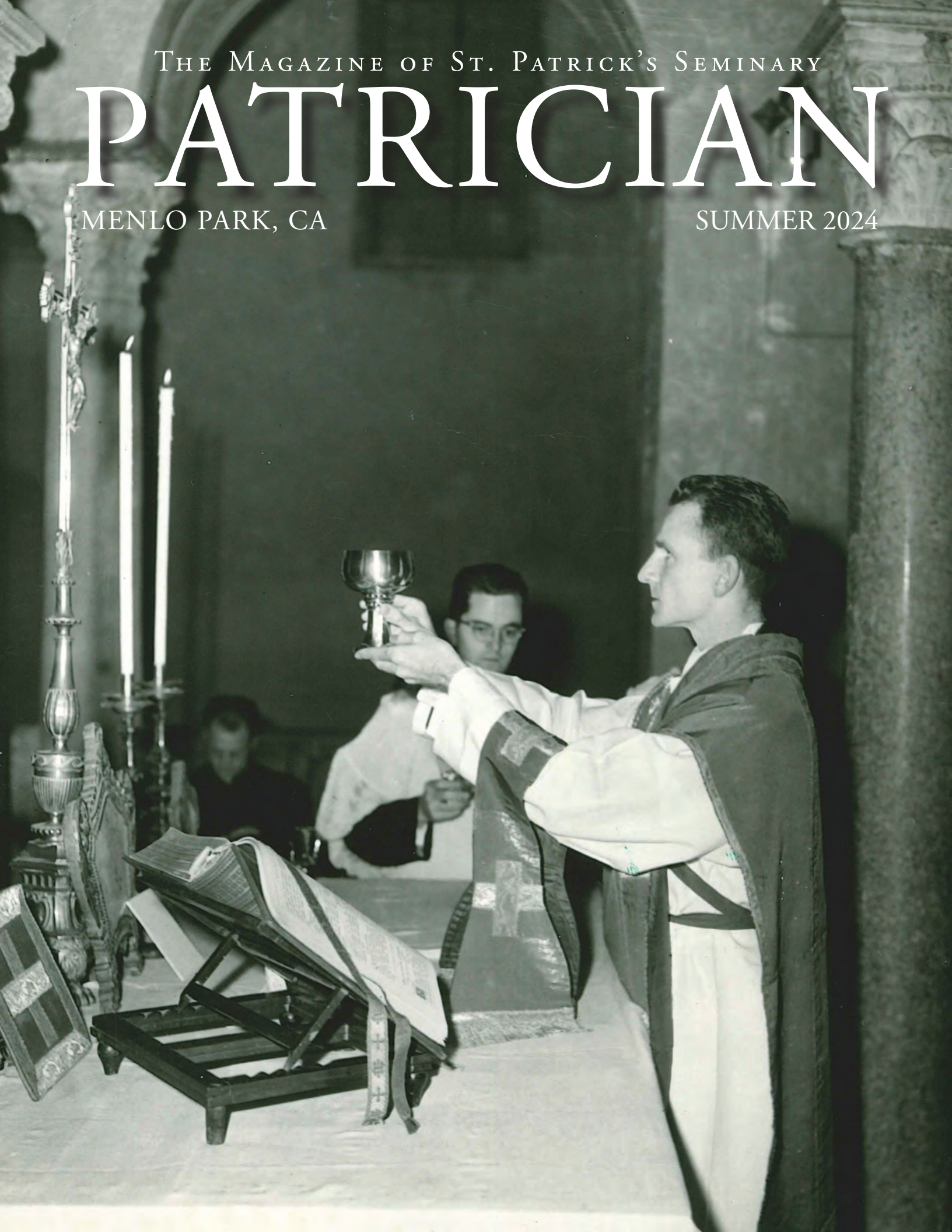


THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY

PATRICIAN

MENLO PARK, CA

SUMMER 2024





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PATRICIAN

The Magazine of St. Patrick's Seminary

SUMMER 2024

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Mrs. Cristina Shiffman, with special

thanks to Fr. Gerald Coleman

DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Mr. Ramón Camacho

PHOTOS

Mrs. Mack Alano,

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Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran,

Jennifer Vasquez Photography,

and personal submissions

FRONT COVER

Msgr. Warren Holleran celebrates his

first Mass in Rome at the Church of

Santa Maria in Cosmedin.

SAVE *the* DATE



16TH ANNUAL GALA

September 21st, 2024

Vespers at 4:30 pm

Dinner & program to follow



PRIEST DAY

November 26th, 2024

Talk at 2:00 pm

Mass at 4:00 pm

Dinner to follow



DAY OF GIVING

March 16th, 2025

A NEW ERA OF FRUITFULNESS

September 20, 2023, marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick's Seminary. Celebrating this rich history—as we did with over seven hundred guests at our annual gala—we appreciate anew the great opportunity and imperative that we have to provide seminary formation at the highest level.

By many indications, St. Patrick's Seminary is fulfilling its mandate. This is evidenced, for example, by our continuous rise in enrollment, thanks in part to the new presence of men from the Diocese of Albany. Three of those men entered our propaedeutic year program, thus witnessing to sending bishops' growing recognition of this program as one of the best in the nation. We acknowledge the excellent work of its director, Rev. Gary Thomas, and the cooperation of many other faculty members in making it one of the highest-quality experiences available for men entering seminary life.

Our efforts to provide superior formation have also occasioned many new initiatives that will enrich the broader community. These initiatives, launched or expanded this year by our faculty members, contribute to the emergence of St. Patrick's not only as one of the nation's preeminent seminaries but also as a "cathedral school" of sorts. On this historical model, the Church's work to educate her own clergy spills over into educational opportunities for the laity. It is precisely in conceiving new ways to share their wisdom and expertise with our seminarians that the priests and professors of St. Patrick's are also expanding the reach of their ministry to those beyond the seminary walls.

One example is the new Institute for Philosophy, Technology, and Politics under the direction of professor Mark Shiffman. Already this academic year, the Institute has begun hosting events to promote dialogue between the St. Patrick's community and leaders in areas such as politics, academia, and commerce.

We are also excited to announce the Initiative for Priestly Renewal, a collaboration between the Avila Foundation and St. Patrick's Seminary professors Anthony Lilles and Fr. Dennis McManus. Confronting challenges such as overuse of technology and lack of fraternal support, the initiative promotes priests' formation as spiritual fathers through retreats and pilgrimages. It also includes the St. John Vianney Confessor's Institute, a national

conference for the recovery of the sacrament of penance. We aim through such work to restore to priests the joy of being friends of Christ and fathers to God's people.

The Catholic Institute of Sacred Music, directed by Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka, continues to thrive. Over four hundred guests came in December 2023 to listen to the seminary's Schola Cantorum perform its first Advent and Christmas concert. The CISM has also offered many public lectures and concerts, including a talk by Fr. Joshua Neu, Director of Liturgy and Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture, on the renewed meaning of Israel's psalms in light of the Incarnation. We look forward to another robust summer of CISM graduate courses in sacred music.

Our community also welcomes leading public figures to share their experience and counsel. Former Secretary of Defense Gen. Jim Mattis delivered a lecture in October 2023 on forming young men for leadership. In May 2024, Bill McGurn, opinion columnist for the *Wall Street Journal* and former White House Director of Speechwriting, spoke about the unjust imprisonment of pro-democracy activist Mr. Jimmy Lai and the persecution of Christians in Hong Kong and mainland China.

The seminary's vitality finds expression in ongoing renovations to the main chapel's sanctuary and upper sacristy, including the relocation of organ pipes as the first step in rehabilitating the sacristy. Major updates to the Kate Johnson boardroom are also underway. Complementing these physical updates, a new website has enhanced our media presence to the broader community. We also anticipate in this regard the launch of our new podcast for ongoing priestly formation, titled *In Via Christi*.

The St. Patrick's community is flourishing. Moving forward as both a contemplative house of prayer and a growing center for the important conversations of our time, we express our immense gratitude to the benefactors, alumni, students, faculty, and staff who collaborate in forming holy priests for the Church and the world.

Sincerely in Christ,



Very Rev. Mark Doherty
President-Rector
St. Patrick's Seminary



The Church in the World

Pastoral Internship with the Sovereign Order of Malta's Mission to the United Nations

Seminarians Mr. Zachary Muñoz (Pastoral Year, Portland) and Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Ponce (Theology IV, Oakland) spent the summer of 2023 on pastoral internship in New York City, serving at local parishes and assisting the Order of Malta at the United Nations. Mr. Muñoz reflects on the experience.

WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE ORDER OF MALTA'S WORK WITH THE UNITED NATIONS?

