

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

PATRICIAN

SPRING 2021

MAGAZINE



Coping with a Year of COVID

See page 4



ST. PATRICK'S
SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY



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Cover Photo of Very Rev. Mark Doherty,
President-Rector of St. Patrick's
Seminary & University by Seminarian
Derreck Delgado



ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

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Very Rev. Mark Doherty is the President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary. One year after his departure from the Society of Jesus, Fr. Doherty entered St. Patrick's Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in 2014. He served as parochial vicar of St. Peter and St. Anthony of Padua parishes and as chaplain at San Francisco General Hospital and Sacred Heart Cathedral Prep. He earned his License in Sacred Theology from the Université de Fribourg.

We give thanks to God for having made it through the entire academic year without a single incidence of COVID here at St. Patrick's. Besides being a sign of God's providential care for our community, this achievement is also a credit to the efforts of all our community members. The efforts began last summer when Fr. Dan Donohoo, my predecessor, formed an ad hoc committee on COVID protocols. By the start of the school year in mid-August 2020, as seminarians, faculty and staff prepared to return to campus, the committee had drafted a clear and measured set of protocols aimed at better ensuring the continued well-being of the community. Throughout the course of the academic year all members of the community took seriously their responsibilities, mindful that we are, indeed, our brother's keeper. This accomplishment is a particular credit to the seminarians, priests, and religious sisters who live on campus. For them, adherence to COVID protocols - including the wearing of face coverings when inside any of the buildings on campus - represented a special burden seeing as for them there was no distinction, and thus no easing of the protocols, between their work and living worlds.

More than the diligent observance of the protocols, what has impressed and encouraged me the most is the gracious and generous attitude that all members of the community - but especially the seminarians - have exhibited throughout the course of the academic year. Faced with the prospect of passing the entirety

of the Fall and Spring semesters on campus lockdown, the seminarians graciously accepted the onerous restrictions placed on their freedom of movement. This gracious acceptance has been undergirded throughout by a generous willingness to associate the hardships of the restrictions with our Lord's exhortation to deny oneself and pick up one's cross for the sake of the Kingdom.

I, for my part, have never lived in a formation community as good as the one we've had this year at St. Patrick's. I spent thirteen years in priestly formation, both in the Society of Jesus (2000-2010) and here at St. Patrick's (2011-2014). The seminarians' readiness to accept the onerous restrictions of the COVID protocols bears witness to a deep and expansive readiness to generously give of themselves for the sake of the Kingdom. The seminarians' readiness to persevere through this difficult year should come as no surprise. These are, after all, the same men who have generously stepped forward to give their life for a church marred by scandals, and at a time when the church is quickly losing the stature it has long held in society. Our seminarians are clear-eyed about the challenges to be faced in our increasingly post-Christian world and are ready to carry the crosses entrusted to them.

Speaking of which, the cross of our Lord is precisely that which has framed the set of decisions we have made in the course of this past year. On a number of occasions, I have been asked why we decided to take the risk of holding on-site classes this academic year. Certainly, our Lord does not ask us to be

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reckless or foolhardy, much less to idolize hardship and suffering, especially when our actions may have repercussions on our fellow man's well-being. That being said, the cross does present a stark reminder that life in our fallen world is characterized by all manner of dangers, and that we cannot escape the reality of our mortality. Sometimes one gets the impression that contemporary society is in fierce denial of these truths, and that it is intensely laboring to create and maintain a fantasy reality free of distress and discomfort.

We decided to hold on-campus instruction throughout the entirety of this academic year because formation is tied to flourishing, which is inherently tied to our embodied, social nature. Human beings are social beings. In the measure that we are isolated from one another, especially at critical stages of life (youth and young adulthood being prime examples), our development and well-being are arrested and degraded. Our social orientation is also tied to our embodied nature, such that in the measure that social interaction is limited to virtual exchanges, we are deprived of the full range of goods that are constitutive elements of in-person interactions. Our judgment was that the risks associated with on-campus formation were acceptable in light of the goods at stake. The faithful deserve priests who are well formed and ready to serve. In-person, on-campus formation is absolutely essential if we have any hope of accomplishing our mission.

And so, to come full circle and return to where I began my reflections, we have entrusted ourselves throughout to the providential care of God, trusting that our good and faithful Lord would accompany us and grant us an abundance of grace because we are busy about his work, a work which is, and isn't, yet accomplished. Throughout, we have been buoyed by your prayers and encouragement. Thank you for your ongoing, generous spiritual and material support of St. Patrick's.

COPING WITH A YEAR OF COVID

In March 2020, at the height of the uncertainty about the COVID-19 virus, St. Patrick's Seminary & University took a bold step and closed down its campus. All seminarians were sent back to their home dioceses for the remainder of the school year and finished their courses remotely using an interactive video conferencing platform. The campus was closed to all non-resident visitors. It was a story that played out at most universities across the country.

At the direction of then President-Rector Fr. Dan Donohoo, a task force was assembled in May 2020 to develop policies and procedures in response to the COVID pandemic. This task force consisted of bishops, vocation directors, trustees, faculty, and staff. After considering several options, the task force unanimously agreed that the Fall 2020 semester would begin on schedule in August 2020, with the seminarians in residence while observing all proper health precautions.

Under Fr. Mark Doherty's leadership, we instituted our COVID-19 program to protect the health of our seminarians, faculty, and staff as well as the health of the broader community. Our plans were designed to provide a safe environment and to modify our policies and procedures as the situation changed. While the COVID-19 crisis has been challenging for everyone, St. Patrick's Seminary & University remains steadfast in its passion to properly form priests who are faithful to the heart of Jesus Christ.



