

ORACLE

THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY



FALL 2018

Welcome Back!



NEW BRAND COMING SOON!
SPECIAL INSERT ENCLOSED.

from the rector

TOGETHER WE ARE JOYFUL, CATHOLIC LEADERS

Dear Friends,

A new year of formation has begun at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. It is a privilege for me to serve as the Interim Rector for the fall semester. Building upon the 13-year legacy of Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, I look forward to welcoming our newly appointed Rector Fr. Joseph Taphorn on January 1. God has blessed this institution with faithful leadership. I am grateful that I can play a small part during this time of transition.



Bishop Andrew Cozzens

While I see God at work every day in our seminarians, lay students, priests, diaconate candidates, faculty and staff, I realize this has been a time of uncertainty for many of us in the Church. Revelations of sexual abuse of minors by ordained clergy have been very painful and have caused us to pause, to question and to pray. We have had and will continue to have, as a seminary community, thoughtful and practical discussion about the formation we offer and the processes we follow to make sure the seminary is a holy place forming holy priests. We are grateful that God is shining His light in the darkness, and we are responding in faith with the gifts He has given us.

Simultaneously, there is good news to share. I hope you will be inspired by the stories you read in this issue. See the pictures of our seminarians at work in local health care facilities as they bring the message of Jesus Christ to the sick and suffering. Meet the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, who study here in the summer. Read about how our men are striving to live holy, balanced lives by making healthy lifestyle choices every day. It is a joy to witness this work firsthand.

Finally, it is an honor for me to introduce you to our new name, look and brand to be presented this fall. The Seminaries of Saint Paul bring together all of the schools and institutes that work together to build up the Body of Christ in our local Church and sending dioceses. We are a house of formation for undergraduate men discerning a call to the priesthood. We are a major seminary for men who are in formation for diocesan priesthood. We are a graduate school of theology for lay men and women who will serve our parishes, schools and communities throughout our dioceses and our world. The Seminaries of Saint Paul comprise a national center of formation for seminarians, permanent deacons, lay ministers, theologians and clergy. Together we are joyful, Catholic leaders.

Please see the enclosed insert for more information, and watch for these changes in print and online. It is my hope that you will join us as we move forward in faith with this powerful message of hope.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Andrew H. Cozzens, S.T.D.
Interim Rector

ON THE COVER

Seminarians Tim Tran and Deacon Kevin Klump are pictured at the start of a new year.

BETANCOURT APPOINTED AUXILIARY BISHOP OF HARTFORD

On September 18, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed the Reverend Juan Miguel Betancourt Torres, SEMV, as Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford, Connecticut. Exactly one month later, the seminary's Vice Rector of Formation was ordained at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in his new diocese.

In addition to his role as Vice Rector, Bishop Betancourt served on the faculty of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity in various roles since 2008, including Associate Academic Dean and Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture. He was also serving as Pastor of the Church of St. Francis de Sales in St. Paul when he received the call from the Papal Nuncio about his new appointment.

"I am honored and grateful to be entrusted with this mission of service in the Lord's Church," Bishop Betancourt said. "My prayers are for my seminary family, for my parish family, and for my new family in the Archdiocese of Hartford."

Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico, in 1970, Bishop Betancourt received his undergraduate degree at the University of Puerto Rico and a Master of Divinity degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. Following his priestly ordination in 2001, he earned a Licentiate in Sacred Scripture (S.S.L.) from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. Fluent in English, Spanish and Italian, he has proficiency in other languages as well.

Bishop Betancourt has served on the Presbyteral Council of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and as a board member of the National Conference for Seminarians in Hispanic Ministry. His professional experience also includes teaching at the University of St. Thomas, for the Institute for Diaconate Formation, and at the major seminary in Ponce.

Of Bishop Betancourt's appointment, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, interim rector of The Saint Paul Seminary, said, "I have known Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt for almost 15 years to be a man of deep prayer and a joyful servant. His love for the study of Sacred Scripture and his gifts for teaching will be a great blessing for his new episcopal ministry. He is a man who desires to be a servant in all he does, as is reflected in the name of his religious community the Servants of the Eucharist and Mary. We will miss the dedication, his wisdom in formation of men, and his joyful Puerto Rican spirit!"