I served as an advisor to Ambassador Paul Beresford-Hill of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations. It was my responsibility to assist the ambassador in becoming well informed about the various UN resolutions and meetings, particularly with relevance to the Third Committee, which concerns humanitarian affairs, and to the Security Council. Accomplishing this goal involved interpreting international laws and resolutions with the mind of the Church and providing the ambassador with a brief that was written through a philosophical and theological lens. The training that I have received at St. Patrick's Seminary was particularly helpful in this area because it has formed me to look past the obvious, into the heart of a situation, and to draw from it a deeper truth or intent. In addition to this advisory role, it was also my responsibility to draft a speech for the ambassador's review whenever he or another member of the Sovereign Order of Malta's delegation was asked to deliver a statement. During my time at the UN, I wrote over forty speeches, including five Security Council speeches, and personally delivered seven speeches to the Third Committee.

HOW DID THIS EXPERIENCE CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR FORMATION AS A FUTURE PRIEST?

By our baptism, each of us is called to participate in Christ's threefold ministry as priest, prophet, and king. The ordained priest, however, exercises these responsibilities within the context of the ministerial priesthood. To this end, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to more fully develop my understanding of what it means to govern well, especially when dealing with diverse stakeholders. Ambassador Beresford-Hill helped me to see that offering a patient and well-considered response is often the most prudent and effective way to handle a situation. There are, of course, times when an immediate response is needed. Yet, if one has not developed the virtue of prudence—especially with reference to matters of governance, and as exercised and strengthened through non-emergency decision—then one runs the risk of harming those for whom one is called to care and insulting those with whom one cooperates in that ministry of care.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS?

I was amazed to see that the temporal governance of the Church, while diminished in its obvious structures as compared to previous centuries, still exists. Many look to the Church for guidance regarding negotiations of peace and morality. The experience—particularly that of seeing the prominent role held at the UN by the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta—also helped me grow in appreciation of the universality of the Catholic Church. While these institutions are small compared to many other sovereign entities, the Church bears great influence and garners much respect. ✚



▲ Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Ponce (left) and Mr. Zachary Muñoz (right) assist the Sovereign Order of Malta at the United Nations.



STUDENT LIFE

Growing Fraternity Off Campus

From classroom to theater to mountains and beyond, seminarians find encouragement in community.

1) Seminarians Antonio Espinoza (T1, Oakland), Patrick Germann (T2, Stockton), Scott Whittaker (T2, Sacramento), Colby Richards (PT2, Spokane), Joshua Lesan (T2, Stockton), Christopher Appel (PT1, Spokane), and Mitchell Carey (PT1, Spokane) enjoy a lunch break with Rev. Jerome Magat during their Lake Tahoe ski trip hosted by Rev. Joseph Sebastian, CMI.

2) Colby Richards, Patrick Germann, Scott Whittaker, and Joshua Lesan take in views of Lake Tahoe from the lift at Heavenly ski resort.

3) Scott Whittaker, Joshua Lesan, Patrick Germann, Christopher Appel, and Antonio Espinoza admire the scenery at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park.

4) Dr. and Mrs. William Sheridan treat seminarians to a night at the movies to see *Cabrini* in San Mateo.

5) Rev. Paul Halladay joined seminarians [back row] Christopher Appel, Scott Whittaker, Osvaldo Zuniga Soto (Prop. Yr., Stockton), Alejandro Marquez Mendoza (T1, Sacramento), Antonio Espinoza, [front row] Jesús Zapien (T2, Fresno), and Joshua Lesan for a hike in Pinnacles National Park.

Life at St. Patrick's

1) Former Sec. of Defense Gen. Jim Mattis delivers a lecture at St. Patrick's on the formation of young men for service (Oct. 17, 2023).



2) Rev. Mr. Christopher Girolo (T4, Santa Rosa) and Rev. Mr. Mauricio Rodriguez (T4, Santa Rosa) pause for a photo with Rev. Alan Acevedo (Santa Rosa, '21) at the reception celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 9, 2023).



3) Dr. Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka directs the seminary's Schola Cantorum at the 28th annual Mass for the feast of St. Lorenzo Ruiz and companion martyrs (Sept. 28, 2023). Every September, the Filipino community of St. Patrick's organizes festivities commemorating their first native-born saint in an effort to joyfully share the richness of "Pinoy" piety and culture.



4) A large audience attends the inaugural St. Patrick's Schola Cantorum Advent and Christmas Concert (Dec. 1, 2023).



5) Rev. Jerald Geronimo (San Francisco, '22) reverences the statue of St. Lorenzo Ruiz on the occasion of his feast day.

6) Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran (T4, Honolulu) and Mr. Patrick Germann (T2, Stockton) lead the group bearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the annual votive Mass in her honor.





◀ Scott Borba (Pastoral Year, Fresno), Garrett McGowan (Theology II, Oakland), and Aidan Cameron-Smith (Theology III, Oakland) stand with Sr. Conchita Rangel Mendoza of the Oblates of Jesus the Priest in the main chapel of their mother convent in Mexico City. Sr. Conchita was formerly the superior of the Oblate sisters at St. Patrick's.

Encountering the Church in Mexico

Reflections on a Summer Immersion Experience

Mr. Scott Borba (Pastoral Year, Fresno) was one of a group of seminarians who participated in a summer 2023 Spanish-language immersion program in Mexico. Mr. Borba resided in Tlalpan, a borough of Mexico City, and had the chance to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. He remembered thinking upon seeing the tilma “how old it is and how fresh it looks.”

His greatest takeaway from the experience abroad came from visiting a migrant facility where the travelers could go to get rest and food. It was “troublesome to the heart” to see these individuals—many of whom, he commented, are coming to the areas of California where St. Patrick's graduates will serve as priests. Encountering these people in person allowed him, he said, to see why they are coming to the United States, how loving and compassionate they are, and what they do for us in manufacturing and agriculture. He commented on the visit: “It helped our ministry come to life. How can you love someone truly if you don't know them and understand them? Yes, you can provide the sac-

raments; you can also try to understand the true reason why they're coming to church, which is often the only thing they have left from their homeland. They want you to know that.” Those ministering to them must keep in mind, he also noted, that “a good father or mother takes time to get involved.”

Mr. Borba also reflected on similarities and differences between the Church as it is found in both Mexico and the United States. One commonality between the Church in both nations is a movement away from unity that demands our careful attention, as when, for example, some individuals make their own changes to the celebration of Mass. Instead, “We should honor our Lord by obeying the Roman missal's rubrics.” The vibrancy of the Church in Mexico marks a positive difference. There is “so much love for Christ and for our Blessed Mother, even among non-Catholics. It will help to bring that spirituality over to the United States and increase devotion to our Mother as intercessor to our beloved Christ.” ✚



▲ A group of seminarians including, from St. Patrick's, Aidan Cameron-Smith, Antonio Espinoza (Theology I, Oakland), Garrett McGowan, and Scott Borba gather with Fr. Juan Vertiz, rector of Seminario Hispano de Santa Maria de Guadalupe, at the rear-most sanctuary in the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Mexico.



Rev. Jerome Magat, SThD

**Associate Professor of Moral Theology
Vice Rector**

It has been a true privilege and honor to return to St. Patrick's Seminary after having taught Fr. Doherty (and many other fine priests) here over ten years ago. I accepted Archbishop Cordileone and Fr. Doherty's invitation to return here because I believe in their vision for the seminary. I also want to support the next generation of priests, who will serve the Church in a very challenging cultural milieu. I have spent over half of my twenty-two years of priesthood working in seminaries, and St. Patrick's has been my favorite post by far. The seminary community has been wonderfully welcoming of me. In particular, the seminarians have continually expressed their gratitude for my presence, and it is inspiring to witness their faith and openness to the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition. There is a true spirit of joy, devotion, affability, and generosity that pervades the campus. Any visitor would be edified by the work being accomplished here. Fr. Doherty has cultivated a wonderful faculty and staff who are united in a common mission to help form holy, intelligent, and apostolic priests for the next generation of believers. I have been inspired by our liturgies, the reverence of the community, and the high quality of our liturgical music program.

It has been an immense blessing to reconnect with former colleagues, with whom I served here from 2013-2015, as well as with my friends and family in the Bay Area. When I left St. Patrick's nine years ago, I had no expectation of ever returning to serve here again. Yet, in the grand designs of Providence, the Lord provided a path for me to return. I am elated to have this opportunity to serve for another term and share my years of teaching and formation work experience with this community.