The seminary observed a closed campus for much of the 2020-2021 school year. A closed campus meant that seminarians did not leave campus, except for essential reasons and with permission of the Dean of Men. Significant virus prevention protocols were observed, including quarantines, proper hand washing, six-foot social distancing, masks in public spaces, regular cleaning of areas and surfaces, and special precautions for heightened risk individuals.

Our precautions were successful in preventing a major outbreak on campus. However, our community faced many challenges, such as group prayer and liturgy modifications. Pastoral activities were particularly challenging throughout the year. In response, our seminarians devised some innovative remote pastoral ideas, such as starting a podcast, St. Pat's Chat. You can read about the podcast in a separate article on page 22.

In truth, the seminarians adapted well to the restrictions. This class developed an outstanding esprit de corps through their common struggle. As one seminarian put it, "by being forced together

on campus, we came to know our fellow brothers better than we could have otherwise achieved." They were able to develop a tight bond of brotherhood as they together faced the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. They found ways to grow together on-campus, such as the Sacred Icon project (see page 14) and the 2021 Tennis Tournament (see page 20).

With the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines and the decline of cases in the spring, the restrictions slowly were loosened. More on-campus events, such as ordination to the diaconate and commencement ceremonies, were possible. For example, the graduation class of 2020 has been invited to participate in our 2021 graduation ceremonies.

As of this writing, it appears that St. Patrick's has survived its year with COVID. It was a challenging year for the men, but they have become better men because of it. Isn't that what formation is anyway?



Fr. Lawrence Herrera, SJ studied for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for six years and then entered the Society of Jesus. He served at St. John's Seminary College for eight years and was the Director of Spiritual Formation, Senate President and Chair of the Social Sciences Department. He was Director of Spiritual Formation and Psychological Services at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He served seven years as a Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.

Spiritual Life has continued to make progress this year at St. Patrick's despite the presence of Covid-19 and lockdowns. As you can imagine, it became quite important for us to make available an occasional desert day where students may spend a day in prayer and relative silence while leaving campus for mountain hiking or enjoying the beach. Students at St. Patrick's have been uncommonly patient and responsible about pandemic restrictions and deserved to experience some physical and spiritual freedom on a desert day.

In part, as in so many aspects of our lives, Covid 19 was responsible for some changes here, too. This year, instead of leaving campus for Christmas, returning to seminary and leaving again immediately to another retreat house, we maximized the atmosphere here at St. Patrick's. We conducted the all-important annual retreat in-house on campus. It is easy to forget that St. Patrick's has been wonderfully equipped by many donors over the years with an Olympic-sized pool and gym, as well as plenty of space for walking and reflection. This year's retreat, therefore, was conducted in a relaxed schedule in silence for five days. A further positive aspect of this change was the opportunity for those on Pastoral Year assignments to be home again in their rooms during the retreat with all of the other seminarians. Conferences were held once a

day thematically based on a book which was given to each seminarian. *Priests-What Lies Ahead?* is a collection of dialogues between Carlos Granados and Archbishop Luis Ladaria, Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop Charles Chaput and Fr. Livio Melina, thematically treating central characteristics of Diocesan Priest spirituality, viz., priest as Teacher, Father, Pastor and Guide, Physician, and Healer.

This year a further important aspect of Spiritual Life is the continuing success of the 30-day Ignatian Retreat offered to our seminarians during July. This year's dates are being shifted to accommodate an important change which is really a reversion to the former practice here at St. Patrick's of also offering the 30-day Ignatian retreat to young priests. Currently, there has been an increase in demand for the retreat as we continue to receive seminarians and priests from around the country in addition to our own.

It remains to be said that the most salient feature of Spiritual Life at St. Patrick's this year has truly been the application, dedication, and devotion of the Seminarians who participated so well this year especially in the presence of so much concern for family and friends at home besieged by the pandemic. Our students give this writer a great sense of security for their future in the Church; something our readers can rightly share!



ST. PATRICK'S INTRODUCES ITS PROPAEDEUTIC YEAR PROGRAM

In December 2016, Pope Francis issued updated guidelines for priestly formation called the *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis* (The Gift of Priestly Vocation). Pope Francis stated that the men discerning the priesthood require a more thorough preparation before starting the standard program of seminary formation. Therefore, a “propaedeutic” year should be offered to them.

“Propaedeutic” means introductory and is the first step in the journey of priestly formation. This propaedeutic year dedicates, “a period of time to preparation of an introductory nature, in view of the priestly formation to follow or, alternatively, of the decision to follow a different path in life” (*The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, 59). This additional year of formation provides a stronger foundation in the Faith, language skills, relationality, and emotional maturity. Unfortunately, today’s culture often does not prepare our young men to take an immediate step into the traditional philosophy and theology programs.

The propaedeutic year also has its basis in the four dimensions of formation: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral. Its goals are to provide the young men with a solid basis for spiritual life and to promote a mature self-awareness. The program will also fill in the gaps in understanding in general education and Catholic Faith to prepare the man for academic success in seminary. Lastly, a better approach to others through training in human formation and the practice of charity is emphasized. Step-by-step, the man is gradually prepared for entry into the seminary.

However, the man entering the propaedeutic year is not a blank slate. There need to be some attributes in place before joining the program, including a basic knowledge of the Catholic Faith, an initial practice of prayer and sacraments, a firm intention to grow, and a Christian outlook and behavior towards the world. There needs to be a foundation on which this journey of self-knowing, self-discovery, and self-giving is based. The man will work together with formators to understand the history of his life and where he needs to grow. This journey is not made in isolation, but rather in community so that the man can continue developing relationship skills with others.