THE 2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR BEGINS

The academic year began on September 4 with an Opening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda. New and returning seminarians and lay students joined seminary faculty and staff for a prayerful beginning to the semester. As is customary, each faculty member presents the Archbishop with a signed Oath of Fidelity.

Strong enrollment across schools and institutes is a testament to the desire and need to serve as lay and ordained ministers for the Church. More than 1,000 people are currently enrolled in various programs of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. Thanks be to God!



87
seminarians represent
15 dioceses and religious
communities.

71 lay men and women are
enrolled in the School of Divinity's
graduate degree programs.

19 men from the
Archdiocese of Saint
Paul and Minneapolis
are in formation
for the Permanent
Diaconate.



WELCOME FR. GALLAS



Fr. John Gallas joined the seminary faculty in July as a full-time formator and adjunct faculty. Following his ordination in 2005, Fr. Gallas first served as parochial vicar of the Church of St. Joseph in West St. Paul. In 2008, he began serving as Pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul in Loretto, Minn. In 2011, he began an additional assignment as Pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle in Corcoran, Minn.

On his new assignment at the seminary, Fr. Gallas shared, "I am honored to begin my work here as a formator and am deeply impressed with the quality of the seminary program. I hope that my experience as a pastor will enable me to make a helpful contribution in preparing men for priestly ministry."

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE BEGINS ANEW

More than **900** students are enrolled in the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute; more than 500 are enrolled in the two-year certificate program and approximately 400 are enrolled in pilot programs for the School of Prayer and the School of Discipleship.

Fr. John Klockeman, assistant director of spiritual formation and director of the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute, delivers the homily during the institute's opening Mass on Sept. 10.



Bishop Andrew Cozzens, interim rector, greets new and returning students after the opening Mass.



SISTERS GO TO SUMMER SCHOOL

BY MARGARET JOHNSON

When Sisters Marie Fatima and Elizabeth John took their final vows as Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, in Ann Arbor, Michigan, they knew that they would grow educationally and spiritually in ways that only God and their order's foundress had in store for them. They had no idea it would lead them to St. Paul, Minn., to pursue a Master of Arts in Theology.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, is a growing order first introduced to a national audience when featured on Oprah! in 2010. Founded in 1997, there are now more than 70 sisters who have made their final vows, and the same number who have made temporary vows or are novices.



Pictured left to right: Sr. Maria Jerome Poleman, Sr. Maria Suso Rispoli, Sr. Maria Fatima Nunes, and Sr. Elizabeth John Wrigley.

It is common for a group of Dominicans to come to the seminary for summer classes, including Sister Marie Fatima, who spent five summers here, and Sister Elizabeth John, who just completed her second summer. Along with two additional sisters, Sr. Maria Jerome and Sr. Maria Suso, they spent the summer following their order's charism: upon knowledge follows love.

The sisters strive for "authentic encounters with the truth," and rejoice in the freedom to learn. The Dominican Sisters of Mary have found freedom and a greater understanding through their course work at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. Sister Elizabeth John, who teaches history at a college prep school in Chicago, will be first to admit, however, that taking the vow has led to a life with "a lot of surprises."

Sister Marie Fatima, a junior high religion teacher in Worthington, Ohio, was petrified at the thought of working towards a master's degree. Five years later, she compliments the "amazing program," and commends Dr. Ken Snyder, interim academic dean, for accommodating the needs of the sisters every summer.

Both women agree that another benefit of their summer experience is the interaction with the seminarians who can learn through encountering them as spiritual mothers. Their presence on campus is a joyful one.

And, both sisters agree that going back to class has helped them become better teachers. "Being a student has informed my approach in the way that I teach," Sister Marie Fatima says, "and has strengthened my confidence in presenting the faith to students in a deeper way."

Graduate Studies Information Night

November 13, 2018

Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Information Session and Refreshments

6:15 – 9:15 p.m. Optional Class Observation

Please contact Ana Theisen to register:
(651) 962-5069 or
gradtheology@stthomas.edu

SEMINARIANS RENEW CHAPEL SPACE WITH HANDS AND PRAYER

Before leaving for his summer parish assignment, Scott Padrnos finished a unique task that required blueprints and miter saws, not the typical tools of the trade for a pre-theology seminarian.