I am also very grateful to Msgr. Vergara, Fr. Quito, Fr. Jandonero, and the parish community of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Redwood City, where I serve as a part-time parochial vicar. This has also been a tremendous blessing for me and a wonderful opportunity to re-engage in parish work, which I did for the first eleven years of my priesthood. I am able to enjoy a wonderful balance between the rigors of academia and seminary formation, on the one hand, and pastoral life in a parish setting, on the other. Finally, I am grateful to the Most Rev. Michael Burbidge, bishop of my home diocese of Arlington, VA, for allowing me this opportunity to serve the wider church in my capacity as professor of moral theology and formator at St. Patrick's Seminary. ✠



Rev. Joshua Neu, SSL

**Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture
Director of Liturgy**

It is a blessing to serve on the faculty of St. Patrick's Seminary as a professor of sacred scripture, the director of liturgy, and a spiritual director to seminarians. The seminary's work is vital to the future of the Church, and I pray that, with God's grace, my ministry in these three areas will have great effects in the lives of our future priests and all the people they will one day serve.

Sacred scripture, being the word of God, offers innumerable insights into God's encounter with humanity, especially in the person of Jesus Christ, and must be a source of renewal for the Church. Indeed, we all have experiences of homilies that break open the word of God and become conduits of divine grace. I hope to develop an intelligent love of the Bible in the hearts of our seminarians so that they may encounter God through his word and transmit that encounter to the people whom they serve.

The Church's liturgy is, of course, what brings Catholics together week to week, even day to day, as we join the prayer of Jesus Christ offering himself to his heavenly Father. Through the worthy celebration of the liturgy, the priest invites all people—both those in the Church and those still far from her—to participate in the life of the Trinity. I hope to foster in our seminarians a deep love of the liturgy so that they will then foster that same love and active participation among the people of God.

Seminary formation is not only education in priestly knowledge and skills but also a deepening of the personal relationship between the seminarian and the triune God. The third aspect of my ministry at St. Patrick's Seminary, spiritual direction, goes beyond classroom and chapel. Accompanying seminarians in their relationship with God, I hope to offer them guidance and wisdom from the Church's spiritual tradition. With a firm foundation in the spiritual and moral life, these seminarians will be able to respond to the challenges they will undoubtedly face as priests.

Since arriving at St. Patrick's Seminary, I have been impressed by the wholehearted dedication of our seminarians, the thoughtfulness and care of our faculty, and the warmth of the community as a whole. In a culture that seems to be turning away from God, the community at St. Patrick's insists on keeping God at the center and, by doing so, gives beautiful witness to the hope all Catholics have in the salvation of Christ. ✠



Mark Shiffman, PhD

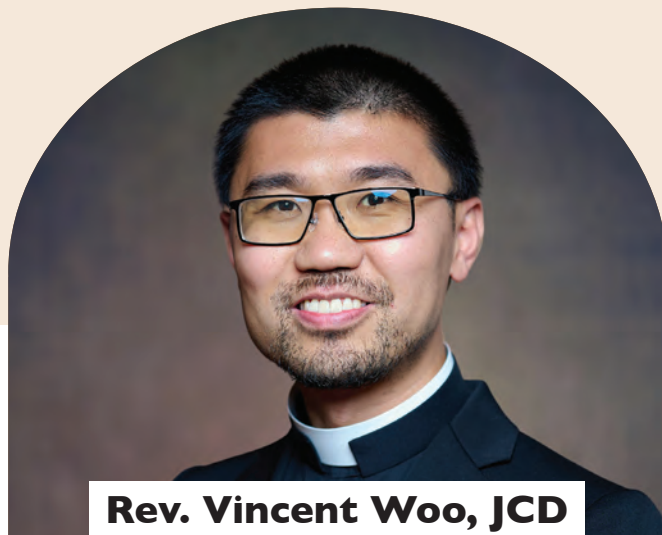
Associate Professor of Philosophy

The discernment of a vocation does not always crystallize all at once. After college, and before my conversion, a clear recognition of my vocation as a teacher of philosophy led me to a PhD program at the University of Chicago. Conversion, marriage and fatherhood, and working for the fledgling UChicago Lumen Christi Institute made it clear to me that my vocation could only be carried out fully in a Catholic context.

Teaching courses about race and politics that were designed to make space for the conversations that were not happening, as well as being involved in very lively contemporary arguments about Catholic political philosophy and the fate of liberalism, focused my educational practice over the last few years on the teaching of political philosophy. It became particularly important to try to clarify how Catholic political philosophy must develop the resources it has inherited in order to speak adequately to the political unraveling of our times. At the same time, the narrowing of the range of acceptable speech in most academic settings did not offer promising conditions for that specific vocation to flourish, even at a Catholic university.

St. Patrick's Seminary provides a rare setting for teaching and serious reflection on fundamental questions crucial in our time. The intellectual level is high, and this enhances our ability to help priests cut through the confusion around us intellectually and present the good sense of Gospel truth with clarity of speech and integrity of witness to people inside and outside the faith who are mired in that confusion. It is humbling, but also satisfying, invigorating, and liberating, to receive the gift of serving this mission of Christ's Church in the world.

The seminarians, the faculty, and (especially importantly) the administration and archbishop all share a seriousness and clarity of purpose that sustains hope—a hope anchored in a shared life of worship and sacramental communion—that we are laboring in a fruitful vineyard here. Pray for us that our labors may bear much fruit. ✚



Rev. Vincent Woo, JCD

Assistant Professor of Pastoral Studies

Ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Hong Kong, I bring to my priestly ministry a special interest in the sacramental and liturgical disciplines of the Church. I received my Doctor of Canon Law from the Catholic University of America in 2023. My dissertation centered on the revival of the immemorial practice of Ember Day fasting preceding priestly ordinations. These academic pursuits eventually led me to the work of priestly formation at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Two factors in my discernment of a call to work at St. Patrick's were its exceptional faculty and its unwavering commitment to the Church's magisterium. The faculty are not only distinguished academics and effective teachers but also individuals who are devoted to prayer and faithful to the Church. I aspire to enrich the institution with my experience working in parishes; in the tribunal of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA; in hospital chaplaincy; and in ministry to the homeless and ethnic minorities. My work also includes serving as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Burlingame, CA, and continuing my research and publication in the area of canon law.

What has impressed me most deeply about St. Patrick's is its unity amidst diversity. While seminarians and faculty hail from five continents, we share a common dedication to fully expressing the Catholic faith in every facet of our lives. This commitment is especially evident in the community's approach to the liturgy. We at St. Patrick's regard the sacred liturgy as a divine gift to be embraced with profound humility and reverence. I am deeply moved by the spirit of prayer permeating the community of seminarians. A robust interior life is the foundation for a fruitful apostolate.

The comprehensive formation offered at St. Patrick's stands poised to be the most valuable contribution it will offer in the decades ahead, not only to its sending dioceses but also to the universal Church. I am excited to be part of this community forming good men to be holy priests of Jesus Christ. ✚

“The community at St. Patrick's insists on keeping God at the center and, by doing so, gives beautiful witness to the hope all Catholics have in the salvation of Christ.”



Navigating a Course of Growth

St. Patrick's Seminary, as both a building and an institution for priestly formation, is an image that reflects the persistence of Holy Mother Church throughout the ages. While the brick walls are the same as those constructed in 1898, much has changed within, and the events of the past year provide another example of this forward movement. Last year we welcomed new professors who, upon entering campus, not only devoted themselves wholeheartedly to their teaching but also fully gave themselves to the community. Each of them brought new light and ideas that are just beginning to unfold at St. Patrick's. This year, too, has entailed a new set of adjustments. More talented faculty members have joined the seminary community. My own class has fundamentally changed: we completed Pre-Theology II with five men, and this year the class size jumped to eleven as we added men of various talents and virtues. The year has also seen the departure of the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest. The sisters prayed and served at St. Patrick's for several decades. While they are certainly loved by all and will be terribly missed, their departure reminds us of the ever-changing needs of the Church and the reality that, in the future, our bishops may send us suddenly to a new assignment

ANTONIO ESPINOZA
is the Student Body President
and a seminarian for the
Diocese of Oakland.



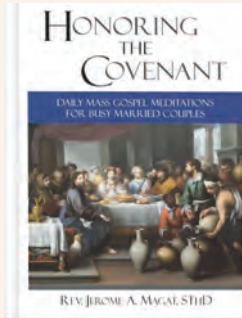
to fulfill God's will elsewhere. A valuable lesson was learned.