St. Patrick’s Seminary will be introducing our propaedeutic year program during the 2021-2022 school year. Some elements of our program are

- Introduction to spiritual direction, *lectio divina*, and various spiritual practices
- Daily community prayer, sacraments, and worship
- Weekly study of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Exposure to spiritual theology, good habit formation, and contemplative prayer through Ignatian silent retreats.

The students in the propaedeutic year will be housed in our St. John Vianney complex, once its renovation is completed. They will have their own classrooms, social areas, and chapel. While having all the benefits of the St. Patrick’s campus, the propaedeutic year will, “have its own house...and be organized with a degree of separateness and with distinct goals and outcomes” (*The Gift of the Priestly Vocation*, 99).

To create the strongest independent program, St. Patrick's Seminary has chosen alumnus Father Gary Thomas '83 to be the Director of the Propaedeutic Year. Fr. Thomas was raised Catholic in the Bay Area. He was born in San Francisco, attended the University of San Francisco, earned a management degree, and then attended the College of Mortuary Science. He began working in the funeral business at the age of 14. He graduated from St. Patrick's Seminary and was ordained a priest on Dec. 1983. After being the pastor at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Los Altos for 12 years, Fr. Thomas took a sabbatical in Rome, Italy to train to become an exorcist. His story of training to be an exorcist is the basis for the movie, *The Rite*. Most recently, he was the pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Saratoga and the exorcist for the Diocese of San Jose for 15 years. Fr. Thomas also served as parochial vicar at several parishes and as chaplain for six years at St. Francis High School in Mountain View.

We are excited to introduce this new program at St. Patrick's. As St. John Paul II wrote, "It is a good thing that there be a period of human, Christian, intellectual and spiritual preparation for the candidates to the major seminary" (*Pastores Dabo Vobis*, 62). With young men coming from different socioeconomic backgrounds to discern the priesthood, the challenge for priestly formation has never been greater. Our new propaedeutic year program will help address these difficulties; yet enable the Church to reap the benefits of the diversity of culture among our seminarians and eventually a diverse priesthood.





Anthony Lilles, S.T.D. has served the Church and assisted in the formation of clergy since 1994. Previously, he served as Academic Dean of St. John's Seminary. He holds both the ecclesiastical licentiate and doctorate in spiritual theology from the Angelicum. He was a founding faculty member of Saint John Vianney Seminary. He has recently published *Hidden Mountain Secret Garden, Omaha: Discerning Hearts*.

A KNEELING THEOLOGY

Theology oriented to holiness is vital to the renewal of the priesthood and the Church. To provide such a theology is an important goal of our strategic plan, “Crossing the Threshold of Hope.” This is why the plan also calls for the introduction of a propaedeutic year, which Pope Francis has mandated as a first step in priestly formation. More than simply another year of academic study, this is an initiation into missionary discipleship rooted in an encounter with Christ. As such, it represents a step toward the unity of theology and sanctity.

In order to re-orient theological study to holiness, the seminary is challenged to provide freedom from the constant propaganda bombardment that stunts and wounds the contemporary mind. As men step out from the work-a-day world, the exigencies of the moment and prevailing social narratives lose their absolute claim over human existence. This freedom from the world enables induction into the fellowship of disciples gathered around Christ.

Our program of studies seeks to unleash the power of a vibrant orthodoxy to purify the judgment of the heart and intensify the student's whole way of life. A certain healing and liberation of the imagination and affections is the result. No longer a hoop to jump through, studies become gateways to the encounter between man's questions and God's revelation. Specifically, this encounter becomes markedly Eucharistic – the kneeling of the mind before the Real Presence of Christ as the Eucharistic prayer is offered

up. The more implicated the seminary community is in Christ's self-offering at Mass, the more renewed our devotion to the Lord and participation in His saving mission.

In this taking up this effort, St. Patrick's is confronting the great pastoral challenges of our day. The Christian mores of American culture are shipwrecked in a storm of secularism, and a theology that does not humble itself before God, that does not seek what is holy, cannot bear up human life amidst such dangerous currents. Isolated from the Church, the faithful do not know where they belong.

Humanity has never had such great power, but it has never been so alienated from its nature, and the more technology dominates human life, the more crushing this self-alienation becomes: the loneliness we suffer is the loneliness we cause. Deep down, we know that this disconnected-ness is not caused by lack of programs. We live with the gnawing realization that our problem is not failures in communication strategy as much as failures in being human – a failure of wisdom.

Our hearts know better.

Christian wisdom is born in the life of the Church. There is something beautiful, true and good to see, and theology imbued with holiness enables the Church to avail itself of this wonderful vision. By faith, we are not alone – prayer and theological study are ecclesial realities, activities of the Body of Christ, expressions of the communion of saints. This wisdom is greater than the enmity that divides us.

Hans Urs von Balthasar answered the dehumanizing loneliness of our time by calling on believers to form islands of humanity. The seminary, now strengthened by the propaedeutic program, is one such island. In this safe haven, conversion and fellowship have space to unfold. This space is the locus of intellectual formation at St. Patrick's.

Islands of humanity are formed when we enter into the place where Christ has asked the Father for us to be. Humanity's true safe haven is found where the intellect receives the glory that Christ yearns for us to see. This is why we need a kneeling theology that accompanies souls into the heavenly sanctuary to behold the love of the Father: here, theology and holiness flow together.

If the last vestiges of Christian culture have passed away in our post-modern society, our Christian faith has not. The love of Christ compels us to build a community of disciples once again so that He might form ministers to help Him accompany his faithful out of the loneliness of post-Christian culture, to lead them home, to make of them new islands of humanity in which others might find also find refuge.



STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT



Andrew O'Leary is a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Spokane. After graduating high school, he joined the Navy and got married. He later raised two wonderful children as a single father. He obtained his BS in Nursing, specializing as a registered nurse in Oncology. After his children were grown, he felt the call to the priesthood. In 2016, he entered into formation at St. Patrick's Seminary.



SMOOTH SEAS DO NOT A GOOD SAILOR MAKE

And, over the last few years, our beloved St. Patrick's has had to sail through rough waters. This school year started off with a continuation of the turmoil associated with the state-imposed restrictions in response to COVID. Our community had to work through losses; loss of programs, loss of established structures; and loss of control. Moreover, these challenges were compounded with the unexpected departure of our President-Rector. Fr. Dan Donohoo had brought with him a needed sense of stability and structure that allowed us to catch our breath and move St. Patrick's out of troubled waters. And after he left, we needed to address the loss felt with the departure of a great man. It felt like Christ was asleep in the boat; however, Christ was actively working in and through St. Patrick's

Our Lord prepared the way with our current president rector, Fr. Mark Doherty. Building upon our achievements, he has steered this ship into a reconstruction phase. Likewise, the student body was built up on the improvements gained through the leadership of our past student body presidents. In this spirit, and united with Fr. Doherty's vision, this year's student body council sought to expand on the improvements already charted. Like the apostles in the boat, we sought out Christ's help, most notably through the Spiritual Life Committee's initiative to say Friday's community rosary for the intention of our President-Rector. Additionally, the council worked to shore up communication through improved information gathering and record-keeping systems. As seen through the actions of the seminarians, as well as those of the faculty, staff and sisters, Christ is present and active here at St. Patrick's.

Christ forms great sailors to serve His Church by building upon good people sailing through chaotic and turbulent seas. Struggles come before growth. While Christ might not always calm the roaring sea, He will calm the roaring in our souls that we may be able to sail through troubled waters. As a result of the work accomplished amidst all the turmoil, the caliber of St. Patrick's community shines brightly. Shipmates, what God has worked through us, and those who came before us, is wonderful. It will be amazing to see what He will achieve here. It has been an incredible privilege to have sailed thus far with you. Fear not my friends, stand tall, sail true, and steer into the waves. God is with us and we are His sailors.

Student Council Members

President

Andrew O'Leary
Diocese of Spokane

Vice President

Kurt Meyer
Diocese of Honolulu

Secretary

Erik Periera
Diocese of Sacramento

Treasurer

John Paul Rabago
Diocese of Oakland

Pre-Theology Class Representative

David Sandler
Archdiocese of San Francisco

Theology 1 Representative

Benjamin Condon
Diocese of Sacramento

Theology 2 Representative

Christopher Girolo
Diocese of Santa Rosa

Theology 3 Representative

Jerald Geronnimo
Archdiocese of San Francisco

Theology 4 Representative

Dcn. Mauricio Acevedo
Diocese of Santa Rosa

Community Life Group

Kurt Meyer - Chairman

Spiritual Life Committee

Dcn. Mauricio Acevedo - Chairman

Campus Safety Committee

Jerald Geronnimo - Chairman

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In gratitude to their benefactors, the academic community, and the Church, our faculty members offer the following academic achievements in thanks:



KEVIN CLARKE, PhD (Assistant Professor of Dogmatics) wrote “The Assent of Faith and the Unity of the Form in Biblical Exegesis: Balthasar’s Response to Rahner.” He was also interviewed by the History Channel on “How the Seven Deadly Sins Began as ‘Eight Evil Thoughts’.”



FRANCIS E. FEINGOLD, PhD (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) published “Is the Institution of Private Property Part of the Natural Law? Ius gentium and ius naturale in Aquinas’s Account of the Right to ‘Steal’ When in Urgent Need.”



JEFFEREY P. FROULA, PhD (Assistant Professor of Moral Theology) presented “Hope and its Twofold Object,” Hope and Death: Christian Responses, Ave Maria University, sponsored by the Aquinas Center. He also co-published the article, “Hope: A Virtue for Our Time” in Homiletic and Pastoral Review.



NINA S. HEEREMAN, SSD (Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture) presented for Bible Eyes, Patriarchy of Baghdad, “The Final Battle Between Good and Evil in the Book of Revelation.” She also discussed “Things You Never Learned About Mary” on the On the Road to Emmaus podcast with Dr. Scott Hahn.



REV. GORAN JOVICIC, JCD (Assistant Professor of Dogmatics) completed his doctoral dissertation in Canon Law: “The International Legal Personality of the Holy See and the State of the Vatican City with the Special Reference to Their Status in the System of the United Nations.”



REV. KEVIN JOYCE (Spiritual Director) led a bilingual (English-Spanish) Lenten retreat on the Jesus Prayer. He also presented a seminar on “Developing a Plan for Parish Renewal.”



JOHN MACIAS, PhD (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) published a book review entitled, “Marxism, Ethics and Politics: The Work of Alasdair MacIntyre, by John Gregson” in American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly. He also presented “The Common Good of Political Society: A Possible Way forward between Traditional and New Natural Law,” at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Maritain Association,



REV. ANTHONY STOEPPFEL, STD (Vice Rector and Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies) served as the Global Institute of Church Management Clergy Advisory Committee Chair. He also delivered a series of presentations on Ecclesial Accounting & Parish Financial Management.

*Additional faculty accomplishments can be found on the St. Patrick’s Seminary website:
www.stpsu.edu/faculty-accomplishments*

LEARNING ABOUT SACRED ICONS



When some people look at icons, all they see is some Christian art. However, icons are like no other art form; these flat panel images of holy people are windows to Heaven. Such celestial depictions of our Catholic Faith and the saints, who imitated Jesus Christ by their lives on earth, go back to the beginning of Christianity. Believers have used icons to enhance their active participation at liturgies and in personal prayer. The icon invites us into deeper worship, and meditation draws us closer to God by using the natural world to signify the supernatural.

