerequisite profession of faith and oath of fidelity.

Though we all felt fortunate to witness something so profound and rare, the bishops-elect truly astounded us when they thanked us for being there. To us, it was an honor to be there to share the special moment. We should have been thanking them! But there we were,

thanking each other, thinking of each other and praying for each other and our respective vocations. The seminarians huddled in the back of that small chapel that afternoon experienced one of the greatest attributes of a bishop: true joy and humility. They greeted us like fathers. They greeted us like brothers. ■



RYAN BRADY

is a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

JOHN GORMAN Class of 1952
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1988–2003

EDWARD EGAN Phil. Class of 1954
Aux. Bp. of New York 1985–1988, Bp. of Bridgeport 1988–2000, Abp. of New York 2000–2009

ROGER KAFFER Class of 1954
Aux. Bp. of Joliet 1985–2002

JOHN KEATING Phil. Class of 1955
Bp. of Arlington 1983–1998

JOHN VLAZNY Phil. Class of 1958
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1983–1987, Bp. of Winona 1987–1997, Abp. of Portland in Oregon 1997–2013

VICTOR BALKE Class of 1958
Bp. of Crookston 1976–2007

JAMES KELEHER Class of 1958
Bp. of Belleville 1984–1993, Abp. of Kansas City in Kansas 1993–2005

THOMAS MURPHY Class of 1958
Bp. of Great Falls/Great Falls-Billings 1978–1987, Coadj. Abp. of Seattle 1987–1991, Abp. of Seattle 1991–1997

EDWIN CONWAY Class of 1960
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1995–2004

EDWARD SLATTERY Class of 1966
Bp. of Tulsa 1994–2016

GERALD KICANAS Class of 1967,
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1995–2002, Bp. of Tucson 2002–2017

GEORGE RASSAS Class of 1968
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2005–2018

FRANCIS KANE Class of 1969
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2003–2018

EDWARD BRAXTON Class of 1970
Aux. Bp. of St. Louis 1995–2001, Bp. of Lake Charles 2001–2005, Bp. of Belleville 2005–

JOHN MANZ Class of 1971
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1996–

WILTON GREGORY Class of 1973
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 1983–1994, Bp. of Belleville 1994–2005, Abp. of Atlanta 2005–

JEROME LISTECKI Class of 1975
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2001–2005, Bp. of La Crosse 2005–2010, Abp. of Milwaukee 2010–

THOMAS PAPROCKI Class of 1978
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2003–2010, Bp. of Springfield in Illinois 2010–

ROBERT BARRON Class of 1986
Aux. Bp. of Los Angeles 2015–

MARK BARTOSIC Class of 1994
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2018–

ROBERT CASEY Class of 1994
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2018–

RONALD HICKS Class of 1994
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2018–

ALBERTO ROJAS Class of 1997
Aux. Bp. of Chicago 2011–

FOR HEALING, FOR HOPE

*During a time of crisis for the Church,
seminarians join parishioners in prayer*

BY MATTHEW OCKINGA | 1T, DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

Andy Matijevic, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago, thanks worshippers for attending the Healing Novena Mass at St. Anastasia parish in Waukegan, Ill., on Sept. 12, 2018.



“The reason for hope is in this room.” Those poignant words spoken by Father John Kartje, rector/president of University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, at an impromptu meeting in August have served as a rallying cry for seminarians during a difficult time in the Church nationally and worldwide: an ongoing sexual abuse scandal that has reverberated through every diocese and seminary.

On Aug. 28, 2018, approximately half of the seminary student body and several faculty members gathered on a very warm evening in a recreation hall without air conditioning for a voluntary open forum. After giving brief opening remarks on that humid summer night, Kartje turned the floor over to seminarians, who spoke with honesty, passion and conviction. Just as camera angles affect the mood of a movie director’s shot, Kartje said his angle — both in the room and as rector — gave him a unique perspective on the gathering.

“I felt like I saw ultimately the irrepressibility of hope,” Kartje said. “There was a kind of openness that grew over the course of the night. It was the men speaking to each other. I said less and less and just felt like a member there.”

Like many of his peers, Ryan Brady, a sec-

ond-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago, said he has struggled with the relentless negative news regarding the scandal, the scope of which has rocked him emotionally. But he also said that attending the open forum and seeing the witness of his brother seminarians each day has buoyed his spirits amidst the sadness.

“Outside of our campus, it’s like one gut punch after another. But when you’re here and you’re around other men that are studying to be priests — who in a very real way are the future of the Church — it’s encouraging,” Brady said. “The news outside really does bother me, but it doesn’t paralyze me, it doesn’t make me fearful, because of what I see around here.”

