

POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

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WHAT'S AHEAD AT XXIII

AUGUST

29: New Men Arrive

SEPTEMBER

30-2: Orientation of New Men

2: Upperclassmen Arrive

Seminary Welcome Cookout

4: Semester Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit

Celebrant Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM, Cap.

Classes Begin

16: Lawn Party

OCTOBER

11-16: Retreat for Seminarians

20-21: Alumni Days

30: Ministry of Reader

NOVEMBER

16: Veterans Day Observed (No Classes)

24-29: Thanksgiving Break

26: Thanksgiving

30: Classes Resume

DECEMBER

8: Ministry of Acolyte

16-19: Final Exams

20: Christmas Break Begins

25: Christmas

JANUARY 2016

13: Second Semester Begins

16: Boston Diaconate Ordination,

Cathedral of the Holy Cross

21: Pilgrimage for Life, Washington, D.C.

22: National March for Life

FEBRUARY

10: Ash Wednesday (No Classes)

15: Presidents Day (No Classes)

22: Mass of Candidacy, 4:30 pm

MARCH

7-14: Mid-Semester Break

23: Easter Break Begins

27: Easter Sunday

APRIL

4: Classes Resume

16: Patriots Day (No Classes)

MAY

9: Mass of Commissioning, Dinner for Class '16

9: Last Day of Classes

11-14: Final Exams

23: Golf Tournament

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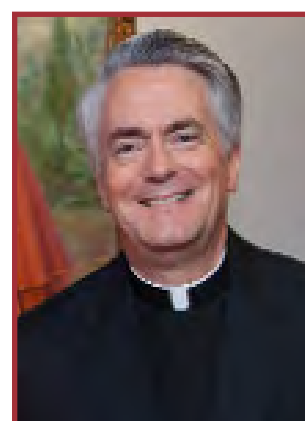


MAY 2015



POPE ST. JOHN XXIII NATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK



Exciting Beginning of the Next 50 Years!

It's hard to believe that we just concluded so many wonderful events marking our 50th Anniversary and have made great progress in preparing for the next 50 years! To paraphrase Bill Belichick, "We're on to the next 50!"

As is our custom, this spring issue will focus on our 4th Theology class. Their brief biographies and reflections on their days at the seminary, I believe, will further your appreciation for our priestly formation program.

You will learn in these pages that we are in the final stages of our capital campaign, *Pathway to the Future*, and are poised to break ground on our new Learning Center next month. This facility will provide a state-of-the-art library with the latest in I.T. capability and increased study and meeting space. It is also necessary to meet our increasing enrollment and a testament to the stability and growth of our seminary.

You will also read about "happenings" with our seminarians, including two adventurous mountain climbers in the coldest winter in years! We have also begun a new feature "Where Are They Now?", which highlights a past alumnus. The first is about Rev. Msgr. Michael Morgan '01, the newly appointed Canonical Legal Advisor to the Papal Nuncio.

The issue concludes with a collage of photo highlights of the past year.

Once again, we thank you for your prayerful and generous support.

Rev. William B. Palardy, Rector

WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Campaign Update
- The Class of 2015 Memories
- Anniversary Year Photo Collage
- Seminarian Corner
- Where Are They Now?
- Upcoming Events

Groundbreaking Slated for June 3



You are looking at a rendering of the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Learning Center. The groundbreaking is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3 and the building will be completed (weather permitting!) by Christmas.

This two-story, 10,000 square foot facility is much more than a library. It is part of an overall plan to meet our ever-increasing seminarian enrollment. Simply put, we are running out of space and, in particular, seminarian rooms. With this new library we will repurpose the old library into faculty offices, an expanded athletic facility and much needed conference and study space. This, in turn, frees up seminarian rooms that are currently in use by the faculty.

spaces, multiple computer carrels, “stacks” of high-density book storage along with the latest digital technology. The latter will support teaching and research for our faculty and seminarians as well as promote the development of distance learning programs for our alumni.

