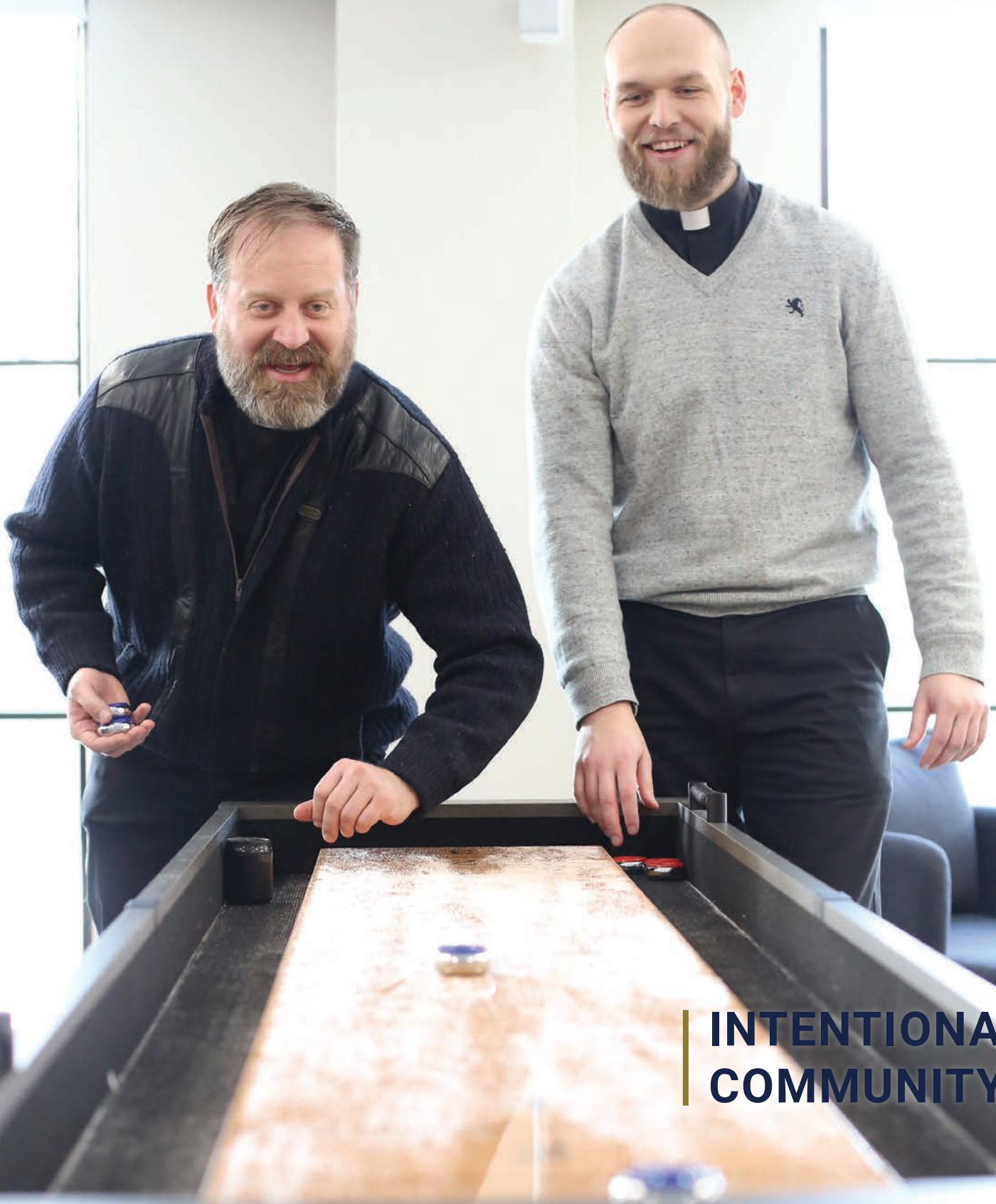


# ORACLE



SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | WINTER 2020



**INTENTIONAL  
COMMUNITY**

Dear Friends,

As mentioned in the fall issue of the *Oracle*, The Saint Paul Seminary underwent a strategic planning process in 2019 (see opposite page). One question that our team considered is, “What makes our seminary unique?”

There are numerous answers to that question highlighted in this issue. One is our individual approach to priestly formation, which allows the Holy Spirit to move in the heart of each seminarian and bring him to experience the fullness of life that Christ desires for him. A complement to this is the deep sense of fraternity and communal life in our house (see pp.10-11). Another is the special training that our formation directors are undertaking with the Seminary Formation Council (see p.13). One more is that our mission encompasses not only priestly formation, but also for those called to serve as permanent deacons and lay leaders (see pp. 7, 14 and 15).

Another unique opportunity comes with our academic calendar having a January Term, or “J-Term,” between fall and spring semesters. This month-long period gives our seminarians special opportunities to engage in priestly formation away from campus. Each class also makes their annual retreat before returning for the spring semester.

