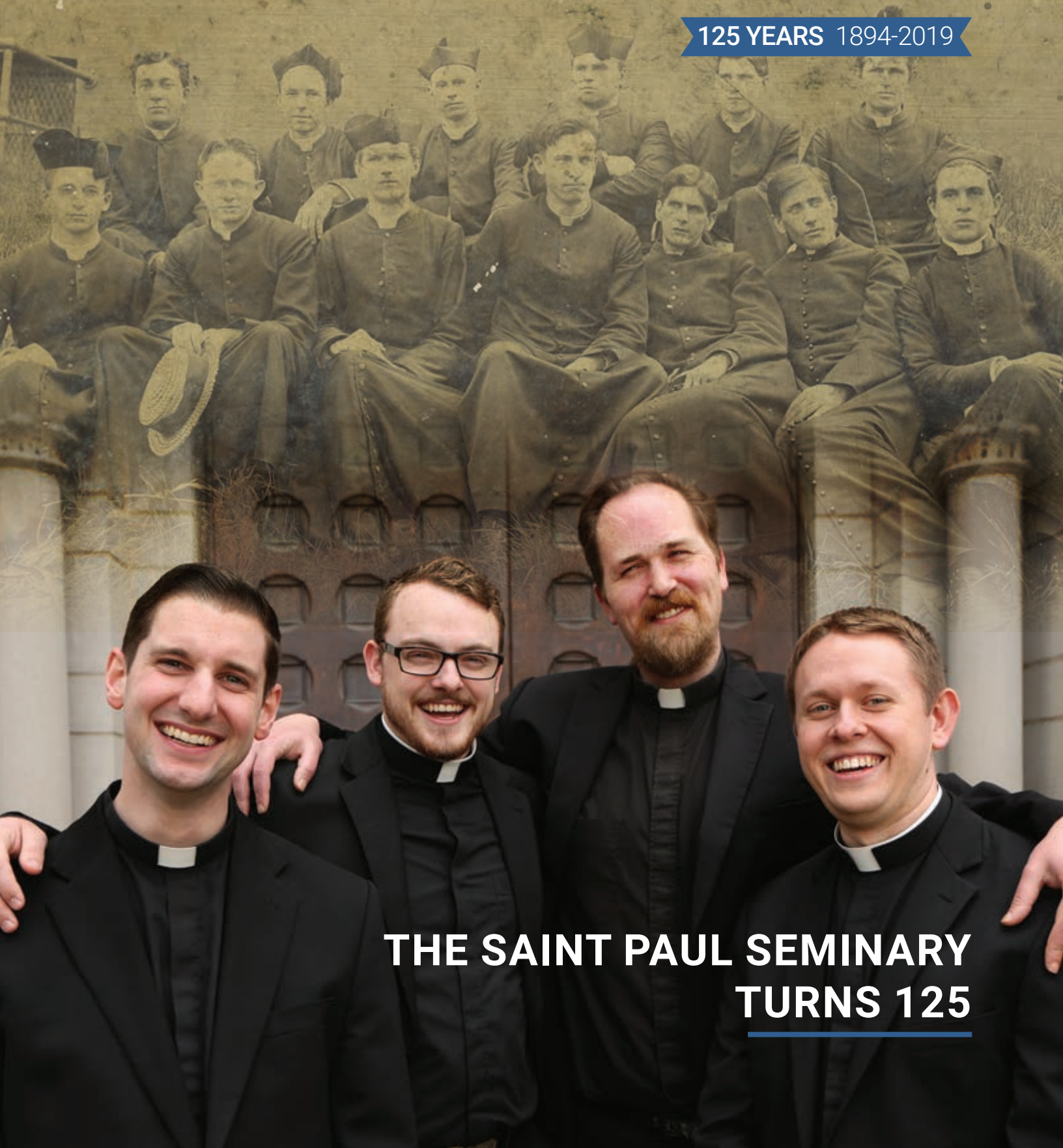


ORACLE

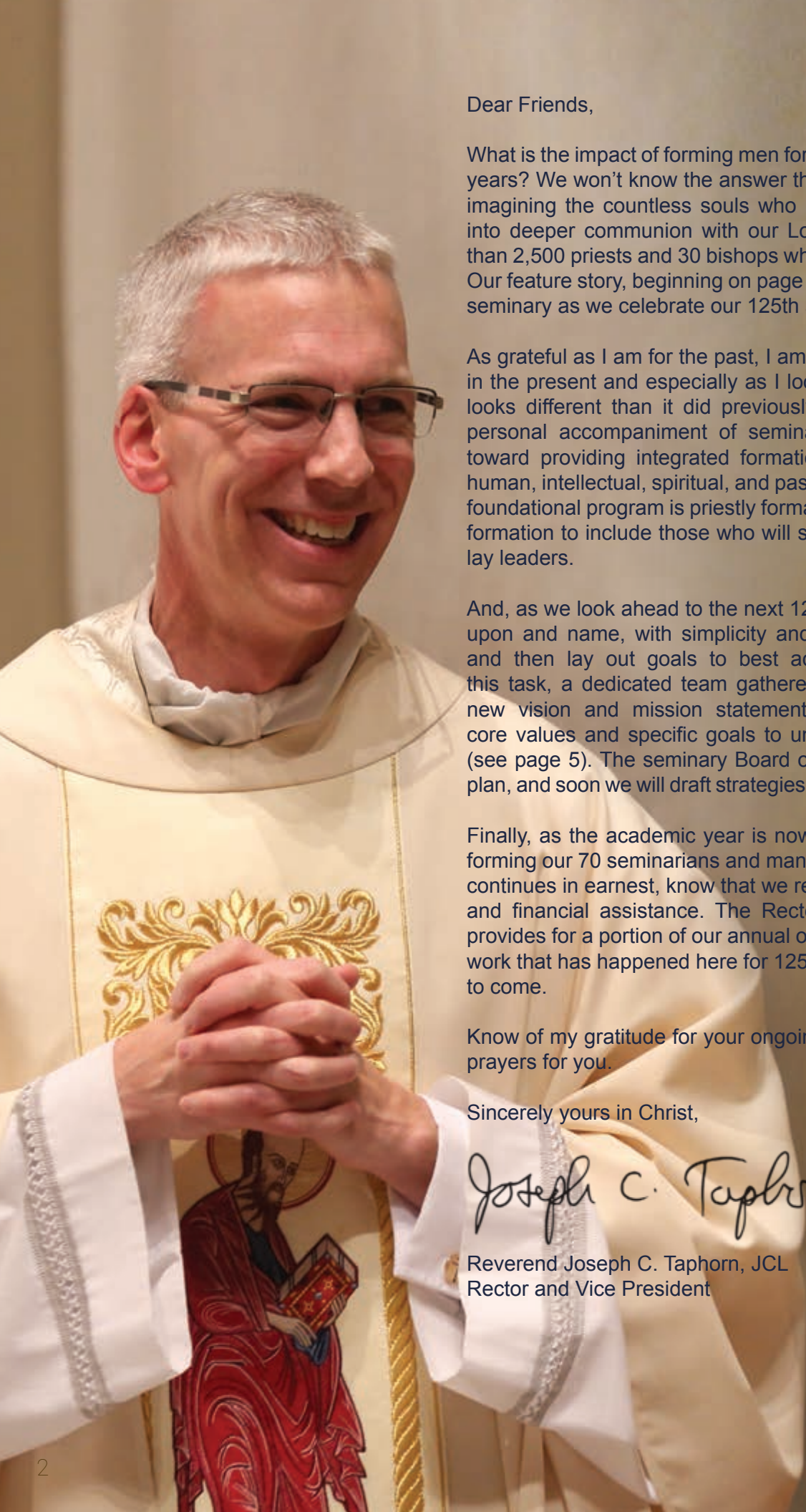


SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | FALL 2019

125 YEARS 1894-2019



**THE SAINT PAUL SEMINARY
TURNS 125**



Dear Friends,

What is the impact of forming men for the priesthood for more than 125 years? We won't know the answer this side of heaven, but I delight in imagining the countless souls who have been touched and brought into deeper communion with our Lord through the ministry of more than 2,500 priests and 30 bishops who make up our esteemed alumni. Our feature story, beginning on page 6, explores the vast impact of our seminary as we celebrate our 125th anniversary this year.

As grateful as I am for the past, I am excited about what is happening in the present and especially as I look to the future. Formation today looks different than it did previously, particularly as we emphasize personal accompaniment of seminarians, with an intentional view toward providing integrated formation across four key dimensions: human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral. And, while our principle and foundational program is priestly formation, we also have expanded our formation to include those who will serve as permanent deacons and lay leaders.

And, as we look ahead to the next 125 years, it is necessary to reflect upon and name, with simplicity and clarity, our vision and mission, and then lay out goals to best accomplish them. Responding to this task, a dedicated team gathered over the summer to formulate new vision and mission statements for the seminary, along with core values and specific goals to undertake in the years 2020-2025 (see page 5). The seminary Board of Trustees recently approved the plan, and soon we will draft strategies to implement this important effort.

Finally, as the academic year is now fully underway and the work of forming our 70 seminarians and many others enrolled in our programs continues in earnest, know that we rely on the support of your prayers and financial assistance. The Rector's Fund (see envelope insert) provides for a portion of our annual operating expenses, so vital to the work that has happened here for 125 years and will continue for years to come.

Know of my gratitude for your ongoing support and be assured of my prayers for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Joseph C. Taphorn

Reverend Joseph C. Taphorn, JCL
Rector and Vice President

THE SEMINARY REMEMBERS

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn (1933-2019)



On Sunday, September 29, the seminary community received the body of the Most Reverend Harry J. Flynn, archbishop emeritus of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, for an all-night vigil in St. Mary's Chapel. The man who presided over the seminary's Board of Trustees for 13 years (1995-2008) was given a fitting and prayerful goodbye from an institution he loved.

The chapel was open throughout the night. Priests, seminarians, family, friends and the faithful came to pay their respects and pray for the repose of the Archbishop's soul.

Longtime friend and colleague, Rector Emeritus Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, remembered Archbishop Flynn's undeniable faith: "I've never been with him that I didn't come away feeling good and joyful. Whatever you talked about, you walked away with a certain sense of peace that only a man that close to the Lord can give."

