

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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ANSWERING THE CALL...

As Pope St. John XXIII prepares men ages 30-60 to serve the Church as your parish priests, did you know these easy giving options can help support their formation?

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- IRA - If you are 70½ or older, you can transfer a gift to best advance the formation of our future priests directly to the Seminary without incurring tax consequences.



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Please contact Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary's Advancement Office at 781-810-1923 for more information, or to let us know you'll be making one of these gifts.

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Please send your current information to
Kate Folan: kfolan@psjs.edu or visit the
Alumni section on psjs.edu

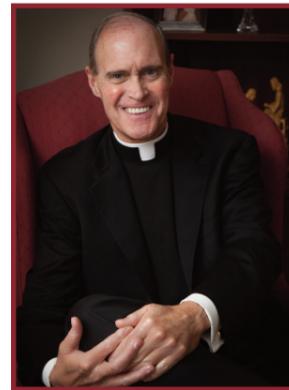


MAY 2019



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



The PSJS Program Continues Strong

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is much to share with you about all that is happening here at Pope St. John. We recently concluded the visitation by the Re-Accreditation Team of the Association of Theological Schools and I am delighted to report their overwhelmingly positive impressions of the Seminary and its program for priestly formation. I am deeply appreciative of Dr. Anthony Keaty, our Director of Intellectual Formation and Academic Dean, for coordinating the nearly two years of preparation for this important visit. Dr. Keaty, along with so many others from our staff, trustees, seminarians and faculty, helped all of us to present Pope St. John Seminary as the truly remarkable house of formation that it is. I am honored and humbled to represent such a wonderful institution and I am so appreciative of the mantle of strong leadership that I have inherited from my predecessors.

As you read the newsletter, we bid farewell to the Class of 2019 as they venture back to their respective dioceses, confidently ready to serve God and His Church in this challenging world in which we find ourselves. I believe their time spent in seminary has holistically prepared them to minister to God's Church, but also to meet today's challenges and "step-up" as leaders in their parishes and in their communities.

Additionally, in this issue you will see just a few examples of how busy our seminarians are beyond the classroom walls, and some of the community-based programs in which they've participated. Tying in with these initiatives, we were grateful to have had Most Rev. Frank Caggiano of the Diocese of Bridgeport visit this semester and advise our formators and staff on preparing men for priesthood.

On a final note, we are grateful to Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell, Jr. '07 of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. who has accepted a position on our Board of Trustees. His willingness to help strengthen our Board reflects his deep commitment to PSJS and I look forward to working with him.

As always, with my prayerful best wishes and my thanks for your generous prayers and support, I remain,

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely, Rector

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Seminarians In Action
- The Class of 2019
- Bishop Frank Caggiano Visits
- Board of Trustees New Member
- Answering the Call

Seminarians in Action

Seminarians keep busy throughout the academic year, and there has been no shortage of activity this semester. The men in formation understand the balance that is necessary to form prepared priests for the world. They have people in communities both near and far whom they touch with their prayerfulness and kindness: seminarians active in the Pro-Life Committee on campus were asked to lead one of the local vigils for 40 Days for Life, a worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion that ran from March 6-April 14; the Spiritual Life Committee members employed a collection drive for basic hygiene items, clothing, first aid



medicines and school supplies to help seminarians in need in Venezuela; the same committee also instituted a *Pray for an Alumn* program, where names of alumni are provided in a bowl and anyone can pick a name to pray for; Ashes were distributed on Ash Wednesday by faculty and seminarians at a local commuter train station in Framingham, Mass.; just before the semester began, Deacon Joseph Akunaeziri '19 was visiting the Holy Land on pilgrimage with fellow Deacons from the Archdiocese in New York - "I dedicated my trip to the Holy Land for prayers towards vocations to priesthood and to our Seminary and for those who are undergoing persecutions because of the faith they have in Christ." It's these moments that deepen a seminarian's overall formation, and help planted seeds of faith and service to take root for future work in your parish!