Theology I men engage in a practicum course in their home dioceses, where they live in a parish and learn about diocesan structures. Then they participate in the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, traveling with archdiocesan youth groups. This interaction both helps form our men pastorally as well as fosters the seed of a priestly vocation among the youth.

Theology II men travel to Mexico City where they encounter the poor as well as Our Lady of Guadalupe, so beloved by the Latino faithful. This experience is complemented by a week engaged with the Church’s local Latino outreach in Minneapolis. The goal is to enkindle pastoral charity in the hearts of our seminarians, especially for immigrants and the poor.

Theology III men participate in what is for many a trip of a lifetime, an extensive pilgrimage to the Holy Land. There they are formed by visiting and praying in the places where our Lord Himself walked, preached and performed miracles, and suffered, died and rose for us. The course is also a homiletics practicum, particularly important for those who will soon be ordained transitional deacons.

Finally, our Theology IV men experience the history and life of the universal Church in Rome. This year they assisted at Mass for the Holy Father on the Solemnity of the Epiphany and met him personally later in the month. What a thrill for them! I had the privilege of spending some time with them in the Eternal City (see below).

These are a few ways in which our seminary is special and unique. Another is your engagement and ongoing support, for which I remain grateful.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Joseph C. Taphorn, JCL  
Rector and Vice President





# OUR VISION

The Church on fire

*with the Holy Spirit,*

a world transformed

**IN JESUS CHRIST**

## STRATEGIC GOALS 2020-2025

With a new vision, mission and strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees, The Saint Paul Seminary is now focusing on the implementation of five goal areas with objectives identified under each. When choosing these goals, seminary leadership considered several factors, including priority, impact, clarity and achievability.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Establish a coherent organizational structure to achieve the seminary's vision and mission.

### PROGRAMMING

With integral priestly formation as the foundation, deliver transformational programming that attracts and produces joyful, Catholic leaders.

### FACILITIES

Create a physical infrastructure to support programmatic goals, including faculty, staff and residential space, and to foster a vibrant community life.

### FISCAL STRENGTH

Achieve fiscal strength to support programs and facilities.

### FACULTY AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Create a community culture that allows faculty and staff to live their Christian vocations fully and flourish in their roles at The Saint Paul Seminary.

Please keep the seminary community in your prayers as we strive to provide integrated, Catholic formation for those called to serve as priests, deacons or lay leaders in their local Church.

# DeGROOD INSTALLED

## as Ninth Bishop of Sioux Falls



Pope Francis greets alumnus and former member of the board, Bishop Donald De Grood, at the Vatican in January.

The Most Reverend Donald DeGrood was installed as the ninth Bishop of Sioux Falls on February 13. A Saint Paul Seminary alumnus, he succeeds the Most Reverend Paul Swain, who served as bishop since 2006, and joins his classmate, the Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens, auxiliary bishop for Saint Paul and Minneapolis, as the second bishop to be named from the Class of 1997.

A self-proclaimed “farm boy,” Bishop DeGrood was raised in rural southern Minnesota. While attending the University of St. Thomas, he spent two years at Saint John Vianney College Seminary discerning his vocation. Before entering The Saint Paul Seminary in 1993, he worked as a shoe sales representative and manager, and then as a feed specialist for Land O’ Lakes.

Upon his priestly ordination, Bishop DeGrood was assigned to All Saints in Lakeville, Saint John Vianney College Seminary, St. Peter in Forest Lake, Blessed Sacrament in St. Paul, and, most recently, St. John the Baptist in Savage. He also served as Vicar for Clergy and was a member of several advisory boards and committees, including the seminary’s Board of Trustees (2011-2019).

In a statement released after DeGrood’s appointment on December 12, Bishop Cozzens praised his classmate and friend: “Father DeGrood has proven to be one of the finest pastors in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis who brings his deep relationship with Jesus Christ to people of all ages in his parishes.”

Scott Miller, a seminarian from Sioux Falls, is inspired by his new bishop’s humility and love for the Lord. “He has asked his seminarians to pray that he be a holy bishop, and he has asked us to be truly authentic before God, before ourselves, and before each other.”

The Diocese of Sioux Falls was established in 1889. Currently, five men from Sioux Falls are in formation at The Saint Paul Seminary, and two are discerning a vocation to the priesthood at Saint John Vianney College Seminary. In addition, Father Kevin Zilverberg, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture, is a priest of the Diocese of Sioux Falls serving on the seminary faculty.



### **Congratulations, Father Lawrence!**

Lawrence Kelechi Oparaji, Class of 2019, was ordained for the Diocese of Madison by the Most Reverend Donald Hying on Saturday, February 22, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter.

# IN MEMORIAM **Bishop Paul Sirba**

The seminary community mourns the loss of the Most Reverend Paul Sirba, Diocese of Duluth, who passed away unexpectedly on December 1, 2019.