Deacon Tim Tran, who will be ordained to the priesthood in May, did not know the late Archbishop personally, but he remembers the care he showed the local Vietnamese Catholic community.

"When I was young, Archbishop Flynn came to the Tet Celebrations (Vietnamese New Year) at our parish. He celebrated Mass, and he even took time to learn how to say 'Happy New Year' in Vietnamese! He was a bridge to Christ for me, for my community, and the Church. It was an honor to accompany him on his journey to his final place of rest in the Father's house."

On Monday morning, the seminarians carried his body from the chapel to a hearse waiting to bring him to the Cathedral of Saint Paul where more than 2,000 attended his funeral Mass.

Archbishop Flynn will long be remembered by his ecclesial motto and prayer:
Come, Lord Jesus.



Father Jon Vander Ploeg

Father Jon Vander Ploeg and Father Michael Skluzacek joined the seminary faculty this fall as Assistant Director of Spiritual Formation and Director of Pastoral Formation, respectively.

A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, Father Vander Ploeg served NET Ministries (National Evangelization Teams) for two years before entering the seminary. He was ordained in 2001 and served at St. Dominic's in Northfield, the Church of Saint Paul in Ham Lake, and, most recently, the St. Lawrence Catholic Church at the University of Minnesota.



Father Michael Skluzacek

"I am grateful to be at The Saint Paul Seminary, and I look forward to walking with those preparing to serve as priests," Vander Ploeg said. "My hope is that I can help them walk with the Lord in every aspect of their lives so they can bring Him to all they meet and serve."

Father Skluzacek was ordained in 1980 and has served several parishes in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, including the Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. John the Baptist in Savage, St. Michael and St. Mary in Stillwater, and St. John the Baptist in New Brighton.

After serving 27 years as a pastor, Skluzacek considers it a privilege to work with the seminary's Teaching Parish Program: "Serving the people of God as a parish priest has been a joy, a challenge, and an adventure. My hope is that I can help form faithful, holy, effective and joyful parish priests for the Church of tomorrow."

SEMINARY LOOKS TO FUTURE **with New Vision and Mission**

After nine months of consultation and planning with key constituencies, the seminary's Board of Trustees recently approved new vision and mission statements, as well as five core values, which will serve as guide posts for the seminary into the future. After completing the seminary's previous five-year strategic plan, with an emphasis on strong priestly and lay formation, the new vision and mission are designed to build and expand upon that foundation.

VISION:

**The Church on fire with the Holy Spirit,
a world transformed in Jesus Christ.**

MISSION:

To provide integrated, Catholic formation for those called to serve as priests, deacons or lay leaders in their local Church.

Also approved are five **CORE VALUES** that describe the principles and beliefs that guide the seminary as it carries out its mission of forming joyful, Catholic leaders.

CHARITY:

Faithful to Christ's new commandment,
we seek first the good of the other.