While change can upset some, it is in uncertainty that Christ calls to us. "Take heart, it is I; have no fear" (Mt 14:27). These are the words Jesus spoke to his disciples when they were on a boat beaten by the waves. Here, in the midst of strong winds, Jesus said "come," and Peter walked on the water. The words of Christ will likewise guide me and my fellow seminarians in the student council. Both representatives and officers, with the trust and support of their peers, have an opportunity to plan a course of growth for the seminary at large. On the council, men can propose and enact new projects to strengthen fraternity, prayer, and academic excellence. If for some reason things do not go as planned, they have their fellow peers to give them feedback for next time. It is a good trial run before one finds himself a priest consulting parish committees. It is very humbling for me to have received my brother seminarians' support in being elected student council president. The various members of the council have fulfilled their duties to the community with excellence, and I know for certain the future will only be better. ✚

TOP PHOTO

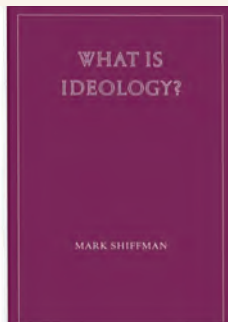
Back row, from left: Mr. Alphonse Tolenga (Theology III, Tshumbe); Mr. Nicolas Magarelli (Pre-Theology II, Spokane); Mr. Christopher Appel (Pre-Theology I, Spokane); Mr. Andrew Kelley (Theology II, Spokane), *Secretary*; Mr. Joshua Lesan (Theology II, Stockton); Mr. Julio Oliva (Theology I, Fresno); Mr. Álvaro Santamaria (Theology IV, Oakland). Second row, from left: Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran (Theology IV, Honolulu), *Vice President*; Mr. Antonio Espinosa (Theology I), *President*; Mr. Chi-Nhan Vo (Theology IV, Portland).

Faculty Publications



Rev. Jerome Magat, SThD

St. Patrick's Seminary is pleased to announce the publication of *Honoring the Covenant: Daily Mass Gospel Meditations for Busy Married Couples* by our own Fr. Magat, associate professor of moral theology. The book is available in Kindle and paperback format on amazon.com. In this book, Fr. Magat offers married couples a tool to help them pray together and remain connected to the Church's liturgy beyond their Sunday Mass participation.



Mark Shiffman, PhD

Also new in 2023 is Dr. Mark Shiffman's study *What Is Ideology?* In it, he considers how the meaning of the term "ideology" has changed over the last several centuries, and how ideological thinking rejects those elements of our humanity that are not consistent with its narrow intellectual schema. Dr. Shiffman proposes—as an alternative to the ideological reductions often imposed by the modern, technocratic state—that the classical and biblical traditions exemplify a mode of non-ideological thinking through which the human person can encounter and flourish in reality as it is given.

MATTHEW HORWITZ
is the Library Director at
St. Patrick's Seminary.



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The Enduring Importance of Print Books in a Digital Age

In recent years, digital media have all but supplanted print media in the American techno-cultural landscape. Should we at Gellert Memorial Library, in keeping with the times, not therefore make a point of cultivating a primarily digital academic environment for our patrons? And should we not, in consequence, desist from collecting print books, in whole or in part?

Digital media certainly have a place at Gellert Memorial Library. Yet we will continue to acquire print books. Indeed, doing so is integral to our task of facilitating the study and teaching of theology at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Theology is unique among the disciplines in that, along with engaging the intellect, it is inextricable from prayer. Accordingly, a seminary library such as ours must cultivate a collection centered around the types of media that enable sustained, linear engagement with texts. Such an approach to reading is conducive to prayer in the form of meditation (the reverential discursive consideration of Catholic doctrine), which in turn gives way to contemplation (the simple apprehension and enjoy-

ment of the truth in God). Ideally, theological scholarship operates in a kind of spiral: meditation leads to contemplation, the fruits of which provide material for further meditation, which once again gives way to contemplation, and so forth.

The print book promotes this sort of engagement by design. Its length demands that the reader spend considerable time with it; its physical layout, in turn, encourages him to absorb its content in a particular order. By comparison, digital texts lend themselves inherently to non-linear reading, offering few checks on the reader's range of motion. And the person who interacts with a digital text encounters, in doing so, not merely the text itself, but (at least potentially) the entire cornucopia of distractions available on the internet.

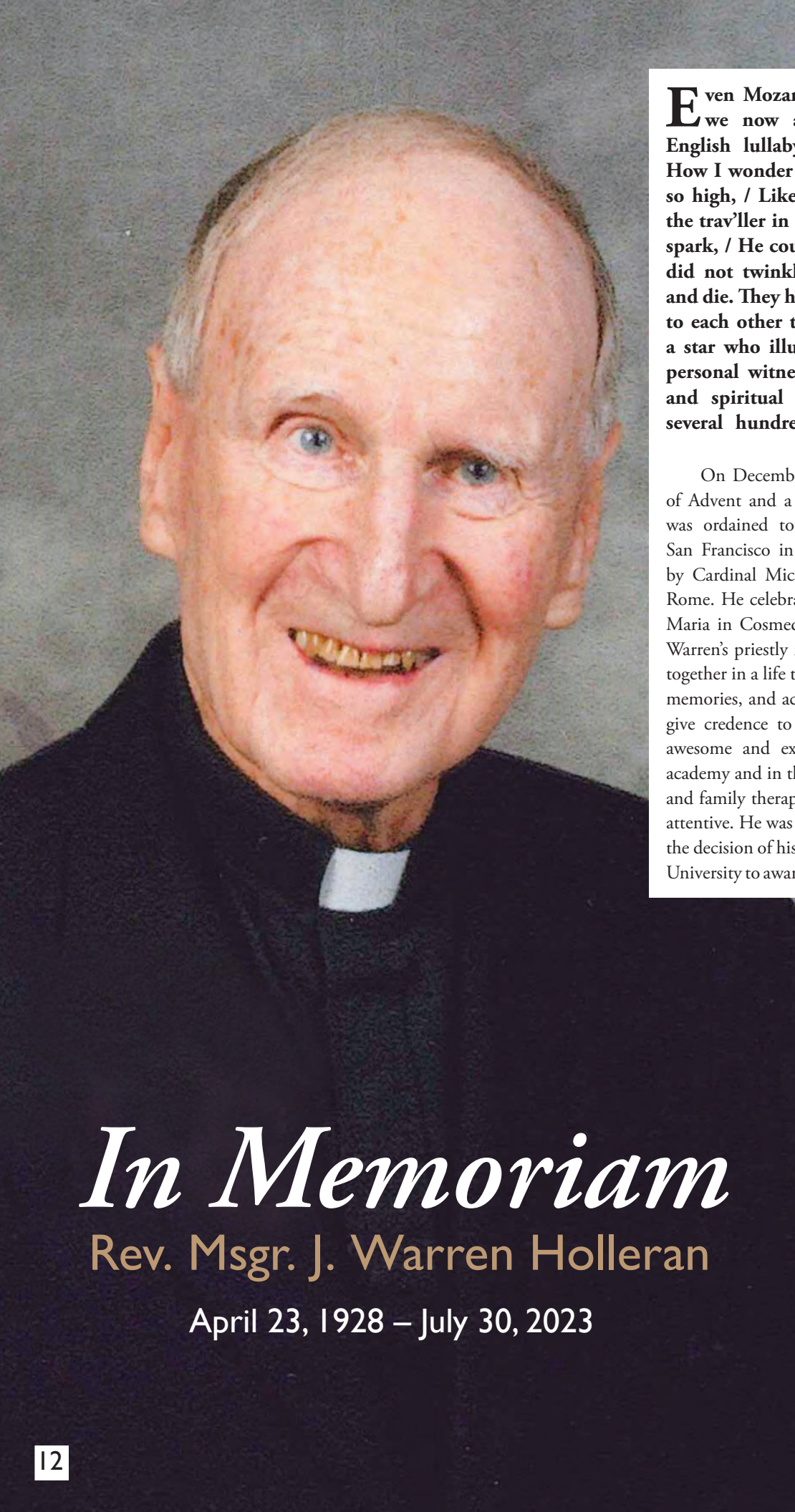
The printed page, represented in a special way by the print book, thus retains an abiding importance in the Catholic seminary library. This importance is attributable to what the practice of theology itself entails: a prayerful mode of engaging with texts that leads from meditation to contemplation and back again. ✚

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Thank you!



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Even Mozart composed variations on the tune we now associate with Jane Taylor's 1806 English lullaby: "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, / How I wonder what you are! / Up above the world so high, / Like a diamond in the sky. . . . // Then the trav'ler in the dark, / Thanks you for your tiny spark, / He could not see which way to go, / If you did not twinkle so." Stars twinkle, move, flicker, and die. They have a purpose. Some stars are so close to each other that they touch. Msgr. Holleran was a star who illuminated anyone he touched by his personal witness, teaching, preaching, counseling, and spiritual direction. Massive stars shine for several hundred years. Warren was such a star.