Kartje said he felt encouraged by the way seminarians responded to the adversity of the scandal.

A worshipper prays with the novena prayer card at Mary, Seat of Wisdom parish in Park Ridge, Illinois, on Sept. 9, 2018.





Cardinal Blase Cupich and concelebrants chant the doxology during the Healing Novena Mass at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago on Sept. 15., 2018.

COURTESY CHICAGO CATHOLIC

This novena prayer was recited at all the novena Masses and was sent to more than 1,000 people who prayed the novena online.

NOVENA FOR THE HEALING OF OUR CHURCH

Pray this novena daily for nine days with an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

Loving God, turn your ear to the cries of your sons and daughters who seek healing for Your Church.

We are heartbroken. We are bruised. We are hurting.

In these days we again wrestle with understanding the heinous acts of abuse by those entrusted with shepherding Your flock.

Ease our troubled hearts. Mend our broken spirits.

Be "ever present in our distress."

Merciful Lord, send Your Healing Spirit to our brothers and sisters who have endured pain and abuse physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Comfort their weary spirits. Soothe their pain. Grant them justice. May our eyes be opened to see Your image in these wounded members of Your Church.

Shepherd of Souls, make Your presence known to us that these wrongful acts will be addressed. Inspire our leaders of the Church to seek new and effective paths to keep safe the flock they shepherd.

Give us all courage to act and speak up on behalf of the most vulnerable. Rush the winds of the Spirit to scatter the darkness of sin. Pour forth Your healing Spirit to renew our trust and hope in You, who are our refuge and our strength.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"For me, one of the most enriching parts of being rector is those moments when the men are gathered in the face of a very potent presence, in the presence of the Lord and the presence of evil as well," Kartje said.

TAKING PRAYER TO THE PEOPLE

While the meeting was an initial reaction to the crisis, Mundelein desired to reach out to the people of God in a tangible manner. Initial plans centered on an online novena that parishioners could participate in. But Kartje said he wanted to take the prayer to the people, and a series of Healing Novena Masses throughout the archdiocese was quickly arranged.

"Because there wasn't much time to plan, we got right to work," said Father Brad Zamora, Mundelein's director of liturgy. He said that bringing the seminary's novena of Masses to the people of the archdiocese was a logical extension of the seminary's formation. "We form men here at the seminary, but they're ordained at the mother church of the diocese. While seminarians are formed here, their ultimate goal is to be prostrated on the marble of the cathedral sanctuary."

Mundelein Seminary hosted the first Mass in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception on Sept. 7, 2018, and the



Deacon Michael Lewis, a fourth-year theologian studying for the Diocese of El Paso, speaks with parishioners after the Healing Novena Mass at St. Anastasia's.

Healing Novena concluded on Sept. 15 with a Mass at Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago celebrated by Cardinal Blase Cupich. In between, seven other parishes were chosen to represent ethnic, demographic and geographic diversity.

Zamora said the selection of the parishes was quite intentional. Since each Mass was an open invitation to anyone who wished to attend, the seminary wanted to give a feasible option for any parishioner to do so. Mundelein seminarians served as acolytes and deacons at each Mass, led the music, greeted worshippers and handed out novena prayer cards.

Optatam Totius, the Second Vatican Council's document on priestly formation, describes the seminary as "the heart of the diocese." With the novena Masses, Mundelein wanted to pump fresh blood into that image, Zamora said.

"If we are the heart of the diocese, we have to keep beating, and we have to be the light that can penetrate the darkness," he said. "I look to all the seminarians in their zeal and their quest for holiness — even more now in the midst of all this — to be the hope that people have. And, I think that's what people saw, too."

The opening Mass at Mundelein featured the entire student body, most of the faculty and staff and many visiting parishioners. On a Friday night with the assembly listening attentively, Kartje

was brutally honest about the limits of the novena, while emphasizing the importance of prayer during the pain of the scandal.

"It would be naïve — even cruel — to suggest that these nine evenings of prayer for healing in the Church will be enough to move forward," Kartje said in his homily. "But it would also be true that any work of conversion or transformation in the Church that isn't grounded in prayer would be ultimately doomed to fail."

Zamora said that reactions to the seminarians' presence were overwhelmingly positive. Even in an archdiocese as large as Chicago's, many people have never met a seminarian. In addition to those who attended the Masses, more than 1,000 people signed up to pray the novena online.

For Brady, attending four of the nine novena Masses proved mutually beneficial for both himself and the parishioners.

"We can't hide from this, and showing our face, showing the love that we have for people, I think they appreciated

that," Brady said. "It was nice to see that people's faith hasn't been broken, that people still gather around the Lord's table to be fed in a very real way."