TRUTH:

As the human heart and mind are ordered toward truth,
we seek to be honest in both deeds and words.

FIDELITY:

We joyfully profess the truths of the Catholic faith and embrace her disciplines as authentically interpreted by the Church's magisterium.

ZEAL:

We are passionate about our mission and eager to form clergy and lay leaders.

AUTHENTICALLY HUMAN:

Grateful for creation and our humanity, we desire the fullness of life and joy.



The Winter 2020 issue of the *Oracle* will include a full description of the seminary's newly adopted strategic goals that flow from the vision and mission statements.



SAINT PAUL SEMINARY

125 YEARS 1894-2019

'Every noble cause'

The Saint Paul Seminary turns 125

By Christina Capecchi



Notes: A version of this article also appeared in the November 7, 2019, issue of *The Catholic Spirit*. Historic photos on pp. 6 and 7 are courtesy of the University of St. Thomas Archives.

Sometimes a lecture at The Saint Paul Seminary is so intense Patrick Hoefft carries his notes straight to the chapel to pray and process them.

"There's a sense of, 'Wow, something amazing just happened in class, and I can't quite articulate it, so I'm just going to sit in silence and soak it in,'" said the 25-year-old seminarian from rural Paynesville, Minn. "It's an awareness of my own smallness, of being struck by the mysteries of God. It's a feeling of wonder and awe."

The image is an apt symbol of this storied seminary: a place for soaking in, a sort of incubator for future priests where a lanky farm boy brings his handwritten notes to God, where intellectual rigor and spiritual fervor meet – head and heart – to prepare new shepherds for the Church.

Since its founding 125 years ago, the seminary has become a regional center for formation, producing more than 2,500 priests and 30 bishops, while expanding its scope to educate lay leaders, train deacons and support clergy.

Under the guidance of Rector Father Joseph Taphorn and an acclaimed faculty, today it numbers 70 seminarians from 13 dioceses and religious orders, 38 men in diaconate formation, 66 degree-seeking students, and more than 800 students in the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute.

It all began in 1890 with an unthinkable act: the gift of half a million dollars from a Methodist railroad tycoon to build a Catholic seminary. James J. Hill wanted to honor his wife, Mary Theresa, with a seminary that would be a boldfaced love letter to the woman who had attracted him in their first encounters – then a teenaged waitress – as much with her devout Catholic faith as her physical beauty.

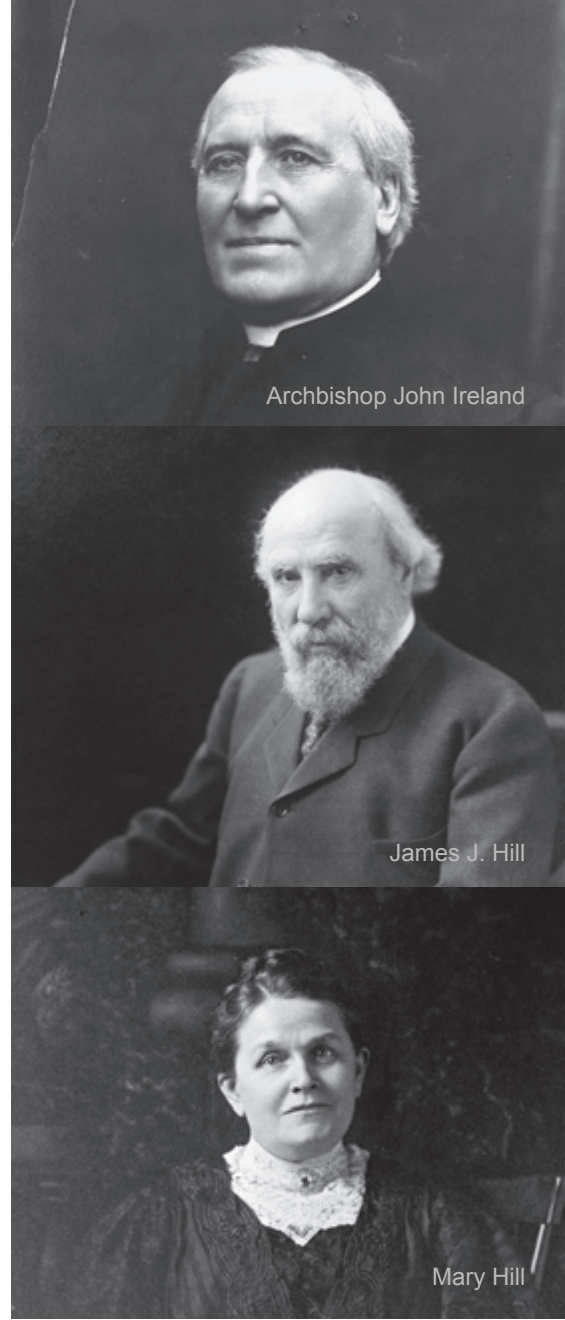
News of the donation made its way to Rome, where Archbishop John Ireland visited Pope Leo XIII, who “spoke to me at length of his high appreciation of your princely generosity in building our seminary and of the great honor thereby conferred upon the church in America,” the archbishop wrote to Hill.

The relationship between the two local leaders shaped the earliest renderings of the seminary, Hill’s resources and practicality fusing with Archbishop Ireland’s vision. The result: a seminary unlike others, a new approach to priestly formation for the American church on the cusp of the 20th century.

Their frontier seminary would be big in size and scope, based on intellectual curiosity and a broad mission. The men would study not only philosophy and theology, but also science and literature. The construction, like the curriculum, aimed at fresh air, consisting of six separate buildings rather than the seminary norm, one all-encompassing fortress sealing off the outside world.

At the dedication ceremonies on a sunny September day in 1895, Archbishop Ireland described the seminary’s ecumenical reach “beyond” Catholics, proclaiming: “Its spirit will be to work for the whole people, offering it strength to uphold every noble cause and willing to cooperate with all men who labor to serve God, humanity and country.”