Bishop Sirba was a member of the seminary's ordination class of 1986 and served the parishes of St. Olaf in Minneapolis, St. John the Baptist in Savage, and Maternity of Mary in St. Paul. He worked as a spiritual director at Saint John Vianney College Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary, and was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. In 2009, he was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the ninth Bishop of Duluth. Bishop Sirba received The Saint Paul Seminary's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016, and he was currently serving on the seminaries' Board of Trustees.

Scott Padrnos, a seminarian from the Diocese of Duluth, grieved the loss of his shepherd. "I've never seen someone lead with such gentleness and love," he said. "He was truly a father to me and everyone in the diocese. I wouldn't be in seminary without the encouragement of Bishop Sirba. I am forever grateful."



## **Sister Christine Athans**

The Saint Paul Seminary community also mourns the loss of Sister Mary Christine Athans, BVM, professor emerita, who died on December 7. Sister Christine was Professor of Church History at The Saint Paul Seminary from 1984 until her retirement in 2002.

Sister Christine's life was devoted to teaching and writing. She is the author of several books, including a history of The Saint Paul Seminary, *To Work for the Whole People: John Ireland's Seminary in St. Paul*, and *In Quest of the Jewish Mary: The Mother of Jesus in History, Theology, and Spirituality*. Sister Christine will be remembered for her warmth, intellect and spirituality.

*Please join us as we pray for the repose of the souls of Bishop Paul Sirba, Sister Christine Athans, and all the faithful departed.*



## IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Thomas R. Brajkovich, Class of 1961  
Rev. Roger F. Carroll, Class of 1963  
Mr. Thomas F. Caughlin, Class of 1961  
Mr. Thomas W. Clark, Class of 1964  
Rev. John P. Fitzpatrick, Class of 1952  
Mr. Peter J. Fleming, Class of 1961  
Rev. Manuel G. Gomez Reza, Class of 2013  
Father Clayton Haberman, Class of 1950  
Monsignor Albert W. Hallin, Class of 1961

Mr. Joseph A. Hoehn, Class of 1964  
Monsignor Donald H. Krebs, Class of 1955  
Rev. John H. Kroger, Class of 1955  
Rev. Philip H. Luebbert, Class of 1975  
Rev. Stephen A. Lundgren, Class of 1979  
Mr. Bernard F. Schepers, Class of 1951  
Mr. George W. Schmid, Class of 1967  
Mr. Thomas Sweeney, Class of 1965



## | Rites of Installation Celebrated

Fall semester is an important time for seminarians who take the next formal steps toward priestly ordination.

Beginning with the Admission to Candidacy Mass on October 18, four Theology I seminarians from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis were admitted as seminary candidates. Having completed either college seminary or the two-year Pre-Theology program, they marked their official enrollment in Theology and prayerfully committed to the obligations necessary for ordination. The Most Reverend Donald Kettler, Diocese of Saint Cloud, celebrated the Mass.

“Taking this next step towards ordination was a reminder that I am here to learn how to be the best priest that I can be, and that I should throw myself wholeheartedly into this endeavor,” said Sean Mulcare, a Theology I seminarian.

Two weeks later, the Most Reverend David Malloy, Diocese of Rockford, installed 17 Theology II seminarians as acolytes, marking the second step toward ordination. Representing the dioceses of Davenport, Des Moines, Duluth, New Ulm, Rockford, Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and Sioux Falls, these seminarians will now assist the priests and deacons at the altar and distribute Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick.

As an acolyte, Nathan Pacer, a Theology II seminarian from the Diocese of Rockford, sees his formation coming into sharper focus. “The reality of the priesthood is becoming more tangible. I now serve at the altar in a capacity that’s truly humbling.”

Five Theology I seminarians were installed as lectors at a Mass on February 21. The Most Reverend Robert Gruss, Diocese of Saginaw, presided.

# YOUNG FATHER ANSWERS CALL AS PERMANENT DEACON

On December 7, Archbishop Bernard Hebda ordained 10 men to the permanent diaconate at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. One of the newly ordained, Matt Damiani, stood before the same altar 14 years earlier to exchange marriage vows with his wife, Lisa. Both vows fulfilled the “double call” Deacon Matt heard when he was growing up in the Catholic Church.

As a young altar server, Damiani knew he wanted to serve the Church, and he wanted a family. While he did not consider the option of the permanent diaconate right away, he continued to grow in his relationship with the Lord and prayed for an answer to both calls.

The first was answered when he met his future wife. They were married in 2005, and the Damiani family started to grow.

Prayer and discernment for the call to serve the Church continued, and the young husband and father attended a series of inquiry sessions in 2012 hosted by the Institute for Diaconate Formation at The Saint Paul Seminary. Damiani was ready to begin the five-year formation program, but he also believed the Lord was asking him to be patient. With young children and a career in accounting, life was full. So, he waited, prayed and sought counsel from friend and mentor, Deacon Tom Michaud.

