

FORMING THE NEXT GENERATION OF PARISH LEADERS FOR SERVICE TO GOD AND HIS PEOPLE.



UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT MARY
of THE LAKE

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



DEAR FRIENDS OF UNIVERSITY OF SAINT MARY OF THE LAKE

As the global church meets to pray and discern the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in the world, we at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake continue to explore new ways to serve the people of God. Building on our proud tradition of theological study and spiritual formation for parish priests, we are cooperating with other institutions to expand academic opportunities and use new technologies to enable clergy and laity to become competent, effective ministers of God's grace and love, building forth the charism of encounter for which the faith community longs.

This year's annual report, focusing on activities from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, provides updates about our on-going programs of pastoral and educational formation, including academic curricula, pastoral service-learning opportunities, parish immersion experiences, and a pilgrimage

to the Holy Land. In addition, we are very pleased to introduce several new initiatives, including cooperative agreements with other institutions, the new School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization, and, especially, *Cor luxta Meum*, an in-person pastoral simulation lab. These programs leverage Mundelein's strength with that of cooperating institutions to benefit an expanded population of ministerial and pastoral students.

Patient work in the vineyard promises to yield good grapes and plenty; these new initiatives express our trust that Christ never fails to provide workers for the harvest that your steady and generous support makes possible. Together, we are Mundelein, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Yours in the Heart of Christ,

Very Reverend John Kartje
Rector/President



About the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary

The University of Saint Mary of the Lake is regarded as one of the top universities for the education and formation of parish priests and Catholic parish leadership.

The flagship program of the university is Mundelein Seminary, the graduate school of theology, named after the late Cardinal George Mundelein, who envisioned and spearheaded the construction of the campus more than 100 years ago. The seminary is now one of the largest Catholic seminary programs in the country, with about 130 seminarians enrolled from 24 dioceses.

The University of Saint Mary of the Lake launched during the last fiscal year the School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization. The school will

oversee the graduate degree and certificate programs formerly under the Institute for Pastoral Leadership and Liturgical Institute, along with continuing education opportunities for all clergy and lay ministers. The school will also house the programs formerly part of the Institute for Diaconal Studies and Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral, which provides certificate and diaconate formation programming for Spanish-speaking Catholics.

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, oversees the university as chancellor. The Very Rev. John Kartje was appointed the university's eleventh rector/president in 2015. Father Kartje is a biblical scholar and astrophysicist who has been on the faculty of the university since 2009.





SEMINARIANS IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN PERUVIAN MINISTRY

"Christ has no body but yours ..."

So begin the words of a famous quotation attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. They also were the words lived out by Mundelein Seminary's pre-theology students during the winter of 2023, when they journeyed Piura, Peru, to be Christ's eyes, hands, and feet to the city's residents.

Accompanied by faculty, the seminarians were stationed at Santisimo Sacramento Mission in Piura, a desert area about 600 miles north of Lima and 35 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The majority of the city's people live in poverty and the mission serves more than 50,000 parishioners, providing needed social services, including a medical clinic, an orphanage, schools, and a women's shelter.

Mundelein's students immersed themselves in the community by ministering to the people in a variety of ways. During the daytime, they constructed bamboo homes, visited children in the schools and orphanages and ran food and clothing deliveries to the homebound.

In the evenings, they encountered the people and their faith journeys through heart-felt conversations. They listened to the plights of migrants and refugees in Peru, and the stories of those recovering from addictions.

In return, they experienced the graces of encountering Christ in their own lives through being Christ to those in need of him.



SEMINARY PREPARES, CELEBRATES NEWLY ORDAINED

The path toward priesthood calls men from all locations and backgrounds. They journey from Chicago, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Arizona, Puerto Rico and beyond. They are students, accountants, scientists, teachers, and more.

And Mundelein Seminary was prepared to accompany each of them through years of seminary life and help prepare them to serve Christ's Church.

On May 6, 2023, 29 men from 16 dioceses received their master of divinity degrees from the University of Saint Mary of the lake and celebrated their ordinations to the priesthood. They are currently beginning their new assignments in parishes across the country.

