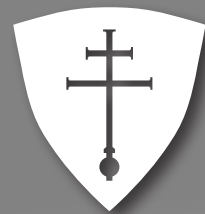


ORACLE



SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | SUMMER 2020



FORMATION IN THE
TIME OF PANDEMIC
PAGES 3-5

ORDINATION 2020
PAGES 6-12



Dear Friends,

As summer finally rolls around, I hope that we are all taking some time to rest, pray and reflect upon the past few months, which have been challenging indeed.

In March, our world recognized the threat of the novel coronavirus and the resulting COVID-19 pandemic, which drastically affected all of our lives. As most universities, colleges, and seminaries moved to send students home and conduct all classes virtually, I am proud of the way our men responded to being one of the few seminaries in the United States to remain open (see pp. 3-5). While a challenging time for sure, the Lord blessed our time together and permitted us to enter into the work of priestly formation in an even deeper way. Now that our seminarians have departed for summer assignments, seminary leadership will use this time to plan to re-open again in the fall in a safe manner, knowing that the COVID-19 virus will be with us for some time.

As the school year came to a close and we celebrated our lay graduates (see p.15) and newly ordained deacons and priests (see pp. 6-12), yet another crisis struck our nation: the death of Minneapolis resident Mr. George Floyd at the hands of four local police officers on Memorial Day. This act of violence, just a few miles from our seminary, launched nationwide protests against racism, an urgent and important message to be spoken and heard. Sadly, in some cases, these protests led to more violence and unrest, affecting many innocent people.

As I reflect both on the pandemic and the civil unrest in our country, I am convinced more and more of the basic truth of our faith: that we need a Savior, who is Christ our Lord. Our mission of forming priests, deacons, and lay leaders who can proclaim the Good News with compassion and zeal is needed more than ever in our broken world, so that we can fully realize our vision of "the Church on fire with the Holy Spirit, a world transformed in Jesus Christ."

Thank you for partnering with us in this most important mission.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Joseph C. Taphorn, JCL
Rector and Vice President

"The waves of death rose about me; the pains of the netherworld surrounded me. In my anguish I called to the Lord, and from his holy temple he heard my voice" (The Roman Missal, Entrance Antiphon for Mass in Time of War or Civil Disturbance, cf. Ps.18:5-7).



SEMINARIANS STRENGTHEN BONDS in Cloister

This article was written by Barb Umberger, staff writer for The Catholic Spirit, and originally published on May 7. It has been edited for the Oracle and reprinted with permission. The seminary's cloister ended on May 23.

On March 20, as Minnesota residents prepared to follow Gov. Tim Walz's stay-at-home order to curb the spread of COVID-19, men studying for the priesthood at The Saint Paul Seminary embarked on an opportunity: instead of returning home, they began a "cloister" at the seminary.

While many major seminaries in other parts of the country chose to send their seminarians home, Father Joseph Taphorn met with his leadership team and decided to keep the facility open to its graduate-level seminarians. It would operate in a cloistered environment, with little direct contact with the outside world.

The decision took effect the weekend before spring break.

"It made the most sense to me because this is home," Father Taphorn said. The vast majority of the seminarians live at the seminary, where they also worship and take classes.

Above: Kyle Etzel, Jason Lee and John Rumpza enjoy a break from the cloister in the seminary courtyard.

continued on next page...

Seminary leadership gave the men and their bishops a choice to stay or go home. “Rather than say ‘everybody has to do this,’ we offered an invitation: If you would like to ... ride out the storm together, this is what it will look like. And we’d love to have you stay together and be part of it,” Father Taphorn said.

One diocese asked its three seminarians to return home, and another seminarian from a second diocese also left. Four Pro Ecclesia Sancta brothers and one other seminarian already lived off-site.

The other 59 seminarians decided to stay. Twelve priests are also living at the seminary, including spiritual and formation directors and Father Taphorn.

There have been challenges under the unique circumstances, but it also has borne great fruit and offered opportunities for growth, several seminarians said.

At first it seemed daunting to live so close with others, with no chance to break away by going to a restaurant or a movie, said Jason Lee of St. Boniface in Waukee, Iowa.