SAVE THE DATE • 38TH ANNUAL LAWN PARTY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 • 6PM

Join us under the tent this fall with faculty, staff and seminarians as we celebrate another academic year together - thanks to all of YOUR help! PSJS is uniquely dedicated to providing the formation of men responding to the call of diocesan priesthood later in their lives. One year of tuition costs \$35,000, and expenses for four years of formation can total over \$150,000. At last year's event, Very Rev. Brian R. Kiely stated, "We are preparing parish priests here, in this seminary. They are the ones who will accompany you. They are the ones who will minister to you. They are the ones who will love you the way Christ loves you." Help us prepare these men. Come meet these men! You can assist the formation program with your support and prayers.

The Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, commented that in the four dioceses where he has served as a bishop, each has had priests from PSJS. "The seminary has done so much to help the Church, not just here in Massachusetts but throughout our whole country," Cardinal O'Malley said.

Visit our website for more information on a guaranteed great night: www.psjs.edu/lawn-party

Kate Folan can answer any questions you may have about joining all of us this year...under the tent! 781-899-5500



Leading the Way

BISHOP FRANK J. CAGGIANO VISITS POPE ST. JOHN XXIII ADDRESSES THE FACULTY AND STAFF

On a cold day in February, we were fortunate to have Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT, visit PSJS. Bishop Caggiano presided at Mass for the community, and then took time to address the faculty. Fr. Brian Kiely invited the Bishop to spend time with PSJS formators and offer insight to what a Bishop - from his unique perspective - is looking for in the formation of his priests that will serve God's church. Fr. Kiely also invited the staff to the address. Bishop Caggiano was forthright and honest, and very inspirational. He addressed the challenging times in the Church today, and acknowledged that each candidate for priesthood will have his own unique set of skills, experience and values that he will draw on to minister to the people in his diocese. Bishop Caggiano is a strong supporter of the formation program at PSJS. He visits the Seminary often, when his schedule allows, is in



contact with the Rector often, and currently has two seminarians studying in the house - Peter Adamski '19 and Guy Dormevil '21. Rev. Jim Bates was ordained last year for Bridgeport. Bishop Caggiano acknowledged the unique program at PSJS which caters to the older learner and how instrumental that formation is in a man's capability to take on responsibility in a parish and exercise his obedience to the Shepherd of the Diocese. He then allowed for questions from the group, which yielded much food for thought for both formators and staff to consider as men participate in the seminary program. We thank Bishop Caggiano for his time and tremendous insight!



MOST REV. ROY E. CAMPBELL, JR. '07 - NEW MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Most Rev. Roy E. Campbell '07, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Washington D.C., has generously accepted an invitation to join the PSJS Board of Trustees. We are excited to add his perspective, as both an alumnus and a bishop. Albert L. Hyland and Rev. Robin Ryan, C.P. will be stepping off the Board after many years of service. We are grateful for all that Al (15 yrs. of service) and Fr. Robin (8 yrs. of service) contributed to the Seminary community and for their devotion to the mission of PSJS.

We would also like to congratulate Bishop Campbell for recently being named President of the National Black Catholic Congress! Per The Catholic Standard reporting on the news, "the NBCC works with member organiza-

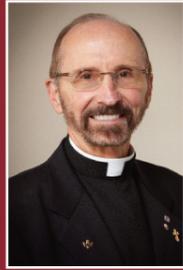
tions across the country to serve African-American Catholics and evangelize un-churched African Americans."



The Class of 2019

As we say a temporary goodbye and celebrate this class that has contributed so much to the XXIII community, the members of the class were asked to reflect on their years of formation and answer the following questions:

- For what are you most grateful during your years of study at XXIII?
- What will you look back on and miss the most?
- What is your most memorable moment during your seminary years?