"The Church in every age, and even more in our own, needs leaders who can inspire hope and bring Jesus' message of mercy and compassion to the diverse communities

of the archdiocese," said Cardinal Blaise Cupich. "These fine young men are being ordained to serve the People of God and we look forward to see how their ministry unfolds in the years to come."

Men become priests through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, a celebration rich in symbolism and tradition. By ordination, priests receive a wide variety of responsibilities, particularly celebrating the Mass and granting forgiveness of sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Priests also preach the Gospel, and celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, and Anointing of the Sick. Diocesan priests make promises of life-long celibacy, prayer for the People of God, and obedience to their bishop at their ordination. It is also expected that priests will lead a life of simplicity consistent with the people they serve.



UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES SCHOOL OF PARISH LEADERSHIP AND EVANGELIZATION

In an effort to meet the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago, its clergy and laity, the University of Saint Mary of the Lake united its four institutes to create the new School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization.

The new school will include the Institute of Diaconal Studies, Instituto de Liderazgo Pastoral, the Liturgical Institute, and the Institute of Pastoral Leadership. Although the name has changed, the educational programming which has benefitted clergy and the laity for decades, will continue as before in addition to innovative opportunities for continued growth.

“This new school will provide fresh opportunities for the education and spiritual development of the laity, building their capacity to contribute their gifts and talents and experiences as disciples for the benefit of the entire Church as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council,” said Cardinal Blaise J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago.

This organizational change positions the school to grow and meet the increasingly challenging needs of parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Church in the United States. Programs currently offered through the four institutes will be expanded to include both graduate degrees and certificates, and other ongoing educational opportunities

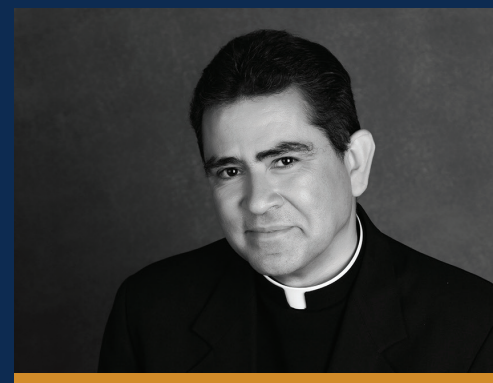
in Spanish and English, employing online, in-person, and hybrid formats.

“The School of Parish Leadership and Evangelization allows us to situate USML’s rich history of preparing men and women for lay and diaconate ministry within a new vision for fostering personal encounters with Jesus Christ,” said the Rev. John Kartje, the university’s president and rector.

Under the guidance of the school’s new dean, Theodore James Whapham, Ph.D., the school will offer courses in areas including catechetics, liturgy, Scripture, church history, and theology. It will have a focus on forming parish leaders to catechize and evangelize amid the challenges facing the Church today.

Consistent with the mission of the Church, the university administration wants to reach out into the archdiocesan communities and make the school’s presence and offerings known in the parishes as well, said Brian Schmisek, Provost and Vice President of Development.

“We want to be in every vicariate in the archdiocese,” Schmisek said. “This reorganization positions the School to meet the needs of the Archdiocese of Chicago while, as its name suggests, having a greater impact on the Church in the United States, thus becoming a national center for parish leadership and evangelization.”



EVENING OF TRIBUTE CELEBRATES REV. ESEQUIEL SANCHEZ, JENNIFER REID

The rector of the Archdiocese of Chicago’s Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a pastoral associate active in renewing parish ministry and leadership were honored for their accomplishments at Mundelein Seminary’s 30th annual Evening of Tribute.

Clergy, seminarians, and faculty joined family and friends on April 20 to honor the Rev. Esequiel Sanchez and Jennifer Corliss Reid at the Grand Sheraton Hotel, Chicago.

Fr. Sanchez, rector of the shrine in Des Plaines since 2016, was awarded the As Those Who Serve Award for his contributions to ministry and promoting the Catholic faith.

Ms. Reid, who serves at St. Moses the Black Church in Chicago, was presented the Gloria Christi Award for being a lay Catholic whose life exemplifies the teachings of Jesus Christ through her life and community.

Each year, the Catholic community gathers for the Evening of Tribute, offering gratitude for the work of Mundelein Seminary and its continued efforts to form parish priests for the global Church. The efforts of Fr. Sanchez and Ms. Reid complement this mission. Cardinal Blaise Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago, presented the awards to both recipients. The evening included performances by the seminary’s choirs and musicians.