With his wife’s blessing, he began the formation process in 2015 and made his vows of obedience at his ordination as a permanent deacon in December 2019. Lisa and their eight children were in attendance, including 11-year-old twins Joseph and Nathanael who served the ordination Mass.

“As my sons and I were preparing in the sacristy before the Mass, I was struck by the fact that we are all in this together – me, Lisa and our entire family.” Deacon Damiani’s calls from the Lord were fulfilled.

As one of the youngest deacons in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Deacon Damiani (age 39) prays that God will be able to use him as a witness to other husbands and fathers. He will undoubtedly have several opportunities in his parish, in his future prison ministry, and within his own family.



To learn more about the vocation of the permanent deacon, visit our website: [semssp.org/idf](http://semssp.org/idf).

## Upcoming Deacon Discernment Days:

September 26, 2020  
November 7, 2020

To register, please contact Shellee Leif:  
[sjleif@stthomas.edu](mailto:sjleif@stthomas.edu) or (651) 962-6891

# SPS ORGAN TURNS 20 YEARS OLD

According to the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, "...the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument which adds a wonderful splendor to the Church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up man's mind to God and to higher things." (120)

Liturgical Music Director Dr. David Jenkins honors this pronouncement every day when he plays the seminary's Noack Pipe Organ, a prized instrument that was installed and dedicated in St. Mary's Chapel 20 years ago. The organ, designed and built by Fritz Noack, is Opus 136 by the Noack Organ Company of Georgetown, Massachusetts.

"The special significance of our pipe organ is that it is used in the daily worship of seminarians, deacons and lay people preparing for ministry in the Church," Jenkins says. "Singing with the organ and hearing it in worship helps them to both express and deepen their faith, inspiring them to serve others."

Jenkins adds that the organ has the power to support the singing of a large congregation. Because of its size and sonic range, it has the capacity to express the spectrum of human emotion – from joy and praise to sadness and lament.

To mark the past two decades of music and worship in St. Mary's Chapel, Jenkins planned a 2019-2020 concert series. Recording artist Christina Rakich began the academic year with a performance in September, followed by Dr. Jenkins' Fall Faculty Recital and the annual Lessons and Carols for Advent. The spring 2020 season includes a Faculty Chamber Music Concert, a recital featuring Swedish organist Hans-Ola Ericsson, and Solemn Vespers for Easter. A Bach Birthday Bash will also be held in the chapel, featuring the organ music of J.S. Bach. All events are free and open to the public.

Dr. Jenkins, who began his career in liturgical music at the seminary more than 30 years ago, considers it a privilege to play this beautiful instrument. "It 'sings' in the chapel space. I believe the seminarians, deacons and lay leaders who experience our pipe organ will take this inspiration into their future ministry."

## ORGAN FACTS

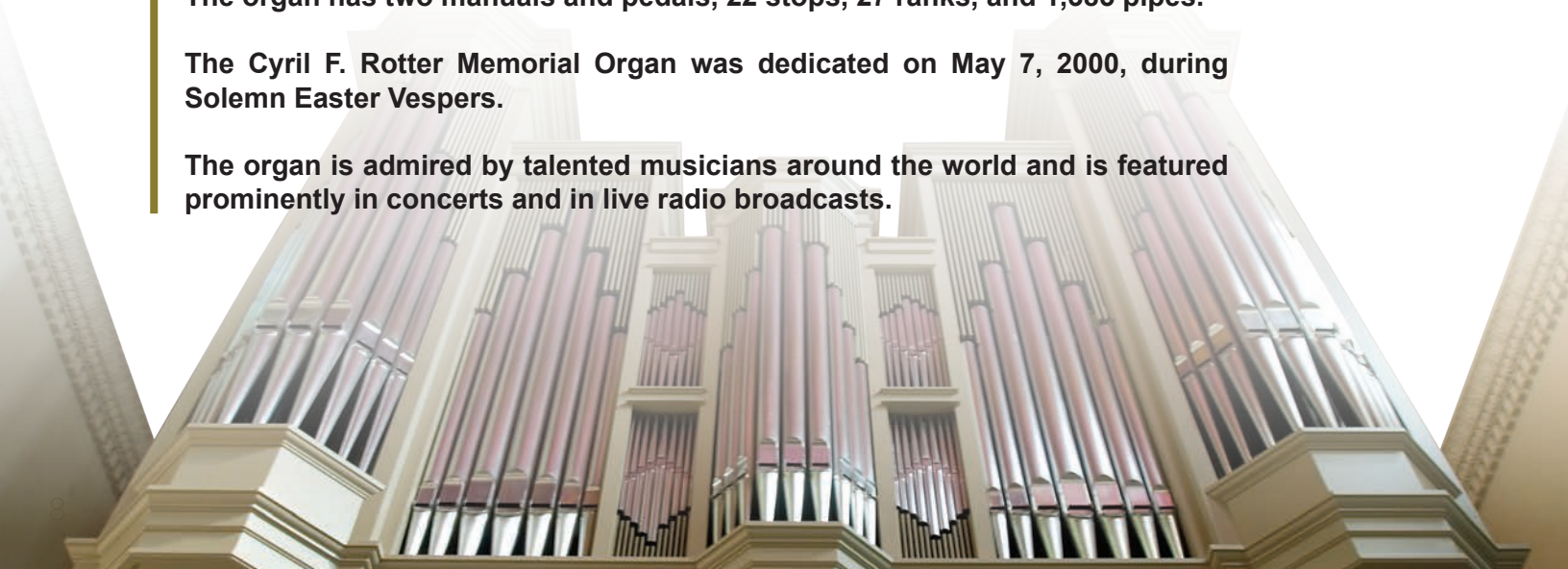
**An organ committee was formed in 1988, and a contract with the Noack Organ Company was signed in 1997.**

