

ORACLE



SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | SUMMER 2019



MEET THE |
CLASS OF 2019 |



Dear Friends,

It's ordination season! What a great time of year at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Recently I was headed out of the seminary, suitcase in tow, to begin an ordination "road trip," when a member of our maintenance staff, who is not Catholic, stopped to chat. I told him of my travels, and then he asked, "Father, is an ordination kind of like a wedding?" "Why, yes it is!" I replied. I then explained how, just as a husband and wife make a life-long commitment to each other on their wedding day, a man on his ordination day is configured to Christ in order to serve His bride, the Church.

In these pages you will find stories about our seminarians who were ordained this spring either to the transitional diaconate or to the priesthood. A few more will be ordained in the coming months. We are proud of each and every one of them.

Though the academic year has ended, the summer months are still busy at the seminary. Our men continue their formation in various ways: training in hospital ministry, going deeper in spiritual formation at the Institute for Priestly Formation, learning Spanish in Mexico, or participating in parish internships. This summer also marks the inaugural cohort of 20 educators who are participating in the Institute for Catholic School Leadership.

Finally, I am excited to announce that we are creating a five-year strategic plan, which will build upon the good work of the previous strategic plan and subsequent re-branding effort. In preparation for this initiative, seminary administrators, faculty, and board members offered their feedback to key questions. Sixteen leaders, from within the seminary and broader community, gathered in June to draft a plan. It will be revised over the summer and presented to the seminary's Board of Trustees for approval this fall. Please keep us in your prayers as we work diligently and faithfully to fulfill our mission of forming joyful priests and lay leaders.

Know that I am grateful for your ongoing support and be assured of my prayers and best wishes this summer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph C. Taphorn

Reverend Joseph C. Taphorn, JCL
Rector and Vice President

REIMAGINING FORMATION

When the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy released a document in 2016 that reimagined formation, our faculty began the discussion of what it meant for The Saint Paul Seminary. Three years later, Father Joseph Taphorn, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, and members of the faculty attended a three-day symposium centered on the *Ratio Fundamentalis*, The Gift of the Priestly Vocation.

Seminary faculty from around the United States gathered at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida, in March to learn more about the document referred to as simply the Ratio. Leading the discussion was Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, secretary for seminaries at the Congregation for Clergy.

According to Vice Rector Father Scott Carl, it was important to have lay and ordained faculty attend the conference, "to manifest their complementary role in the formation of priests and to coordinate our response to the document's vision."

A component of the Ratio already being implemented at The Saint Paul Seminary is the integration of the dimensions of formation. Seminaries are asked to consider human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral as elements that harmonize rather than act as stand-alone pillars.

"I appreciate the importance of this simple word change, from pillars to dimensions, as we prepare men for priestly ministry," said Dr. William Stevenson, associate professor of Dogmatic Theology. "No one lives out just one part of formation. Each dimension informs and perfects the others to create an ordered whole."

Another component of the Ratio is the addition of a preparatory year for seminarians. This would require that a man participates in an additional year of formation before he begins Pre-Theology, or sometime prior to the Theology curriculum, allowing him to prepare for full participation in seminary life.

Dr. Stevenson finds this to be the most exciting and challenging part of the proposed norms. "Seminarians will have an opportunity to become fully disposed to receive what the seminary has to offer. How do I, as a professor, contribute to this important time in his formation?"

Both Father Carl and Dr. Stevenson noted that, thanks to the early implementation of the Ratio by Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, rector emeritus, and the continued focus by Father Joseph Taphorn, The Saint Paul Seminary is poised to lead our seminarians so they are ready to respond to the needs of a modern Church.



Left to right: Father John Gallas, Dr. John Froula, Father John Floeder, Dr. Kenneth Snyder, Dr. William Stevenson, Archbishop Jorge Carlos Patrón Wong, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Father Tom Margevičius, and Father Scott Carl.



SPS THEATRE PERFORMS “JOSEPH”

For three nights in April, SPS Theatre presented Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.” With a musical score that moves between “go-go,” Country Western, rock and roll, and dreamy ballads, Deacon Eric Seitz and his cast of 18 seminarians brought to life the account of Jacob’s sons in the book of Genesis.

While Deacon Eric has performed in a variety of musicals, this was his first time directing. It turns out the actor-turned-director chose the perfect show for the spring production.

“This is a great show for a group of guys,” he said, “and it is wildly popular. It fit our circumstances well.”