On December 20, 1952—a Saturday in Ember Week of Advent and a traditional date for ordinations—Warren was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in the historic basilica of St. John Lateran by Cardinal Micara, Administrator of the Archdiocese of Rome. He celebrated his first Mass at the Church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, one of the oldest churches in Rome. Warren's priestly ministry and his excellence as a man grew together in a life that shone for many to see. The sentiments, memories, and accolades written about him since his death give credence to his star quality. He has been lauded as awesome and extraordinary, as a superb teacher in the academy and in the world beyond. He was a gifted marriage and family therapist, because he knew how to listen and be attentive. He was a first-rate biblical scholar, as evidenced by the decision of his professors at Rome's prestigious Gregorian University to award him the institution's highest honor for the

In Memoriam

Rev. Msgr. J. Warren Holleran

April 23, 1928 – July 30, 2023

BY REV. GERALD S. COLEMAN, PSS

best dissertation of the year (*The Synoptic Gethsemane: A Critical Study*). He was a man of uncanny insight, as exemplified in his ability to discern art and poetry. Tears were a natural part of him as he took seriously his own experience and that of others. He had the courage to acknowledge his own vulnerability and weaknesses. He never bothered about being misunderstood for his willingness to cry. It was never affectation or manipulation. It was as authentic as his laughter.

His capacity to “go beyond” was extraordinary. His first assignment as a priest was at Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco. While fulfilling all his pastoral duties, he enrolled in a master’s program in philosophy at the University of California, Berkeley. His philosophical studies taught him that one learns not only by induction and deduction but also, and importantly, by intuition and contemplation. As the spiritual director guiding seminarians at the North American College in Rome, he earned a doctorate in biblical theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, writing his dissertation under the direction of the eminent Johannine specialist Donatien Mollat, SJ. As director of Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park, CA, he taught New Testament studies part-time at St. Patrick’s Seminary, joining the outstanding scripture department with John Kselman, PSS (Harvard University) and Michael Barré, PSS (Johns Hopkins University). He later became a full-time professor at the seminary, where he also taught

“
Msgr. Holleran was a star who illuminated anyone he touched by his personal witness, teaching, preaching, counseling, and spiritual direction.
 ”

regularly in the sabbatical program of the seminary’s Vatican II Institute, which attracted priests from all over the world. During summers, he taught biblical studies at the Hesburgh Center for the Continuing Formation in Ministry at the University of Notre Dame, IN. Warren enriched the lives of others on so many levels. He represented the best there can be in nature and grace.

Warren loved nature and music. He was an accomplished pianist. He hiked and climbed the trails of the California High Sierra and Santa Cruz Mountains.

He successfully climbed the Matterhorn in the Swiss Alps, and if that was not enough, he was a gifted skier. His was a life well spent.

Warren suffered a series of sicknesses that were never fully diagnosed. He was able to eat nothing but Jell-O and crackers for long periods of time. He never complained and always said he was “just fine.” He fully witnessed to his personal mantra, “The Lord forgives us in the past, sustains us in the present, and gives us hope for the future.” He carefully chose the Gospel text for his Mass of Resurrection and had its words carved on his tombstone, “Unbind him and let him go free”—Jesus’s command to set Lazarus free.

Shakespeare wrote, “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and their entrances, and one man in his time plays many parts.” Warren exemplified this truth in illustrious ways. He remains a shining star. ✨



Amar EL SACERDOCIO DE CRISTO y Hacerlo Amar

A Tribute to the Oblatas de Jesús Sacerdote

BY DR. CAITLIN JOLLY

Oblatas, or “oblates,” names those who offer themselves and their work as a gift to the Lord. The Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest did just this through twenty-nine years of dedicated service at St. Patrick’s Seminary. During their decades on campus, the sisters carried out their vocation “to love the priesthood of Christ and to make it loved” by feeding and accompanying the seminarians and priests of St. Patrick’s. They also extended their hospitality to many lay faculty members and visitors to the seminary from the broader community.





THE PATH TO ST. PATRICK'S

The Oblates were founded on February 9, 1924, in Mexico City by Venerable Fr. Félix de Jesús Rougier, Missionary of the Holy Spirit. Seventy years later, in 1994, a group of them took up residence at St. Patrick's Seminary on the invitation of Sulpician Fr. Gerald Coleman, who served as the seminary's president-rector from 1988-2004. They succeeded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family, who arrived at the seminary in 1903 from Québec, Canada, to assist with domestic services. After ninety-three years at St. Patrick's, the Little Sisters departed due to the advancing years of their members and a decrease in vocations. Looking for another order of sisters to invite to the seminary, San Francisco Archbishop John Quinn (†2017) arranged for the Oblates to send a sister from the mother house to work with the Little Sisters before they left and to discern the Oblates' potential commitment. A group of Oblate sisters

followed, inaugurating the order's beloved presence at St. Patrick's, which continued until their own departure in 2023.

Fr. Gerardo Menchaca, pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in San Jose, CA, was in his fourth year as a seminarian when the sisters arrived, and his assignment to give them tours of the seminary and Menlo Park was the beginning of a decades-long friendship. For him, familiarity with the sisters has only further revealed the clarity of their charism: to love Christ the priest, to serve him, and to bring

others to love and serve him. "For the sisters," he notes, "there is only one priest, who is Christ, and this explains much about their work and spirituality. They have sincerely loved the priests and seminarians at St. Patrick's, for they have perceived in each of them the opportunity to offer their service to Christ."

A WARM PRESENCE

Fr. Coleman recalled that while the Little Sisters were semi-monastic and observed silence while working, the Mexican Oblates brought a characteristic warmth and hospitality to the community. They often invited seminarians into the refectory kitchen, established the excellent salad bar to promote healthy eating, and instituted the practice of allowing the men to fill their own plates rather than handing them an already-plated meal. Yet they were, as Fr. Coleman has emphasized, far more than cooks: their presence at the seminary was that of mothers and sisters to the seminarians and faculty. They cared for the men in body and soul, each sister being given the names of several seminarians for whom she would pray that year. As Fr. Coleman added, "They came to know the students' quirks and personalities and so became a discerning presence for the men. And the affection was mutual: students greatly admired the sisters and delighted in helping them in the kitchen and with hosting duties for receptions and liturgical feasts."

The Oblates of Jesus the Priest regard prayer for priests and the entire *pueblo sacerdotal* as their "primary apostolate." Indeed, as Fr. Coleman noted, everyone was aware of their intercessory prayer for each and every seminarian. In all of their houses, from after morning Mass until noon, a sister prays before the Blessed Sacrament for the day's general intention and for the needs of that specific community. Larry Denis (Theology III, Diocese of Honolulu) underscored the significance of this intercession: "It was such a blessing to be able to ask the sisters to pray for our specific intentions." Even as a priest, Fr. Menchaca added, knowing that he could call and ask for prayer was a real source of strength.

HISTORY AND MISSION

A congregation of pontifical right, the Oblates of Jesus the Priest received diocesan approval on December 12, 1937, and the *decretum laudis* (decree of praise) on February 12, 1975.

The Oblates' mission is to extend the reign of the Holy Spirit in the manner of Jesus Christ, Priest and Victim, for the glory of the Father.

The congregation lives "the spirituality of the Cross," a gift given to the Church through Blessed Concepción Cabrera de Armida, or "Conchita." As Fr. Gerald Coleman notes, Bl. Conchita had as much to do with the founding of their order as Fr. Rougier, and very much to do with the sisters' maternal presence at St. Patrick's.

MANY FORMS OF SERVICE

The sisters' smiling faces graced the seminary refectory, yet cooking is not their main mission. Alongside their apostolate of prayer for priests and their presence in seminaries, the Oblates also work in parishes, bishops' offices, and residences for clergy. This service includes a previous post at the Archdiocese of San Francisco's vocations office and the congregation's current work at both the cathedral in Chicago, IL, and the Paulist Fathers Motherhouse in New York City. The sisters also make priestly vestments, and some of them hold advanced professional degrees in fields such as psychology.

Locally, the sisters helped to run retreats at St. Patrick's Seminary for both men and women. From these retreats came at least one priestly vocation for the Archdiocese of San Francisco and one vocation for the Oblate sisters.



▲ Upon the sisters' departure from St. Patrick's, Fr. Coleman and a group of seminarians accompanied them to the airport.

The Oblates' prayer was also visible in their daily work. Álvaro Santamaria (Theology IV, Diocese of Oakland) recounted, "They combined contemplation and service, as if Martha and Mary were one. Even when they were busy working, they had serene faces. They took turns alternately working and praying; while some were preparing and serving food in the refectory, others were praying in the chapel. Each sister knew her role and how it contributed to their work as a team. Their unity and mutual respect in their work and life together was remarkable."