“But that also allows friendships to become closer,” Lee said. “A lot of guys play board games or go for walks together or bike rides, so it’s a great opportunity for fraternity and solidarity.”

The special fraternity developing among the seminarians will impact their future ministries, said Kyle Etzel of St. Hubert in Chanhassen. “Once we’re ordained and have the kinds of bonds that we’re developing in this sort of pressure cooker situation, I think it’s going to pay off. Fraternity within a seminary is something every seminarian hopes for and every rector is trying to accomplish.”

The cloister experience also confronted the seminarians with an opportunity to take a hard look at their interior lives, said seminarian John Rumpza of Nativity of Our Lord in St. Paul, referring to what C.S. Lewis called “a severe mercy.”

“It’s given me the opportunity to spend time with the Lord and show him those places ... and actually bring healing, joy and peace,” he said. It’s difficult but powerful work, Rumpza said, and it has profoundly changed him.

Below: A sign posted at the doors to the seminary entrance included Pope Francis’ Prayer to Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic.



The seminarians had high praise for Father Taphorn. "It's been inspiring to watch him lead us," Rumpza said, "with his characteristic sense of ease and openness, yet also with great strength and vision. He truly is the house father, and we are so grateful."

Today, seminarians can access the chapel, a kitchen area and community room while practicing social distancing. They can leave the building for exercise, but no one from outside can come into the "cloister," which draws on the idea of a monastery community whose members rarely, if ever, leave.

They go to daily Mass in the seminary's chapel, but tape is used to mark the distance seminarians need to sit apart. They receive the Body of Christ at Mass and can go to confession behind a screen at a greater distance. Seminarians do not receive from the chalice, nor do they exchange the sign of peace.

Etzel said they do not take for granted the chance to attend Mass and to receive the sacraments at a time public Masses are suspended.

Being in cloister, Lee said, also provides more opportunities for prayer. "One thing this cloister has taught me is the importance of intercessory prayer for other people. We can't go out and minister to people, but what we can do is bring all their prayers and petitions to the Lord at Mass."

Etzel normally would be working in hospital ministry this summer, but because of coronavirus-related precautions at hospitals, plans have changed. Instead, he and other seminarians will be studying Spanish in online classes. Transitional deacons will be placed in parishes.

In cloister mode, Lee said, life is simplified. "Our schedule is simplified. Our food has become more simple. ... We just have what we need. And that is good enough."

In that simplicity, Lee said he sees how God provides for daily needs. "Everything comes from God. We're not wanting. ... It's a very beautiful way to live."

NOTES FROM THE 1918 SPANISH FLU



Seminary archives remind us that we have experienced a pandemic once before.

In "Tales from the Archives — The 1918 Spanish Influenza Epidemic at St. Thomas," (Feb. 2, 2018), University of St. Thomas Archivist Ann Kenne notes that the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis responded to that pandemic differently:

"Unlike our neighbors in Minneapolis, Saint Paul did not immediately close schools and public gathering places when the epidemic became widespread. Instead, authorities recommended that people with flu isolate themselves to prevent the spread of the illness."

No records exist of total number of students and seminarians who contracted the deadly disease; however, one seminarian and three college students died from the illness in the second wave that hit the United States in the winter of 1919-1920.

A 1920 edition of the *St. Paul Seminary Register* notes that events surrounding the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul were cancelled that year:

"The usual solemnities that mark the patronal feast of the seminary could not be held this year, owing to an epidemic of influenza, of which a large number of students were victims at the time. The seminarians, as far as they were able, departed for the mid-year vacation on Thursday, January 22, 1920."



It is a privilege to introduce The Saint Paul Seminary Class of 2020. This group of 13 will serve five dioceses throughout the Midwest and the religious order Pro Ecclesia Sancta.

For the past four years, they studied, laughed, and grew through the joys and challenges of formation. They traveled together to Washington, D.C., Mexico, Ireland, Jerusalem, and Rome, and, most recently, they lived in cloister together during a worldwide pandemic. Through it all, they celebrated each others' strengths and supported their brothers when faced with challenges.

Father Joseph Taphorn will always remember the Class of 2020 as they were with him from the moment he became rector on January 1, 2019.