Theology III seminarian John Hayes played the part of Joseph, the second youngest of 12 who was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. Even with an extensive musical background, John said of his theater debut, “I had no idea the work cut out for me!” But he enjoyed the creative outlet and the opportunity to bond with his seminary brothers.

John also appreciated the opportunity for seminarians to share their talents and joy with people outside of the seminary community. “It is important that they see we are serious about our vocations and we are well rounded.”

“It was edifying to watch our seminarians collaborate and express their fraternity in a fun and creative way,” said Father Taphorn. “And, it’s inspiring for the faithful to see future priests working well together.”

Deacon Eric’s favorite compliment received after the final curtain was from a member of the audience who felt a real sense of brotherhood on the stage. He looks forward to returning from his home diocese of Fargo next spring to see the 2020 production.

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE CHANGES AND GROWS

The Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute marked another remarkable year of ongoing faith formation for Catholic adults with two closing Masses and graduation ceremonies.

On May 7, nearly 200 students celebrated the completion of the two-year Pillars Program in St. Mary's Chapel, and on May 16, more than 125 students celebrated at Saint Andrew Catholic Church in Elk River.

The classes of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will resume their second year of study in the fall with approximately 160 students in The Saint Paul Seminary class and more than 50 students in the Des Moines class. The Class of St. Catherine of Siena will begin the two-year program entitled "Pillars: A Journey through the Catechism" in September.

In addition, more than 700 students recently completed the Catechetical Institute's first School of Discipleship. A new eight-week session will begin this fall and is open to all.

The Catechetical Institute's School of Prayer, a one-year formation program for graduates of the Catechetical Institute's Pillars Program, will begin in September at The Saint Paul Seminary.

After serving two years as Director of the Catechetical Institute, Father John Klockeman will begin a new assignment as pastor of the Church of St. Gerard Majella in Brooklyn Park beginning July 1 (see Professional Notes on page 16).

Father Taphorn is pleased to announce that Kelly Wahlquist will succeed Fr. Klockeman in this role. "Kelly has been an integral part of the institute since its beginning in 2008," he said. "Her passion for this work, combined with 11 years of experience, positions the Catechetical Institute for continued growth and success."



For more information about the Catechetical Institute's programs, visit: semssp.org/ci.

ORDINATION TO THE **TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE**

Ordination season began on May 11 when six men were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate at The Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Bernard Hebda and Bishop Andrew Cozzens. Four men were ordained for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and two for Pro Ecclesia Sancta (Peru). Seven of their brother seminarians were ordained for the dioceses of Sioux Falls, Fargo, New Ulm and Saint Cloud later in May and in early June.

Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate is an important step toward priestly ordination. This is when a seminarian makes a lifelong commitment to serve the Church and to a life of celibacy.

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

Austin Barnes
Nathan Hastings
Paul Hedman
Vinh-Thinh Nguyen (Tim) Tran

PRO ECCLESIA SANCTA

Brother Alfredo Yamato Icochea Oshima
Brother César Alvixtur Valencia Martinez

SIOUX FALLS

Michael Kapperman

FARGO

Riley Durkin

NEW ULM

John Hayes
Shawn Polman

SAINT CLOUD

Patrick Hoeft
Brady Keller
Thomas Skaja



Left to right: Brother Alfredo Yamato Icochea Oshima, Deacon Austin Barnes, Deacon Paul Hedman, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Deacon Nathan Hastings, Father Joseph Taphorn, Brother César Alvixtur Valencia Martinez, and Deacon Vinh-Thinh Nguyen (Tim) Tran.



JOURNEY TO THE PRIESTHOOD

It is a privilege to introduce The Saint Paul Seminary's Class of 2019. They will serve dioceses throughout the Midwest and the Archdiocese of Anchorage.

Father Joseph Taphorn will always remember the Class of 2019, the first to be ordained since his installation as Rector of The Saint Paul Seminary. "I am grateful for their leadership and for their humble desire to serve as priests in their home dioceses," he said.

Two members of the class, Fathers Timothy Cone and Robert Blood, share their personal stories here. Please keep each member of the Class of 2019 in your prayers as they begin their priestly ministry.

"I can't wait!" said then Deacon Timothy Cone as we sat down just two weeks before his ordination for the Diocese of Sioux Falls. He was relaxed, soaking in the last moments at The Saint Paul Seminary where he has spent the past six years of his life.

"It's surreal to see that everything in my life has led to this day."