Wounds don't heal overnight. Even when they do, scars may remain. But in the challenging days to come Mundelein hopes to contribute to the Church's reason for hope. ■



MATTHEW OCKINGA is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Yakima.

HEALING NOVENA LOCATIONS

The nine novena Masses were celebrated at the following locations:

SEPT. 7, 2018 — Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois

SEPT. 8, 2018 — St. Columbanus, Chicago

SEPT. 9, 2018 — Mary, Seat of Wisdom, Park Ridge, Illinois

SEPT. 10, 2018 — St. James Wabash, Chicago

SEPT. 11, 2018 — St. Julie, Tinley Park, Illinois

SEPT. 12, 2018 — St. Anastasia, Waukegan, Illinois

SEPT. 13, 2018 — St. Theresa, Palatine, Illinois

SEPT. 14, 2018 — Our Lady Mother of the Church Polish Mission, Willow Springs, Illinois

SEPT. 15, 2018 — Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois

To join the online novena, and to download prayer cards in English, Spanish and Polish, visit usml.edu/novena



1. Nativity

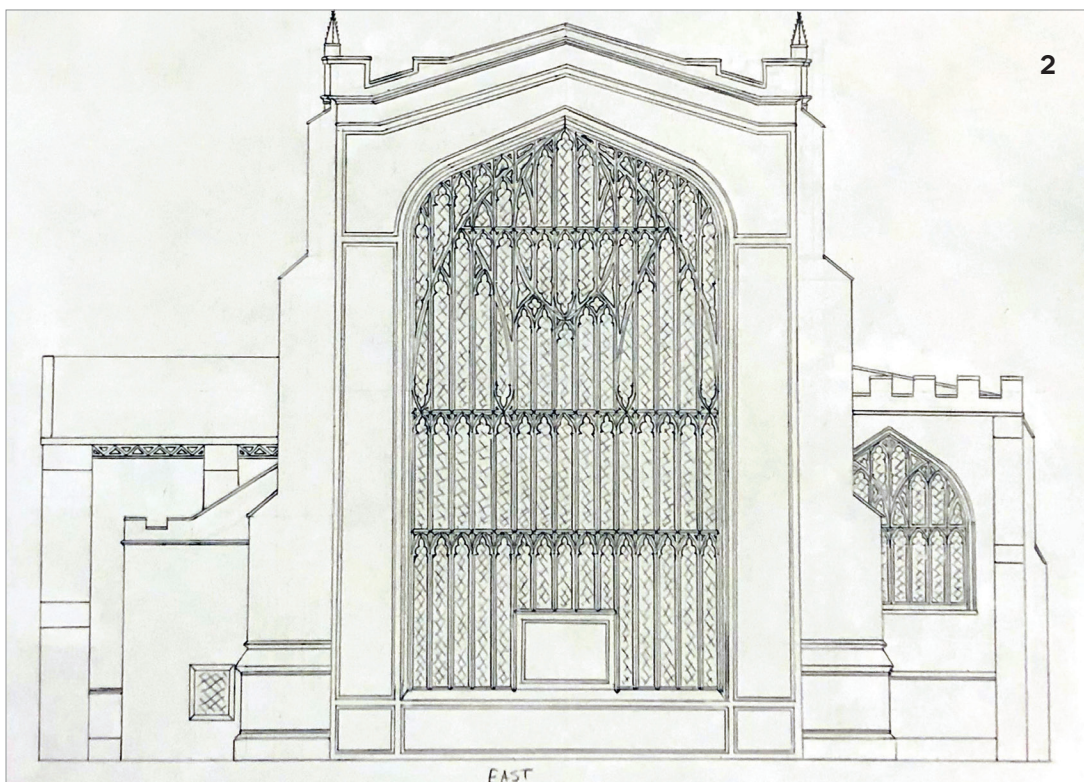
(burned wood)

by Liam Thompson, PT2,
Diocese of Lafayette,
Indiana

**2. East Elevation
of a Church**

(pencil)

by Deacon Andrew Ayers,
4T, Diocese of Grand Rapids





3

3. *Bridge #5 at Night*

(photograph)

by Deacon Declan McNicholas,
4T, Diocese of Gary

4. *The Infinite Caverns of the Soul*

(watercolor and marker)

by Deacon Jay Suero, 4T,
Archdiocese of Chicago



4

SUMMER A CHANCE TO BECOME IMMERSED IN A NEW LANGUAGE

BY KYLE TIETZ | 2T, ARCHDIOCESE OF DUBUQUE

Editor's note: For many Mundelein seminarians, the summer is spent learning another language in immersion programs around the globe. Below, three seminarians reflect on their experiences last summer.