"We were on a plane together somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean!" Father Taphorn recalls. "Being with them on pilgrimage to the Holy Land for nearly four weeks as I began my tenure as rector gave me a beautiful opportunity to get to know each man well and for me to grow in confidence in the new role I was undertaking. I am proud of each one and know that their priestly ministry will be a great blessing to those that they encounter."

It is almost impossible to meet a member of the seminary Class of 2020 without breaking out in a smile. They are a special group of men and a gift to the Church.

"We are really close," Father Nathan Hastings said. "There are no divisions or cliques in our class. It has been such a blessing."

Hastings, who was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis on May 30, emphasized the impact this fraternity had on his formation. "In seminary, you need brothers to rely on and to laugh and commiserate with."

From the rural dioceses of the Dakotas and Saint Cloud to the cities of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, each seminarian brought something to the table.

Father John Hayes, now a priest for the Diocese of New Ulm, was tagged "Musician Extraordinaire" by his classmates. He played the chapel organ, cantored at Mass, sang in the seminary Schola, and played the lead role in the seminary's 2019 production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

If you needed answers to any historical questions about The Saint Paul Seminary, Father Austin Barnes, recently ordained for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, was your guy. In fact, he was tapped by Father Taphorn to decorate the seminary's informal gathering space with photos from the seminary's past.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2020



Father Tim Tran of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis was calm and collected. “He was always on top of things,” Hastings said, explaining that Tran kept the class in line especially if they got too rowdy. Born in Vietnam, Tran also has a unique tenderness for minority communities in the Twin Cities. “He brought a whole different perspective to our class,” Hastings said.

And, if you ever needed a laugh, Father Shawn Polman, ordained for the Diocese of New Ulm, often had a prank to catch you off guard.

The Class of 2020 also had a reputation in the classroom. In fact, they were known around the seminary as “the class that asked a lot of questions.”

Affirming the slogan, Dr. Stephen Hipp, professor of Dogmatic Theology, said, “Their questions revealed love. Love for truth and for God. And that’s what made teaching them both exciting and edifying for me.”

All told, the most extraordinary thing about the Class of 2020 is the beautiful unity and friendship they shared even amidst their different personalities and hobbies.

“We’ve been through a lot together,” said Father Brady Keller, newly ordained for the Diocese of Saint Cloud, “It is helpful to know that I am entering priesthood with these men by my side.”

Their final test as a class came in late March as COVID-19 spread across the world. Ordination dates were set, reception plans were arranged, and the Theology IV seminarians were prepared to celebrate their entrance to the priesthood with their families, friends, and future parishioners.

Although ordination Masses looked different this year – some offered via live stream and others postponed to later dates - the time lived in cloister served as a reminder of the greater call they received to serve God and His Church.

“This time helped me realize that, while celebrations are great, I have been preparing for the priesthood and not just ordination,” Hastings said. “It has been a very purifying experience to let my ideas be stripped away and to realize I am here to be a priest of Jesus Christ.”

For Polman, living in a cloister for the past two months made him even more excited to become a priest. “I want to get to work!” he said. “I look forward to spending time with my parishioners and bringing Jesus to them.”

As the class of 2020 moved onto the priesthood, they looked back with fondness on everything they have received during the past four years. “I am so grateful for the formation here,” Polman said.

Previous page: Newly ordained Father Brady Keller blesses Father Joseph Taphorn.

Above: Father Nathan Hastings prays from a distance during the Ordination Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul.



SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

PAUL HEDMAN

Age: 25
Hometown: Brooklyn Park, MN
Home Parish: Church of St. Raphael
Parents: Michael and Sharon Hedman
Siblings: 2 brothers, 1 sister
Education: Philosophy and Computer Science, University of St. Thomas

THINH (TIM) TRAN

Age: 29
Hometown: Saigon, Vietnam and Brooklyn Park, MN
Home Parish: St. Anne – St. Joseph Hien
Parents: Joseph Tran and Dao Nguyen
Siblings: 1 brother, 1 sister
Education: Chemistry, University of Minnesota