Before entering seminary, Father Cone was an accomplished musician. He played the violin since he was eight years old and participated in top choral and orchestra groups in South Dakota. After high school, he lived a typical college life. He stopped attending Mass, and the priesthood was one of the last things on his mind.

Everything changed when three members of his family died unexpectedly in a short period of time. "I didn't realize how unfulfilled I was until everything started falling apart."

Cone's need for God became paramount, and he rekindled his relationship with Him. His friends even started asking, "Have you ever thought of the priesthood?"

He completed his degree in music education from the University of South Dakota and took a job as a music director in the southeastern part of his home state. "I thought this was the perfect job for me, but it still wasn't enough."

While assisting with a high school visit to The Saint Paul Seminary, Father Cone knelt down to pray in St. Mary's Chapel. He recalls God nudging him, "What's preventing you from giving your total self?"

Finally acknowledging that music was his last emotional attachment, Father Cone joined the seminary the following year. After six years of formation, he has now returned to his home diocese to begin his priestly ministry.

"God remained faithful to me through everything. Conversion can be a slow process, a slow tugging at the heart, which is actually what it was for me."

For Father Robert "Bobby" Blood from the Diocese of Rockford, the journey to the priesthood started before his life even began. His parents were informed they would not be able to conceive and adopted two children. "I showed up two years later, by the grace of God," Father Bobby said with a winning smile.

At a young age, Father Bobby was an altar server and was impressed by his pastor who had a particular reverence and seriousness about the Mass. This is when he first encountered God.

"In seventh grade, I knelt down in front of the altar, and when the priest raised the host, I believed that it was truly Jesus. At the same time, I heard the Lord speak the words 'Be my priest.'"

Following Mass, Bobby ran to his Mother in excitement saying, "I think I'm supposed to become a priest!" To which she calmly responded, "I know." To this day, his mom carries a prayer card of St. Gerald, the patron saint of infertility, in gratitude for the life of her son, Father Bobby.



Father Joseph Taphorn and Father Robert "Bobby" Blood, Diocese of Rockford



The excitement to announce the joy of the Gospel is evident in Fathers Cone and Blood and their newly ordained brothers.

"I just want to tell people about our Lord," Father Cone said. "Nothing gets me more excited about telling people how awesome He is and how much He has done for me. All it takes is one little crack, one chink in the armor, and our Lord has won."

Father Timothy Cone, Diocese of Sioux Falls

MEET THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY CLASS OF 2019



TIMOTHY CONE

Age: 32

Hometown: Rapid City, SD

Home Parishes: St. Therese (Rapid City) and Sacred Heart (Yankton)

Parents: Tom and Susan Cone

Siblings: 1 brother and 3 sisters

Education: Music Education, University of South Dakota

THOMAS RAUSCH

Age: 26

Hometown: Big Stone City, SD

Home Parish: St. Charles Catholic Church, Big Stone City

Parents: Mike and Lonie Rausch

Siblings: 2 brothers and 2 sisters

Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas



MARK BOTZET

Age: 38

Hometown: Carlos, MN

Home Parish: St. Nicholas Church, Belle River

Parents: Gary and Diane Botzet

Siblings: 1 brother

Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas

GREGORY SAUER

Age: 27

Hometown: Long Prairie, MN

Home Parish: St. Mary of Mt. Carmel, Long Prairie

Parents: Jeffrey and Debbie Sauer

Siblings: 7 sisters and 1 brother

Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas



MICHAEL AREY

Age: 35

Hometown: Moorhead, MN

Home Parish: St. Francis de Sales Church, Moorhead

Parents: Stefan and Beverly Arey

Education: Biological Sciences, North Dakota State University



ZANE PEKRON

Age: 26

Hometown: Philip, SD

Home Parish: St. Mary's Church, Milesville

Parents: Steve and Nina Pekron

Siblings: 2 sisters

Education: Philosophy, St. Mary's University, Winona, MN



KEVIN KLUMP

Age: 26

Hometown: Anchorage, Alaska

Home Parish: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Anchorage

Parents: Dr. Phillip and Maureen Klump

Siblings: 3 brothers and 2 sisters

Education: Philosophy, University of St. Thomas

JOSEPH GIFFORD

Age: 27
Hometown: Ham Lake, MN
Home Parish: Church of Saint Paul, Ham Lake
Parents: Douglas and Elaine Gifford
Siblings: 3 brothers
Education: Music, Theology and Philosophy, Benedictine College