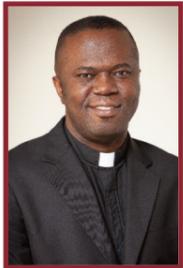
PETER ADAMSKI

DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

Before Seminary, Peter retired as the CEO of a very successful foam manufacturing company, and worked for multinational companies throughout his career, doing mergers, acquisitions and divestitures.

“I am most grateful for the caring, supportive faculty, formation directors and spiritual advisors that I have had the pleasure of knowing here at PSJS. These past four years have truly formed and transformed me into a person who is deeply in love with Jesus Christ and is ready to serve Him and His Church to the best of my ability with His continuing grace. I will miss spending time with all the wonderful people I have met here (and those cookies!). As for my favorite memory, I will never forget being awakened at 3am, going into the Chapel and holding the Luna to my chest and weeping. It was a very powerful spiritual experience for me.”

Deacon Peter will be ordained on June 1, 2019.



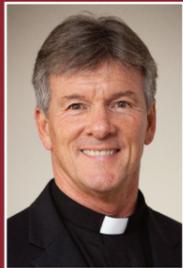
JOSEPH AKUNAEZIRI

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK

Just before entering Pope St. John, Joseph worked as a substance abuse counselor while he studied and obtained a Masters of Arts in Systematic Theology from St. John’s University.

“I am so grateful for the brotherly love that the formators showered on us. There is no limit to the brotherhood. Here at Pope St. John, everyone is his brother’s keeper. I will definitely miss the community life – especially playing ping pong whenever I felt like it! As for my favorite memory, I love the opening hymn of evening prayer every Tuesday (Title: Day is Done). It was my most solemn time in the Seminary and I love the way we sing it here.”

Deacon Joseph will be ordained on May 25, 2019 in New York.



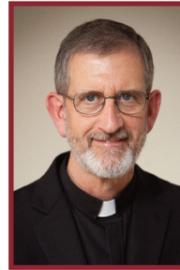
BRUCE C. BARNETT

DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

Before entering the Seminary, Bruce was a Senior Process Engineer for Robert Bosch in Charleston, SC. He also worked in the petroleum, paper, chemical and automotive industries.

“I am most grateful for the faculty and seminarians at PSJS who God has put in my life to help me on my journey. I had felt a ‘restlessness’ in the secular world where God was not paramount. At the Seminary I found my ‘happy place’. There is so much I will miss - quiet time in the early morning in the Chapel; learning from professors who taught the knowledge, skills and intellectual virtues necessary to be a Good Shepherd; the people on my parish assignments; and most of all, I will miss the faculty and seminarians. Also, I love to write and PSJS gave me the opportunity to exercise my charism to help lead others to Jesus.”

Deacon Bruce will be ordained on June 7, 2019.



DENNIS SKOWERA

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

Before arriving at PSJS, Dennis was a manager with Phoenix Management, Inc., and Griffin Services, both federal contractors. Prior to that, Dennis had served 20 years in the US Air Force.

“At Seminary, there were many times I felt I was not ready – but I WAS ready to embark on the journey to get ready. What I wanted most was to simply do what God wanted me to do. It’s as simple and as profound as that! I will miss the people whose lives touched me and whom my life touched on a regular basis. We need each other at different steps in our journeys. There could be many memorable experiences: stepping out of the box and volunteering to cantor; Speech class and talking about the Lamb of God; singing an Irish folk song at Fall Follies. The one that stands out most was the first homily I preached as a deacon at St. Michael’s Parish in East Longmeadow – I recall the feeling I had...Thanks be to God!”

Deacon Dennis will be ordained on June 1, 2019.



BR. DOMINIC SAVIO TRAN, O. CIST.

MOUNT SAVIOUR MONASTERY

Brother Dominic Savio is from Vinh City in central Viet Nam and has been a Cistercian monk for 16 years. In 2012, his Abbot and community assigned him to the United States at the Benedictine monastery of Mount Saviour in Pine City, N.Y. He is a skilled wood carver and artist who has crafted many art pieces since coming to the U.S.