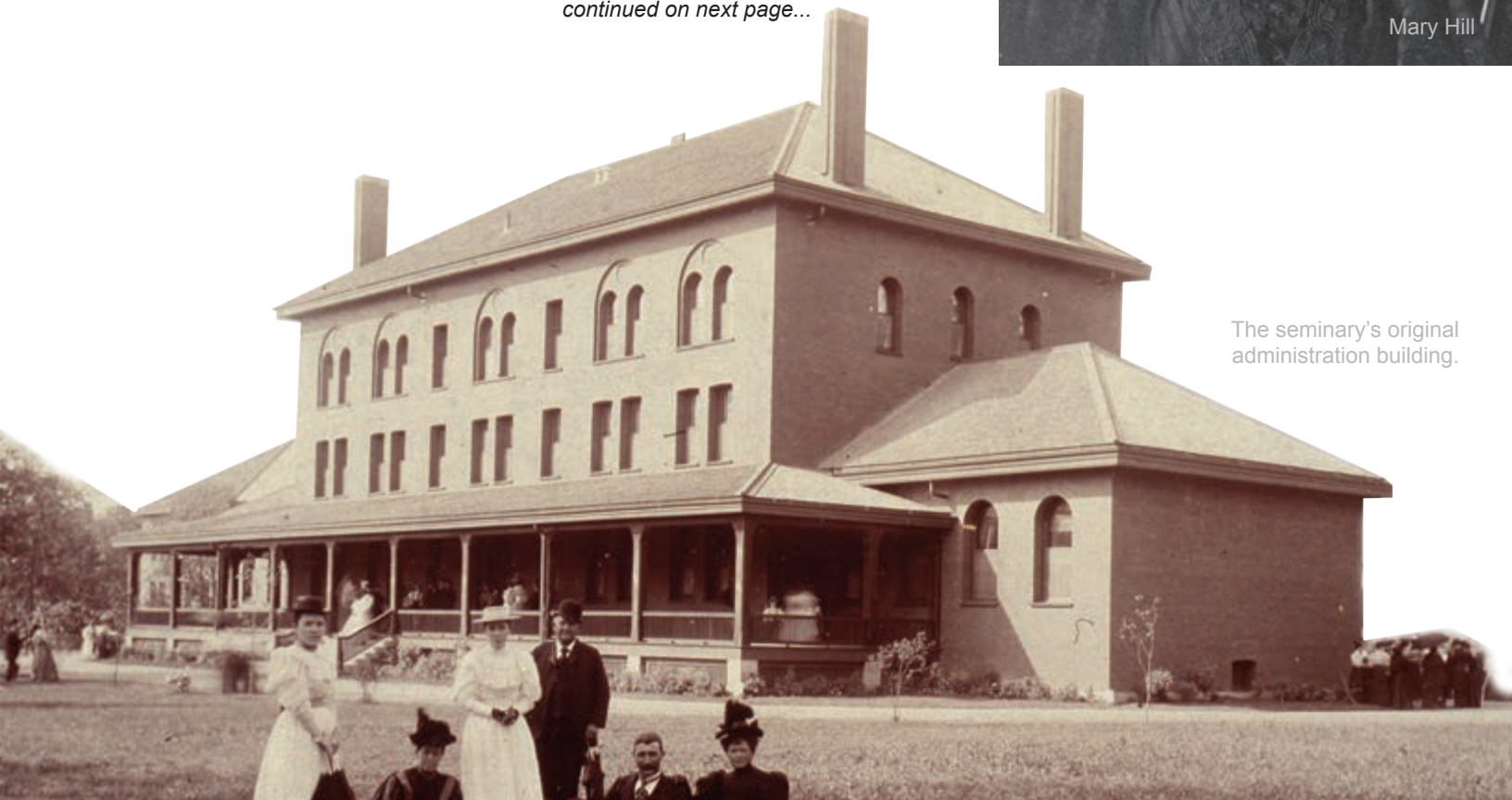
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Archbishop John Ireland

James J. Hill

Mary Hill



The seminary’s original administration building.

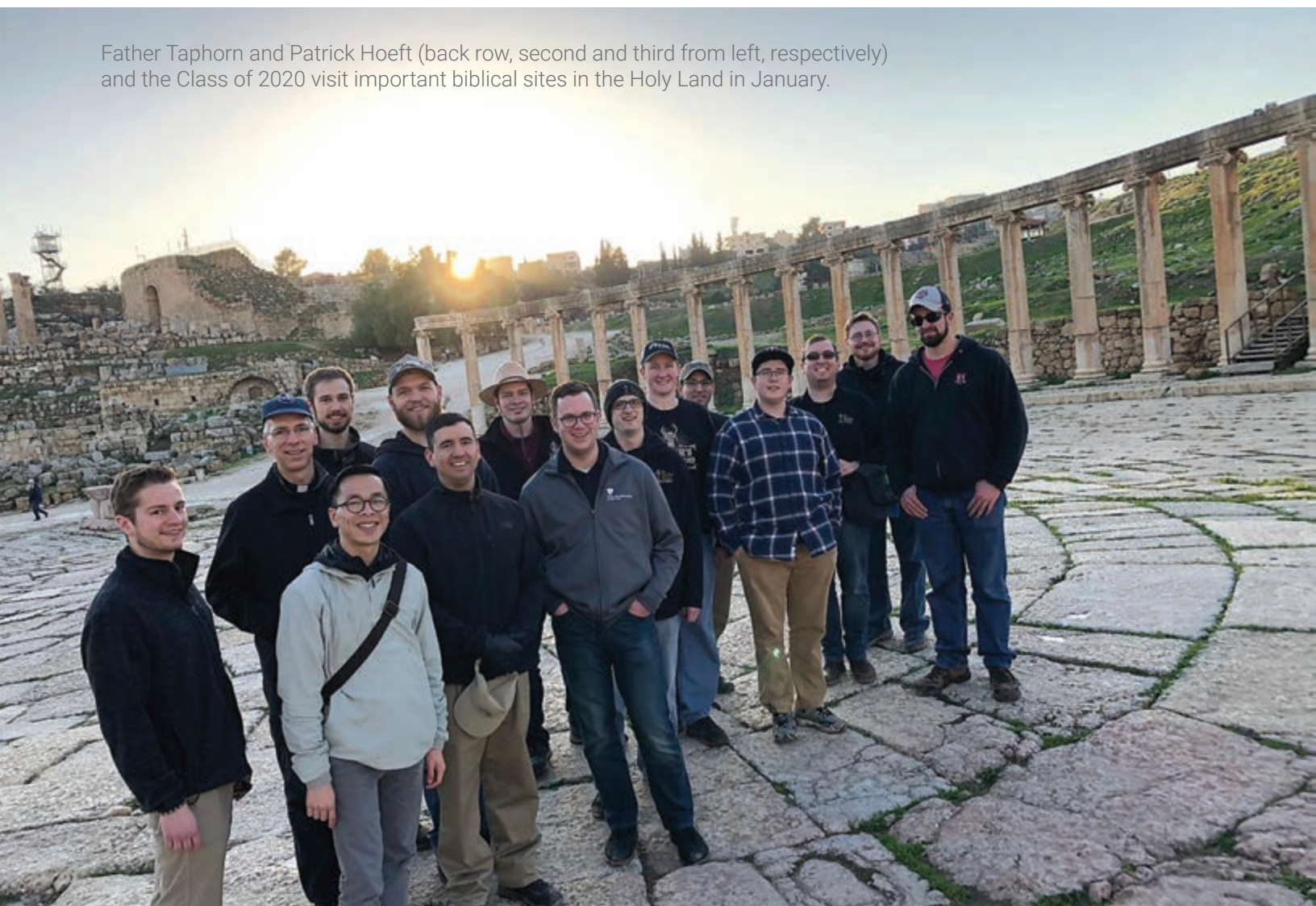
Over the decades the seminary grew, enduring the Great Depression and re-examining its approach in light of the Second Vatican Council. All the while it hewed to its founders' vision for a well-rounded formation, finding new ways to integrate the four dimensions articulated by St. John Paul II: human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral. In 1983 the curriculum was revised in order to anchor academic study to parish life. Sister Mary Daniel Hartnett, CSJ, developed a novel Teaching Parish Program linking classroom studies with regular participation in a local parish for four consecutive years – a rare degree of immersion for seminarians that has since been replicated by seminaries across the country.