Desiring to learn more about icons and how to paint one of their own, ten St. Patrick's seminarians attended weekly extracurricular sessions during the Spring 2021 semester. Each seminarian replicated a typical Jesus

Christ Pantocrator icon, while learning the technique, history, theology, and the canons that govern the process and symbolism of icons. Because iconography requires little in terms of artistic talent, this opportunity marked the first time for many to craft any sort of visual media.

Many of the men intend to keep their first window to Heaven, but others had previously decided to gift it to someone important in their lives, such as their parents, bishop, or a special priest.

Each seminarian paid 35 dollars to cover the cost of materials for his icon. However, once a seminarian completed his icon, an anonymous benefactor underwrote the expenses and each seminarian received back his initial materials fee. Just another lesson on the value of completing the tasks one undertakes.

Please enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

ARTIST FOR GOD



Our seminarians at St. Patrick's Seminary have a common devotion to our Catholic Faith, but are also a diverse lot with other different interests. Some are sports-oriented, others pursue intellectual challenges, and yet others are artistic.

Seminarian Ramon Urbina of the Diocese of Oakland has had a life-long interest in the arts. Ramon talks about his interest, "My greatest passion growing up was comic books. I'm a diehard DC Comics fan, but I also love newspaper strips like The Far Side, The Wizard of Id, and Pearls Before Swine. After high school I enrolled in art school with the goal of getting into animation. The art scene in San Francisco was competitive and very secular, which didn't fit with my views on God."

"SEMS" by Ramon Urbina



"SEMS" by Ramon Urbina



He had reached a crossroads in his life and found his calling in Jesus and the sacraments. At St. Patrick's Seminary, Ramon found a way to bring his love of God and artistic talents together. "After joining the seminary, I stopped making art altogether. Academics can get heavy at the seminary and stress levels often rise, so to bring a little joy to my classmates I decided to draw a few cartoons of some of the humorous observations I had made around the seminary. I created a comic strip called Sems based on life at the seminary and Catholic culture as something only my fellow seminarians and I could laugh about.

Eventually priests, professors, formators, employees, sisters, laypeople (and even bishops!) expressed how much they enjoyed the humor in that comic strip. I'll never be a Michelangelo, but Sems is my small contribution to the world of Catholic art."

NEW FACULTY – 2020-2021

REV. KEVIN KENNEDY

Father Kevin Kennedy was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from Santa Clara University and St. Patrick's Seminary & University. He spent a number of years in social service work, including at the St. Anthony Foundation. Fr. Kennedy has been a priest of the Archdiocese of San Francisco for over twenty two years. He is the Pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Russian Byzantine Catholic Church and Parochial Vicar at St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. Fr Kennedy has regularly provided retreats and spiritual conferences for various communities as well as individual spiritual direction for priests, seminarians and laity. His interests include history, Christian worship (East and West), and contemporary ecumenical dialogue.



REV. JOE KIM

Fr. Joe Kim credits the young adult Korean Catholic Community and the witness of St. John Paul II for challenging him to act on the call of God. He is an alumnus of St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park and was ordained in 2010 as a priest for the Diocese of San Jose by Bishop Patrick J. McGrath. Fr. Joe is a pastor at St. John Vianney after serving in parishes as a Parochial Vicar and Diocesan Vocations Director. He has a License in Sacred Theology from Sacred Heart in Detroit, MI. He is working on completing a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome.

MRS. MARTHA SHERIDAN

Mrs. Sheridan, a native of Guadalajara, Mexico, graduated from the University of California, Riverside, with an M.A. in Spanish Literature & Language. After completing most of her Ph.D., she took a break from her studies and moved to Northern California, where Mrs. Sheridan embarked on a thirty-one-year teaching career as a Spanish teacher, 21 of those years for the Diocese of San Jose. In the summer of 2019, she stepped away from the classroom for a year. Mrs. Sheridan returned to teaching this time here at St. Patrick's Seminary for the 2020-2021 academic year.



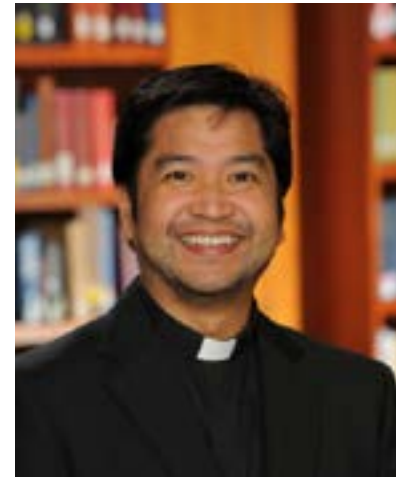
ST. PATRICK'S SAYS GOODBYE TO THREE DEPARTING PRIESTS



REV. MICHAEL CAREY, OP



REV. PIUS PIETRZYK, OP



REV. LORETO BONG ROJAS, JR

As each school year comes to an end, the St. Patrick's community says goodbye to friends as they move off to the next stage of their journey walking with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Generally, they are our graduates moving on to their ordination into the priesthood. Occasionally, they are faculty and staff. This year, three of our long-term priestly faculty will also be leaving St. Patrick's Seminary for new pursuits. They are Fr. Michael Carey, OP, Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, OP, and Fr. Loreto Bong Rojas, Jr.

Fr. Carey was most recently the department chair for the Moral Theology department. With his strong Dominican background, Fr. Carey always was ready to have a deep and insightful discussion on St. Thomas Aquinas and his teachings, particularly around Moral Theology and Catholic Social Teaching. His thoughtful and methodical style of discussion brought clarity to sometimes difficult-to-understand issues. Fr. Carey is retiring from teaching and we wish him all the best.