**Funds for the instrument came from a major gift by the Cyril F. Rotter family and other generous seminary friends and benefactors.**

**The organ has two manuals and pedals, 22 stops, 27 ranks, and 1,385 pipes.**

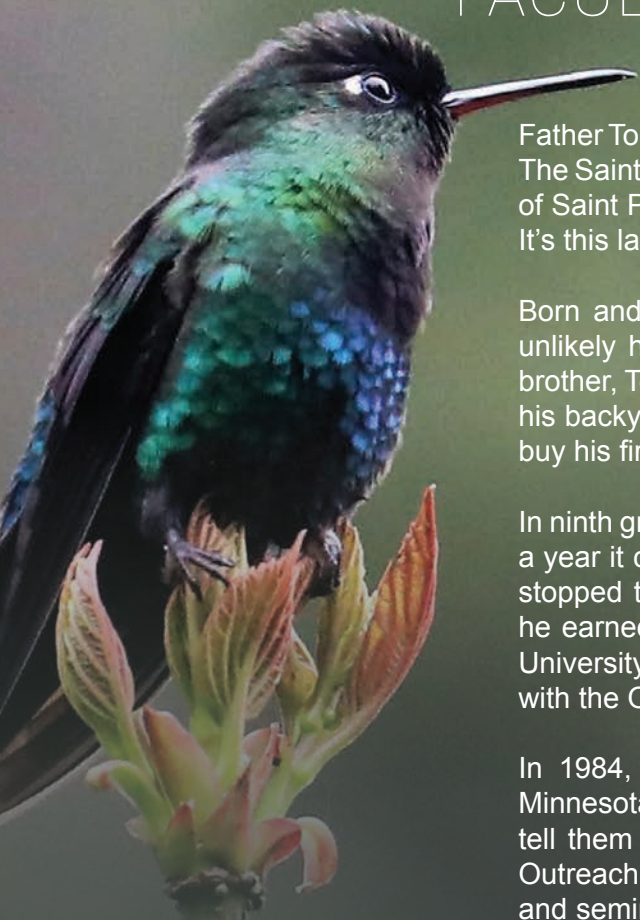
**The Cyril F. Rotter Memorial Organ was dedicated on May 7, 2000, during Solemn Easter Vespers.**

**The organ is admired by talented musicians around the world and is featured prominently in concerts and in live radio broadcasts.**





# FACULTY PRIEST IS FOR THE BIRDS



Father Tom Margevičius is an instructor of Liturgical Theology and Homiletics at The Saint Paul Seminary. He is also the Director of Worship for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. And, he is an ornithologist, aka a birdwatcher. It's this latter role that refreshes him in order to better fulfill the first two.

Born and raised in the inner city of Cleveland, Ohio, birdwatching was an unlikely hobby. To escape life on the streets, the young Tom and his older brother, Tony, spent a lot of time in a nearby city park. He built a bird feeder for his backyard and, when he was 12 years old, used his paper route money to buy his first set of binoculars. A lifelong hobby was born.

In ninth grade, Father Tom entered a high school seminary in Cleveland; within a year it closed and he transferred to another Catholic high school, yet never stopped thinking about the priesthood. The love of birds continued too, and he earned his Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Management at West Virginia University. Yet, even after "Ranger Tom" took a job as an Interpretive Naturalist with the Ohio State Parks, the call of the priesthood lingered.

In 1984, he left his park job for missionary work with NET Ministries in Minnesota. "As much as I liked telling people about birds, I would rather tell them about Jesus Christ," he reasoned. He then served with St. Paul's Outreach and joined the Companions of Christ, a fraternity of diocesan priests and seminarians in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. These all eventually led him to The Saint Paul Seminary where he re-discerned God's ultimate call for him.