Integrated formation took on added meaning when the seminary became officially affiliated with the College of St. Thomas in 1987, presenting new avenues for collaboration and evangelization. It was reinforced by remarkable opportunities for study abroad in Mexico, Jerusalem and Rome, stamping the seminarians' passports and hearts. And it gained invaluable real-world training through a spiritual pastoral ministry program that teaches seminarians to minister to the sick and suffering at area hospitals and care facilities.

Hoelt has learned how to do that through his time at a hospital. "A huge aspect of ministering to people is learning how to be a good listener," he said. "To make someone feel heard can relieve more pain than any physical healing."

The interplay of lessons gleaned in the classroom, the chapel, the hospital and the parish help distinguish The Saint Paul Seminary from other major seminaries in the country, said Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson. "I would like to think what sets us apart is solid doctrinal formation coupled with a heart-felt desire to lead

Father Taphorn and Patrick Hoelt (back row, second and third from left, respectively) and the Class of 2020 visit important biblical sites in the Holy Land in January.



others to the Lord and His Church. We have a special commitment to this blend of fidelity and evangelization in the contemporary Church and culture.”

That blend is “the ideal mix,” according to Archbishop Bernard Hebda. “The seminary has provided us with such great priests who have really pastoral hearts and are theologically prepared and have a real desire to respond to God’s call to serve,” he said.

Archbishop Hebda described the seminary faculty as an invaluable resource, a sort of think tank he has personally tapped for insight on a number of subjects, from bioethics to interfaith outreach to the upcoming Archdiocesan synod. “We have some great minds who are available to stimulate theological thought, who are available to have an impact not only on our seminarians but on our Catholic population.”

Bishop Paul Sirba of Duluth, a 1986 graduate of The Saint Paul Seminary and current member of the Board of Trustees, sends his own men to the seminary and echoes that observation. “The archdiocese has brought together this great faculty. That’s always made sense to me: You’re forming priests, and it’s a huge sacrifice to give some of your best, which means taking them for a time from where they could be in a parish. It’s saying, ‘No, in order to form the future guys, we want the best here.’”

The combined effect – the integrated formation, the pastoral ministry and the premiere education – has garnered acclaim, Father Taphorn said. “I think people see that there’s something special happening here. The skillset we have is spreading beyond the upper Midwest and having a national impact.”

Regular opportunities for honest self-assessment are a hallmark of formation at The Saint Paul Seminary, he added. Working closely with both a formation director as well as a spiritual director helps keep the seminarians accountable. The directors meet with the pastor from a seminarian’s teaching parish for year-end evaluations.

“Self-knowledge is so important,” Father Taphorn said. “Everybody has their issues. What’s most impressive is when a man can acknowledge, ‘Yeah, I still kind of struggle in this area.’ What people need in their parishes are happy, healthy, holy priests who can acknowledge their difficulties and tap into the support and resources to improve.”

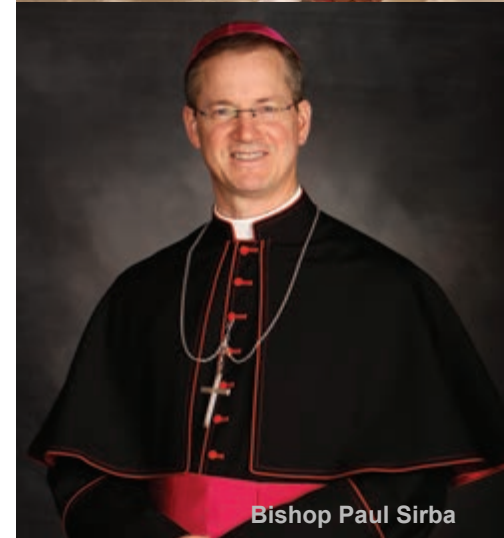
Father Taphorn often quotes St. John Paul II, who wrote in a 1992 apostolic exhortation on priestly formation: “It is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity.”



Dr. Christopher Thompson



Archbishop Bernard Hebda



Bishop Paul Sirba

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The seminary's tremendous growth since 1894 includes the addition of graduate and certificate-level programs for priests, deacons and lay leaders

125 YEARS 1894-2019

The quote can make an enlightening question for seminarians, he said. "It's a concrete image, a point of self-examination: Am I being a bridge or an obstacle? And in humility we need to own the answer."

The need for a bridge has never been more urgent, as the number of Americans who do not affiliate with any organized religion surges, according to the Pew Research Center. Today there are more religiously unaffiliated in the U.S. than Catholics.

The seminarians have the greatest impact when their love for the Lord shines through, Father Taphorn said. "We want men who can be inviting and warm and infectious with their joy because we have the greatest treasure, which is Jesus Christ. So, if we're rooted in the truth of the faith and we pay attention to that pastoral heart, that's how we become the bridge."

Among many demands in any given day, spending time in prayer takes precedence, beginning at 6:30 a.m., when the men gather for Holy Hour.

They gather again for midday Mass, joined by professors and administrators. "There's a clear sense that everyone is united for a common mission," Hoeft said.

Taken together, it's no surprise that so many graduates have assumed positions of leadership and service across the region, Archbishop Hebda said.

When the men are ordained at the Cathedral of Saint Paul, they are ready to take on the great commission to “go, therefore, and make disciples,” the scene carved above its grand front entrance.

The bishops from outside dioceses who send their men to The Saint Paul Seminary – a dozen, currently – recognize this.