(Left) Seminarians from around the United States who were studying in immersion programs in Guatemala gathered to climb the Pacaya volcano near Antigua.

(Below) Mundelein seminarians Dan Korenchan (seated, left) and Sebastian Zobrowski (standing, center) are seen with members of their host family in Antigua.



9 weeks learning Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala

A two-week course in Spanish at Mundelein Seminary was all Dan Korenchan, a second-year pre-theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Chicago, had before an immersion trip to Antigua, Guatemala, last summer. It was the personal conversations that helped his Spanish competency the most.

"I was not only learning a ton of Spanish, but also about the person I was talking

to," he said. "Talking to my teacher about Catholicism, I learned things that I would never have learned out of a textbook."

The program involved four hours of conversation each day, with an extra hour of activities that varied over the weeks. Several other Mundelein seminarians spent the summer in Antigua as well.

Korenchan stayed with a host family that had been hosting students for over 30 years.

"Staying with my host family gave me an opportunity to learn about the life and culture of the people in Antigua," he said. "It made my immersion very personal."

Though a major volcanic eruption struck Guatemala during Korenchan's first week of immersion, Antigua was distant from the eruption, only experiencing some ash rain. Korenchan was able to reach out to those impacted.

"One day I worked with another seminarian at a local church for a few hours, putting together aid packs — water, diapers, food — and talking with people that had been affected," he said.

The immersion was a time to learn Spanish, but Korenchan was particularly moved by the people he met: "They had a beautiful faith and an incredible joy." ■

8 weeks learning Spanish in San Antonio, Texas

Ziggy Gross, a second-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Green Bay, spent the summer stateside at the Mexican-American Catholic College in San Antonio, Texas.

“There were other seminarians with me and Jesuit novices, priests and religious sisters,” he said. “We were always together every week, and some were doing the program to learn English, so we were helping each other out.”

The mornings focused on grammar and the afternoons were taken up with pastoral topics such as sacraments, *compadres* and *quinceañeras*.

“Being able to go to Mass in community and then class each day kept my summer spiritual,” he said. “I want to be able to cel-



brate Mass and teach the faith in Spanish.”

Gross noted the added excitement of the 2018 World Cup.

“We would go to the break room and there was always a game going on. It was super exciting, especially the Mexico games, and even the staff would show up.”

San Antonio celebrated its 300th an-

niversary over the summer, and Gross was particularly enthralled by a candlelit eucharistic procession downtown on the Riverwalk.

Overall, Gross was very grateful for his summer: “I learned what you need to know about ministry to Hispanic Catholics in the U.S.” ■



6 weeks learning Polish in Krakow, Poland

While other seminarians were studying Spanish, Brother Joseph Brom, a first-year theologian studying for the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, was working on a different language.

“Three of the other brothers were studying Spanish, so I asked my superiors if I could study Polish,” he said. “They were enthusiastic.”

St. John Cantius Church was established by Polish immigrants in the 1890s. While St. John Cantius does not have a Polish Mass, it is grouped with parishes that do.

Studying in Krakow was a particular blessing to Brom as a member of the Canons Regular.

“St. John Cantius — the man — taught and was buried in Krakow,” he said. “I was able to have Mass at his tomb three times this summer with a priest from my community who visited.”

Alongside his classes, Brom was able to explore the region, visiting such sites as Częstochowa, St. Faustina’s convent, and the Wawel Cathedral. He arrived in Krakow just in time for the celebration of Corpus Christi, which was marked by a four-hour procession.

“Poland is a country where the faith is alive and the churches were full,” he said. “It’s a very rich culture.”

Brom is continuing to practice his Polish, praying Evening Prayer with other speakers at Mundelein, and practicing on his own. “It’s a complicated language,” he said, “but it’s been very rewarding.” ■



Recent Mundelein Seminary graduates (from left) Father Miguel Corral, Father Stephen Durkee and Father Kyle Manno (right), all recently named to vocations positions in their respective dioceses, join Dr. Christopher McAtee, Mundelein's former assistant academic dean, at a recent vocations conference.

RECENTLY ORDAINED, MUNDELEIN GRADS NOW IN THE VOCATION DIRECTOR'S SHOES

BY DEACON CHUCK WARREN | 4T, DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

To learn how one is called to holiness and how the Church will help you with that call can be a challenging endeavor. Enter the vocation director.

This is the contact person for any man considering diocesan priesthood. He is tasked with finding men with a call to the priesthood and encouraging those men already studying as seminarians. For men in the United States, that vocation director who will help them “figure it all out” probably lives closer than they think, often serving as an associate at a parish while also fulfilling the duties of a vocation director. It can be a tough job, made even tougher, perhaps, if that director is a new priest.