A 1995 graduate of the seminary, Fr. Sanchez ministered in numerous roles in the Archdiocese before accepting the appointment as rector of the shrine from Cardinal Blaise Cupich. In addition to serving as a parish for many Catholics, the shrine also is a pilgrimage site for more than 400,000 people during the annual feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Sanchez also is a Fellow of the Leadership Greater Chicago program and received specialized training in Advanced Pastoral Leadership through Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management and the University of Saint Mary of the Lake (USML). He also has earned the Illinois Secretary of State Humanitarian Award for his community service.

A graduate of the USML’s Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Program, Reid has strived to support seminarian formation at St. Moses the Black. She has welcomed and mentored seminarians through the seminary’s Tolton Teaching Parish Program and served on its steering committee when the program was accredited in 2022. A Chicago native and graduate of Catholic Theological Union, Ms. Reid has facilitated surveys and focus groups to target parishioner needs and meet them. During the Church’s “Year of St. Joseph” in 2021, Reid contributed a vision and presentation on the saint titled “St. Joseph: A Tender and Loving Father.”



TOLTON TEACHING PARISH PROGRAM

This innovative program immerses our seminarians in parish life throughout their time in the seminary. Every Theology seminarian (and second-year Pre-Theology student) is assigned to a teaching parish in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Diocese of Joliet, and Rockford. Spending their entire seminary tenure generally at the same parish, they are able to form true bonds with parishioners and fully invest themselves in the life of the parish.

Our seminarians spend time each week at their teaching parishes - learning practical and pastoral skills from experienced mentor pastors, participating in Masses and parish events, getting to know parishioners personally and receiving their feedback, and

gaining a better understanding of what it takes to shepherd a community of faith.

While the Teaching Parish Program is an essential educational experience, it is also an opportunity for our seminarians to enrich local parishes through their presence and spiritual gifts.

Seminarians are frequently called upon to teach RE and RCIA classes, lead parish Bible studies and small faith-sharing groups, and attend youth and young adult group meetings and events. By interacting with the lay community in these ways, they learn to pass on their faith, inspiring vocations in young Catholics and renewing hope in the future of the Church.



THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Greetings! My name is Daniel Ivan Sanchez Garcia, I am a seminarian in formation to be a priest for the diocese of Yakima in Washington State. My expected ordination date is 2025.

I have had the blessing to work with Fr. Esequiel at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a year and a half now and one of the things that he greatly emphasized when it comes to helping the youth grow in their relationship with

Commandments, the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, etc, and a certain number of community service hours.

At the Shrine, on the other hand, we strive to integrate their learning experience into a full participation in the life of the local church. That includes, serving in the Mass as altar servers, joining the youth choir, becoming a lector, being a catechist assistant, participating in live faith reenactments throughout the year

[We] cultivate an environment that facilitates a desire to know Christ, an environment that inspires curiosity, an environment that challenges the youth but also provides them with support and encouragement.

Christ and the Church is to cultivate an environment that facilitates a desire to know Christ, an environment that inspires curiosity, an environment that challenges the youth but also provides them with support and encouragement.

Good and sound doctrine is essential, don't get me wrong (and Fr. Esequiel is very clear on this), but in order for that seed of good and sound doctrine to have a chance to flourish, we strive to provide a fertile soil for it to grow in. Oftentimes catechism is taught simply as memorizing prayers, the Creed, sacraments, the Ten

(e.g. the Via Crucis during Good Friday), visiting Mundelein Seminary, visiting the Carmelite sisters, participating in the various celebrations held at the Shrine especially the Solemn Feasts, youth retreats and conferences throughout the year, but most of all, education at the Shrine greatly emphasizes following the example of our Blessed Mother. At the Shrine, Mary is the boss and she always directs us to her son, our Lord Jesus Christ. I am grateful for having the opportunity to learn from Fr. Esequiel and the wonderful catechists and volunteers at the Shrine!