NATHAN HASTINGS

Age: 27
Hometown: Inver Grove Heights, MN
Home Parish: St. Joseph's Church
Parents: Jim and Pam Hastings
Siblings: 1 brother, 3 sisters
Education: Computer Engineering, University of Minnesota (1 year); Philosophy, University of St. Thomas (3 years)

AUSTIN BARNES

Age: 26
Hometown: South St. Paul, MN
Home Parish: Holy Trinity
Parents: Leonard and Catherine Barnes
Siblings: 1 brother, 1 sister
Education: Philosophy and Catholic Studies, University of Saint Thomas



FARGO

ERIC SEITZ

was a member of The Saint Paul Seminary's Class of 2019 and will be ordained with Deacon Riley Durkin on August 8 for the Diocese of Fargo. Congratulations, Deacon Eric!



RILEY DURKIN

Age: 27
Hometown: Inkster, ND
Home Parish: St. Stephen's
Parents: Kevin and Lisa Durkin
Siblings: 1 brother, 1 sister
Education: Philosophy, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit

NEW ULM



SHAWN POLMAN

Age: 26

Hometown: Cottonwood, MN

Home Parish: St. Mary's Church

Parents: Ron and Jean Polman

Siblings: 2 sisters

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

JOHN HAYES

Age: 26

Hometown: Lafayette, MN

Home Parish: St. Gregory the Great

Parents: Tom and Patti Hayes

Siblings: 2 brothers, 1 sister

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

ST. CLOUD



PATRICK HOEFT

Age: 26

Hometown: Paynesville, MN

Home Parish: St. Louis

Parents: Bill and Nancy Hoeft

Siblings: 4 sisters, 1 brother

Education: Philosophy, Saint Mary's University

BRADY KELLER

Age: 28

Hometown: Nashua, MN

Home Parish: St. Gall

Parents: Jerry and Cheryl Keller

Siblings: 2 sisters

Education: Philosophy, Saint Mary's University

THOMAS SKAJA

Age: 26

Hometown: Rice, MN

Home Parish: Church of the Annunciation

Parents: Mike and Kim Skaja

Sibling: 1 brother

Education: Philosophy, Saint Mary's University



YAMATO ICOCHEA, P.E.S.

Age: 35

Hometown: Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan, and
La Molina, Lima, Peru

Home Parish: Sagrado Corazón de Jesús (Surco, Lima, Peru)

Parents: Luis Icochea and Emi Oshima

Siblings: 2 sisters, 1 brother

Education: Social Communication and Journalism,
Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Lima, Peru)

CESAR VALENCIA MARTINEZ, P.E.S.

Age: 31

Hometown: Talara, Piura (Peru)

Home Parish: Immaculate Conception

Parents: Cesar Valencia and Teolinda Martinez

Siblings: 2 sisters

Education: History and Cultural Management,
University of Piura (Peru)

PRO ECCLESIA SANCTA



MICHAEL KAPPERMAN

Age: 27

Hometown: Hartford, SD

Home Parish: St. George

Parents: Dennis and Carol Kapperman

Siblings: 3 brothers

Education: Secondary Math Education,
Dakota State University



SIOUX FALLS

Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood in the U.S. 2020

16

average age when first
considered the priesthood

34

average age at
ordination

72

percent participated in Eucharistic Adoration

The most common fields of study before entering the seminary:
THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY, SOCIAL SCIENCE, SCIENCE, MATH, BUSINESS

89

percent were encouraged to consider
the priesthood by a parish priest, friend
or another parishioner

35 percent
studied at a
seminary in the
Midwest

Source:
Center for Applied
Research in
the Apostolate,
Georgetown
University,
Washington, D.C.

ORDAINED TO SERVE AS TRANSITIONAL DEACONS



The following men completed Theology III at the end of spring semester. Ordination Masses were celebrated in May and June, and some are postponed to dates later this summer.