Ordained in 1999, Father Tom still finds his avocation to be a perfect complement to his vocation, a place where science and theology cooperate to advance God's plan. Whether he's accompanying seminarians in the Holy Land or lay students in Costa Rica, Father Tom always has a pair of binoculars nearby.



Today, the walls of his office at the seminary are lined floor to ceiling with books on theology, Church history, and Sacred Scripture to guide his work with men in formation. Outside his office window are several well-stocked bird feeders where this faithful priest and avid ornithologist watches over his other flock.



# INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

There are many tangible components incorporated into a man's formation for priestly ministry. Standards and norms of prayer, worship, service and academics permeate his entire journey toward ordination.

There are also several intangibles that are part of a seminary's culture and contribute to a man's healthy, integrated formation. One of these is the place they call home during their years of preparation for priestly ministry.

When Father Taphorn arrived in 2019 to begin his tenure as Rector, he embraced the foundational elements of community already in place: the hall system, which serves as the basic unit of fraternity and service within the seminary; shared liturgical duties and house jobs; and community meals, to name a few.

However, he noticed an intangible that was missing from this matrix: an informal place where the seminarians could take a break from a day filled with intensive formation. In a family's home that might be around the kitchen table or in the family room, but nowhere was there a place where this large, extended family could gather for informal conversations and camaraderie.

Father Taphorn recalls from his own experience as a college chaplain the value of informal interactions. "As diocesan priests, we are called to live in relationship with Christ and with one another, and that should have a strong place within seminary formation," he said.

Fortunately, a large, multi-purpose room in the basement could be repurposed efficiently into a place the men can call their own.

A signature feature of the room already in place were the large, floor-to-ceiling windows that provide a fantastic view of the Mississippi River. Lighting was updated to better illuminate the space. A dual-purpose coffee bar/brew pub was added, and the room was divided into varied spaces that contribute to large and small group gatherings. An espresso machine and flat screen TV were donated by the faculty priests.

The goal of the project was realized almost immediately.

"This room used to be a place where we would walk through," says James Bernard, a Theology III seminarian in formation for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. "Now it's a space where we go in our free time to talk, do homework, discuss a book, watch a movie or play a game."

Some of the men stop by for a cappuccino or espresso on their way to class or after Morning Prayer. Bernard and Theology I seminarian Quinn Krebs, Diocese of Fargo, are even brewing their own beer in the updated space which is shared at seminary gatherings. Bernard is the teacher; Krebs is the apprentice.

Regardless of the activity that draws the men together, hospitality and fraternity are the goals.

"It has become a favorite place for everyone to gather," Krebs said. "I think it is a great investment in our community."



## FORMATION IN ACTION

Scott Padrnos and brother seminarians receive a blessing from Mother Inez, foundress of a home for handicapped children in Mexico City.

It all started during daily Mass in St. Mary's Chapel. Rector Emeritus Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan was preaching on the importance of charity and how "the homeless are the lepers of modern society" when a few seminarians felt called to put Monsignor's call into action.

What began as a simple idea to visit the homeless turned into a fruitful, weekly experience for the past two years. Scott Padrnos, a seminarian from the Diocese of Duluth, says these visits are consistently life-giving. "Honestly, I go out there more for myself than for them. It fills me up."

With three pots of coffee, a stack of cups and big winter coats, Dan Ruprecht, from the Diocese of Saint Cloud, and Padrnos head to the Catholic Charities Dorothy Day Center in downtown St. Paul. No goal is attached to the visits other than simply "being with the people."

A warm cup of coffee on a cold winter day serves as a nice icebreaker which can blossom into a lively conversation. Padrnos says he starts with a simple question: "How are you doing?" Not just asking halfheartedly, "but really meaning it," he said. Conversations range from the weather to sports to deep wounds. "They just want to be seen," Padrnos said. "And to see the faith of many of these people blows me away."

The charitable work has become a beautiful way of sharing what Padrnos encounters during his formation at The Saint Paul Seminary. "I am filled every day at the seminary, but I need an outlet to pour that out." And, when a Sunday afternoon nap sounds more enticing than the cold streets, Padrnos relies on the companionship and accountability of his fellow seminarians to get out there. He reminds himself, "I may be tired, but they are homeless."

# FORMING **the Formators**

Continuing education is commonplace for doctors, lawyers and educators, among many other professions, in order to refresh and expand their skill sets and learn best practices within their trades.

It is now a priority for our seminary formators to engage in intentional, ongoing formation in order to best serve those seeking ordination to the diocesan priesthood.

Specifically, the seminary formators are growing through their participation in the Seminary Formation Council (SFC), a two-year program that offers comprehensive training for those serving in diocesan seminaries. Formators from seminaries around the country participate in eight, four-day modules in the SFC program hosted at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida.