“We can entrust our seminarians to them and know they will be well formed to come back and serve God’s holy people,” said Bishop Sirba. “We have confidence. We’re very happy with what’s happening there. I think it’s the faithfulness that the seminary has in forming good priests for our present needs. That’s what I hear [from other bishops] the most, and it’s woven through all the programs.”

A shining example is Father Mark Pavlak, a St. Paul native who was ordained three years ago and now serves as chaplain and a theology teacher at St. Thomas Academy, an all-male middle and high school in Mendota Heights, Minn. He is also a student in the first cohort of the seminary’s Institute for Catholic School Leadership certificate program. For both of these roles, Father Pavlak draws on his notes from seminary often, particularly two of his favorite courses: Moral Theology, taught by Dr. Thompson; and the Eucharist, taught by Auxiliary Bishop Andrew Cozzens, also a Saint Paul Seminary alumnus. As Father is equipping his students to better understand Church teaching in an age of relativism, he is also building relationships.

“If I can show them that our faith matters and that there is joy in following Christ, I am hopeful they will find an anchor in that,” he said. “For me, I’m playing the long game with our young people. They’re not going to remember every note they took in my class, but they will remember me and my relationship with them. So all the times I’m on the sidelines with the football team or leading prayer with the hockey team before the game or watching the basketball or baseball team in the stands or asking them about their hobbies – whatever it is – I’m playing the long game, that there was a priest who cared for them.”

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Father Mark Pavlak (center, back row) is pictured with members of the Class of 2016 from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis during a January Term trip to Rome.

To consider the impact of this one priest – and then to add in the thousands who have come from The Saint Paul Seminary over the past 125 years – is overwhelming, Dr. Thompson said.

“When you step back and think that these are the men who will baptize your first child, prepare you for a lifetime of married love, bring reconciliation between you and God and someday hear your last prayer – it can be an incredible moment of communion and worship. A project of formation of the most intimate sort is unfolding here – not only at the human level but the supernatural as well. It’s an occasion of awe to think we have been a part of Christ’s mission to reconcile the world to the Father and that we are poised to continue this work for generations to come.”

1895

"Nothing short of the BEST and HIGHEST is worthy of the priesthood, worthy of the CAUSE which the priesthood REPRESENTS and of the interests which it is to SERVE."

- Archbishop John Ireland at The Saint Paul Seminary dedication ceremony, September 4, 1895.

2019



seminarians are in formation.



lay men and women are enrolled in our Master of Arts degree programs.



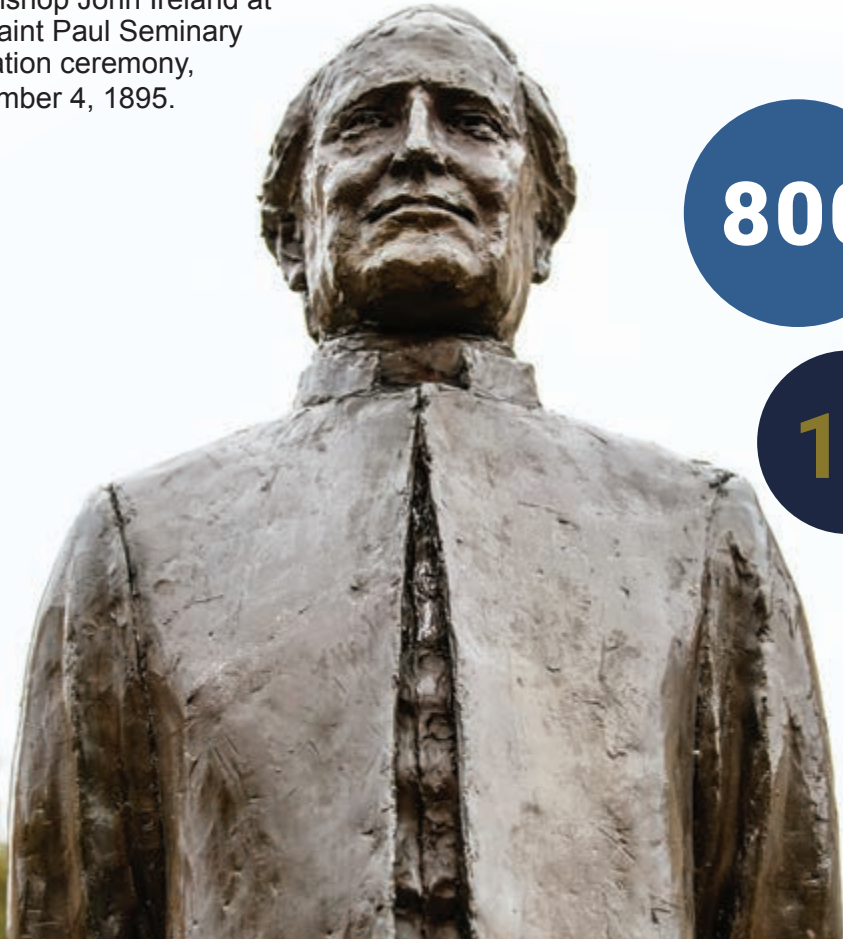
dioceses and religious orders are represented.



students are enrolled in Catechetical Institute programs.



men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate in December.



ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN **Class of 1919**

A high-profile alumni of The Saint Paul Seminary is now on the road to sainthood. In July, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to Archbishop Fulton Sheen, clearing the way for his beatification. Here are five fast facts on one VIP alumnus:

1. Venerable Fulton Sheen, an Illinois native, attended The Saint Paul Seminary for two years until his ordination in 1919.
2. He commended the seminary, writing: “The courses were extremely good, especially in sacred scripture, history, and moral theology.”
3. He joked about the seminary’s emphasis on singing, recalling that all the seminarians were expected to participate in Gregorian chant, “whether we had singing voices or not.”
4. Archbishop Sheen’s excellent education at The Saint Paul Seminary propelled him to become a renowned theologian in little time and later an Emmy-winning television personality.
5. Sheen returned to his alma mater on multiple occasions, speaking to the seminarians and faculty.



Last spring, Curtis LeMay, director of the Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library, and Father Joseph Taphorn received a two-volume edition of the *Positio* concerning the life, virtues, and reputation of holiness of the Venerable Servant of God Archbishop Fulton John Sheen. An identical copy was presented to the Vatican for Sheen’s cause for canonization.

Deacon Stephen Boatwright generously donated his copy given by the Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, Bishop of Peoria.

The *Positio* is on display in the Archbishop Ireland Memorial Library through December. It will then be transferred to the University of St. Thomas Libraries Department of Special Collections where it will be available for use by scholars.