TEACHING AT ST. MOSES THE BLACK

Over the last four years, I have had the privilege of serving at Saint Moses the Black Parish in Chicago as part of the Tolton Teaching Parish Program. My time there began when it was known as Saint Columbanus, and I was blessed to continue on through its merger with the legacy parishes of Saints Dorothy and Clotilde to form a new parish family. During that time I have had several opportunities to teach at the parish. Whether training altar servers, offering family faith formation, or participating in the parish Alpha series, I am grateful for the chance to help others come to a greater understanding of who Christ is and how He desires to encounter them. Although I deeply enjoy teaching, I am more grateful for the lessons that Saint Moses the Black has taught me.

The dedication and faith of the many lay men and women of Saint Moses continues to form me in my preparation for the diocesan priesthood. Hearing about their own journeys of faith, of their own unique relationships with the Lord Jesus,

has helped me to form a more pastoral heart, one that sees the Holy Spirit at work in each individual. I am particularly grateful to have been assigned to a parish in the Black Catholic community, which has welcomed me warmly and taught me to encounter my faith through a different lens than the one I was accustomed to.

Jennifer is truly deserving of this honor from the Mundelein Community. She has employed her gifts in the service of her parish community with all generosity, creativity, and pastoral zeal. I am blessed to know her and see firsthand the ways in which her service is carried out for the glory of God and the good of her neighbor. Having worked and taught with her has helped form me into a better man – and more – will help make me a better priest for the People of God.

Rev. Matthew Gembrowski
Diocese of Saginaw, Michigan



HOLY LAND STUDY PILGRIMAGE

Through your generosity, and utilizing the funds of the theological education endowment, third year seminarians spent seven weeks on a scripture study pilgrimage to the Holy Land. They will be ordained as transitional deacons this spring for their home dioceses. In the following pages, enjoy a reflection on the experience from seminarian Ryan Mau of the Diocese of San José. Read all the pilgrimage blog entries at www.usml.edu/pilgrimage.

“When one door closes, another opens.”

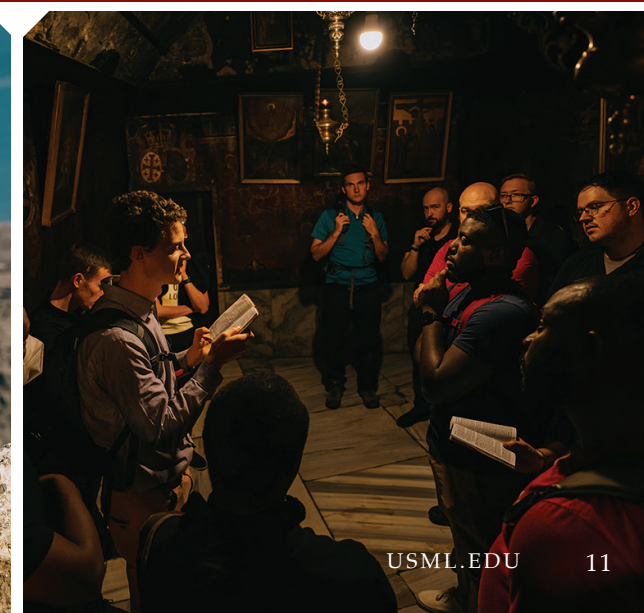
This was my feeling when the airplane door closed as we headed to the Holy Land for the beginning of our pilgrimage. When the door opened again, many of us had little

clue as to what we were going to encounter over the next seven weeks, but thanks be to God for an amazing experience that none of us will soon forget.

We started our pilgrimage by visiting the different sites in the area of Bethlehem. We were able to visit the Church of the Nativity and adore at the very spot where Jesus was born of flesh and came into our world. I was overcome with emotion on several occasions, just thinking about how fortunate I was to be there.

Doors of encounter and opportunity continued to open for us as we shifted our focus to the hometown of the Holy Family in Nazareth. We visited the Basilica of the Annunciation, and the Church of St. Joseph,

cont'd





built overtop of what is believed to be the homes of Jesus' mother and foster-father.

We then headed north to the Sea of Galilee, where we entered into our canonical retreat in preparation for ordination. During this retreat, we passed the days in silence and contemplated the Gospels – particularly the call and life of St. Peter. Like Peter, each of us is personally called by Christ, who is preparing us to be “fishermen” for the sake of His Kingdom (see Luke 5:10).