The Oblates not only prayed for seminarians but also invited them into their own prayer and worship. They opened a weekly holy hour that drew many students, who would also often attend Saturday Masses in the sisters' chapel. Within this communion of prayer, the sisters created a supportive space for seminarians and faculty members alike. Fr. Menchaca recounts how they provided a place in which the men could come to speak to someone without the pressure of conversation with a professor. The sisters would obtain permission to meet with the men in the convent, where they would listen intently and always invite their guests to pray together with them. This was an integral part of their charism, Fr. Menchaca observed, for it allowed them to direct their visitors to Jesus, so that they could all love and serve him more. Now, as a priest, he does the same thing, inviting those he counsels to turn to Jesus in prayer.

The Oblates loved the men as spiritual mothers. Their feminine presence and intuition were much appreciated, especially at a time when most of the professors were priests. Seminarians' visits to their



Thank you,
dear sisters,
for being so
good to us!
We miss you,
and we
thank God
for blessing us
with your
presence all
these years!



LARRY DENIS

convent for holy hours, Mass, or even simple conversation were, Álvaro remembers, "like a breath of fresh air. The sisters were so encouraging, and their spiritual maturity gave them a unique way of advising the men: do not worry about anything; we need only to follow Christ." As they devoted themselves to feeding their spiritual sons, they also cultivated an awareness of what was going on with each seminarian. The sisters, Álvaro noted further, would pay attention to particular men they knew might be having a hard time, asking after them and noticing how they were doing. They prayed with more intensity for those men they knew were struggling. Larry agreed, "They were always so happy to see us, and they would notice when someone was missing for more than a day."

THE GIFT OF ACCOMPANIMENT

The sisters' maternal care took many tangible forms. Fr. Menchaca recalled, "Once they knew what this or that priest liked, they made sure to prepare it for him"—popcorn, in his case. Details like this, he says, made him feel at home at St. Patrick's. The sisters were also present for many profound moments. Fr. Coleman told how they entered deeply into his own life by coming every night to pray a Rosary around his brother Donald as he approached death. Fr. Menchaca shared a similar story: He was praying in the sisters' chapel at St. Patrick's when he received a call informing him that his father had suffered an aneurysm. The sisters prayed with him and helped arrange his stay with the Oblates located in the south of

Mexico, where Fr. Menchaca's father lay in a coma before passing away.

This level of solicitude is inseparable from the fact that, as Álvaro commented, "the sisters sincerely want the seminarians to become good priests." One sign of this was their gift of a *manutergium* to each of the men upon his priestly ordination. This is the cloth with which a newly ordained priest wipes the holy chrism from his hands. The sisters embroidered each man's initials on the manutergium, giving them a personal gift that, traditionally, is passed on to the priest's mother after his ordination. The gift was even more significant because, in giving it, the sister revealed to the seminarian that it was she who had been praying specifically for him during his seminary formation. Having observed each seminarian's growth during formation, the sisters followed the men all the way to their ordinations, making a point to attend every single one.

The sisters' love inspired many gestures of gratitude on the part of seminarians and priests. In many cases, a newly ordained priest-alumnus would make a point to celebrate Mass for the sisters in their convent. Larry also recounted, "If it was a sister's birthday, [two of my brother seminarians] would buy some Mexican food and a cake, and we would go to their convent dining room and celebrate with them." After those



We cannot overstate the sisters' gift to St. Patrick's, which was a genuine and deep gift of prayer, presence, accompaniment, example, and cultural contribution.



FR. MARK DOHERTY

seminarians were ordained, they continued to send money to maintain the birthday tradition.

NEW MISSIONS

The St. Patrick's community received the news in September 2023 that the sisters would be leaving to discern new missions. When the day of their departure arrived, a group of seminarians escorted them to the airport for an emotional farewell. Though no longer present on campus, the sisters are not simply absent to the St. Patrick's community. "I am very blessed because I know I have a group of very holy and dedicated religious sisters praying for my vocation," says Larry, who has already made a visit to the sisters' mother house in Mexico. "They miss us very much, but we keep in touch and remain united in the Eucharist." Likewise, as Álvaro affirms, "They are truly missed." And yet they are not simply gone, as their Christmas Day phone call to him attested. "Their continued presence in this way is a reminder of God's love for us seminarians as it is given through the sisters." ❁

"100 years of service, but one oblation to the Lord." On February 9, 2024, the sisters celebrated the 100th anniversary of their founding. ▼

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

New missions were discerned for each of the sisters, including posts at the Paulist House in New York, the cathedral and rectory in Chicago, seminaries in Mexico, caring for immigrants in San Antonio, and remaining at the mother house in Mexico City.

Sr. Margarita García – Chicago, IL

Sr. Guadalupe López – Chicago, IL

Sr. Amada Hernández – San Antonio, TX

Sr. Guadalupe Quintana – Pitillal, Jalisco, Mexico

Sr. Yolanda Vazquez – Mother House Mexico City, Mexico

Sr. María Luisa Sánchez – Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico



2023-2024 Ordinations to the Diaconate

Rev. Mr. Adam Feisthamel
Albany, May 20, 2023

Rev. Mr. Kurt Meyer
Honolulu, May 20, 2023

Rev. Mr. Hai Thanh (Francis) Pham
Honolulu, May 20, 2023

Rev. Mr. Christopher Girolo
Santa Rosa, June 9, 2023

Rev. Mr. Mauricio Rodriguez
Santa Rosa, June 9, 2023

Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Ponce
Oakland, June 24, 2023

Rev. Mr. John Paul Rabago
Oakland, June 24, 2023

Rev. Mr. David Mees
San Francisco, September 9, 2023

Rev. Mr. Joseph Klinge
Fresno, December 9, 2023

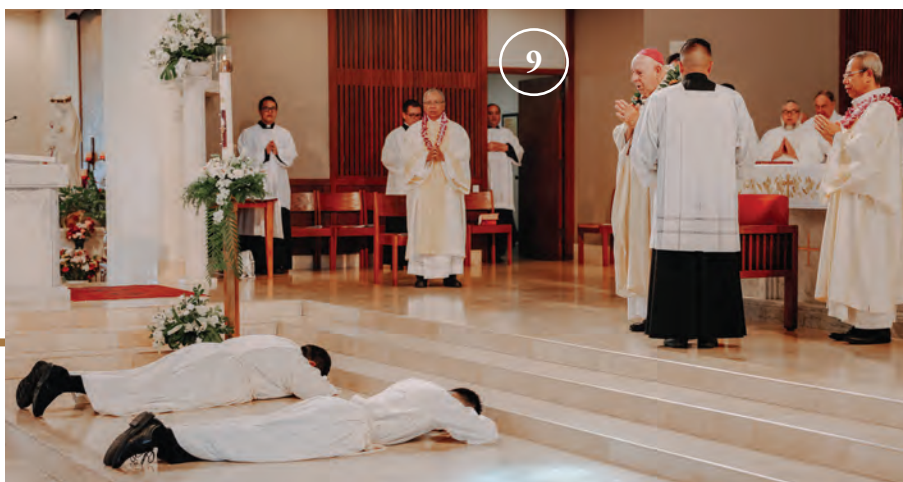
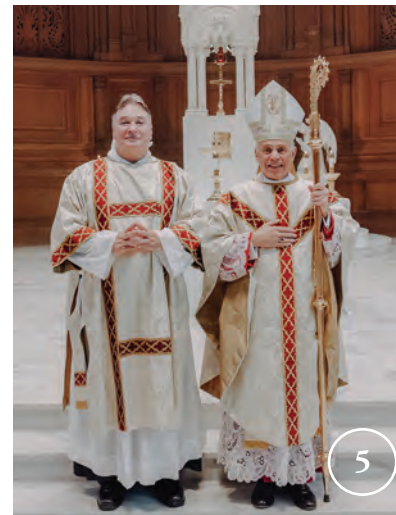
Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran
Honolulu, January 6, 2024

1) Rev. Mr. Christopher Girolo receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Robert F. Vasa of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; current seminarian Mr. Joseph Zieminski is serving the Mass.

2) Rev. Mr. David Mees receives the laying on of hands from San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

3) Rev. Mr. Juan Carlos Ponce and Rev. Mr. John Paul Rabago smile during the recession following their ordination Mass at Old Mission San José in Fremont.

4) Rev. Mr. Adam Feisthamel offers the promise of obedience to Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger of Albany.





“Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose herald you have become. Believe what you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.”

5) Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone stands with Rev. Mr. David Mees in the main chapel of St. Patrick’s Seminary.