LOUIS FLOEDER

Age: 26
Hometown: Shoreview, MN
Home Parish: St. Louis King of France, St. Paul
Parents: Steve and Chany Floeder
Siblings: 6 brothers and 3 sisters
Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas

JOSEPH CONNELLY

Age: 34
Hometown: Savage, MN
Home Parish: Cathedral of St. Paul, St. Paul
Parents: Frank and Mary Connelly
Siblings: 7 brothers and 2 sisters
Education: Philosophy, University of St. Thomas



ANDREW ZIPP

Age: 26
Hometown: St. Michael, MN
Home Parish: St. Michael Catholic Church
Parents: Scott and Lisa Zipp
Siblings: 3 brothers and 3 sisters
Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of St. Thomas

ERIC SEITZ

Age: 26
Hometown: Fargo, ND
Home Parish: Sts. Anne and Joachim, Fargo
Parents: Benedict and Jennine Sietz
Siblings: 3 brothers and 1 sister
Education: Philosophy, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit, MI

ROBERT BLOOD

Age: 25

Hometown: Loves Park, IL

Home Parish: St. Bridget Catholic Church, Loves Park, IL

Parents: Robert and Gerianne Blood

Siblings: 1 brother and 1 sister

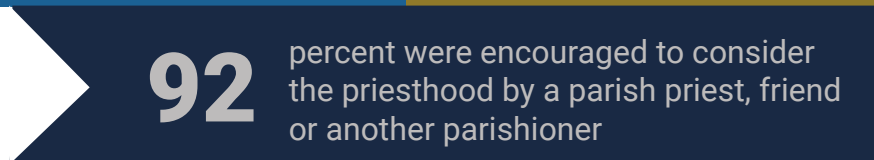
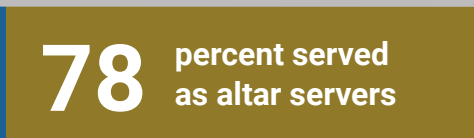
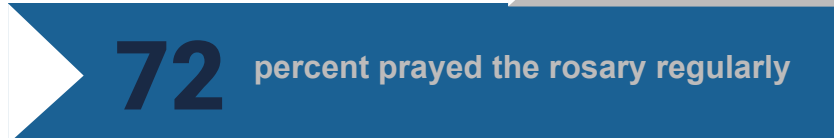
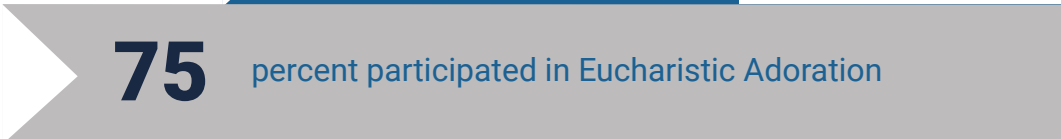
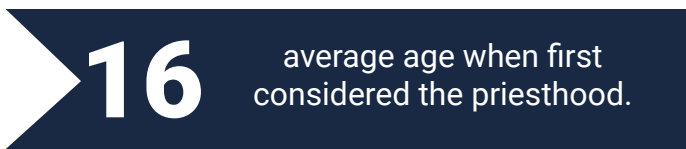
Education: Philosophy, St. Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward, NE



LAWRENCE OPARAJI

will be ordained for the Diocese of Madison.

Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood in the U.S. 2019



SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF GRADUATE STUDENTS

Eight School of Divinity students shared their hard work with faculty, staff and fellow students on May 9 at the annual Graduate Student Showcase. These men and women, earning their Master of Arts degrees in Theology, Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry, highlighted research and pastoral skills that culminated in their final theses or integrative projects.

With titles ranging from the everyday – “Catholic Answers to the Inquiring Middle School Mind” – to the theological – “Pope Benedict XVI on Divine Eros” – the presenters shared their thoughtful and engaging approach to living out their baptismal call enhanced by theological scholarship.

Interim Academic Dean Kenneth Snyder was edified by the presentations, noting how the students “exhibit a tremendous love of learning and a desire to serve the Church and our Lord.”

Six lay graduate students received their diplomas at the University of St. Thomas Commencement Ceremony on May 25. Fourteen seminarians earned their Master of Divinity degrees as well.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019!