The last door of our pilgrimage opened to the Holy City of Jerusalem, where we experienced many of the places Jesus spent the final part of his earthly ministry. I had the opportunity to stay overnight in the Holy Sepulcher, and pray at the Tomb of Jesus. To kneel before the place that Jesus was laid after He was taken down from the Cross was profound.

This pilgrimage wasn't just about visiting different sites and spending time in prayer, but also the opportunity for us to encounter

the people that live in these areas. We were able to talk to many shopkeepers, parishioners from both the Latin Rite and Eastern Rites, college students, tour guides, and everyone in between. We learned how Christians need our support and prayers in order to face the many challenges that mark daily life in the Holy Land.

We are grateful for the past seven weeks abroad, yet all of us are overjoyed to be back in the United States. Now that our Holy Land pilgrimage door has closed, we look

forward to the next adventure the good Lord has in store for our class. Please keep us in prayer as we begin another academic semester at Mundelein, followed by Diaconate ordinations in the spring/summer months.

God Bless!

Deacon Ryan Mau
Diocese of San José

BISHOP HONORED AT 31ST ANNUAL RECTOR'S CLASSIC

Family, friends, and colleagues joined the Most Rev. George Rassas to celebrate his years of ministry and service to the Archdiocese of Chicago at the 31st Annual Rector's Classic Awards Dinner on September 15, 2022.

Bishop Rassas, Class of '68, received the Joseph Cardinal Bernardin In Service of One Another Catholic Humanitarian Award during the festivities at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake campus. Both USML

Eguren of Piura, Peru, to support the poor of the parishes in Lima and Piura with volunteer mission groups and fundraise for their cause.

In addition to parish duties, Rassas was the Associate Director of the Catholic Family Counseling Service and the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women until he was made pastor of the Church of St. Mary in Lake Forest.

“I have always done what I have been asked to do, and the Lord hasn't let me down.”

rector, the Rev. John Kartje, and Chicago Archbishop Cardinal Blase Cupich spoke fondly of him as they enumerated Rassas' many accomplishments.

Fr. Kartje shared with the audience how spending an evening with your Bishop at a local Culver's could influence someone's future path. Cardinal Cupich described Bishop Rassas as a “rudder of faith to so many people for so many years.”

Bishop Rassas' most notable accomplishments include his efforts to help found Cristo Rey St. Martin College Prep School in Waukegan. He also collaborated with Archbishop Jose Antonio

He was named Vicar General in 2004 when he also joined the Board of Maryville Academy, on which he continues to serve to this day. After being ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago in 2005, Rassas served on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. This appointment led to his creating and working with Young Adult groups in Vicariate I of the Archdiocese.

As Bishop Rassas humbly accepted his award he said, “I have always done what I have been asked to do, and the Lord hasn't let me down.”

USML REOPENS, REDEDICATES MAIN ENTRANCE BRIDGE MAY 7

Students, faculty, and visitors who missed driving through the main gates of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake from Route 176 and crossing the 100-year-old bridge that linked the outside world to the seminary grounds will see the structure reopened.