Under the supervision of Fr. Scott Carl, Padrnos started working on the chapel in the former convent at the Church of St. Mark last spring. Just blocks from campus, this is where pre-theologians reside for two years.

“The chapel has always been a beautiful structure,” said Fr. Scott Carl, vice rector for administration and associate professor of Sacred Scripture. “But it was in need of some renewal so our men had an appropriate place to pray and discern.”

Padrnos grew up working with his hands at his family’s resort in northern Minnesota. He has the skills and desire to build; he just needed someone with a vision for sacred space.

To complement Padrnos, Fr. Carl brought in Vincent Stanchina, a liturgical architect, who prayerfully applied his skills to this project. Together, they entrusted the work to the Blessed Mother. The result is a beautiful chapel where pre-theologians enter into a space that elevates their minds and thoughts in prayer to God.



Vincent Stanchina and Scott Padrnos



Working alongside Padrnos was his brother seminarian Adam Johnson. Very deliberately, Johnson painted stars on the chapel ceiling to match those on the mantle surrounding Our Lady of Guadalupe.

A schema of blue was chosen, taking advantage of the tradition in liturgical architecture of having a rich blue ceiling with stars to portray the sky thereby conveying the cosmic role of the Eucharist. Moreover, Padrnos added a gold band around the base of the ceiling to imitate the band around the Guadalupe mantle.

To further complement the work, the statues and crucifix were professionally repainted and a life-sized image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was hung at the back of the chapel. New lighting was added to highlight the centrality of the altar, the Tabernacle, and the crucifix. “The chapel now enables more readily the encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through the intercession of His mother,” Fr. Carl added.

What is Padrnos’ prayer for this chapel that bears the marks of his work? “I hope that my brother seminarians will spend more time here and that they will see God in this space.”



Spanish Immersion

by Margaret Johnson

Theology II seminarians arrived at the airport ready to begin a two-month Spanish immersion program in Querétaro, Mexico.

Ten Theology II seminarians spent the summer in the city of Querétaro, Mexico, three hours north of Mexico City and even further outside of their comfort zones, where they lived with host families and attended daily Spanish classes. They had no idea what they were getting into, but they left with greater knowledge of the Spanish language, culture and faith.

Each day, the men attended five hours of tutoring, and then spent the afternoons with their host families. This included John Hayes and Paul Hedman who were paired for their home stay. With four years of Spanish in high school, Hayes could hold conversations with the host family from the beginning. Hedman, who departed for Mexico with no experience in Spanish, could carry on basic conversations with confidence at the end of the two-month stay.

However, this experience was not just about the language. Being immersed in a different culture allowed the seminarians to get to know the Mexican people. With Hispanics as the fastest growing Catholic population in the United States, Hayes and Hedman realize the value of one day being able to minister more effectively by understanding the language and culture.

A brother leads the seminarians on a tour of the Convent of Santa Cruz (Holy Cross) in Querétaro.





Hedman added, “We also experienced being a foreigner in another country and being lost. We gained a greater appreciation of how the Mexican people might feel coming to the United States. I pray that this will help me to be a better minister to others.”

A highlight of their immersion experience was a trip to Mexico City to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They walked to the Basilica early every morning for Mass and quiet prayer before tourists arrived. Hedman was comforted by the message of Our Lady to Juan Diego: “Am I not here who am your Mother?”

“It was very comforting to receive that message while I was in Mexico and remember that I can always go to Mary,” he said.

A takeaway for Hayes was the acknowledgement of poverty in Mexico. John questioned his reaction to the homeless and beggars: “How do I see this person?” “Can I see this person for who they really are?” He hopes this experience provides him with the empathy he needs to reach the poor and help them however he can.

This fall, Hayes and Hedman enjoy sitting at the lunch table where only Spanish is spoken. Another step outside their comfort zones; another step closer to ministry.

Fr. Allen Kuss, kneeling front and center, joins the seminarians at the top of the Pyramid of the Sun in Teotihuacan.

summer formation

Deacon Parish Placement



Deacon Kevin Klump takes in the view on top of Pillar Hill in Kodiak, Alaska. Klump will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Anchorage in 2019.