Our benefactors have been very generous in support of our *Pathway to the Future* Campaign—and we are most grateful. There are, however, several giving opportunities remaining, including the recognition of Fr. Tom Schmitt our beloved Dean of Students who lost a courageous battle to esophageal cancer. The accompanying pledge form (below) describes how your contribution to the Fr. Tom Schmitt '91 Memorial Wall will honor and remember Fr. Tom.

The Learning Center will provide individual and group study

Help us remember Fr. Tom Schmitt '91...



After a long fight with esophageal cancer, Fr. Tom Schmitt '91 passed away last summer. Fr. Tom served almost his entire priestly ministry here as our Dean of Students. Fr. Tom influenced the lives of so many in so many ways. Fr. Tom loved nature; there wasn't a plant, a bird or a star in the heavens that he couldn't identify. We've decided to honor his memory through his love of nature. We plan to name the large glass wall in the Learning Center overlooking the woods and the Stations of the Cross as a fitting memorial and lasting tribute --

The Fr. Tom Schmitt '91 Memorial Wall.

-Fr. William B. Palardy
Rector

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For more information contact: Dick Murphy or Kate Folan
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The Fr. Tom Schmitt '91 Memorial Wall

It is my/our intention to contribute \$2,000 for a panel in the *Fr. Tom Schmitt '91 Memorial Window Wall*. Payments may be made over two years.

Payment #1 date: _____ Payment #2 date: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Donor: _____

Address: _____ Date: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Pictures tell of the Year in Review



Cardinal opens 2014-'15 Academic Year



Relics capture Rectors Trophy



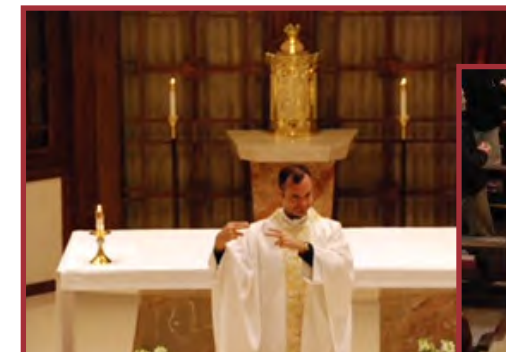
Alumni Days: U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Ken Hackett (left)



Fr. Healey signs 50th Anniversary book



Bishop Peter Uglietto at the 2014 Lawn Party



“Come to the Table” Series:
The Deaf Apostolate's Fr. Shawn Carey signs the Mass, and the Nigerian Apostolate visits XXIII



January: Marching for Life in D.C.



The Blizzards of 2014-15

-Where Are They Now?

Papal Honors for 2001 Alumnus

By Richard Asher '19

November 2014 was a blessed month for Rev. Michael Morgan, a 2001 grad of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary.



Rev. Msgr. Morgan

On November 24, Pope Francis bestowed the honor of "Chaplain to His Holiness" on Father Morgan, making him a Monsignor in recognition of distinguished service to the Church. As if that wasn't big enough news, Msgr. Morgan also was named Canonical Legal Advisor to Archbishop Carlo M. Viganò, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Morgan, a former U.S. Army colonel before entering the seminary, assumed the new position in Washington, D.C. in January. He previously had served 13 years in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

In his new post, Msgr. Morgan advises the apostolic nuncio on diplomatic relations with the government, and communications with American churches and the Washington-based Organization of American States.

"This is a great honor for Msgr. Morgan – one that he deserves for his dedicated service to the church," said Bishop Felipe J. Estévez, of the Diocese of St. Augustine, where Morgan served as vicar general and chancellor until his new assignment.

Msgr. Morgan credits Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary for playing a major role in preparing him for the success he has achieved.