Fr. Pietrzyk will be missed for his challenging intellect, attractive personality, and unusual wit. His strong background in Canon Law made him the "go-to" person for an understanding of difficult legal and sacramental issues. Also, he was always ready to step up to help the seminary as a spokesperson and with various administrative issues. In 2020, Fr. Pietrzyk led the seminary's COVID-19 response team and helped successfully shepherd the seminary through the pandemic during the school year. He will be moving on to a new assignment with the Dominicans.

Fr. Bong never missed the opportunity to help the seminary. As the Director of Field Education and the Pastoral Year, he worked diligently to uncover valuable pastoral opportunities for the seminarians. With St. Patrick's location at the nexus of San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose, he skillfully found the best locations for the pastoral formation of our seminarians. Fr. Bong also served on the seminary's Communications Committee. His insights were consistently valuable in understanding the needs of our alumni community. Fr. Bong will be returning to his home diocese of Sacramento for pastoral work.

St. Patrick's Seminary will dearly miss these three men, but we wish them the best in the future. We anticipate adding four to five priests to the faculty in the Fall for the new school year. Our commitment remains strong to provide the best priestly role models for the formation of our seminarians.

Under normal circumstances, this section would be filled with pictures and stories of the night of our St. Patrick's Annual Gala, our premier event for the year. Our supporters come on campus to see our seminarians, faculty, and staff, to celebrate with like-minded Catholics devoted to the importance of priestly vocations, to recognize a worthy recipient of the Patrician Award, and to interact with various Church dignitaries. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic made such an event impossible.

The Gala has been our major fundraising event that provides us with necessary resources to keep our mission going forward. In 2020, our dedicated supporters donated generously to our alternative Gala 2020 Appeal. We asked you to give what you would have spent at the in-person Gala and we were blessed with overwhelming support. God bless you all for your generosity.

We are planning to return to our **2021 Annual Gala on September 18, 2021**. We may need to modify some of the event to meet any remaining COVID-19 restrictions, but we anticipate a fun-filled evening just as you have experienced in the past. Please save the date on your calendar.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.





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2021 ST. PATRICK'S TENNIS TOURNAMENT

In March, St. Patrick's held its 2021 St. Patrick's Tennis Tournament on our recently re-surfaced courts, courtesy of donations from our Gala attendees. Our basketball court and soccer field were also updated using those same funds.

In front of an enthusiastic crowd, five doubles teams participated in the tournament. The teams were well-balanced based on their tennis skills and this led to a very exciting event.

In a strongly contested tournament, the winners were Team D: Chi-Nahn Vo and Joshua Lesan. As a prize, they received \$250, donated by benefactors. Deacon

Paul Park, tournament organizer stated, "I was glad that all the participants enjoyed the tournament. I was also happy that other seminarians, who did not play, came and cheered for their fellow seminarians. I hope we can have more events like this tournament so that we can build up friendship and relationship with each other."

We want to thank the entire St. Patrick's community for their support of our sporting facilities so we can have these fun events that builds a strong sense of camaraderie and contributes to human formation.





ST PAT'S CHAT PODCAST

By Seminarian Patrick Germann

As a result of the recent pandemic, digital technology and online communication are utilized more and more often. Many priests and parishes have had to get creative to keep their communities engaged (I remember vividly streaming daily Mass on Facebook from the associate pastor's iPhone before a more robust streaming camera was installed in the Church). Without supplanting the necessity of gathering physically for Mass and worshipping Christ bodily as a community, many Catholics have had to become more digitally literate and willing to engage in community of the faithful online, too. In this context, the idea of a podcast produced by seminarians—encouraged by our bishops and greenlit by our former rector Fr. Dan Donohoo—has taken on even greater significance.

Their hopes for a podcast produced by seminarians were many: exploring the tools that can be used to share the Gospel online; practicing our public speaking as well as being comfortable hearing our own voices; most of all being able to reach a much wider audience than previously possible for a lone seminarian. After a seminary-wide vote the resulting name of the podcast, St. Pat's Chat, has guided this conversational structure for each episode. Instead of being strictly a catechetical project or an extended interview session, the podcast is a chance to listen in on conversations about God, his Church and life as a seminarian at St. Patrick's Seminary.

In my own burgeoning journey as a seminarian, I am often asked questions about seminary life and its inner workings. As the producer of the podcast, I recall these questions when working on each episode, recognizing that there are many Catholics who have questions about seminary but might not know a seminarian or someone connected with a seminary. It is our hope that our podcast authentically shares the voices of the men going through priestly formation here at St. Patrick's Seminary. This ideal is at the forefront of our production of St. Pat's Chat: an opportunity for not only our family and friends back home to hear from us, but for those who may not have any idea what seminary life is like to learn. Not only for us to share but to have others share our stories and in turn get them to "chat" with others as a result. To be able to share stories about the classes we are taking as well as the fun that we have here too!

We do not seek to become the next viral hit or to put podcasting over our studies, prayer, and fraternity, but we do want to share all the necessary elements of producing well-rounded Christian men. As seminarians, we come from many different backgrounds and experiences, and they make for many enriching and interesting conversations in our life at seminary. Our hope in producing St. Pat's Chat is that we can share our learning, our laughter, our stories, and our lives with those who may ask "just what do you DO at seminary?"



FIND US ON





OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

The St. Patrick's on-campus community took a break from studying for exams to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The seminarians then finished their semester and left for home. Unlike other years, it was a much quieter celebration due to our COVID-19 restrictions and the closure of the campus to the public.