The seminary community is very proud of these men and looks forward to their future ministries as deacons and priests. *Deo gratias!*

ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS

James Bernard
William Duffert
Michael Reinhardt
Josh Salonek

DAVENPORT

Andrew Rauenbuehler

DES MOINES

Jake Epstein
Brad Robey

DULUTH

Trevor Peterson

KABALE, UGANDA

Zephirino Tumwejunise

PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER

Stephen Hilgendorf

PRO ECCLESIA SANCTA

Brother Joseph Barron
Brother David Hottinger

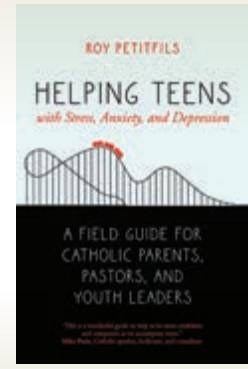
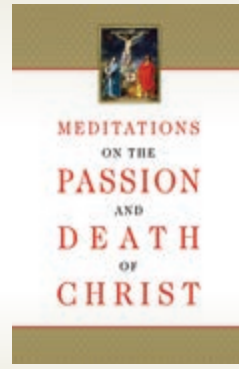
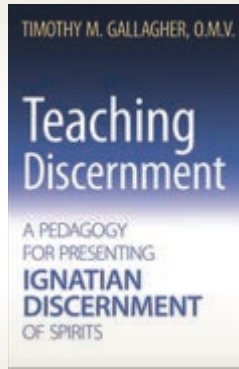
ROCKFORD

John McFadden
Aaron Downing

SIOUX FALLS

Jacob Doty
Scott Miller

STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS PUBLISHED IN ACADEMIC JOURNAL



Five graduate-level students had their work recently published in *Homiletics and Pastoral Review*, a pastoral journal for clergy founded in 1900.

Father Austin Barnes has a review of Sam Guzman's book, *The Catholic Gentleman: Living Authentic Manhood Today* (San Francisco: Ignatius Press), in the January 2020 issue.

Father John Hayes wrote a review of *Teaching Discernment: A Pedagogy for Presenting Ignatian Discernment of Spirits* by Timothy M. Gallagher, OMV (Crossroad Publishing Company, 2020), that appears in the online issue of *Homiletics and Pastoral Review*.

Theology student Ruth Caron's review of *Abide in the Heart of Christ: A 10-Day Personal Retreat with St. Ignatius Loyola* by Joe Laramie, S.J., (Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2019) also appeared in the January 2020 issue.

Father Thomas Skaja's review of *Meditations of the Passion and Death of Christ* by Fr. Ignatius of the Side of Christ (Charlotte, North Carolina: TAN Books), appears in the February 2020 issue.

And, Master of Arts in Theology student Maria Kraker's review of *Helping Teens with Stress, Anxiety, and Depression* by Roy Petitfils also appears in the February 2020 issue.

All five wrote their reviews as assignments for one of Father Michael Monshau's courses. Father explained that in addition to his mandate to prepare his students intellectually and spiritually, he also feels a responsibility to help them to assume their places as professionals in ministry.

Every semester he asks his students to choose a recently published book that integrates the subject of the course with their own interests and to write a review of that book. When a student's work excels, Father Monshau helps them to prepare it for publication.

"One of the surest ways to gain professional recognition for a young scholar is to help them get published, and the book review is the most accessible writing assignment for the unpublished writer," he said.

Father Monshau finds that securing his students' academic and professional success is very close to his identity as a Dominican. A member of his order's Chicago Province, named after St. Albert the Great, Father notes that St. Albert, who was a sophisticated scholar in his own right, spent a lifetime promoting the work of his even greater student, St. Thomas Aquinas.

"These students are the future of the Church," he notes. "It is time to hear how they express themselves theologically to their own peers."



VETERAN RETURNS TO THE CLASSROOM

Before Colin Faust deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, the 21-year-old Marine received a gift from his Catholic grandmother: a miraculous medal to wear around his neck, especially on dangerous foot patrols. Colin, baptized and raised Lutheran, thanked her and promised her he would wear it.

Three months later, when he stepped on an I.E.D. landmine, the miraculous medal was the only thing that remained intact. Colin's body was broken. One leg was immediately amputated and the other badly mangled. His chance of survival was slim.

Without any connection other than it being a gift from his grandma, the miraculous medal hung around his neck during the next three months of indescribable pain from 40 surgeries, followed by two years of rehabilitation at the VA Hospital in Minneapolis and an Army medical base in San Antonio, Texas.