"I am very thankful for the formation I received at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary for several reasons," Morgan said. "The formation is geared to the diocesan priest, and life and ministry in a diocese; you might say to

life and ministry 'in the trenches.' I think that is very valuable, and it is not something that is the focus at every seminary. Though no seminary prepares you for all of the situations you will encounter, I think this diocesan focus allowed me to feel as prepared as any school environment can make you. I would also have to say that the formation process at Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary truly did respect and take into account our life experiences, and the varied career and professional backgrounds which the seminarians brought with them certainly enriched the experience."

Prior to the seminary, Msgr. Morgan completed a distinguished 26 year Army career, rising in the ranks from platoon leader to colonel before retirement to follow the call to the priesthood in 1996. Msgr. Morgan also served as a member of the Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary Board of Trustees.

Corcorans to Chair Lawn Party



Left to right: Julie, John, Rose (16), Lillian (14), Clara (11), Eleanor (5)

The seminary welcomes the Corcoran Family---our new Lawn Party Chairpersons! "Having attended the Lawn Party in the past, the entire Corcoran clan looks forward to planning and growing this signature event for the Seminary," said John. John is the Founder/President of Trinity Pharma, LLC, a global life sciences strategic consulting company specializing in the healthcare industry. He is also the newest member of our Board of Trustees who said, "I was immediately attracted to the Seminary's unique mission and service to the greater Church."

Save the Date Lawn Party September 16, 2015



Class of 2001, Msgr. Morgan top right

The Class of 2015 Bids Farwell

The Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary graduation Class of 2015 represents 11 dioceses and boasts a Benedictine monk; a doctor; lawyer; two high school classmates; four dads; a Nova Scotian, and much more. 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 or experience during your seminary years?



GREG BIERBAUM

DIOCESE OF COLORADO SPRINGS

Prior to entering the seminary, Greg was a pharmaceutical sales representative and a commercial insurance agent.

"I am very grateful for the existence of a seminary like Pope St. John XXIII. For all of the other things I might be grateful for, the very fact of a seminary dedicated to the formation of men later in life is literally a Godsend to me. To be around other men who are all on the same path and who have a love of Jesus Christ and His Church has been an enriching experience, both personally and spiritually!"

"The thing I will miss the most are my many friendships here. There are certainly friendships based on the sharing of our Catholic faith in the secular world. But the friendships developed here, many of them lifelong, are on a whole other level, at least to me."

"My most memorable experience was "The Rome Experience" during the summer of 2013. It is a wonderful program designed to give seminarians who are not studying in Rome an opportunity to live and study in Rome. It involved classes, tours of churches and cultural sites, meetings with prominent leaders in the universal Church and spiritual and social camaraderie with other seminarians from all across the U.S. A highlight was seeing Pope Francis from only a few feet away in St. Peter's Square. We spent a total of 45 days in Spain, France and Rome."

Deacon Greg will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Colorado Springs on May 30 at St. Mary's Cathedral.



RICK LESSER

DIOCESE OF ALBANY

Prior to entering the seminary, Rick was an equine veterinarian.

"I am most grateful for the welcome I received from my class when I arrived "midstream" in Third Theology. Along with that, I will be forever grateful to the faculty who helped design a curriculum to fit my unique situation."

"I will miss the folks here - students, faculty and staff. We all come with diverse gifts and views, but somehow, it all works out."

"Without a doubt, my most memorable experience of my time here is how generously my brothers respond to each other in times of need. Who else would accept a horse doctor as their "go-to guy" for health issues?!"

Deacon Rick will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Albany on June 20 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



JIM CARDOSI

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Before entering the seminary, Jim served our country as a U.S. Navy P-3 pilot for 28 years.

"I'm most grateful for this seminary understanding how to form guys with gray hair to become priests! I would have gone anywhere to serve the Lord, but God, in his goodness, sent me here -- a true blessing in all respects. I am also grateful for the opportunity to reconnect with my high school pal, 'KMull!' "

"I will miss the great faculty and staff as well as my seminarian brothers, but if asked for one thing: I will most miss is time to myself in our beautiful chapel. It was always a place of refuge in the storm...and there were storms!"