Parishioners and Bishop Juan Miguel Betancourt are pictured with newly ordained Deacon Kevin after he preached his first homily at Blessed Sacrament Monastery in Anchorage, Alaska.



Deacon Kevin waits for an aerial tour of the area surrounding Sacred Heart Parish in Seward, Alaska. Of his summer assignment, Deacon Kevin said, "My assignment included 11 parishes and missions. I celebrated one baptism and one funeral, blessed 20 homes and cabins, delivered daily homilies, and attended several conferences for youth and young adults." Over the course of the summer, Deacon Kevin logged 2,600 miles in the car and took multiple flights to reach the most remote parts of the diocese.





Jake Epstein visits with a patient during his hospital rounds. Seminarians learn ministry to the sick and suffering during this 8-week summer program.

Spiritual Pastoral Ministry



Fr. Mitch Milless (center), class of 2014, leads these real-life "super heroes" during the seminary's Spiritual Pastoral Ministry Program at Hennepin Country Medical Center. Back row (left to right): John Rumpza; Zephirino Tumwejunise; Br. Joe Barron, PES; Br. Scott Norgaard, OP; and Jake Epstein.

Rural Ministry

Seminarian Adam Johnson greets a calf on the Pieper Farm in Norwood Young America, Minn. This summer program brings seminarians to rural areas to explore this unique ministry in their dioceses.



IN MIDST OF VENEZUELAN CRISIS, THE SAME CHRIST CALLS

I've known Oscar for only a couple days, but I already think he has some gifts that would make him a great priest.

The 19-year-old seminarian, who is just finishing his second year of formation, has been a translator of sorts for me during my visit to Buen Pastor Seminary in Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela. Although he doesn't speak any English, he patiently and clearly explains things in a way that I can understand with my limited Spanish—a welcome contrast to the typical Venezuelan speech that comes out fast and with letters missing. I can almost see him instructing his future parishioners on the revelations of our faith in the same empathetic and patient manner.

But Oscar's progress to ordination is anything but certain, and, at least for the time being, will not be moving forward.

Like so many other seminarians in this country, currently in the fifth year of a crisis that's made food, medicine, and other basic goods increasingly hard to come by, Oscar is interrupting his studies to support his family. His mother, already living alone and now unable to work or walk much after losing part of her foot to diabetes, is not faring well. With many of his older siblings no longer around to support her, Oscar, the youngest of seven, feels the pressure to provide. His seminary journey has already been filled with adversity, including opposition from many of his Protestant family members, but the suffering of his mother is one obstacle that he feels like he can't surmount.

Last we talked, Oscar is looking for a passport so he can leave the country to find work that pays more than Venezuela's current monthly minimum wage, which, due to mind-boggling levels of inflation, is the equivalent of just over one U.S. dollar. Maybe Oscar will go to Peru or Argentina, or maybe even Queens in New York City, where he has a cousin. He's making plans somewhat on the fly, and, at least when we first spoke about it, he hasn't even told his rector or bishop yet. He hopes to return to seminary eventually, but the uncertainty of that ever happening is apparent.



Jonathan Liedl delivers food in Ciudad Guyana as part of the soup kitchen program operated at Jesucristo Resucitado, the Archdiocese of Saint Paul & Minneapolis' mission parish in Venezuela.

Not all Venezuelan seminarians with struggling families choose to leave. But the pain they feel in their heart, the conflict between pursuing the vocation they believe Christ has called them to and leaving seminary to support their loved ones, doesn't simply disappear. One seminarian tells me he has to "turn off" thoughts about his widowed mother to pursue his vocational call. Others express a sense of guilt over the fact that they eat three daily meals while their brothers and sisters back home sometimes go through a day without eating.



Oscar Ugas, a seminarian at Buen Pastor Seminary, prays in the chapel.

Of course, the food the seminarians eat isn't anything extravagant. Usually a single corn-meal arepa or a mix of rice and beans—or a sardine mix that this gringo couldn't even stomach—suffices for a meal. When I ask Marcel, another seminarian at Buen Pastor, how the crisis has affected him, he simply lifts up his shirt to show me his ribs pressing against his taut skin. A common refrain I hear from the seminarians is that it's difficult to pray or study when you're constantly hungry.