6) Rev. Mr. Christopher Girolo and Rev. Mr. Mauricio Rodriguez give thanks together for their ordination to the diaconate.

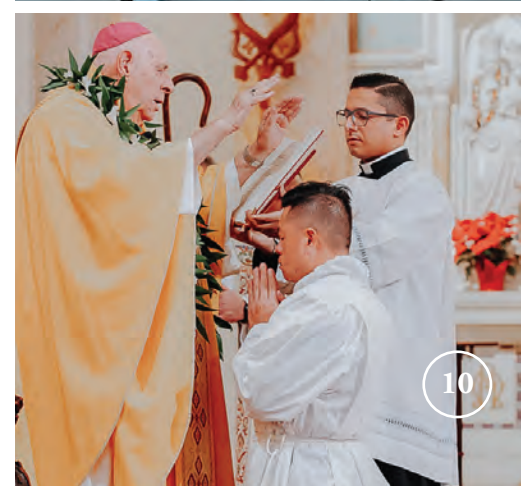
7) Rev. Mr. Mauricio Rodriguez receives the laying on of hands from Bishop Robert F. Vasa of the Diocese of Santa Rosa.

8) Rev. Mr. Joseph Klinge celebrates his ordination to the diaconate for the Diocese of Fresno with vocations director Rev. Dan Avila, Bishop Joseph V. Brennan, and fellow ordinand Rev. Mr. Adrian Arreola.

9) Rev. Mr. Kurt Meyer and Rev. Mr. Hai Thanh (Francis) Pham lie prostrate before the altar at their ordination in the Co-Cathedral of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus in Honolulu.

10) Bishop Larry Silva prays the prayer of ordination over Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran on the Solemnity of the Epiphany at the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace in Honolulu, HI.

11) Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu receives the promise of obedience from Rev. Mr. Kurt Meyer at his ordination Mass.



THE PROMISE OF PRAYER



BY REV. JOSHUA NEU

Every priest remembers the day he said “I do,” not just once but several times. During ordination to the diaconate and the priesthood, the *ordinandi* make several promises, each one so important that the Church requires their vocal response, “I do.”

“The promise to which he will return most frequently is surely the promise of prayer.”

Whereas the most famous promise of the transitional deacon may be the promise of celibacy, the promise to which he will return most frequently is surely the promise of prayer. Every cleric or religious of the Catholic Church promises to pray a series of prayers every day, and the Church considers this promise to be so important that, barring serious extenuating circumstances, failing to keep it even for a day would be a mortal sin.¹

This series of prayers, known as the Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office, consists of psalms and scripture readings, as well as intercessions and other prayers, and it is prayed at least five times a day. Each day, throughout the day, the Church calls clergy and religious to step away and pray, much like Christ himself, who in the gospels seems always to be wandering off to speak alone to his Father (Mt 14:23, Mk 6:46-47, Lk 6:12, Jn 6:15).

Much like those of the Mass, the prayers of the Divine Office are prescribed, and clergy and religious are not allowed to change them. This is because these prayers are not simply private devotions. To fulfill the promise of prayer, those who make this promise must pray in the words the Church gives them. This is vital. By praying the Liturgy of the Hours, they pray not merely in their own name but also in the name of the whole Church, giving voice to the love of the Bride for the Bridegroom and uniting the Body of Christ to Christ the Head in his eternal praise of the Father. In doing so, they continue the prayer of Christ himself, the Word who speaks constantly to the Father and frequently prayed the psalms during his earthly life.

We can understand this more deeply if we consider the mysterious words of St. Paul, who wrote, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church” (Col 1:24). Whenever Catholics experience any suffering, they are supposed to “offer it up,” that is, offer their sufferings and difficulties to the Father in union with the sufferings of Christ on the cross. In this way, they “complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions,” not in the sense that Christ did not do enough for us, but in the sense that they share in the afflictions of Christ, making his Passion their own.

Blessed Columba Marmion teaches us that in the Divine Office, the ministers of the Church do the same thing with the prayer of Christ, extending it into the whole Church and making it the Church’s own prayer. “That which is true about

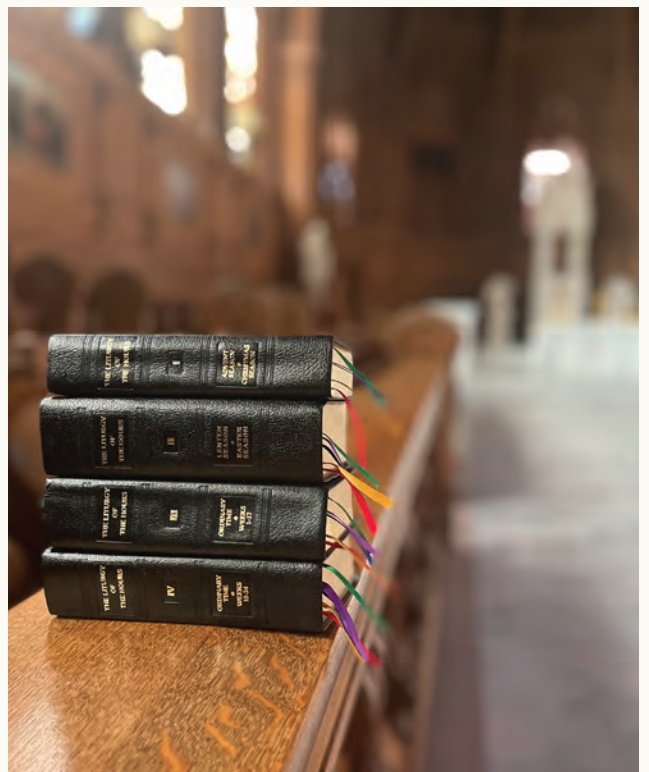
expiation,” he writes, “is also true about our obligation to adore God, to praise and thank Him. We must prolong and complete the homage which Christ rendered to the Father.”² He even suggests a paraphrase of St. Paul’s words, applying them to the Liturgy of the Hours: “to complete what is lacking in the praises of Christ.”³ Of course, he does not mean that Christ did not pray enough; Christ’s prayer was the perfect communion of the Son, including his humanity, with the Father. What is lacking in Christ’s prayer is that it has not yet come to completion in the members of the Body, the Church. By praying the Liturgy of the Hours, clergy and religious complete the praises of the Son offered to the Father, extending those praises into the members of his Body.

During the ordination to the diaconate, the *ordinandi* will make this sacred promise, saying “I do” and committing themselves to complete the prayer of the Son to the Father each and every day. We, who are witnesses to the sacred promise, unite in prayer for them to fulfill this solemn commitment, confident that, each and every day, they will always pray for us. ✠

¹ [T]he priest prays the Liturgy of the Hours, an obligation he freely undertook *sub grave*.” Congregation for the Clergy, “The Priest, Pastor and Leader of the Parish Community” (2002), 14.

² Columba Marmion, *Christ—The Ideal of the Priest* (San Francisco: Ignatius, 2005), 258.

³ “*Adimplere ea quae desunt laudationum Christi*” (ibid., emphasis added).



LIVING THE PROMISES

BY REV. MR. CHRISTOPHER GIROLO



Many Catholics are aware that priests are bound by promises of celibacy, prayer, and obedience. Most may not realize, however, that these three promises are made before a man is even ordained a priest. They are made for the first time when he is ordained a deacon, such that, by the time of priestly ordination, he would have already been living under these promises for anywhere from six months to a year. Ordination to the diaconate is thus a truly significant step for a seminarian, as it is in this moment that he is consecrated to the service of the Church.