"My most memorable moment was speaking at the 2014 Lawn Party with my mother, two of my five children and my high school Spanish teacher and dear friend, Sister Lawrence Elizabeth, SSJ, in attendance."

Deacon Jim will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on May 16 at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul.



STEVEN CARTWRIGHT

DIOCESE OF PORTLAND

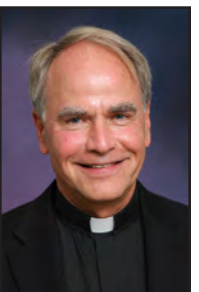
Prior to entering the seminary, Steven was the head swimming coach at Georgetown University.

"I'm most grateful for the opportunity to be formed by such great priest/pastors who have many years of experience, living faithful priestly lives. There is no better example than that of fidelity for seminarians."

"I will miss most my unique pastoral assignments (a nursing home, two hospitals and a prison) that were a great gift to my formation, and I will miss the relationships formed by these assignments."

"The thing I'll remember most is ... Snow-pocalypse 2015, of course! Hey, we broke the all-time record!!

Deacon Steve will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Portland on June 13 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.



MICHAEL FOWLER

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Before entering the seminary, Michael worked in the engineering field for over 30 years.

"I'm most grateful for the unique nature of our seminary program, which combines 'regimented' academic and liturgical schedules to meet accreditation standards, and the flexibility that allows us sufficient daily 'free time.' "

"I will miss the people the most: classmates; brother seminarians; faculty and staff all working toward one goal. Lifelong friendships have been forged."

"The most memorable moment for me was my arrival at the seminary, my car so packed with belongings that there was barely a cubic foot of space and Hurricane Irene was about to open up the skies. I had worried how I would unload the car without everything getting soaking wet, when upon me descended the half dozen or so upperclassmen who did it all for me. What a welcome by the Orientation team!"

Deacon Michael will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Rochester on June 20 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Ordinations Cap Historic 50th Year at XXIII

By Alberto Gonzalez '18

After an exciting year highlighted by the 50th anniversary of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, 11 transitional deacons of the Class of 2015 are preparing to bloom from the seeds planted and nurtured during their years of priestly formation.

Did you know that the word "seminary" derives from the Latin word "seminarium," which means seedbed.

As the semester ends, Jim Cardosi and Kevin Mulligan, former high school classmates, will be ordained priests together on May 16 at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul in Philadelphia. Four other priesthood ordinations will follow in May, including Chris Lowe on May 23 for the Archdiocese of Boston (Cathedral of the Holy Cross); David Skoblow on May 23 for the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J. (St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral); and on May 30, Greg Bierbaum (Diocese of Colorado Springs) and Russ Mower (Diocese of Dallas) will join their classmates as ordained priests. Bierbaum will be ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral in Colorado Springs and Mower will have hands laid upon him at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Dallas.

The summer will be one of celebration, as well, as four more deacons become priests. Deacon Steven Cartwright, from the Diocese of Portland, will lead off June ordinations on June 13 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Maine. The month will close with three new New York priests from XXIII, including (in order) Michael Fowler on June 20 at Sacred Heart Cathedral in the Diocese of Rochester; followed by Rick Lesser on June 20 in the Diocese of Albany's Cathedral of the Immaculate Con-

ception; and a week later on June 27, Mark Matthias will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn in Brooklyn's Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph.

The wait will no doubt make Sept. 12 more special for the final member of the Class of '15 to be ordained a priest this year, as Brother Aidan McDermott will be ordained a priest for his order of Benedictine Monks, at the Abbey of St. Mary and St. Louis in St. Louis.