Christian Wolfe, MAPM '19





SPRING BREAK **STREET MINISTRY**

by Deacon Michael Kapperman

Over spring break, seminarian Mitchell McLaughlin and I loaded up the car and drove to Denver to serve the homeless through a program called Christ in the City. We were interested in this challenge because a seminarian from our home Diocese of Sioux Falls once served as a street missionary with this organization. He fell in love with its simple mission of befriending the homeless. Mitch and I wanted to experience the same. We wanted to encounter Christ in the poor.

We attended talks on homelessness, learned how to meet Christ in the midst of suffering, and participated in street ministry in the poor areas of Denver. There was no specific formula; rather, we were given the simple instruction to be present to those in front of us.

I learned what it means to be truly human through those that society would say “have it together” (the missionaries) and in those “who do not” (the poor). I noticed that no matter which group I talked to, I encountered people filled with the same desire for life, love, companionship, justice, beauty, and goodness. Each person has a past, with a particular history, and dreams for the future.

Before attending this mission, becoming a true friend to a person on the street seemed out of reach. How could I, a seminarian who grew up in a middle-class farming family, befriend a homeless person? Yet, I found that by encountering a person’s humanity, friendship came easily.

To be a friend is to have a shared mission, union and identity. The union between the poor and the missionaries opened my eyes to see all we have in common. Our humanity is given to each of us by God. It isn’t something we create; it is something we receive. My eyes were opened to see all people, even those whom I have never met.

THOMPSON APPOINTED ACADEMIC DEAN

Upon the recommendation of Father Joseph Taphorn, and with the approval of Archbishop Bernard Hebda, University of St. Thomas President Dr. Julie Sullivan has appointed Dr. Christopher Thompson as Dean of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. Dr. Thompson begins his second term on July 1.

Dr. Thompson joined the academic faculty in 2006 as an Associate Professor of Moral Theology and served as Dean from 2006-2016. In 2018, Dr. Thompson was promoted to the rank of Professor.

For the past three years, Dr. Thompson has lectured and published extensively on the topics of Catholic rural life, integral ecology and Green Thomism, including the publication of *The Joyful Mystery: Field Notes Toward a Green Thomism*. In addition, he founded and directed the Institute for Theological Research and was Co-Director of the Murphy Institute, a joint venture of the university's Center for Catholic Studies and School of Law. He will step down from these roles in order to focus on his new position.

"After a national search, it became increasingly clear that the most qualified candidate was already here within our own faculty," said Father Taphorn. "Dr. Thompson has a keen and creative theological mind, he is committed to this institution, and he has a heart for lay and priestly formation. I am thrilled that he is willing to serve again in this role."

Dr. Kenneth Snyder, interim dean since 2016, has been appointed Associate Dean beginning July 1. During his tenure, Dr. Snyder played a significant role in promoting faculty and establishing the Institute for Catholic School Leadership.

"I am grateful to Dr. Snyder for his administrative service during a time of significant transition and growth," Father Taphorn said. "His commitment to strong formation and preparation of the laity has further complemented and benefited our seminarians. I am excited that he will continue to serve our faculty, seminarians, lay students and staff as an academic and administrative leader."



PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Father Scott Carl, vice rector and associate professor of Sacred Scripture, will serve as a consultant for the USCCB Subcommittee on the Translation of Scripture Text. The committee is currently revising the NABRE Old Testament and New Testament and a Latin-American Spanish translation of the Bible for use in the United States.

In addition, Father Carl has been formally named Director of Human Formation, a position he has fulfilled since Bishop Juan-Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, was assigned to the Diocese of Hartford in 2018.

After serving The Saint Paul Seminary since 2009 as Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation and Director of the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute, Father John Klockeman will pastor the Church of St. Gerard Majella in Brooklyn Park beginning July 1.



Father Jon Vander Ploeg will replace Father Klockeman as Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation, and Kelly Wahlquist will serve as Director of the Catechetical Institute beginning July 1.

Father Allen Kuss, director of Pastoral Formation since 2011, has been named pastor of the Church of St. Patrick of Edina. Father Michael Skluzacek, pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in New Brighton since 2006, will serve as Director of Pastoral Formation.



Library Director N. Curtis Le May was the master of ceremonies for the Catholic Library Association's Spring Conference in April.

Sister Katarina Schuth, OSF, professor emerita, contributed chapters to two books: "Who Pastors: The Priest, the Context, and the Ministry," published in *The Future of Catholicism in America*, edited by Patricia O'Connell Killen and Mark Silk, Columbia University Press, NY, 2019, and "Religious Priesthood: Formation in the Present, Formation for the Future," published in *Priesthood in the Religious Life: Searching for New Ways Forward*, edited by Stephen Bevans, SVD, and Robin Ryan, CP, Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN, 2018.