Three recent alumni of Mundelein Seminary have been named as vocation directors for their dioceses in the last year. **Father Stephen Durkee** in the spring of 2018 was named associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2017. In spring of 2018, **Father Kyle Manno** was named the vocation director for the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois. He was ordained in 2016. And, in the summer of 2018,

Father Miguel Corral was ordained and also named the assistant vocation director for the Diocese of Las Vegas.

“I was asked to be the assistant director of vocations just a couple hours before my priestly ordination,” Corral said. “I was in complete shock.”

At first, he said he wasn’t sure how to answer. But after prayer — and a good conversation with his bishop — he happily accepted.

“I was very humbled, and I consider it a blessing to be able to share my joy with others who are considering a call to the priesthood,” Corral said.

Probably the biggest challenge, he said, is balancing his vocations work with his role as parochial vicar — at a parish near downtown Las Vegas with about 6,000 registered families. But getting advice from other recent Mundelein grads has been very helpful, too.

“I had great conversations with [Dur-

kee and Manno] at the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, which was held in Phoenix recently,” Corral said. “We were able to share lots of best practices and ideas.”

The resources and support offered by other vocation directors can be helpful. But sometimes the greatest challenge can come from the inside, Durkee said. In a recent homily at his parish, he spoke of the reality of struggle for the newly ordained.

“There have been times where I have felt that I’m not doing either job well,” he said. “There have been times of doubt and struggle, and I was looking forward to some time for prayer away — in Rome.

“In a church there, I prayed for a few minutes and then looked up. I saw written there the words from the Gospel: ‘You are my beloved son, with you I am well pleased.’”

In that moment, he said, he heard the Father say, “Stephen, stop trying to be perfect. Don’t lose hope. Remember who you are. You are my son. With you I am well pleased.”

To embrace this identity of “beloved son” can help young vocation directors to keep their own spiritual wells full to fill the thirst of others, Manno said. And the easiest way to do that is by maintaining a habit of daily prayer, he said.

“I encourage everyone I talk to, don’t be afraid to take up the task of daily prayer for at least 20 minutes a day,” Manno said.

“This is the most crucial aspect of discovering what God desires for us in our lives. He is the creator of our very souls and, therefore, he is the one who will reveal to us why we exist and how to perform his will on a daily basis. When we come to him daily in prayer, he does incredible things and will transform our hearts, minds and lives!” ■



**DEACON
CHUCK
WARREN**

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



ARCHER-ANGLERS GO FISHING — WITH A BOW AND ARROW

BY MATTHEW OCKINGA | 1T, DIOCESE OF YAKIMA

Jesus calls his followers to be fishers of men. Mundelein Seminary offers a training ground for such anglers, providing spiritual, human, academic and pastoral formation to be able to lead souls to Christ. That said, Mundelein also has fishers of fish.

With its signature lake surrounded by forest, bridges and a belvedere, Mundelein offers staff and seminarians kayaking, boating and fishing. The lake features bass, pike, catfish and sunfish. Along with those species are a few unwelcome tenants: common carp and grass carp.

Father Zachariah Chichester is a licentiate in sacred theology student who was recently ordained a priest for the Diocese of Albany. A proud outdoorsman, he's practiced archery for years. When he arrived at USML, a classmate showed him his fishing bow, opening up a new way of looking at fishing.

"When I found out that someone had a bow, I was like, 'Cool, I get to shoot things

at fish,'" Chichester said. "I think I got one the first time. But I did an awful lot of missing, because it takes time due to the refraction of the water."

Common carp are an invasive species native to Europe and Asia. Estimates have the number of common carp in the seminary's lake at 10,000. The carp there can grow to be more than three feet long. Seminarians who catch one on Mundelein's campus are encouraged to toss it into the woods as an easy meal for the raccoons, coyotes, foxes and other critters who make their home near the lake.

"The common carp smell like trash," Chichester said. "You have to wash your hands off immediately in the water and

Dominic Couturier, a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, aims his fishing bow into Saint Mary's Lake from a bridge near the boathouse.

wash your bow off, and you can immediately smell your hands later. They're slimy, gross."

Understandably, the technique for bow fishing is far different than fly fishing or using a traditional spin-casting rod. Chichester often shoots the fish from one of the many bridges around the lake. Carp tend to huddle together in the water in clusters. Rather than tossing a lure in and reeling it in, bow fishers must aim at the carp, hoping to stick the arrow barb in. Often, the carps' bodies rise above the surface, which makes it relatively easy. But because of the optical illusion effect of the water, aiming becomes more challenging.