RURAL EXPERIENCE EMPHASIZES **Gifts of Creation**

When you look at a map of the dioceses served by The Saint Paul Seminary, chances are that some of our seminarians were raised on farms, and chances are they will pastor rural parishes someday.

To support this reality, the seminary offers a Rural Ministry Practicum (RMP), a unique experience that brings seminarians to area farms to learn first-hand the challenges and opportunities of rural ministry.

For more than 10 years, Dr. Christopher Thompson, academic dean, has co-taught this five-day immersive experience with the National Director of Catholic Rural Life, Jim Ennis. Every year, he is gratified by the seminarians' response.

"This is an ideal way to teach the men about issues facing our farmers and how to respond in faith," he said. "Our seminarians learn a great deal from people who intimately rely on the bounty and mysteries of God's creation for their livelihood."

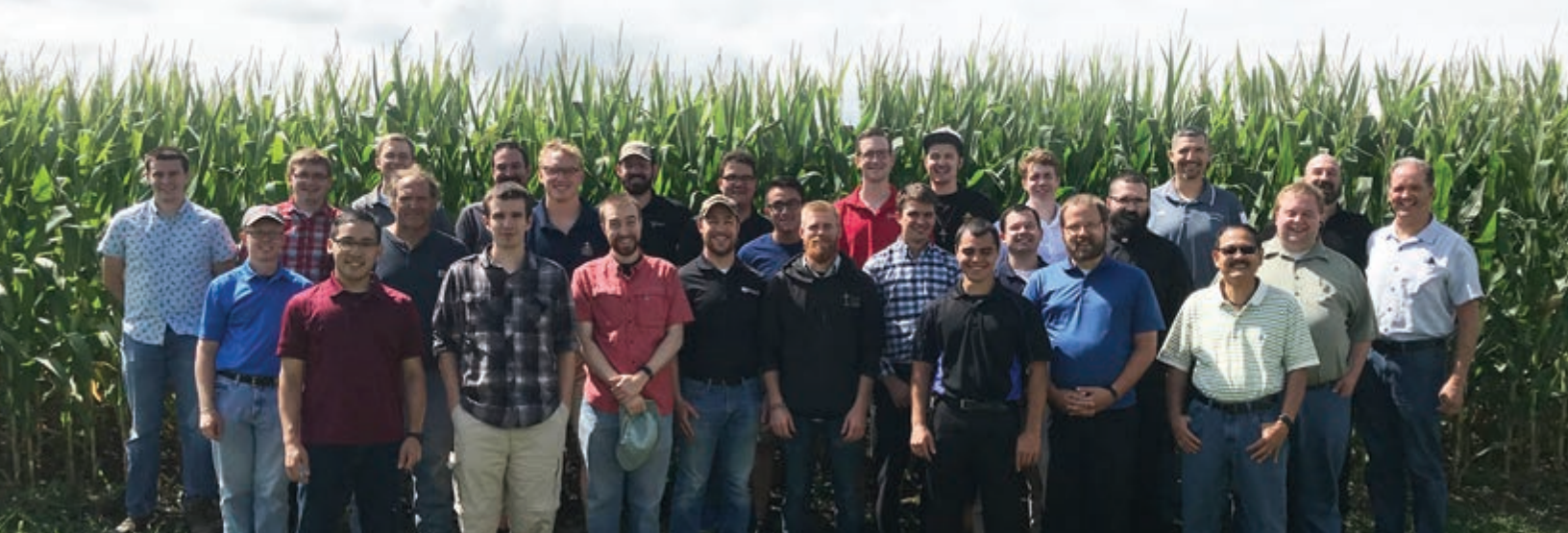
The purpose of the practicum is twofold: To introduce the men to Catholic Social Teaching about care of the earth, and to translate this theological vision in a rural setting. The structure of the practicum also serves a dual purpose: To interact with farmers in a very practical way, and to reflect on and explore these realities in a contemplative setting. The result is a full examination of pastoral ministry and its theological foundation in the context of rural ministry.

The on-site visits in 2019 brought 26 seminarians to the Glisczinski Farm in Belle Plaine and to the Metogga Lake Dairy Farm in New Prague.

For Tanner Thooft, a Theology II seminarian from the Diocese of New Ulm, the RMP allowed him to share his real-life experiences of growing up in a rural Catholic household.

"I love the agricultural lifestyle, and I love working on the farm. I also know the struggles people face and what motivates them. I pray that my background, coupled with my formation, will help me to serve my future parishioners."

The practicum also included presentations from a representative from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Father Greg Mastey, a priest for the Diocese of Saint Cloud who has served up to five rural parishes at one time.





MINISTRY in a new language

Born with hearing loss, Jake Epstein has a soft spot in his heart for the deaf. So, last spring he asked his formators if he could make sign language part of his formation.

Epstein's request was accepted, and he spent much of his summer at Gallaudet University, a premier institution for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in Washington, D.C.

Living on a secular, sign language only campus, Epstein was immersed in a new culture and realized his collar stood out among his classmates. "It was amazing to see the impact on fellow Christians in the classroom when they learned I was studying to be a priest. They were so excited!"

Epstein also served at St. Francis of Assisi, a Catholic parish for the deaf in Maryland. Interacting with parishioners, he felt their gratitude that a seminarian was passionate about learning sign language and was reminded why he wants to serve the deaf community in his home Diocese of Des Moines. "These are the people I desire to minister to," he said. "They are marginalized in many ways, and the Good News is for them as well."

Epstein believes he is better equipped to be a priest one day. Not only has he become fluent in sign language, he has also learned how to minister to the secular world. "I built relationships with people who were far from the Church," he said, hopeful that a seed was planted in his classmates.

Epstein looks forward to priestly ministry when he can put his seminary formation and sign language to work for all those willing to hear.

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Dr. John Froula, assistant professor of Dogmatic Theology, published an article, “Lonergan on the Esse of Christ” in the *Josephinum Journal of Theology* (25: 1-2, 2018).



Father Wojciech Giertych is welcomed to the seminary by Father Michael Monshau.

The seminary welcomed **Father Wojciech Giertych, O.P.**, theologian of the papal household, the last week of September. Father Giertych was the keynote speaker at the Archdiocesan Fall Clergy Study Day and made himself available to meet with the members of the seminary faculty and staff during his stay.

Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Giertych to his position in 2005. Fellow Dominican, **Father Michael Monshau, O.P.**, formator and professor, has worked with Father Giertych in numerous ways over the years. He warmly welcomed Father Giertych to the seminary and was grateful for the brief visit with one of his brother priests.