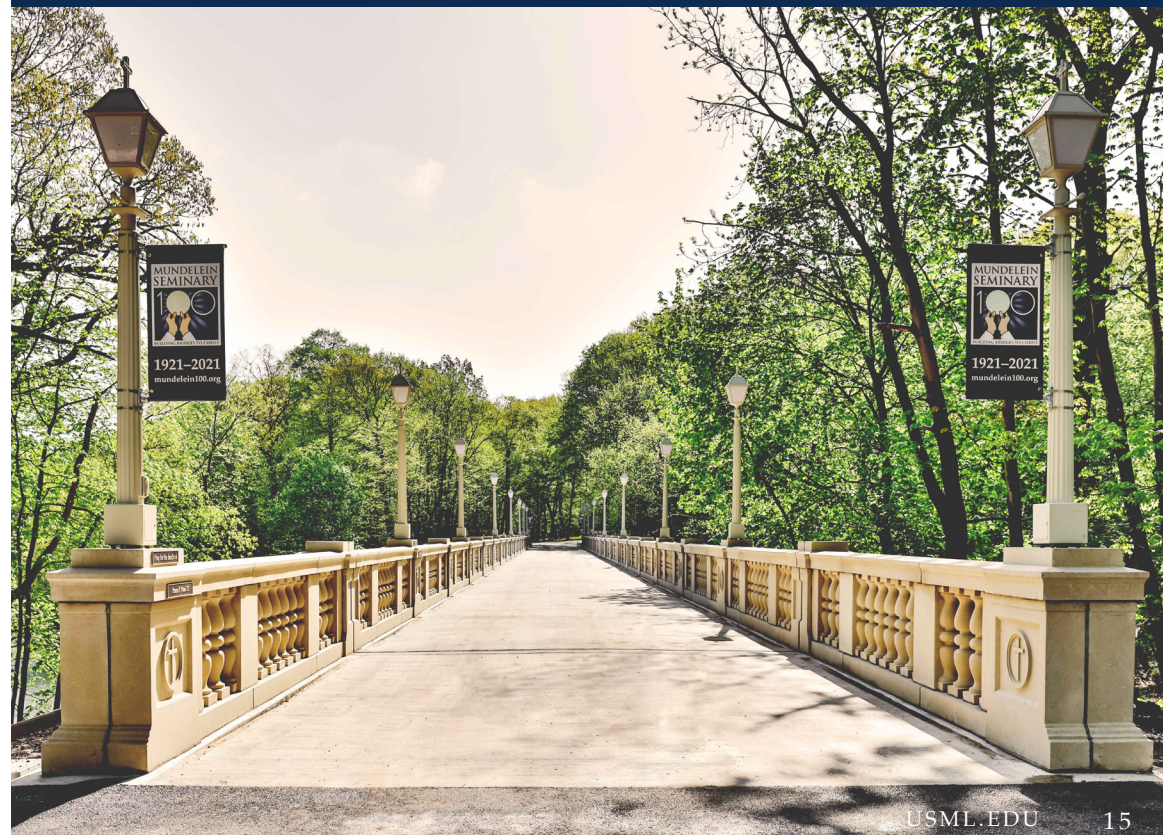
After a two-and-a-half-year renovation project, the main bridge – or Bridge One – was rededicated via a Dedication Blessing ceremony on Sunday, May 7. The Rev. John Kartje, rector of Mundelein Seminary and president of the university was joined the Rev. Msgr. John F. Canary, retired seminary rector, and several guests for the occasion.

Named the St. Augustine Bridge when it was originally built in 1921, the bridge was designed by architect Joseph W. McCarthy as part of Cardinal George Mundelein's vision to

construct a distinctly American seminary with various European touches in the buildings and landscape. The main bridge was one of five designed in a Roman aqueduct-style to link the campus together while remaining artistically beautiful.

Over time, use and wear deteriorated the bridge until seminary administrators deemed it as structurally unsound for traffic. In 2021, the university's bridge and main entrance were closed. A massive reconstruction project, funded by a partnership with the state of Illinois and a university donation campaign, began the same year. Completion was reached earlier this year.

Opportunities are still available for contributing to the renovation project. For more information, visit www.usml.edu/give/.



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STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Revenues:	FY23 Total	FY22 Totals
Tuition room board fees	\$ 5,798,908	4,815,771
Contributions	8,655,706	8,875,790
Auxiliary Income	567,487	485,299
HEERF funds received	-	118,008
PPP #2 Loan Grant	-	1,197,895
Total Revenues	\$ 15,022,101	15,492,763
Expenses:		
Seminarian Education and Formation	\$ 4,651,357	4,171,139
Plant Operations	3,400,313	2,993,068
Institutional Advancement	2,318,081	2,152,771
Administrative	1,582,185	1,439,761
Dining Facilities	758,124	656,950
Auxiliary expenses	117,347	105,801
Total Expenses	\$ 12,827,408	11,519,491
Net Revenue (expense)	\$ 2,194,692	3,973,271

* Report excludes investment gains/losses and capital spending



The Saint Mary of the Lake Legacy Society was founded to acknowledge those who have generously made an Estate or a Deferred Gift Commitment to USML/Mundelein Seminary and to express our sincere gratitude for their thoughtfulness and support. These gifts help provide a quality Catholic education for future generations of seminarians. By creating a deferred gift through a will or estate plan, those interested in supporting USML/Mundelein Seminary can:

- Leave a legacy that will impact seminarians for years to come.
- Help secure a promising future for Mundelein Seminary.
- Endow scholarships and programs.
- Take pride in supporting cherished values.
- Establish financial and tax benefits personally and for loved ones.