The maximum range for a bow is about 25 or 30 feet, and the line on the reel connected to the bow is rated on average for 90 to 100 pounds. Chichester said when shooting from the bridge at night, it helps to have a friend to flash light on the water briefly, so the shooter has time to aim.

Dominic Couturier, a third-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, has always loved the outdoors. He started bow fishing with Chichester his first year at Mundelein. Knowing that the seminary life is jam-packed — full of papers, exams and meetings — Couturier said bow fishing offers a little stress relief that takes advantage of Mundelein's expansive campus.

"You're out there with your buds. You're outdoors. You've got this bow and arrow, you're going to go catch something," Couturier said with a chuckle. "It's fun. You get to relax, get to talk about whatever's on your mind. It's bonding, fraternity."



MATTHEW OCKINGA
is a first-year theologian studying for the Diocese of Yakima.

When considering spiritual metaphors for bow fishing, Chichester went deep, pun intended.

"My hit rate on a good night is three out of four, but it's usually around 50 percent," he said. "It's a constantly humbling experience when you're six feet away from a fish and you miss." ■

DR. EILEEN KNIGHT: SUPPORTING SEMINARIANS IN

BY MATT PAOLELLI | DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Knight converses with Jacob Dunne, a second-year theologian studying for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, after Mass outside the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception.

You recently attended our Healing Novena and made a point of attending every Mass, even though they were spread out over a wide geographic area. Why was this novena important to you?

I attended every Mass to pray for all the priests who are working hard and doing wonderful things in our parishes, and also to pray for those who did inappropriate and illegal things.

I went to every one of them because I thought it represented different areas of our city. At each parish, there was something different that happened. It made me realize how vast and wonderful our Church is in making sure the spiritual life of the faithful is met, and this certainly addressed that. The homily given by each priest was different from the one before it. Some took a psychological approach, some took a spiritual approach and some took a future-oriented stance. It was very interesting to be part of that and to interact with people of different races and ethnicities. We all wanted to pray together for the healing of our Church, our priests, ourselves and for the future. I thought it was very well done.

How did you first connect with Mundelein Seminary?

When I got to Holy Name Cathedral about six years ago, I met some seminarians, and I also met Father John Kartje. I just thought that this is a place that I want to give some of my time, talent and treasure. So, I've tried to do that.

I attended a retreat with Father Kartje on radical poverty, and I was really so moved by it. I think for a whole year after that, I meditated about the poverty of our world — not only economic poverty, but the poverty of giving up your time and talents to do things for others. He really inspired me again to spend some time in my prayer life thinking about those issues.

Editor's note: Dr. Eileen Knight is a parishioner at Holy Name Cathedral in downtown Chicago and a generous donor to and supporter of Mundelein Seminary. When Mundelein organized its Novena for the Healing of the Church, Knight attended all nine Masses held at parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago. Here, she reflects on why she believes it is important to support Mundelein Seminary and the seminarians' impact on her parish community.

PRAYER — AND IN TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE



Dr. Eileen Knight (center right) prays during a Healing Novena Mass at Mary, Seat of Wisdom parish in Park Ridge, Illinois.

With that, I tried to give about 20 percent of my money to the poor or those in need. I'm a consecrated hermit and I live by myself, so I can afford to do that. I have very few possessions. That kind of poverty gives you the freedom to do that sort of thing.

Holy Name Cathedral is one of the parishes involved in the seminary's Teaching Parish Program. What experiences have you had with the seminarians assigned there?

We've always had great seminarians here, and they work well in the parish. They do a very good job interacting with people and getting to know them. One seminarian was serving a morning Mass with an elderly priest who was rather incapacitated. The seminarian just took such good care of him. It was so noticeably thoughtful in the way he interacted with him. The Mass went on

very fluidly because the seminarian was there to help. I teach in the RCIA program, and another of our seminarians gave a wonderful talk to that group. The seminarians interact with young adults very well and understand how to engage them effectively.

How does getting to know the seminarians and being involved with Mundelein enhance your faith?

I see that the seminarians have a very serious relationship with Christ and his Church. They seem to have a deep-rooted inner life with a spirituality that has Christ as the focus, and that's where we have to be. When you meet one of these men, you feel that sense of the absolute embodiment of Christ in their life. When these seminarians get out and do their work, they are well-versed and will be able to speak about their relationship with Christ and help people to dis-

cern what their relationship should be. This is what the world needs and what the Church needs also. The Church is going to be alive and well, and I'm full of hope in that regard.

Why is it important for you to support Mundelein Seminary?