Father Scott Carl, Vice Rector

The Saint Paul Seminary is closely tied to this transformative program, both as educators and participants. Father John Floeder, dean of men, has completed the program and now serves as a practicum mentor; Paul Ruff, assistant director of human formation, is a member of the SFC faculty and presents on the role of psychology in formation; and Fathers Joseph Taphorn, Scott Carl, John Gallas and Kevin Zilverberg will complete their first year of ongoing formation training in March. Additionally, the Most Reverend Andrew Cozzens, auxiliary bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, is a founding member and presenter at the SFC.

According to their mission statement, the SFC serves diocesan seminary formation by providing education, practical tools, spiritual enrichment and fraternal support to seminary formators. The program's design and content reflect major themes in the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis: The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, which provides guidelines for the future of seminary formation.

The fruits of ongoing training are both personal and professional.

"The SFC has made a tremendous impact on me and my work as a formator," says Fr. Floeder. "I am better equipped as a formator and I have deepened my spiritual and priestly life."

According to Paul Ruff, the culture of seminary formation has changed from correction to engagement. "A man can only reach self-knowledge and self-possession by being deeply known and loved. When our formators listen and engage, transparency increases and our seminarians can step into vulnerable areas of growth. We are helping men seek real integration, not just conformity."

Both Father Floeder and Paul Ruff see The Saint Paul Seminary being among the leaders of a positive trend in seminary formation nationally. "A new standard of development for our future priests is underway and it's very exciting," Ruff says.

In addition to participation in the SFC modules, the formation team meets weekly to review the progress of men in formation, and monthly for ongoing skill development, consultation and support. Together, they are building up an intentional community of formation at The Saint Paul Seminary.

THEOLOGY STUDENT  
DOING  
**BIG**  
THINGS



If it's true that big things come in small packages, then pay attention to Hazel Jordan. Standing less than five feet tall, this first-year graduate student is a big thing.

Hazel is a recent graduate of the University of St. Thomas. With dual desires to go deeper in Theology and to serve others, she enrolled in the Master of Arts in Theology (MAT) degree program this fall.

There is an unlikely group of people igniting her passions: the homeless.

As an undergrad, Hazel participated in Street Ministry, a small group of students that reaches out to the homeless in downtown Minneapolis. During her senior year, she found her true calling after attending a presentation by Dr. Jonathan Reyes, founder of Denver's street ministry Christ in the City, and spending a week with the homeless in the Mile High City.

"When working with the homeless, I learn how to suffer with others and face my own wounds and inner poverty. As a result, I experience healing through this vulnerability," she says.

Upon her return from Denver, she poured herself back into Street Ministry by taking on a leadership role.

Every Saturday, Hazel organizes a small group of students (approximately 10-20) to socialize and pray before they break into teams and head downtown to meet people living on the streets. Sometimes they bring water bottles and granola bars to distribute, but their primary goal is to encounter each person and affirm their humanity through conversation and prayer. Later, the teams debrief within a theological framework.

Her fall Moral Theology class with Dr. Christopher Thompson provided an ideal foundation for this pursuit. "Essentially, I learned that we yearn to become the person God intends us to be. I can apply that to myself and to the people I encounter on the street. My heart was made for this work."

She even devoted her class final, a 15-page paper entitled "Are we Morally Obligated to Serve the Poor and Embrace Poverty?", to the subject she cares about the most.

Hazel has another full course load this semester and is back on the street every Saturday. Her dream is to one day work for a Catholic organization that provides ministry and care for the homeless.

She is already doing big things.



# PROFESSIONAL NOTES

In November, a team from The Saint Paul Seminary attended the first Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Seminary Animators training meeting at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore. During the three-day conference, faculty members **Dr. David Jenkins** and **Mr. Curt LeMay**, along with seminarians **Rodrigo Mayorga Landeros**, **Michael Reinhardt** and **Derek Gilde**, learned about CRS and its mission, received

training in advocacy and fundraising, and shared best practices with seminarians and faculty from seven other seminaries. CRS carries out the commitment of the



Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas.

On January 7, **Dr. David Jenkins**, liturgical music director, performed a solo organ recital on the Casavant Organ at the Church of Saint Louis King of France in St. Paul. The concert was part of a weekly organ recital series. Dr. Jenkins serves as Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



**Dr. John Martens**, director of the Master of Arts in Theology program, co-edited a book, with Dr. Kristine Henriksen Garroway, entitled *Children and Methods: Listening To and Learning From Children in the Biblical World*, Brill's Series in Jewish Studies, Vol. 67 (February 2020). Martens brings together an interdisciplinary collection of essays addressing children in the Hebrew Bible. **Erika Zabinski, MAT '15**, served as copy editor and indexer.

Dr. Martens' article, "Matthew's Vision of the Church," was recently published in *The Bible Today* (Vol. 58, Number 1, January/February 2020).