The Mass was celebrated by Rector Very Rev. Mark Doherty assisted by Rev. Mr. Alan M. Acevedo from the Diocese of Santa Rosa. Also, the Oblate Sisters renewed their vows during the Mass. Later, there was a procession of Our Lady to the refectory and the dinner meal was served.





Mrs. Sheridan graduated from the University of California, Riverside, with an M.A. in Spanish Literature & Language. She has been the Chairperson of the Annual Gala and was named Director of Advancement during the 2020-2021 school year. She is also an adjunct professor of Spanish at St. Patrick's Seminary.

“Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring” - St. Catherine of Sienna

The wise Mystic and Doctor of the Church, St. Catherine of Sienna, could not have left us a more appropriate quote for our time. We have, as a society, most definitely endured many challenges this past year. As Catholics here in the United States and worldwide, we were deprived of the liberty to gather as one family in prayer and communion. Most importantly, we could not receive the Eucharist. Many of us baby boomers and the generations that follow have now experienced lockdowns, restrictions, and government mandates as one of the most challenging times in our lives. As a Catholic institution where our mission is to prepare good men for the priesthood, the challenges for St. Patrick's were no different. We endured and achieved great successes this past academic school year. No one in our community has contracted the virus. We successfully continued our fundraising efforts, the much-needed restorations of our physical facilities have continued, and the future of St. Patrick's has never looked better.

As the new academic year began, I was excited to teach in person. We had to maintain and practice all the public health mandates and protocols. Although the “new normal” dictated we stay six feet apart, being in person and wearing a mask was better than teaching via computer. God made us social beings, and we need the human

connection. The day-to-day routine was caution, consideration, awareness, obedience, and joy. Yes, JOY! one could hear the joy the seminarians were still able to experience throughout the school year. As I walked from my office to the classroom where I would teach my first group of Spanish students, my only thoughts were of Gratitude to God for the opportunity to be part of a new program and same-minded community. Pastoral Spanish, a new subject to better prepare our future priests in their ministry as shepherds, is a new outstanding achievement during this challenging year.

A Challenge and Opportunity

Because we could not hold our Annual St. Patrick's Gala in the fall of 2020, we pivoted to a Gala Replacement Appeal, a new challenge and opportunity. Since January of 2016 and as the Gala Chair of 2018 and 2019, I had received tremendous support on the Gala committee. The positive experience with our benefactors and Gala attendees encouraged me to personally reach out to many of St. Patrick's family of benefactors. The positive response and support were incredible from our sending Bishops, the Board of Trustees, and most importantly, from you, our past Gala attendees, and benefactors. We overcame the challenge of not having our most important fundraising event, and again we achieved and surpassed our goals! I am eternally grateful for your response in saying “yes” to the call to help St. Patrick's, especially during these challenging times. I want to personally invite you to join us this year and celebrate with us again at the 2021 Annual St. Patrick's Gala on Saturday, September 18, 2021. Our mission must continue; your presence and support as a member of the Church is an integral part of our success here at St. Patrick's; we simply cannot achieve the extraordinary task of priestly formation without you.

Restoring the Beauty of St. Patrick's

The last four and a half months have been a busy time at our university. The facilities' upkeep and renovations continue to bring back the building's original beauty and a welcoming ambiance to our grounds. One of the first projects of 2021 was to

replace the carpeting throughout the seminary. The first hallway to undergo a renovation was the B-Wing. Upon removing the carpet, the original hardwood floor was restored to its 1898 beauty. This project took place during the 2021 Easter break. The renovations to maintain the seminary in working condition would not be possible without the generous donations from many of our benefactors. We have plans, little by little, to make St. Patrick's a place where our resident priests and professors can teach and live in a clean and comfortable setting. Also, we want to create a community where our seminarians can thrive in their studies while living in a simple but comfortable environment. The beautiful grounds and classic architecture inspire the St. Patrick's community to serve God in all of our roles and capacities. We look forward to welcoming you, our benefactors, so you can experience this extraordinary campus.

St. Patrick's Bright Future

After Fr. Mark Doherty was named Interim-Rector of St. Patrick's in October of 2020, he met one-on-one with the entire staff to introduce himself and learn more about each of us. I was quickly impressed with his humility and dedication to the seminary. As an alumnus, his desire to see St. Patrick's thrive is abundantly evident. His vision for St. Patrick's will place our religious-academic institution on the U.S. map as a top seminary. Therefore, when he asked me in early December of 2020 to serve as the Director of Advancement, my response was a resounding, "Yes!"

Achieving Greatness in Our Mission

It is a privilege to partake in the formation of our future priests. Our benefactors, like you, play the most crucial role. We continue in our efforts to increase our student enrollment every year. We also endure the challenge of the need to increase our Endowment. We cannot be successful and achieve greatness in our mission of forming our future priest for our children and grandchildren without the continued financial support of generous donors like you. We want St. Patrick's to be here for 200 more years. Please join us in

making a difference.

As the new Director of Advancement, I am excited to work with Very Rev. Mark Doherty, our Board of Trustees, and the Advancement team. I am ready to serve God here at St. Patrick's, making a difference in securing and increasing the gifts and treasures from many in our community who are prepared to partake in the mission of priestly formation. I welcome a conversation to support you in how you can make a difference.

Martha Sheridan

Director of Advancement - martha.sheridan@stpsu.edu - (650)289-3355



FR. BEN ROSADO '20 COMES BACK TO CELEBRATE HOLY MASS



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, our annual alumni event Priests' Day (normally held on Thanksgiving Week) was canceled. However, the community did have a visit from a recent alumnus, Reverend Benjamin Rosado '20 of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. It was a blessing to have him return to campus as a newly-ordained priest to celebrate Holy Mass for the entire St. Patrick's on-campus community.