Dr. David Jenkins, director of liturgical music, gave the keynote address at a fall workshop for RCIA ministers in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Association of Catechists and Religious Educators, and the Association of Liturgical Ministers. The topic of the workshop, held at Our Lady of Grace Church in Edina, was “Collaborating for the Kingdom. How Ministries Work Together to Build Up the Church.”



Dr. David Jenkins

On October 19, Jenkins performed his annual organ and harpsichord recital in St. Mary’s Chapel, playing works by Bach, Buxtehude, Eberlin, Laurin, Martin and Mendelssohn. This recital was part of a concert series marking the 20th anniversary of the installation of the Noack pipe organ in 2000.

In September, **Deacon Joseph Michalak**, director of the Institute for Diaconate Formation, preached a silent retreat for the Third Order Carmelites, gave the keynote address at the annual deacon convention for the Diocese of Richmond, Virginia, and preached a women’s retreat at St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.

Sister Katarina Schuth, OSF, professor emerita, presented a paper at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge University in England, at a symposium on Clericalism and Sexuality in September. Her topic was "Seminary Formation: Addressing Clericalism and Sexuality in Human, Spiritual, Intellectual, and Pastoral Areas."

Dr. Merylann "Mimi" J. Schuttloffel, director of the Institute for Catholic School Leadership and professor of Catholic education, represented The Saint Paul Seminary and the University of St. Thomas as a U.S. delegate at the 2019 World Congress of Catholic Education sponsored by the International Office of Catholic Education (OIEC). Attended by more than 550 participants from 80 countries around the world, the congress was held at Fordham University in June.

Schuttloffel also recently published *International Explorations of Contemplative Leadership in Catholic Education* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group).

Dr. William Stevenson, associate professor of Dogmatic Theology, participated in an inter-religious panel discussion entitled "Religious Freedom, A Path to Peace: Catholic and Islamic Perspectives in Dialogue." The June 26 event was sponsored by the Minnesota Catholic Conference during Religious Freedom Week. This fall Dr. Stevenson also gave a three-week lecture series at Providence Academy in Plymouth, Minnesota, entitled, "Why Are We Catholic?"

Dr. Christopher Thompson, academic dean, and **Mr. Paul Ruff, M.A., L.P.**, assistant director of human formation, presented papers at the Augustine in Contemporary Culture Conference hosted by The Saint Paul Seminary and the Institute for Theological Research in August 2019. Dr. Thompson delivered "Syntonic and Dystonic Desire: Augustine and Dysmorphic Identities." Ruff's presentation was entitled "Transformational Conversion: The Healing of Dissociative States."

Dr. Christian D. Washburn, professor of Dogmatic Theology, recently published "St. Lawrence of Brindisi on the One True Church of Christ" in *Collectanea Franciscana* 89 (2019), 161-194. In October, Dr. Washburn attended the Evangelical-Catholic Dialogue at the University of Mary in Bismarck.



Rev. Kevin Zilverberg, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture, lectured in Latin on "Jerome's biblical translations according to their chronology of composition," while on staff for the annual Latin immersion conference of the Institutum Veterum Sapientia, Belmont Abbey College, NC, in July. He also translated Dr. Massimo Grilli's article "Guidelines and Challenges for New Testament Biblical Theology," *Studia Biblica Slovaca* 11/1 (2019), 29-41.

IN MEMORIAM

Father Vincent H. Arimond, Class of 1954
Father Raymond A. Aydt, Class of 1946
Father Martin P. Conley, Class of 1957
Father Jack A. Cosentino, Class of 1970
Father Arthur H. Hoppe, Class of 1947
Most Reverend John F. Kinney, Class of 1963
Father Joseph A. LaPlante, Class of 1954

Father Dale R. Maloy, Class of 1954
John J. McGee, Class of 1966
Raymond A. Schnell, Class of 1952
Father Earl C. Simonson, Class of 1969
Gerald R. VanBooven, Class of 1960
Monsignor Robert J. Walter, Class of 1945

UNITED IN MISSION

As noted on page 5 of the *Oracle*, Father Joseph Taphorn and the Board of Trustees have embarked on a strategic planning process for The Saint Paul Seminary. One of the first steps in the process was to review and refine our mission statement. The result:

To provide integrated, Catholic formation for those called to serve as priests, deacons or lay leaders in their local Church.

I am particularly pleased with the revised mission statement as it further simplifies, clarifies and enhances our previous version. First, we now include the formation of permanent deacons. When our earlier mission was crafted, the Institute for Diaconate Formation was not part of the seminary's scope. Their addition is essential.

Permanent deacons have a critically important, yet often misunderstood, role to play in the Church today. In many ways, their formation parallels that of the priest. Yet, logistically, and in many ways pastorally, their vocation parallels that of a lay person. Given the dramatic increase in ordinations to the permanent diaconate – more than 18,000 ordinations in the United States since Vatican II (USCCB 2018) - and the simultaneous decrease in priestly ordinations, the ministry of the permanent deacon is clearly part of God's provision for the Church today. And, with their unique vocation, perhaps they have a role to play in marrying the complimentary, yet distinct, role of priestly and lay vocations.



The new mission statement also emphasizes integrated formation. One might also use the words “complete” or “balanced.” A fully formed priest is exactly what the Church needs. If a man is gifted theologically but has difficulty relating to people, he is not well formed. Conversely, if a man can relate well to people but cannot share with them the truths of the Catholic faith, he has not been well formed. Integrating all the dimensions of formation – human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral – is paramount.

Finally, I appreciate how the new mission statement groups the priest, deacon and lay leader together. Certainly, priestly formation has been, and will always be, the primary work of the seminary. But, raising up holy, well-formed deacons and lay leaders is also important. All three are desperately needed to help set the Church on fire with the Holy Spirit and transform the world in Jesus Christ.

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

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



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Left to right: Nick Vance, Nick Smith, Father Joseph Taphorn and Father Peter Hughes, class of 2015, gather at the start of the Twin Cities Marathon.

On October 6, Father Joseph Taphorn, Nick Smith and Nick Vance ran the Medtronic Twin Cities Marathon. It was Father Taphorn's third marathon and the first for the seminarians. Even before reaching the starting line, Father Taphorn celebrated 6:00 a.m. Mass for the runners at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis.

Vance compared the marathon to seminary formation: "It's something you have to pour your heart and soul into, and it forces you to be dedicated to the mission set before you. There were plenty of times when I wanted to quit. But, the fact that there were brothers running it with me and people cheering and praying for us kept me going in the difficult moments."

Father Taphorn and the "Nicks" are resting their running muscles before they prepare for their next race.



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