Colin describes his relationship with God at this time as lukewarm, and he slipped into a dark, confusing period in his life. There was so much for him to process, and he tried to do it on his own. He looks back now and better understands St. Augustine's words, "The heart is restless until it rests in Thee."

As he learned to live as an amputee in a wheelchair, Colin slowly came out of his depression. Waiting for him on the other side was Julia, a lifelong Catholic and now his wife of three years.

Left: the Faust family is pictured at baby Leo's baptism in September 2019.

The blessings began to add up, including what Colin describes as “an explosion of grace.”

“The Blessed Mother of God came to reap what she had sown years earlier on the battlefield in Afghanistan,” he says.

With the same fire and determination that drove the young Marine years earlier, Colin decided that he could no longer remain neutral in his relationship with the Lord. He pursued Christ and the truth with intensity. Colin ultimately read and studied and investigated his way to the Catholic Church, receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion at the Easter Vigil in 2018.

Coinciding with Colin's entry into the Church was the completion of his undergraduate degree in Business Administration. With a certainty that he had been called by God to serve the Church as a married lay man, he started looking for a graduate degree program that would help him realize this call.

He found that online programs were plentiful and attractive; however, he sought academic rigor and one-on-one interaction with professors and classmates on a campus. The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity was the perfect fit.

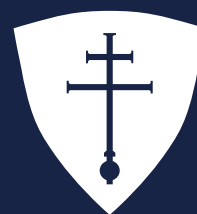
Colin dove into two years of reading, writing and research in the Master of Arts in Theology degree program. He found a community of students and professors who were engaged and pushed him to go deeper into his academics and prayer life. And, he forged new friendships built upon a common foundation of faith and intellectual curiosity.

“The greatest impact that The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity had on me is that I grew as a person and as a Catholic,” he says. “And, I have grown in virtue as a result of my time in this community. I am extremely blessed by this experience.”

Colin will spend the next 12 months completing comprehensive exams, a language exam, and a written thesis, in order to graduate in May 2021. He envisions God using him as an instrument to teach others one day, perhaps in a parish setting or in a high school.

“No matter how God chooses to use me, I am a living example of God turning a tremendous amount of pain and suffering into a greater good.”

What about that miraculous medal Colin received 10 years ago? It's old and worn and kept in a safe place at home. It accompanied him through years of pain and suffering, including through all of his surgeries – with special exceptions given each time by his surgeons. He wears a newer one now that never comes off either.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2020 GRADUATES!

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
PASTORAL MINISTRY**
Ruth Caron

**MASTER OF ARTS IN
THEOLOGY**
Daniel Furey
Michael Kapperman

MASTER OF DIVINITY
Austin Barnes
Riley Durkin
Nathan Hastings
John Hayes
Paul Hedman
Patrick Hoeft
Yamato Icochea
Michael Kapperman
Brady Keller
Shawn Polman
Thomas Skaja
Thinh (Tim) Tran
Cesar Valencia

For more information about our
graduate degree programs,
please contact:

Dr. Kenneth Snyder
Associate Academic Dean
kdsnyder@stthomas.edu

PROFESSIONAL NOTES

Father Scott Carl, vice rector, continues to serve as consultant on the USCCB Subcommittee on the Translation of Scripture Text currently reviewing an updated translation of the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) for use as a Catholic study Bible and as the basis for an updated Lectionary.

Dr. John Froula, assistant professor of Dogmatic Theology, has been awarded tenure and the rank of Associate Professor by University of St. Thomas President Julie Sullivan. Dr. Froula earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology (*summa cum laude*) at the Pontifical University of St. Teresa in Rome in 2006 and a doctorate from Ave Maria University in 2012. His areas of teaching and research include Christology, Eucharistic Theology, the theology of St. Thomas Aquinas, and grace and the spiritual life. He joined the seminary faculty in 2014.



Rev. Evan Koop, a priest-in-study on the seminary faculty, was recently published in a book co-edited by Bishop Andrew Cozzens and Bishop Felipe Estévez, *Spiritual Husbands-Spiritual Fathers: Priestly Formation for the 21st Century* (St. Louis: En Route Books and Media, 2020). Father Koop's article, entitled "Mary as the



Bridal Companion of the Priest," incorporates a number of insights from his doctoral dissertation in progress, *The Virgin Mary's Bridal Cooperation in Redemption at the Cross, in the Mariology of Matthias Joseph Scheeben and the Fathers of the Church*. He plans to defend his dissertation and complete his doctoral degree at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in June 2021.