The Class of 2016 saw its first member to be ordained



a deacon on April 18, when Kevin Yarnell traveled home to be ordained for the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla. The seminary community joyfully celebrated Deacon Kevin's first Mass as a deacon on April 23 in XXIII's Alumni Chapel. At press time, three other deacons-elect from Theology III had received their calls to orders and were preparing for their diaconate ordinations in May, including Jorge Rocha (Diocese of Providence), May 16; and Diocese of Albany classmates Steve Matthews and Patrick Rice on May 23.

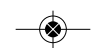
Around the Seminary...

Deacon Bro. Aidan McDermott, OSB; Chuck Ruoff (Theology III, Venice, Fla.); **Paul Schultz** (Theology III, Madison, Wisc.); and **Brian O'Shaughnessy** (Theology III, Savannah) spent March break on a road trip retreat to famed Gethsemani Abbey in Trappist, Ky. (see photo), where renowned author and Trappist Thomas Merton lived and contemplated life and God's desires for him. Movements. . . **Eric Garcia** (Theology I), of the Diocese of Mayaguez, P.R. is scheduled to spend his summer living "The Rome Experience," a 10-week program of spiritual growth and culture . . . Longtime XXIII friends **Dr. John La Rossa**, wife **Gretchen** and son **Chris** hosted the Class of 2015 and the faculty for a social evening full of memories and laughs at Weston Golf Club on April 22 . . . **John**

Maksym (Detroit), **Alberto Gonzalez** (Mayaguez, P.R.) and **Richard Asher** (Detroit) will head to Omaha, Neb. for a summer of spiritual growth in the Institute of Priestly Formation program at Creighton Univ. . . . **Dr. Chris La Rossa**, PhD, presented a topical April seminar to a packed media room on Muslim relations and ISIS. **Tom Olson '15** received the St. Paul the Apostle Award from the Archdiocese of Boston's Office for Youth & Young Adults for his evangelization work with the St. Columbkille Parish Young Adult Commission.

(L-R) Chuck Ruoff, Bro. Aidan McDermott, OSB, Brian O'Shaughnessy, and Paul Schultz at a Gethsemani hermitage while on March break retreat.





Seminarian Corner...

-Record Snow Couldn't Keep Classmates from Climbing

The record New England snowfall of 2015 was not enough to keep Kevin Yarnell (Diocese of Tampa) and Brian O'Shaughnessy (Diocese of Savannah) indoors this winter. The Theology III friends took their enjoyment of hiking to new heights this year in tackling some of New England's imposing mountain climbs. Yarnell reflects on their wintry adventures and together they ranked their top 5 ascents for those wishing to one day take on a similar challenge.

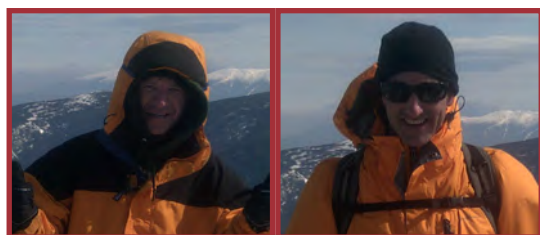
By Kevin Yarnell '16

As a Floridian, my dislike of cold weather is well known. In spite of that, Brian O'Shaughnessy and I have now scaled the highest points in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Vermont -- all in sub-freezing temperatures.

The origins of this odd behavior go back to two climbs of Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire last fall. The first, a group trip by a few seminarians, had been called off due to rain and potential stormy weather on the mountain. Brian didn't see the weather as a deal-breaker, so the two of us drove off and completed the climb with remarkably little difficulty. About a month later we repeated the climb in a snow storm. Those two experiences, framed by their difficult conditions, set the stage for Brian's idea of climbing to the highest point in the six New England states.

We've learned a lot of practical things on the three climbs. The funniest may be the simple fact that energy bars freeze. We had packed a half dozen for our first climb up Mt. Greylock, at 3,491 feet the highest peak in Mass., but only ate two. When we got to the summit and pulled out the others to eat we discovered the bars had frozen to the point where I feared breaking a tooth! So cold was it that even sucking on the bar during the descent did little to soften it. We've packed sandwiches since, which fare better in the cold.