“I am grateful to XXIII for the knowledge I’ve acquired, the friendships created and sustained, and, most importantly, my spiritual path. I feel like we will remain not only tied to the one Body of Christ, but we’ll walk together with shared memories and seek the same challenges and goals of seeing Christ in the other. Difficult times and disappointment visited us all, but I will remember the laughter we shared over the heartache. For me the most memorable moments of my seminary years was serving as a sacristan. I was fortunate to remain a sacristan for more than three years. This task gave me the opportunity to not only serve the community but to heighten my devotion to the celebration of the Eucharist, especially in terms of humility and gratitude.”

Deacon Savio’s ordination date to be determined by the abbot of the Monastery.



BR. SERAPHIM WIRTH, FBP

FRANCISCAN BROTHERS OF PEACE

Br. Seraphim has been a Franciscan Brother of Peace for 8 years where he has served in many areas of ministry with his community: Catechesis, Pro-life, ministering to marginalized populations to name a few.

“I am most grateful for the holist approach that the Seminary offers in the formation process. It is not all about academics. The human, spiritual and pastoral dimensions are just as important. I think this approach prepares men well for the priesthood. I will miss the teachers - they are truly dedicated to forming a priest. I will also miss my classmates the most. Given that we are from different areas of the country it will be difficult to visit each other often. The most memorable experience for me was the whole process of formation itself. The four years here went by fast but each day (good and bad) formed me into a priest.”

Deacon Br. Seraphim will be ordained on May 25, 2019.

Pray for Vocations!



COREY BASSETT-TIRRELL

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Corey spent a number of years working in the funeral industry in the Boston area and was also involved in parish ministry as a full time musician and parish communications specialist.

“PSJS over these last five years has deepened my faith and has given me the opportunity to discern what God is asking of me in a house filled with so many fine men doing the same thing. The mutual witnessing and brotherhood on the journey to priesthood will be the biggest thing I will recall fondly and will miss. It has been an honor and privilege to pray, work, relax, and minister with the men in this house. I leave with a renewed sense of joy and hope for the Church. With great thanksgiving for this seminary, I feel ready for service in Christ.”

Deacon Corey will be ordained May 18, 2019.



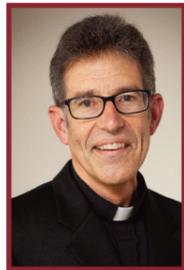
BRIAN BEAL

DIOCESE OF COLUMBUS

Before the Seminary, Brian was the Executive Director of Pro-Life of Mercer County, Ohio. He developed The Life Truck which broadcast the Pro-Life message on roads and highways listing a 24-hr crisis help hotline, and is now parked five days a week at a late term abortion center.

“I am most grateful for the kind and supportive PSJS community that loves one another. It is certainly the people I will miss the most. Every day at PSJS has been an amazing encounter with Christ-like individuals that shine with the glory of God. I know I will often remember, at the end of my third year, sitting before the Mary statue with friends while enjoying the beautiful sunshine, having a glass of wine, and enjoying rich fellowship.”

Deacon Brian will be ordained May 25, 2019.



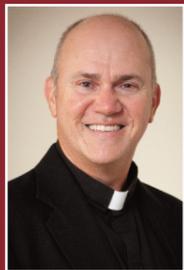
STEVE GARZA

DIOCESE OF BAKER

Before entering PSJS, Steve had a 35-year career with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service working on various national forests in California and Oregon.

“I am most grateful for the gift of servitude to the Diocese of Baker, the needed preparation to begin that service provided by PSJS, and my summer assignments back in Oregon. What I will miss from here is my friend Dennis Skowera and my sister Alison who lives within 30 minutes of the Seminary. A memorable experience I will take with me is the unforgettable and beautiful example of service, especially in ministry to married and unmarried couples, given by Deacon Carlos Simon Valentin who died while I was assigned to St. John the Baptist Church in Peabody, Mass. I will always remember his example as I encounter ministering to couples as a priest.”