Dr. Merylann "Mimi" J. Schuttlöffel, founding director of the Institute for Catholic School Leadership, has been accepted as a member of G.R.A.C.E., Global Researchers Advancing Catholic Education, an international, interdisciplinary group of practitioners, researchers and scholars in the world of Catholic education. Sponsoring institutions are Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland; University of Notre Dame, Fremantle, Australia; and Boston College. Dr. Mimi's role is that of mentor to novice researchers in the discipline of Catholic education. The initial conference at Kylemore Abbey, Co. Galway, Ireland, scheduled for June 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. John W. Beckfelt, Class of 1974
Rev. Lawrence W. Haas, Class of 1963
Rev. Francis Kittock, Class of 1955
Mr. Giles E. Kobilka, Class of 1957
Mr. Joseph Kuelbs, Class of 1961

Rev. Gerald J. LaPatka, Class of 1956
Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. Monahan, Class of 1958
Msgr. Nelson Newman, Class of 1954
Mr. Joseph A. Oertli, Class of 1960

CATECHETICAL INSTITUTE GRADUATES 10TH CLASS

What started as an idea over lunch approximately 15 years ago has become a dynamic force for evangelization throughout the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and beyond.

The idea was the Catechetical Institute (CI). At the table was Founding Director Jeff Cavins, Academic Dean Christopher Thompson, Deacon Joseph Michalak, and other priest faculty members. Current Director Kelly Wahlquist was instrumental from the beginning as well. The program was formally named the Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute for the seventh shepherd of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and beloved evangelist, Harry J. Flynn.

It took more than two years to establish the structure and curriculum for the two-year Pillars Program, which graduated its 10th class on May 11. Since the first notes were jotted on the proverbial napkin, more than 1,500 men and women have completed the course which walks students through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and serves as a systematic presentation of the Catholic faith.

The CI expanded the foundational program into the Dioceses of Des Moines in 2016 and Saint Cloud in 2017. The CI now offers three additional enrichment courses: School of Discipleship, School of Prayer, and School of the Holy Spirit.



DAVID AND BRIDGET BUSACKER, members of the Class of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, celebrated their graduation from the Catechetical Institute's Pillars Program at home with daughter Felicity.

To learn more about the Catechetical Institute, visit: semssp.org/ci

As Baby Boomers age, there is a lot of speculation about how the sector of philanthropy will be impacted as the next generations come of age.

On one hand, there are great expectations. As studies show (see opposite page), upcoming generations will earn and inherit unprecedented wealth. On the other hand, there are questions. Will the next generation be active in philanthropy? Will they give to the same institutions as their parents or be disposed to generosity in general? After all, it is much easier to pass along assets than it is to pass along values.

Two autumns ago, I had an experience that gave me insight (and hope) about how the next generation approaches philanthropic giving. The seminary had just kicked off a crowdfunding effort called “One Week for One Priest.” In seven days, our goal was to raise enough funds to support one seminarian for the entirety of his time in formation. Soon after launching this effort, we received a \$5,000 gift from a new donor.



Wanting to convey my gratitude, I picked up the phone to make a thank you call. When I heard the voice at the other end, I was taken aback. I had assumed the gift was from a parent or grandparent of one of the first-year seminarians. The voice belonged to a young man who recently graduated from college.

In the ensuing conversation, I learned he discovered the fundraising effort through a Facebook post while on a break from his job as an engineer. He told me he went to college with one of the seminarians, and he liked the concept of “One Week for One Priest.” He also said he hadn’t completed his tithing for the year, so he thought he would make a gift.

In many ways, I should not have been surprised as to how and why this gift was made. After all, how many people in their 20’s actually write checks? Electronic transactions are the norm.

As to the “why,” it made complete sense. He had a personal connection, the seminary aligned with his values, and he could see what his gift would do. These three factors seem to mark giving in every generation.