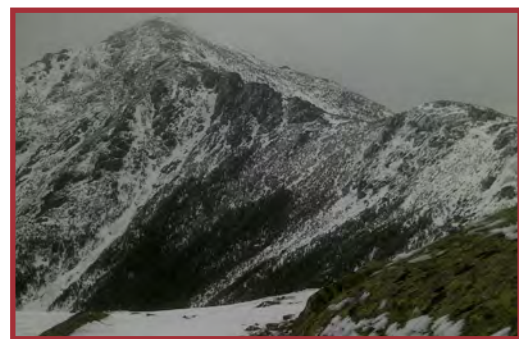
We've also derived spiritual insights on our adventures. Many of the Church Fathers wrote of creation as being God's first revelation and we've seen some amazing illustrations of that. On Mt. Greylock, for example, we came across a grove of small pine trees covered in ice crystals. A bright sun and clear, deep blue sky created a striking illustration of God's wondrous creation.



Kevin (left) and Brian on Mt. Lafayette - the snow capped mountain in the background is Mt. Washington - a future goal.

There's also the raw challenge. We've been cold, tired, up to our chests in snow, and at times have lost the marked trail. Why do it, you wonder? In part, it is out of gratitude to God, who gave us the ability to do something so physically demanding. It reminds us of our calling to utilize all the gifts God has given us - especially when it's difficult. As we approach Diaconate ordination and anticipate serving God's people in new ways, it is good for us to realize that, metaphorically, God wants us "on the mountain" and not in a warm dorm room.

Up next? We're hoping to gain some experience on other mountains in New Hampshire and then take a shot at Mt. Washington, the highest point in the entire northeast. More adventure and insights undoubtedly await.



The view had by seminarians Kevin and Brian of the ridge from Mt. Lafayette to Mt. Lincoln (distant peak) in the White Mountains of N.H.

Kevin & Brian's Top 5...

5. **Bear Mountain**, Salisbury, Conn. (2,323 ft.) highest summit in Conn.; made our own trail up the mountain; saw bear tracks!
4. **Mt. Monadnock**, Jaffrey, N.H. (3,165 ft.) White Mounains of N.H. Said to be the 3rd most climbed mountain in the world; climbed in a steady snow; really windy at the top!
3. **Mt. Greylock**, Adams, Mass. (3,491 ft.): The highest point in Mass.; our longest day 9.5 hours of hiking; incredibly blue sky on the ascent; we learn that energy bars and water bottles freeze.
2. **Mt. Mansfield**, Stowe, Vt. (4,393 ft.) Green Mountains highest point in VT; summit obscured by low clouds; nearly turned back by icy conditions on the upper slopes; no view at the top but a great feeling to be there!
1. **Mt. Lafayette**, Franconia, N.H. (5,260 ft.) and Mt. Lincoln (5,089 ft.) in NH; in the Franconia Range of the White Mountain National Forest...our highest climbs to date and our first taste of alpine conditions; the clear, sunny day allowed for incredible views.



CHRISTOPHER LOWE

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Before entering the seminary, Chris worked for many years in the technology industry.

"I'm most grateful for the amazing faculty here. They are all very competent in their fields and I am grateful for the time that they have spent teaching me what I need to know to move from seminary to priesthood."

"The genuine kindness and generosity from the staff, faculty and other seminarians is what I will miss most. The sense of brotherhood, of belonging, of being part of a special group of people is tangible and I will miss it greatly."

"One of the many fond memories that will stay with me is my first time preaching as a deacon at Mass for my brother seminarians. It was during the March for Life and I spoke on Respect Life issues for those seminarians who did not go on the pilgrimage to D.C. for the March."

Deacon Chris will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 23 at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.



MARK MATTHIAS

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Prior to entering the seminary, Mark worked as a graphic designer while pursuing a career in the entertainment industry.