Deacon Steve will be ordained June 27, 2019.



KEN GROOMS

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Before entering the Seminary, Ken had been a full-time caregiver for a family on Long Island, a cook for retired priests and a dietary aide at a hospital in New York.

“I am most grateful for the respect the faculty and administration showed me. Many of the guys here come from great backgrounds and are already accomplished - doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, military officers, etc. I was just a cook and a caregiver, yet I received no less respect. It was quite beautiful. What I will miss the most is the softball team, The Relics! I loved the camaraderie and the fun of playing on the seminary softball team. That mood carried us through the days in the Seminary. One of my most memorable experiences was the game against St. John's Seminary (Boston)! where I managed to go 3 for 3 – all home runs! The reason? Prayers!!

Deacon Ken will be ordained on June 22, 2019.



BOB HOFFMAN

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

Prior to entering Pope St. John XXIII, Bob worked some 26 years in the railroad industry in the communications and signals systems area.

“As I start to look toward my next step on this journey, I am most grateful for the opportunity to spend my formation here at this Seminary with other men with such significant and diverse life experience. I will miss the people: the other seminarians, the faculty and staff, and the people in the parishes to which I was assigned. My most memorable moment so far was my diaconate ordination, the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Other memorable moments involve the people both here and in the places to which I have been assigned during each school year. I will lean on my Seminary experience for many years to come”

Deacon Bob will be ordained on May 4, 2019.



DAVID MILLER

DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

David Miller joined the U.S. Army after high school and served his country for over 29 years before answering God’s call and entering the Seminary

“As I studied and worked my way through Seminary formation, I have been grateful for the fraternity shared among brother seminarians, for the faculty and staff, and for our wonderful benefactors during Sunday Masses and brunch. I will miss most looking out the classroom window to the Mary Courtyard, at the beautiful Virgin Mary statue. The statue is fittingly placed, and helped complement our studies and kept us focused. My favorite moments have been moving forward through all the ministries - Acolyte, Reader, and Deaconate - toward the call to Priesthood.”

Deacon David will be ordained June 8, 2019.



PAUL NORMAN

DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

Paul was a Franciscan Friar T.O.R for four years and then a clinical support behavior specialist for Berkshire Family and Individual Resources for individuals with developmental disabilities.

“I’m most grateful for all the relationships that I’ve developed, and have no doubt these seminarians will continue as lifelong friendships. To live in a house with mature men that have had a variety of life experiences is special and is what makes PSJS unique. I’ll miss most is community prayer and gatherings within the house, especially praying the Liturgy of the Hours with 60 or 70 other men. That is special and quite powerful. There are so many memorable moments. But the experience of preaching for the first time as a deacon at Seminary, though nerve racking at first, revealed a fraternal support that was so humbling. My brother clergy and seminarians are continually building me up, into a better man, better deacon, and, God willing, a better priest. It will never be forgotten.”

Deacon Paul will be ordained on June 1, 2019.



MARK RUIZ

DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

Mark had served the Church, and was happy in various ministries. But his heart desired more. After a period of discernment, he entered the Seminary.

“I am most grateful for the formation I received here at PSJS and I feel very prepared. I am also very grateful to the people of my diocese who have prayed for me and supported me with their generosity. I will miss - my brother seminarians, the faculty/formators, and the entire staff. I hold a special place in my heart for those at my pastoral assignments: the Sisters at Bethany Care Center in Framingham, the men at the Correctional Facility in Shirley, and the parishioners at the Lynnfield Catholic Collaborative. My special experience: when my sister died my first year in seminary. It was very sad and difficult, yet I was literally and figuratively embraced by members of this house during that time.”

Deacon Mark will be ordained May 31, 2019.