Fr. Ben had his Spring semester cut short by our COVID-19 measures, but he has experienced a lot since then. He was ordained along with his classmate Fr. Ian Quito on August 1 at St. Mary's Cathedral. Archbishop Cordileone appointed Fr. Ian to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Redwood City and Fr. Ben to St. Matthew Parish, San Mateo.

Fr. Ben gave a wonderful homily stressing the importance of deepening one's faith and the need to prepare oneself for encounters with Our Lord, particularly during the time of Advent. He talked about the need for reverent prayer in anticipation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It was fitting topic for Fr. Ben's return to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist in our Main Chapel.

SAVE THE DATE
PRIEST'S DAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2021



Matthew Horwitz was appointed to the position of Library Director in January 2020, having worked at Gellert Memorial Library in other capacities since October 2016. He received his M.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Theology from the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology in Berkeley. He currently resides in Menlo Park.

In my library update for the 2020 issue of the *Patrician*, I made mention of the fact that my colleague Dr. Kristen Kearns, then the Director of the English Language Center at St. Patrick's Seminary & University, had relocated her base of operations to an office in Gellert Memorial Library. I further noted that this move was the first phase in a new project: the establishment of a Student Learning Center on the library premises. I am happy to report that significant headway has been made on this project since you last heard from me.

As just noted, the project's first phase was setting up a space in the library as a venue for the seminary's existing academic support services. The second phase is ongoing and involves expanding Dr. Kearns's role at St. Patrick's, furnishing the seminarians with opportunities to connect with the seminary faculty outside of the classroom, and introducing a variety of novel academic support services to complement those already on offer. In February of this year, Dr. Kearns was given full-time status at the seminary and her title changed to Director of the Student Learning Center. Shortly thereafter, she invited the other members of the faculty to begin using her office for evening office hours; she also coordinated, for the benefit of the seminarians, a series of faculty-led discipline-specific writing workshops. (I was privileged to give one such workshop, which focused mainly on the utilization of the library's databases in research.) Future endeavors will include the creation of a

Peer Tutor work-study position and the development of additional workshops geared toward improving the seminarians' oral and written communication skills in their languages of ministry, particularly English and Spanish.

The third phrase of the project, which remains in the planning stage as of this writing, will involve transforming the physical space in the library with the aim of facilitating and encouraging the seminarians' use of the Student Learning Center and the library as a whole. Proposed changes include the transformation of the space across from Dr. Kearns's office—which, appropriately, is already styled the “Corbalis Learning Commons”—into a dedicated workspace for the aforementioned Peer Tutors; the improvement of the lighting at various locations throughout the library; and the construction of a student lounge area on the library's mezzanine level.

It is Dr. Kearns's hope and mine that the Student Learning Center and the library will function symbiotically going forward—that the former will benefit from foot traffic generated by the latter and vice versa, but also (and more fundamentally) that the interlinking of the two institutions will change how the students and faculty alike relate to them both, thereby helping to build up a collaborative community of learning at the seminary. God willing, our efforts will bear fruit in the coming year, and I will be in a position to regale you with the story of our success when the 2022 issue of the *Patrician* goes to print!

IN MEMORIAM



**REV. JOSEPH J. BONADIO,
PSS**

Father Joseph J. Bonadio, PSS passed away in January 2021. After working at several seminaries as a member of the Society of St. Sulpllice, Fr. Bonadio became the rector of St. Patrick's Seminary in 1973. He was known to have a conciliatory manner that brought a consensus approach to reforms at the seminary. After leaving St. Patrick's, Fr. Bonadio immersed himself in pastoral ministries until his retirement in 2012. He is remembered as a charitable and friendly priest with the heart of a pastor.



DOROTHY A. TULLY, PHD

Dorothy A. Tully, former Academic Dean, passed away after a long illness and COVID-19. She had received her master of arts degree from UC Berkeley, and her doctorate in arts from the University of Miami. After leaving the convent in 1980, she taught Spanish at various community colleges and at St. Patrick's Seminary & University. Dorothy later served as the Dean of Admissions and then Academic Dean. She had retired in 2009. She was a long time member of St. Gregory's Parish in San Mateo.



**REV. VINCENT DOAN BUI,
PSS**

Father Vincent Doan Bui, PSS died in June 2020 from COVID-19. In addition to being a faculty member from 2001-2006, Fr. Bui was a big advocate for the seminary within the Vietnamese community in San Jose. He gave himself fully to the Vietnamese community in the Dioceses of San Jose and Oakland and taught theology to the Vietnamese Sisters. He brought an appreciation of Vietnamese culture to the seminary through festive multicultural events and assisted greatly in fundraising efforts.

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PRIESTS' DAY - SAVE THE DATE

Please mark your calendar
Tuesday, November 23, 2021

2:00 pm – Presentation

4:00 pm – Mass

5:15 pm – Social

6:00 pm – Dinner

2020 and 2021 Jubilarians:

Ordination classes of 1960, 1961,
1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1995 and
1996

Our Young Alumni – 2010 - 2021

We look forward to seeing you in the
Fall.



Gala 2021

Save the date:
13TH ANNUAL GALA
ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY &
UNIVERSITY
Saturday, September 18, 2021

INVITATION TO FOLLOW &
ONLINE REGISTRATION COMING
SOON

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We are updating our database.

Please send any email or mailing address updates.



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Slava Blazer Photography, Golden Images Photography, Mr. Dereck Delgado, and Mr.
Stephen Terlizzi

DESIGN AND LAYOUT:

Mr. Stephen Terlizzi and Ms. Myra Phelan

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