"I am most grateful for having the opportunity to immerse myself in the study of our Catholic faith among so many good disciples of Christ. From faculty and staff to my brother seminarians, I knew the moment I visited PSJ XXIII, there was something special about this place."

"The thing I will miss the most is the camaraderie and brotherhood among everyone here. When I look back at my four years at Pope St. John XXIII, I clearly see that the time I spent here will have been some of the happiest days of my life."

"Among many fond memories, the one that stands out are the bus pilgrimages to the "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. every year. I'll remember and cherish the long bus rides, the many hours of fellowship and prayer, the sense of "mission" with my brothers. I'll really miss that."

Deacon Mark will be ordained a priest for the Diocese of Brooklyn on June 27 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph.



BR. AIDAN McDERMOTT, O.S.B.

Abbey of St. Mary & St. Louis in St. Louis

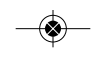
Prior to entering PSJ XXIII, Br. Aidan served his Benedictine order as a St. Louis school teacher and coach. He has been a Benedictine monk since 1999.

"I'm grateful to God for the gift of faith and the awesome gift of priesthood. The formation at Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary was a perfect fit for me. I'm most grateful for the field education, particularly in third and fourth year, which contributed not only to my pastoral development, but also to my spiritual and human formation."

"I'll miss living in the Boston area. I'll miss seeing on a daily basis the many good friends I've made among classmates, faculty and staff. I'll miss the conversations and the wonderful support from all the very faithful people who make up the seminary."

"Choosing most memorable experiences is a tough one. I would have to say officiating at my first baptism at my parish assignment. It was a very joyful and humbling experience."

Brother Aidan will be ordained a priest of the Order of St. Benedict on Sept. 12 at the Abbey of St. Mary & St. Louis in St. Louis, Mo.





RUSS MOWER

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Before entering the seminary, Russ worked as a consulting manager for a national fire protection firm after serving in the Fire Service for the City of Plano, Texas and a fire protection specialist in the US Air Force.

“I am most grateful for how the faculty worked with us “mature” men, valuing all that we bring to the table and inspiring us to learn new skills which will benefit us in our ministry. The pastoral assignments were a great tool for a hands-on learning experience. I am also grateful for wonderful classmates and the way we lifted each other up. Our class had a no-man-left-behind attitude from day one (four years ago!)”

“I will miss the camaraderie of my classmates, in and out of class; the great dining experiences in and around Boston; the lively discussions in class and in the refectory; and the outings to historic places in the area, especially Fenway Park.”

“My most memorable experience of the past four years was walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain in the summer of 2013. The seminary schedule allowed me time to do this and the formation prepared me spiritually and mentally for the 32-day, 790 km (490 miles) adventure.”

Deacon Russ will be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Dallas on May 30 at the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe.



DAVID SKOBLOW

DIOCESE OF METUCHEN

Before entering the seminary, David was a corporate lawyer.

“I suppose the thing for which I am the most grateful is that this institution even exists. By providing men who have discerned the priesthood as a second vocation with an opportunity to serve Our Lord and His Church, Pope St. John XXIII seminary is a real treasure for the Church. My brother seminarians come from so many backgrounds, with so many skills and gifts and each of them brings God’s grace into a world so desperately in need of it.”

“When I leave here, the thing that I will most miss is the people: my brother seminarians, the faculty, the staff, and our benefactors. And I will never forget all the Fall Follies and St. Patrick’s Day celebrations!”

“The highlight of my years here was serving as Master of Ceremonies, which gave me the opportunity to immerse myself in the liturgy, one of my favorite subjects. I am sincerely thankful to the faculty for entrusting me with the responsibility of serving as MC.”

Deacon David will be ordained a priest on May 23 for the Diocese of Metuchen, at the St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral.



TOM OLSON

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON

Tom entered PSJ XXIII for one year after 10 years in Jesuit formation. He will continue his formation next year in a parish in the Archdiocese of Boston.