On April 8, **Dr. William Stevenson**, associate professor of Dogmatic Theology at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, presented the spring Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library Lecture. Entitled “Listening Up: Music and Cosmos in Plato’s Timaeus,” Dr. Stevenson examined what Plato teaches about the relationship between cosmology and the way we think about our souls.

Dr. Christopher Thompson, professor of Moral Theology, in collaboration with Sarah Spangenberg (MAT ’19), received a grant from the University of St. Thomas’ Office of Sustainability Initiatives, to produce pedagogical resources for teaching sustainability and integral ecology in seminary and lay formation settings. The materials will also be available for undergraduate instruction.

Dr. Christian D. Washburn, professor of Dogmatic Theology, published “The New Natural Lawyers: Contraception, Capital Punishment, and the Infallibility of the Ordinary Magisterium” in *LOGOS: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture* 22 (2019), 19-50. He also attended the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue, Round XII: “Ministries of Teaching: Sources, Shapes, and Essential Contents,” at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore in March. Recently, Dr. Washburn published a book review of *A Brief, Liberal, Catholic Defense of Abortion*, by Daniel A. Dombrowski and Robert Deltete in *Linacre Quarterly* (2019): 145-147.

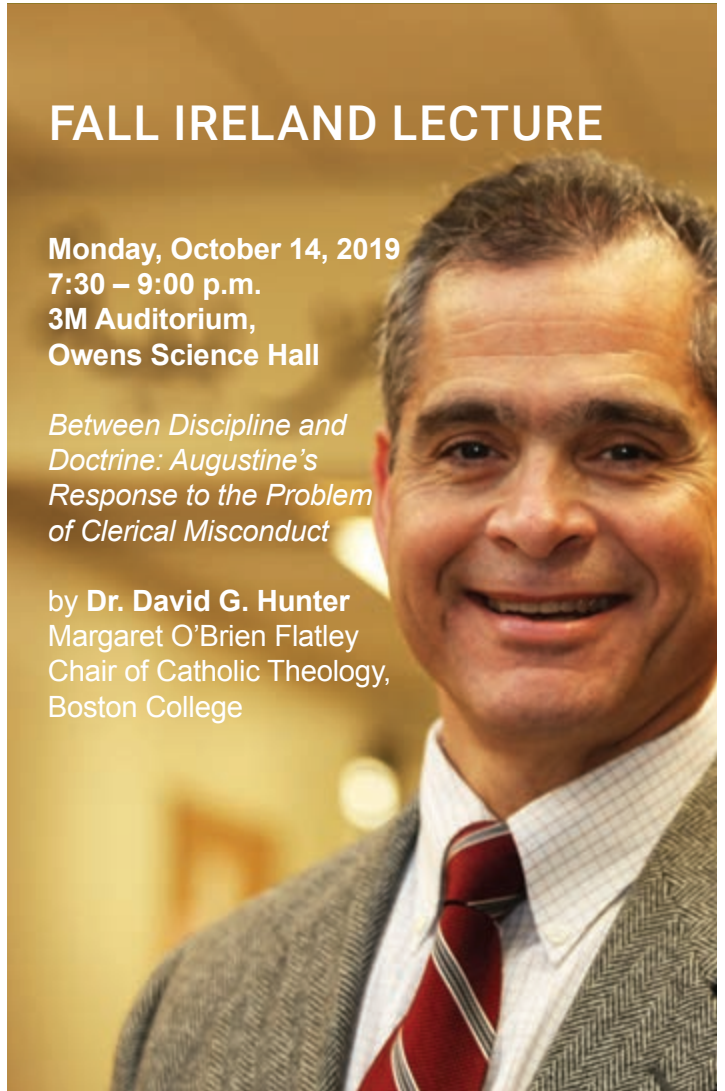
Rev. Kevin Zilverberg, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture, published his priestly vocation story in Latin, under the title “*De vocatione mea ad sacerdotium.*” It appeared in *Vox Latina*, volume 55 (2019), pages 128-133. Father Zilverberg has also been named Director of the Msgr. Quinn Institute for Biblical Studies. Father Scott Carl has directed the institute since 2008. Plans are underway for an upcoming Quinn Institute conference that will be held at the seminary in June 2020.