For more information, please contact the Development Department at 847-970-4816 or at gifts@usml.edu.

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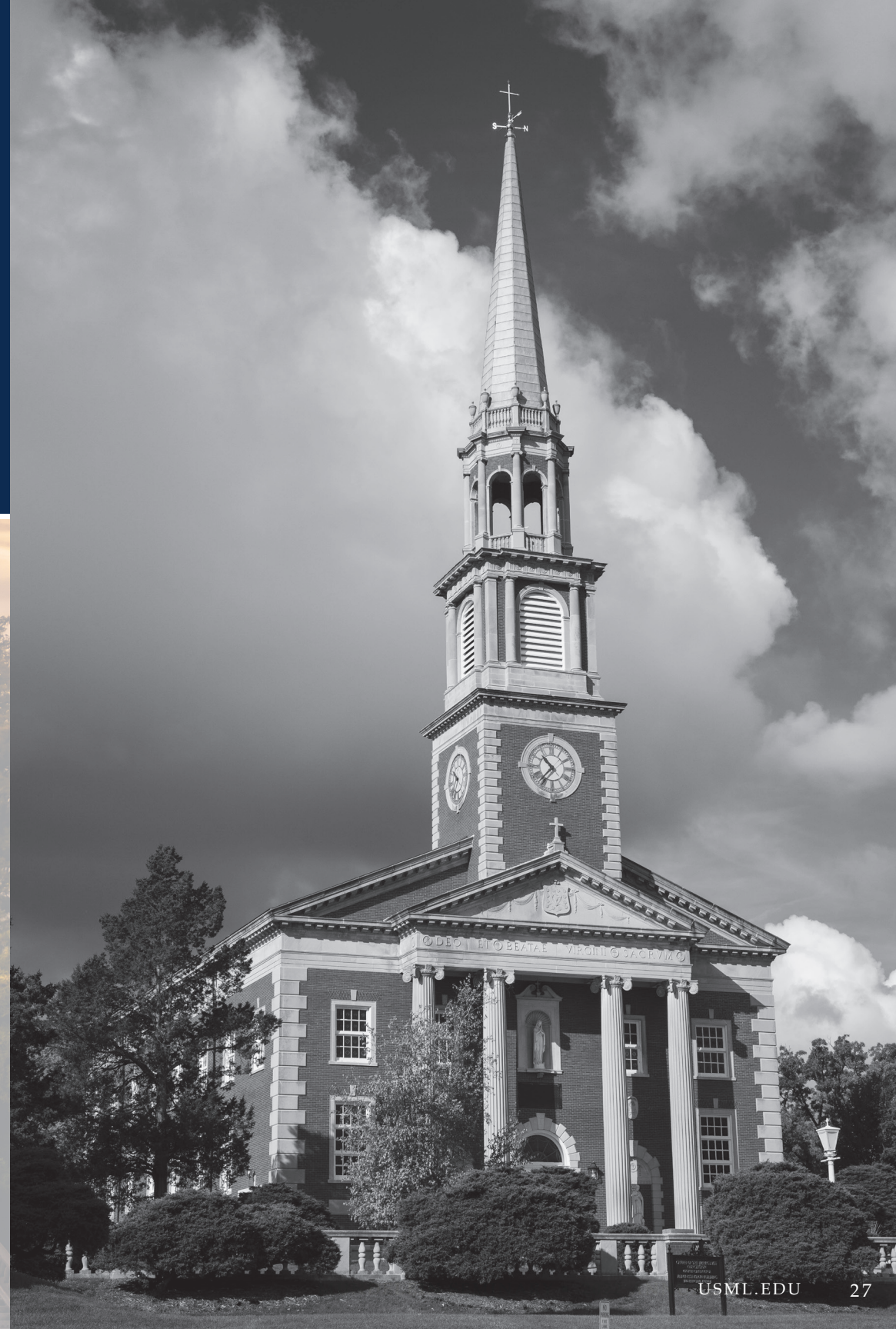
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