It's a sobering contrast to my own experience of seminary life back in Minnesota, where we have access to an all-you-can-eat dining hall for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and where the predominant challenges facing seminarians have more to do with academics and community life than they do with suffering family members.

And yet, it's been here at Buen Pastor Seminary that I've felt the most at home during my brief time in Venezuela, more so than even at the rectory in Ciudad Guyana where I'm staying with two Minnesotan priests (and a golden retriever). Despite the sometimes dramatic differences between our lived experiences, there is a shared bond between the men of Buen Pastor and myself. It is reinforced by, but goes deeper than the shared patterns of prayer, study, and fraternity that define seminary life the world over. It is a bond defined not by what we do, but rather by who we know.

Because even a continent away, these men have heard the same call from the same Christ to pursue the same priesthood. Their fight to be faithful to Christ, in the midst of an overwhelming national crisis and at great personal cost, should be an inspiration to those of us who have also heard His call, no matter where we are.

Jonathan Liedl, Pre-Theology II, spent six weeks in Venezuela this summer. This article is a modified version of one originally published on the National Catholic Register's website on July 18.



Seminarians pray together in the chapel at Buen Pastor Seminary in Ciudad Bolívar, Venezuela.

A JOURNEY TO HEALTH AND HOLINESS

In seminary formation, future priests and deacons delve into theology, philosophy, ethics and more, but not the healthy eating and fitness principles that will sustain them physically, emotionally and spiritually in their ministry. That's where Susan Torborg comes in.

Torborg, 47, has brought her successful R3 weight loss program to the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, meeting with more than 30 seminarians at The Saint Paul Seminary on Saturdays to set goals focused on losing fat, overcoming sugar addictions and developing lifelong healthy habits. Her program, which helps nearly 19,000 clients through social media in the United States, Canada and as far as Australia, is based on her 25 years of experience in personal training and weight loss techniques.



Fr. John Klockeman and Susan Torborg discuss a wellness plan.

Early in her career, Torborg dreamed of using her exercise science degree from Arizona State University to become the next Jane Fonda or Denise Austin, but she found her niche in large health clubs and corporate fitness programs. Later living in Fairfield, Pennsylvania, just 2 miles from Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, she planned to combine her passion for wellness and her Catholic faith by implementing her program at the seminary.

"Wherever I lived, I would always help our parish priest lose weight and get really healthy," said Torborg, a wellness coach and weight loss specialist who is also a lay Carmelite. "If they came over for dinner, I would cook them healthy meals — chicken and salads — and teach them [how to eat healthier]. The last priest lost 90 pounds."

When her husband was offered a job in his home state of Minnesota, they relocated to Shakopee in August 2017 with their five children and joined the parish of Sts. Joachim and Anne. Weeks later, Torborg connected with Bishop Andrew Cozzens at a fundraiser, and she emerged as "a natural fit" for one of the needs identified in the 2016-2017 clergy support initiative and through the seminary's Institute for Ongoing Clergy Formation — to help priests, deacons and seminarians nurture their physical health.

"Because we are composite body and soul, in order to serve as the Lord wants us to serve, we have to seek to be healthy, so we can be who Jesus wants us to be and carry out our mission," Bishop Cozzens said.

After meeting with Bishop Cozzens and later touring the seminary, Torborg planned a Saturday workshop in February and met individually with seminarians and clergy to share details about her program.

Through R3, Torborg's trademarked weight loss plan, participants set attainable goals and journey through three two-week stages — reset, reintroduce and real life — aimed at switching from fat storage to fat burning, learning portion

control and choosing foods for increased energy. There's no counting calories, weighing foods or purchasing expensive meal replacements. Instead, the program teaches healthy habits that can be applied to real life, including in religious ministry where heavy comfort foods and treats are often available in the parish office or rectory.

"R3 teaches freedom and healing. It teaches healing of sugar and carb addictions, healing of your body. When your body is nourished properly, you have more energy," Torborg explained.

Torborg walks with the seminarians through the process, meeting initially every few weeks and then monthly to check their progress and provide encouragement. She attends Mass with the participants regularly and prays for them daily as part of her vocation as a Carmelite.