I remember thinking — even from my First Communion as a little girl — that we will always need priests for us to receive the Eucharist and to help us understand our spirituality in a way that moves the whole world forward. One thing priests and seminarians offer to people is the sense that you can talk about your relationship with Jesus Christ as just a part of your everyday life. That's just a tremendous gift they give to everyone they meet. ■



MATT PAOLELLI
is the director of marketing and communications for Mundelein Seminary.

COMPILED BY DEACON MICHAEL L. LEWIS
4T, DIOCESE OF EL PASO

Upcoming Events

MARCH 15-18: Exploring Priesthood Weekend

APRIL 6: IV Encuentro Pastoral

APRIL 26: 25th/50th Anniversary Mass and Luncheon

MAY 4: University Convocation

MAY 5: May Crowning

JUNE 23-JUNE 28: 44th annual Summer Scripture Conference — “According to the Scriptures: Studying the Relationship Between the Old Testament and the New Testament”

JULY 11: Alumni Golf Outing

SEPTEMBER 12: Rector’s Classic Golf Outing and Dinner

Academic Calendar

MARCH 6: Ash Wednesday

MARCH 22-25: Long Weekend

APRIL 13-22: Holy Week/Easter Break

APRIL 21: Easter Sunday

APRIL 29-MAY 3: Final exams

MAY 3: Spring Semester ends

JUNE 10-JULY 19: Summer Session for STL Program and Liturgical Institute

AUGUST 18-23: Seminary Orientation Week

AUGUST 26-30: Seminarian Retreat

SEPTEMBER 2: Fall Semester begins

For more information about these events or to register to attend, visit www.usml.edu/events



COURTESY CNS

BISHOPS ON RETREAT

Responding to the call of Pope Francis, more than 250 bishops of the United States convened for seven days of prayer and unity at Mundelein Seminary from Jan. 2-8. “The Holy Father has kindly offered the preacher to the Papal Household, the **Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap** (above, preaching during the retreat), to serve as the retreat director. ... For this, I am grateful,” said Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. “I am also grateful to Cardinal Blase Cupich for his kind offer to use the campus of Mundelein Seminary as the location for this retreat.” Father John Kartje, rector/president of Mundelein Seminary, said the entire Mundelein community was honored to welcome the bishops and provide a place for them to prayerfully unite. “It is fitting that they gather in a place where seminarians come from around the nation to be formed into the next generation of parish priests and hundreds of lay men and women are trained for parish service,” he said.



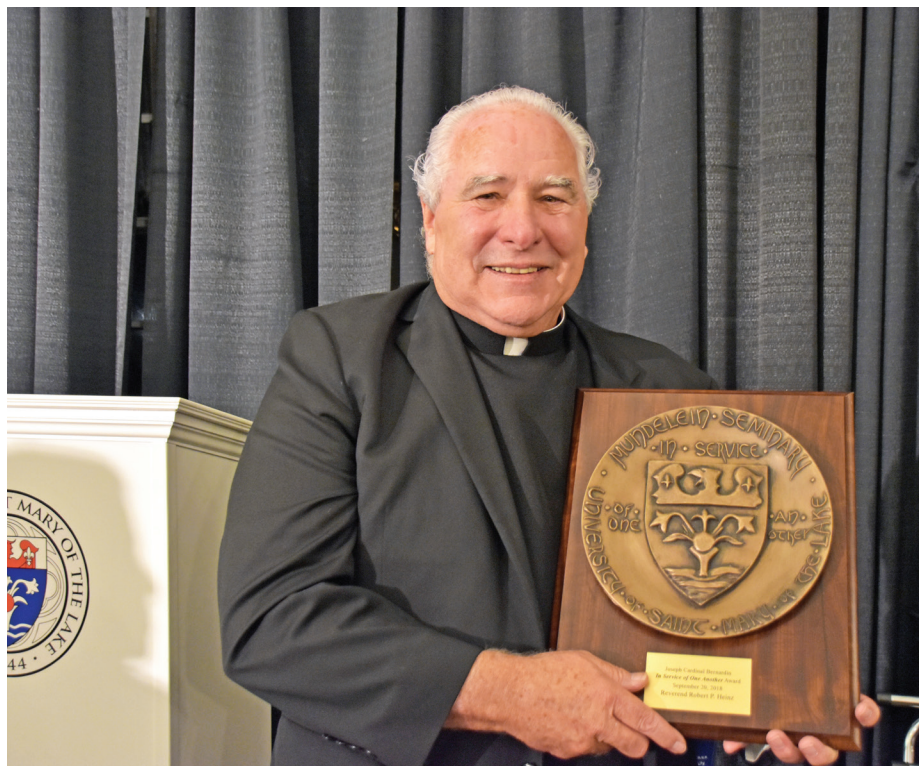
■ INSTALLATION OF ACOLYTES

Sixty-six first- and second-year theologians were installed as acolytes Oct. 29, 2018, by the **Most Rev. Edward B. Scharfenberger**, bishop of Albany (left, preaching the homily at the Mass). Instituted acolytes serve at the altar by assisting the deacon and the priest during liturgical celebrations, especially in preparing the altar for the Eucharist at Mass. The role of the instituted acolyte is similar to that carried out by an altar server and an extraordinary minister of holy Communion. However, as installed acolytes, they now assist at the altar at which they will one day preside.

■ DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

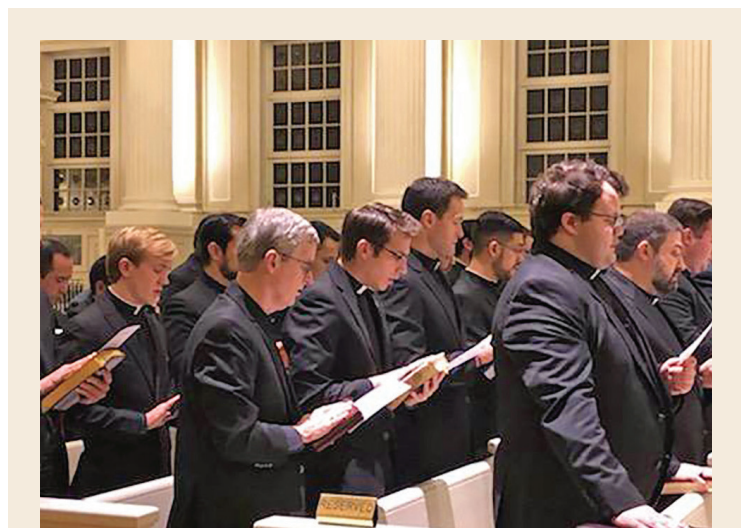
The Mundelein Seminary community celebrated the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed on Friday, Nov. 2, 2018, honoring All Souls' Day and *Día de Los Muertos*. The **Most Rev. Robert Casey**, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, led the community in praying solemn vespers, blessing the Altar of the Dead in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, processing to the campus cemetery and blessing the graves there. Visit <https://usml.edu/dia-de-los-muertos-celebration/> to view a video of the event.





FATHER HEINZ HONORED AT RECTOR'S CLASSIC

Father Robert Heinz, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago and graduate of Mundelein's Class of 1980, was honored with the "In Service of One Another" Catholic humanitarian award at the 27th annual Rector's Classic dinner Sept. 21, 2018. "Father Bob best fits the definition of a shepherd, who leads and watches over his flock, encouraging them to use their gifts," parishioner Bill Lynch said in presenting the award. The day's events started with an afternoon round of golf at Pine Meadow, adjacent to the seminary. Guests were able to interact with their future parish priests, who took time to welcome everyone, grill up a delicious lunch, serve dinner and challenge golfers to "Beat the Seminarian" at longest drive and closest to the pin contests. Visit <https://usml.edu/honoring-father-robert-heinz-2018-rectors-classic/> to view more photos and read more stories from the event.



OATH OF FIDELITY AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

More than 30 third-year men made the Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith on Dec. 14, 2018, a requirement of the Church in advance of the seminarians' ordinations as deacons this spring and summer. "In fulfilling the charge entrusted to me in the name of the Church, I shall hold fast to the deposit of faith in its entirety; I shall faithfully hand it on and explain it, and I shall avoid any teachings contrary to it," they recited in part. "So help me God, and God's Holy Gospels on which I place my hand."

Fireworks light up the Belvedere, Boathouse cupola and piers on the eve of the third annual Mundelein Welcome in August, which kicked off the fall 2018 semester.



DEACON MICHAEL L. LEWIS, 4T/EL PASO



FATHER HEBDEN RETIRES

Christology and dogmatic theology professor **Father Scott Hebden** retired at the end of the fall 2018 semester after more than 15 years teaching a generation of Mundelein seminarians. Having spent several years as an Evangelical missionary in South America, Hebden converted to Catholicism and then entered Mundelein Seminary; he was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1999. After a sabbatical this spring, he will serve as pastor of an area parish beginning this summer.



■ **Mar Jacob Angadiath**, bishop of the St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago, vests **Joby Joseph**, a second-year theologian studying for that diocese, with the stole around his neck during the conferral of heupadiakona, or subdeacon, on Nov. 28, 2018.



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SEMINARY**

2018-2019 MUNDELEIN SEMINARY COMMUNITY

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