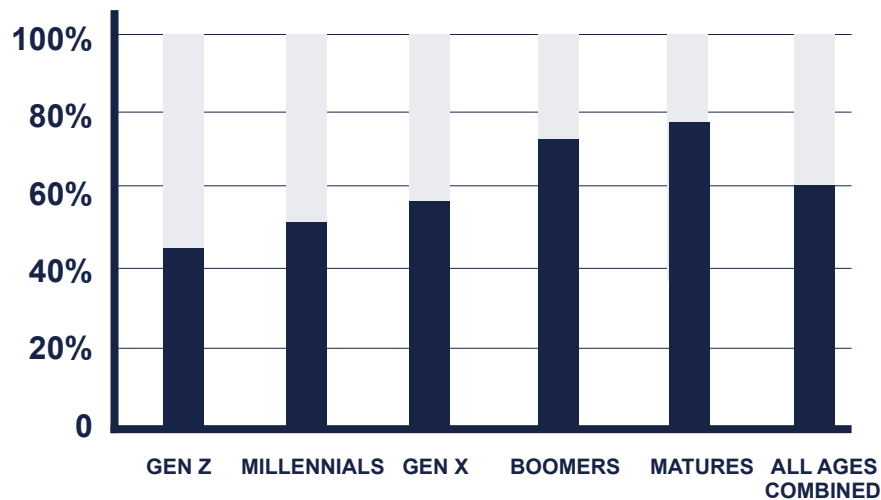
However, the greatest encouragement for me was not how or why he made his gift. It was the fact that he (or anyone for that matter) decided to make the gift in the first place. Every gift ultimately is a beautiful reflection of the source of all generosity – God Himself. In the world of Institutional Advancement, this miracle of generosity “never gets old.” And, that is why each day we give thanks to God for the many friends who advance the work of priest, deacon, and lay formation with their prayers, time, and financial support. Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Ryan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

GENERATIONAL GIVING TRENDS

GIVING BY PERCENTAGE (2018)

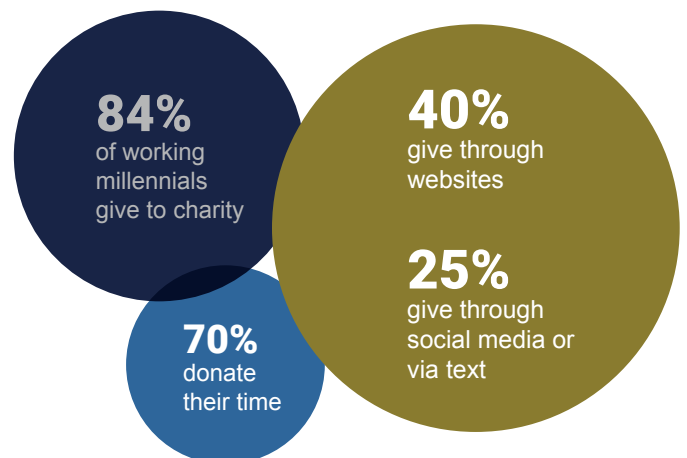


GIVING BY DESIGNATION

| GEN Z | MILLENNIALS | GEN X | BOOMERS | MATURES | ALL AGES combined |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Children | Worship | Health | Local Social Service | Worship | Local Social Service |
| Animal | Children | Local Social Service | Worship | Local Social Service | Worship |
| Health | Local Social Service | Animal | Health | Emergency Relief | Health |
| Worship | Health | Children | Emergency Relief | Health | Children |
| Local Social Service | Animal | Emergency Relief | Children | Children | Emergency Relief |
| Military | Emergency Relief | Worship | Military | Military | Animal |
| Emergency Relief | Youth Development | Military | Animal | Formal Education | Troops/Veterans |

\$59 trillion will be transferred to the next generation between 2007 – 2061. Nearly 50% will go to philanthropy.

Between earned and inherited wealth, it is predicted that future generations will become the most powerful philanthropic force ever.





SAINT PAUL SEMINARY SCHOOL OF DIVINITY

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Newly ordained priests exit the Cathedral of Saint Paul following the Ordination Mass on May 30. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin priestly ministry.

Photo credit: Dave Hrbacek/*The Catholic Spirit*.



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