FALL IRELAND LECTURE

Monday, October 14, 2019
7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
3M Auditorium,
Owens Science Hall

*Between Discipline and
Doctrine: Augustine’s
Response to the Problem
of Clerical Misconduct*

by **Dr. David G. Hunter**
Margaret O’Brien Flatley
Chair of Catholic Theology,
Boston College



IN MEMORIAM

Father Lawrence Hubbard, Class of 1968
Vincent P. O’Connor, Class of 1961
James E. O’Leary, Class of 1957
Daniel I. Moga, Class of 1957
Father Paul A. Schiska, Class of 1957

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

At a recent seminary event, Father Joseph Taphorn explained why he is honored to serve as our new rector: "I believe that one holy priest can change the world."

History affirms this statement as seen in the lives of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. John Paul II, and many others.

In May, I had the opportunity to learn about a more "ordinary" example of Father Taphorn's statement. I was on a pilgrimage in Ireland with some seminary board members during which we visited County Kilkenny, the birth place of Archbishop John Ireland, founder of The Saint Paul Seminary.

As we celebrated Mass and toured the family home tucked away in the Irish countryside, I was struck by the humble and seemingly insignificant setting. From here John Ireland came to America, became the first Archbishop of Saint Paul, and made a profound impact locally and nationally.

Archbishop Ireland orchestrated a successful rural colonization program, enabling more than 4,000 families to leave the urban slums in the East and start anew in rural Minnesota. He erected the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the Basilica of St. Mary. And, he founded religious and educational institutions, including The Saint Paul Seminary, the College of St. Thomas, Nazareth Hall and St. Thomas Military Academy.

Indeed, one holy priest can change the world.

As our transitional deacons were ordained to the priesthood this spring, Father Taphorn's quote and Archbishop Ireland's contributions came to mind, and I wondered how these newly ordained might change the world someday too.

The seminary provides the foundation so a priest can make an impact. Just like the founding gift to the seminary (see opposite page), we rely on the leadership, financial support and prayers of our friends and benefactors. That is why, as we celebrate Mass and pray, we remember with gratitude those who partner with us in forming holy priests. You are changing the world.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Ryan".

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

1852

The Irelands arrive in St. Paul.

1838

John Ireland is born in County Kilkenny, Ireland.

1861

John Ireland is ordained to the priesthood.

1874

Bishop Thomas Grace purchases 452 acres of the Finn Farm near the Mississippi River.

THE FOUNDING GIFT

While Archbishop John Ireland had the vision for a major seminary in the Upper Midwest, it would not have been possible without the financial gift of Methodist millionaire James J. Hill who was inspired by the holiness of his Catholic wife, Mary Mehegan Hill. The Hill's founding gift of \$500,000 enabled Archbishop Ireland to build The Saint Paul Seminary and establish its endowment.

When asked why he would make such a tremendous gift to build a Catholic seminary, he responded: "For nearly thirty years I have lived in a Roman Catholic household, and daily have had before me and around me the earnest devotion, watchful care, and Christian example of a Roman Catholic wife, of whom it may be said, 'Blessed are the pure of heart for they have seen God,' and on whose behalf tonight I desire to present and turn over to the illustrious Archbishop of this diocese the seminary and its endowment as provided in the deeds and articles of trust covering the same."

One hundred and twenty five years later, the inspiration for this gift still bears fruit. Like the impact of one holy priest on a person, a family, a parish or a diocese, the impact of one gift, no matter the size, makes an impact that lasts for generations. Like the impact of one holy priest on a person, a family, a parish or a diocese, the impact of one gift, and the example that inspires it, lasts for generations.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of University of St. Thomas Archives.

1885

Archbishop Ireland establishes St. Thomas Aquinas Preparatory Seminary.

1889
William Finn bequeaths remainder of his property to Archbishop Ireland.

1892

Groundbreaking begins on "The Hill Seminary."

1895

The Saint Paul Seminary is officially dedicated.



**SAINT PAUL SEMINARY
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY**

University of St. Thomas

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14TH ANNUAL RECTOR'S DINNER – OCTOBER 22, 2019



SAVE THE DATE
The 14th Annual Rector's Dinner
Tuesday, October 22, 2019

Woulfe Alumni Hall at the University of St. Thomas
6:00 p.m. Social, Dinner and Program

Please join us for this special event as The Saint Paul Seminary marks 125 years (1894-2019).



semssp.org