Torborg feels an overwhelming sense of joy seeing her participants succeed, noting how priests, deacons and seminarians often thrive because of their high level of discipline and structure. She hopes to use her format as a template for other seminaries, dioceses and parishes to ensure that spiritual leaders can live out their vocation to the fullest.

"I think this [program] is filling a void," Torborg said. "God wants priests to be healthy. We're building a healthy, strong army of priests, and we need that in the world."

"Weight loss program guides clergy on fueling their ministry with diet and exercise" has been adapted with permission from a story by Jessica Weinberger that appeared in a June edition of *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The full version can be read at thecatholicspirit.com.



Susan Torborg works with and prays for the seminarians as they work on healthy, holy lifestyles.

In April, **Deacon Joseph Michalak**, director of the Institute for Diaconate Formation, preached a retreat for wives of deacons for the Diocese of Austin, Texas, and taught a weekend course, “The Integration of Marriage and Holy Orders and Celibacy,” for deacon candidates and wives for the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In addition, Deacon Michalak and Fr. Tom Margevicius taught an Immersion Week, “Preaching the Mystery of Faith (Homiletics),” for deacon candidates for the Diocese of Winona, Minn. At the end of June, he led a five-day study retreat with deacon candidates and formators for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis at Abbey of the Hills in South Dakota.



Deacon Joseph Michalak

In July, Deacon Michalak presented the following: “The Deacon and the New Evangelization in the 21st Century” for the 50th Anniversary Diaconate Congress in New Orleans, and “Preaching the Mystery of Faith” for deacon candidates in Austin, Texas. In August, he preached the pre-ordination retreat for the first men to be ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Down and Connor (Belfast), Northern Ireland, and participated in the closing Mass with Pope Francis for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin.

Rev. Kevin Zilverberg, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture, is the author of a book chapter titled “Old Latin Daniel in Antiphons and the Benedicite of the Earliest Manuscripts of the Roman Mass and Office,” which was published in the conference volume *Resourcing the Prayers of the Roman Liturgy: Patristic Sources* (pp. 34-47). On July 30 he presented the paper “The Interlinear Latin Translation of Greek Daniel in the Complutensian Polyglot Bible” at the Congress of the International Association for Neo-Latin Studies, held at the University of Castile-La Mancha, Albacete, Spain. He also presented a paper titled “Cultic Vocabulary in Vetus Latina Daniel” at the International Colloquium on Late and Vulgar Latin, on Sept. 6 at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Deborah Savage, clinical faculty and director of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and Religious Education programs, had a chapter published in July entitled “Rethinking Humanae Vitae,” in *Why Humanae Vitae Is*



Dr. Deborah Savage

Still Right, edited by Janet E. Smith (San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2018). The book marks the 50th anniversary of the encyclical. A shorter version of the essay was published in the October issues of *First Things* as “Reflections of the Revolution: A Sexual Ethic that Works for Women.” In addition, Dr. Savage co-authored an article with Dr. Janet Smith entitled “No, the Catholic Church’s Teaching is not to Blame for Its Sex Scandal” posted on thefederalist.com on September 5, 2018. On October 24, Dr. Savage received the Catholic Defender of the Year award from the Catholic Defense League of Minnesota.

Dr. William Stevenson, associate professor of dogmatic theology, presented a talk in September entitled, “Akhlaq and Sa’adah” (“On Virtue and Happiness”) at the Imam Husain Islamic Center, in Brooklyn Center, Minn., on the 5th night of Muharram.

Dr. Christian D. Washburn, Professor of Dogmatic Theology, attended the Tenth Plenary Meeting of the Lutheran – Roman Catholic Commission on Unity at Klingenthal Castle, Strasbourg, France, July 18 – 24, 2018.

IRELAND LIBRARY OFFERS NEW DATABASE FREE TO ALUMNI

The Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library offers The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and University of St. Thomas alumni free access to two theological databases: the ATLASerials Database for Alum and the ATLA Catholic Periodical and Literature Index for Alum Database. These databases have now merged into one new database: ATLASerials for ALUM.

ATLASerials for ALUM is an ecumenical database that provides access to key articles, book reviews, and essays found in more than 450 theological journals representing the varied fields within the discipline of religious studies. It includes content from over 30 countries in 16 languages.

Current users must request the most recent web address in order to access the new database. New users will need to request access to this service.