In November, **Deacon Joseph Michalak**, director of the Institute for Diaconate Formation, co-led the Region VIII Deacon Retreat at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo, MN. In December, he participated in a symposium in Pittsburgh, "The Interior Life of the Deacon," and preached a retreat for deacon aspirants and their wives in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

**Sister Katarina Schuth, Ph.D., OSF**, professor emerita, presented a paper at Villanova University in December at a gathering of authors contributing to an intercontinental commentary on the documents of Vatican II. Her paper was entitled "Priesthood and Formation for Ministry in the United States: The Situation Before and After Vatican II and Needs in the Present Context."

**Dr. Merylann "Mimi" Schuttloffel**, director of the Institute for Catholic School Leadership and professor of Catholic education, attended the National Catholic Education Association's Leadership Summit in Newport, RI, in October.



**Dr. William Stevenson**, associate professor of Dogmatic Theology, presented a paper entitled, “Absurd Equality’: The Church’s Condemnation of Socialism in Rerum Novarum” at the National Catholic – Evangelical Ecumenical Dialogue, held at the University of Mary, in Bismarck, ND, in October. In November, he co-presented, with Dr. Sherwin Doroudi, a talk to the youth at Anjuman-e-Asghari Islamic Center on Islamic jurisprudence.

**Dr. Christopher Thompson**, academic dean, was the keynote speaker at Delbarton School in Morristown, NJ, for a day of recollection dedicated to the topics of integral ecology and the protection of the unborn.

**Rev. Kevin Zilverberg**, assistant professor of Sacred Scripture, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation, *The Textual History of Old Latin Daniel from Tertullian to Lucifer*, at the Pontifical Biblical

Institute in Rome in November. Father Zilverberg received highest honors (*summa cum laude*) for the dissertation and its defense.



Father Kevin Zilverberg

## SPRING IRELAND LECTURE

*Redeeming Woman:  
The Feminine Principle in the Divine Plan*

Presented by **Dr. Deborah Savage**

**Monday, April 20, 2020  
7:30 p.m.**

**University of St. Thomas  
3M Auditorium, Owens Science Hall**

**Free and open to the public.**



## SHAKESPEARE AND THE RENEWAL OF THE PRIESTHOOD

One of my favorite scenes in Shakespeare's "Henry V" is the king's St. Crispin Day speech. The scene takes place just before the Battle of Agincourt. The English are in desperate straits. They are worn down having completed a 200-mile march on foot. Their numbers have been depleted by death, disease and desertion. The French army, on the other hand, is fresh and ready for battle, outnumbering the English five to one. Things look quite bleak for King Henry and his ragtag army. But then, the unexpected happens. Not only do the English win the battle, they do so in such decisive manner that it becomes one of the most lopsided victories in military history.

I have often thought of Henry's speech during the recent season in our Church. It is easy to relate our situation to the tired state of the English army, and perhaps less easy to relate to Henry's prophetic speech that a great day lies in front of them. And yet, I wholeheartedly believe that a great day lies before us in the Church.

The cause of my hope is threefold. On a natural level, one could say that good has come out of the crisis. In order to resolve a problem it first needs to be identified. You can't fix something if you don't know it is broken. Though troubling, brokenness is the first step in the healing process.

History also shows there is hope. As a Church, we have been here before. From the very beginning, there have been periods of moral corruption in the Church; however, instead of destroying the Church, these times have served to bring about much needed renewal and reformation. In fact, the dark times have actually produced great saints. To go deeper, I encourage you to read Bishop Robert Barron's *Letter to a Suffering Church* or the Augustine Institute's *True Reformers*.

Lastly, and most importantly, our hope is based on God's promise that the gates of hell will not prevail. Should we be surprised that the battle between good and evil is taking place inside the Church? In the parables of the wheat and tares (cf. Mt. 13:24-30), Jesus isn't talking about the world. He is referring to the kingdom of God. The real battle has always been from within – in our Church, in our families, even in ourselves. The good news is that, in the end, God always triumphs.

So, what does all this have to do with supporting the work of priestly formation?

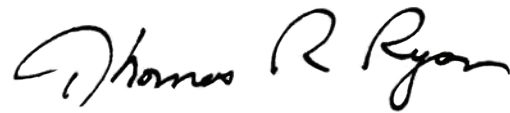


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Everything. We all suffer when those called to serve Christ and His Church forsake their calling. Instead of seeking holiness and serving the people of God, they seek selfish gain, reputation and power. The solution isn't changing Church teaching. It's living out Church teaching with fidelity, courage, charity and humility – especially among those called to serve as priests, deacons and lay leaders.

That is why the work taking place at our seminaries is so critically important for the Church today and for generations to come. Renewal of the Church begins with the renewal of the priesthood. That is why each day we give thanks for all those who support this noble and important work that will, God willing, usher in a new day.



Thomas R. Ryan  
Vice President for Institutional Advancement



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Theology III seminarians stop for a photo on the Mount of Olives, overlooking the Kidron Valley, during their January Trip to the Holy Land. This month-long pilgrimage is an opportunity for the men to be formed by the places so important to salvation history.



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