“It was a pleasure to spend this year as a member of the Class of 2015. Through my academic studies and prayer, the opportunities for pastoral learning, and the for-a- lifetime friendships that I have made here, I have been able to confirm that my decision to leave the Jesuits and join the Archdiocese of Boston was and is for me God’s will. This, for me, is the highlight!”

“I wish that each member of the class of 2015 benefit deeply from their respective experiences of formation at Pope St. John, which is an experience that has been made all the more rich by their pre-seminary professional and personal experiences. Mostly, I wish that each member of the class be a good and effective servant of the “new evangelization” so that the hopes and dreams of the “new evangelization” finally become realities that transform the Church and the world.”



JOHN SCOTT

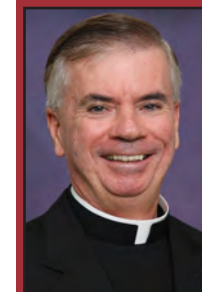
DIOCESE OF ANTIGONISH, N.S.

Prior to entering the seminary, John was an Anglican priest for 21 years after a successful career as a pediatric/neonatal respiratory therapist.

“I am so very grateful for God’s love and Providence as experienced through my fellow brother seminarians, faculty and staff, when in my first year, I had a medical emergency and was hospitalized for five weeks.”

“I will most miss my “Canadian/Nova Scotian table” where I hosted, with a fellow Canadian from Newfoundland, table fellowship with our American brothers. I will also miss the music program and minor role I was able to play in that ministry.”

“A memory I will never forget is our Rector, Fr. Palardy, showing me firsthand the golden standard of pastoral care, when he visited me each and every day while I was hospitalized for five weeks in my first year.”



KEVIN MULLIGAN

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Before entering the seminary, Kevin worked in his Archdiocese Communications office after a 27-year career as a sports journalist.

“Words are insufficient thanking the most supportive, caring, dedicated and spirited administration, faculty and staff that a seminarian could have...a roster of All-Americans. I also offer thanks for my high school classmate Jim Cardosi’s “yes” to God’s call that led to a beautiful reunion at XXIII. We have shared so much together, and praise God, we will continue to as we serve the awesome Church of Philadelphia.”

“I already miss the special giving of themselves by Fr. Miceli, my spiritual director for four years, and Fr. Alfano, my formation adviser the past three years. These two amazing men of God opened their hearts and lives to me. We prayed, laughed and shed tears together. They taught me and showed me by their example how to be a good and holy priest. They are two special gifts from God.”

“So many memories...Relics titles, the Newsletter, March for Life...but most unforgettable was exchanging texts by cell with Fr. Tom Schmitt last summer after my first Baptism as a Deacon. Father Tom taught us the sacrament. He replied to my thanks with, “Proud of u, Kev, Pray for me.” Father was called Home a few weeks later. I will never forget him.”

Deacon Kevin will be ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia on May 16 at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter & Paul.

Class of '15 Presents Gift of New Vestments

The Class of 2015 presented **Father William Palardy, Rector**, with a pair of beautiful vestment sets as its class gift to the seminary in a brief chapel ceremony as graduation week began.

Class officers **Chris Lowe**, president, and **Michael Fowler**, vice president, presented **Father Palardy** and **Father Paul Miceli**, Dean of Seminarians, with custom-made chasuble, dalmatic and stole sets in red and green from the 13-member graduating class. The vestments were made by Gloria Gaskin, who has designed vestments for the sem-

inary and priest graduates of Pope St. John XXIII for many years.

“We wanted to give the seminary something that is both needed and which will continue to be used and appreciated long after we depart, as a token of our gratitude for all that we have received here in formation,” said **Lowe**. “The beautiful matching sets from our class will enhance the celebration of the Eucharist and we all look forward to one day returning and perhaps wearing our class gift as we celebrate Mass back at the Seminary for the first time.”