Please contact Library Director, Curt LeMay, for more information: nclemay@stthomas.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

M. James Toner, class of 1965
Fr. Frank Perkovich, class of 1954

CHARITABLE GIVING IN CHANGING TIMES

Since the crisis unfolded within the hierarchy of the Church, I have been asked several times, “How do you think this will affect giving to the Church?”

Honestly, I do not know. However, I appreciate and understand where the question is coming from. When leadership fails, people lose confidence in an institution. This raises the question: How does one conduct their charitable giving in times of crisis?



The answer I came up with is this: The same as in good times. In this area, the Gospel is clear on two timeless principles.

First, every disciple is called to a life of generosity. For a great example of this, see the feature on Monsignor William Baumgaertner (page 19). All that we have comes from above, and while on earth we are called to be charitable distributors of the treasure He gives us, at all times.

Second, we are called to be wise stewards of the gifts God gives. This means prudently allocating our resources in order to make a worthy return to the Lord. The person who buried their treasure out of fear did not come to a good end (Matthew 25: 14-30). What does this mean practically? I do not think it means cutting out charitable giving all together. The fault of others does not negate our duty to generosity. Many organizations throughout the Church are doing real and important work. Withholding support from these entities would only make matters worse.

I do think it means exercising prudential judgement when giving. When one invests in a vehicle, they kick the tires, look under the hood, and take it for a test drive. The same can be said for charitable giving. Check out the organization. Is it faithful to its mission? Does it possess sound leadership? Does its governing body exercise strong fiduciary oversight? Is it making an impact in the lives of those it serves?

Do I understand hesitation in supporting the Catholic Church, even the seminary? Absolutely I do. Do I still think the seminary is a wise and prudent investment? Absolutely I do. In fact, our work is more important than ever. I believe we are part of the solution going forward. We have a critical and enduring mission dating back to Christ himself. We have outstanding leadership. We have a talented and engaged Board of Trustees. We have an excellent, faith-filled faculty and staff.

Most importantly, we have more than 900 lay and ordained men and women authentically and generously answering the call of Christ to serve Him and His people with fidelity, humility and joy. They depend upon and are grateful for the generous support of our friends and benefactors.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Planned GIVING

A GIFT THAT KEEPS GIVING

by Christina Capeocchi

Monsignor William Baumgaertner gave his all to The Saint Paul Seminary. One year after his death, his impact endures – a legacy of both time and treasure.

Monsignor Baumgaertner was raised by German immigrants on the East Side of St. Paul – a humble upbringing centered on the Catholic Church. Early on, he demonstrated an unusually keen intellect, and he excelled at St. Thomas Military Academy, St. Thomas College and The Saint Paul Seminary. He applied his brilliant mind to the priesthood, earning a doctorate in philosophy shortly after his 1946 ordination.

He served on the staff of The Saint Paul Seminary for decades: as a philosophy professor from 1949-1968, as academic dean from 1964-1968 and as rector from 1968-1980. He guided the seminary into a bright future, demonstrating astute leadership.

Monsignor Baumgaertner never abandoned his humble roots. He continued to live simply, with few costs and an unwavering appreciation for the rich blessings to be found in family, faith and nature.

“He was a consummate gentleman, generous and kind,” said Janet Gould, executive assistant to the rector.

He was also a rugged outdoorsman who lived with zest, teaching his nephews how to ski and boasting about his ability to swim in the coldest water, including Lake Superior.

Even in his 90s, as Monsignor Baumgaertner’s mind failed, his heart remained wired for priesthood. He would reach out to others at Cerenity Marian Center, determined to offer a smile and healing touch.

After giving so much time and talent to The Saint Paul Seminary, Monsignor Baumgaertner demonstrated his profound generosity again at the end of his life, bestowing it with an estate gift that exceeded \$1 million.

“Pretty good for a poor old priest,” quipped his nephew Jim Baumgaertner.

The money will go toward an endowment in his name that will keep costs down for seminarians in formation. Monsignor Baumgaertner’s fidelity to his vocation makes an enduring legacy, paving the path for the next generation of priests, said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Tom Ryan. “He was able to make an extraordinary gift because he always lived his priesthood.”





The Saint Paul Seminary

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