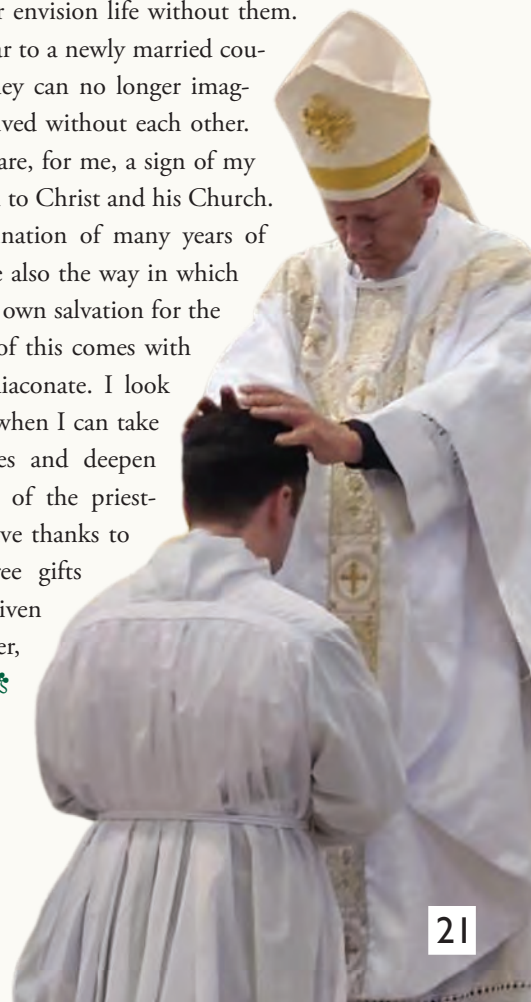
On the day of my own ordination to the diaconate, it was when I was making the promises that it all felt “real.” Prior to that moment, I was fretting over preparing for the ceremony. The first half of the liturgy, I must admit, passed in a blur for me as I anxiously awaited the moment of ordination. However, as I stood before my bishop and responded “I do” to each promise he put before me, the reality of what was about to happen became clearer and clearer. By the time I knelt before him to pledge to him and his successors my lifelong obedience, I knew that my life would never be the same. This was not, however, a moment of fear but rather of joy. After the ordinand has made the final promise, obedience, the bishop says to him, “May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.” For me, making the promises was in many ways a culmination of many years of hard work. All the effort I had poured into seminary formation had finally reached its fulfillment. The experience was most characterized by feelings of joy and gratitude, though it is hard to put it into words.

Since then, I have been ever mindful of these promises. Of course, the very nature of seminary training is such that a man is effectively living his life as though he had made these promises already. In that sense, then, ordination to the transitional diaconate did not change much about the way I live my day-to-day life. I still live a life of celibacy. I still

pray my breviary faithfully every day. I still dutifully obey my religious superiors. However, the way in which I live these realities changed. Before ordination, I fulfilled these obligations so as to prepare for a future goal. Now that goal is a present reality. Living out the promises of my ordination has become part of the very core of my being, to the point that I can no longer envision life without them.

I imagine it is similar to a newly married couple who discover they can no longer imagine how they ever lived without each other.

These promises are, for me, a sign of my complete dedication to Christ and his Church. They are the culmination of many years of hard work. They are also the way in which I shall work out my own salvation for the rest of my life. All of this comes with ordination to the diaconate. I look forward to the day when I can take these same promises and deepen them with the gift of the priesthood. For now, I give thanks to God for these three gifts he has already given me: celibacy, prayer, and obedience. ✠



A Year of Service to the Lord

Fr. Matthew Knight (Portland, '23) and Fr. Eric Patrick (Sacramento, '23) reflect on their first year of priesthood.

HOW DID PRIESTLY ORDINATION MARK FOR YOU THE BEGINNING OF EVER-GREATER PRIESTLY SERVICE, RATHER THAN SIMPLY THE CULMINATION OF YOUR SEMINARY FORMATION?

Fr. Patrick: My time at St. Patrick's impressed on me that seminary is just the beginning of priestly formation. I could not list all the ways in which I have been challenged to expand my priestly ministry, but I can name a few. My first parish assignment involves a lot of ministry to the Hispanic community. While I was sent to Mexico one summer to study Spanish, I still have work to do in becoming more capable of ministering to the needs of Spanish-speaking parishioners. Marriage preparation has been another area of growth for me. I have prepared approximately fifteen couples for marriage. Even having studied the theology and gained pastoral experience, ministering to these couples challenges me to grow in the priestly service of setting the couple at ease while both maintaining a reverential attitude for the sanctity of the sacrament and touching on some of the challenges that couples face in our time. The same could be said generally of all the sacraments: from the time that we are ordained, we absolutely have to grow not only in our comfort in applying the principles that we learned in seminary, but also in our ability to connect those principles to our own experiences and to the needs and concerns of those to whom we bring the sacraments. We must learn to offer the sacraments so that those receiving them truly experience the love of God through our priestly ministry.

Fr. Knight: It has been said that "there's always work for the willing." This is certainly true of my experience so far as a parish priest! Each day in the parish brings many opportunities for greater self-gift, from the confessional lines extending far beyond the posted hours; to the numerous requests after every Mass for prayer, blessings, and advice; to the calls from the hospital late in the evening for anointing of the

sick. When I feel worn out by the demands of priestly service, my spirit is lifted up by remembering that the people of God are not so much looking for me as for Him. They are seeking Him when they ask more from us, and the one whom they are seeking also provides well for us priests as we give ourselves away.

WHAT JOYFUL MOMENTS HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED IN YOUR FIRST YEAR AS A PRIEST?

Fr. Knight: The most joyful moments for me have been the times I've seen a change in somebody after praying with them, hearing their confession, or speaking with them in pastoral counseling. Sometimes a person's whole demeanor changes! We don't always see the results of our labors, and often "one plants and another harvests," but it's so beautiful to see when somebody has encountered the Lord and to witness the firstfruits of that encounter.

WHAT PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT SEMINARIANS?

Fr. Patrick: As Venerable Fulton Sheen said, "It is always well never to pay attention to what people say, but rather why they say it." Some people will say something just to elicit a response from you, perhaps trying to shock you. Others may present an issue, but the real issue is hidden behind what they present. When you approach such interactions, taking a moment to reflect on the "why" will help you better minister to others' needs.

Fr. Knight: Priestly ministry brings a whole new category of joys and challenges relative to seminary life. In many ways, I think seminary was harder! Stay the course and trust in the Lord who calls us to serve His people. He will provide for all of your needs and desires in ways beyond what you can ask for or imagine.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU OR OTHERWISE SUPPORT OUR PARISH PRIESTS?

Fr. Knight: Please pray for us to remain faithful and to never stop seeking the Lord Jesus, to love Him more than anything, and to let His love be enough for us. ✠

2023 Ordinations to the Priesthood



REV. JOSE MARIA CARILLO
Fresno, May 27



REV. MATTHEW KNIGHT
Portland, June 3



REV. ERIC PATRICK
Sacramento, June 3



REV. ARRION
ROSALES-LLANTOS
Honulu, May 19



REV. RENE VARGAS
Fresno, May 27



1) Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu congratulates newly ordained Fr. Arrion Rosales-Llantos.

2) With the laying on of hands, Archbishop Alexander Sample of Portland invokes the Holy Spirit to come down upon Fr. Matthew Knight, ordaining him to the ministerial priesthood.

3) Fr. Eric Patrick receives the laying on of hands from Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento.

4) Fr. Matthew Knight gives the *manutergium* to his mother; traditionally, this cloth used to soak up chrism oil from the hands of a newly anointed priest is given to his mother to safeguard for the day of her burial.

5) Fr. Matthew Knight celebrates his first Mass at St. Joseph Church in Roseburg, OR, after ordination to the priesthood.

6) Fr. Eric Patrick concelebrates Mass after being ordained by Bishop Jaime Soto.

7) Fr. Jose Maria Carrillo and Fr. Rene Vargas stand with Bishop Joseph V. Brennan of Fresno on the occasion of their ordination.

Celebrating 125 Years of Service to God

BY MARTHA SHERIDAN

On September 16, 2023, Very Rev. Mark Doherty and the St. Patrick's community welcomed over 600 guests to celebrate the beginning of the seminary's 125th year of forming priests. The gala honored as "Founders of the Seminary" the laity whose donations made possible its establishment in 1898. Upon its dedication on August 24 of that year, Archbishop Patrick William Riordan remarked,

Never have I found a people so zealous for the advancement of their church. They have responded readily to my representations with regard to this seminary. I have asked friends to help meet the expenses incurred in sums proportionate to their means. . . . My experience has confirmed me in the opinion that the people are generous and willing to make sacrifices for the honor of God and the good of religion.

Fr. Doherty echoed the archbishop's words of gratitude to all of the laypeople whose collaboration has sustained St. Patrick's in its mission to build a strong priesthood. The gala honored all of the seminary's supporters and especially recognized its seven "original founders":

- Mrs. Anna Downey Donahue, the widow of industrialist Peter Donahue and sister of John G. Downey, the 7th governor of California, donated \$50,000.

- Joseph A. Donohoe, a San Francisco banker, donated \$50,000. He also generously supported multiple orphanages, and his widow, Emilie Donohoe, donated 5+ acres to the Society of the Sacred Heart to build St. Joseph's School in honor of her late husband.

- Judge Myles P. O'Connor donated \$50,000. He and his wife Amanda founded O'Connor Sanitarium (now O'Connor Hospital) and donated their mansion to the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to be transformed into a girls' orphanage. The site is now Notre Dame High School in San Jose.

- Francis S. Wensinger donated \$50,000. He was a pioneer and businessman who came to California in 1849. As reported in the *San Francisco Call* newspaper at his passing, "The different Catholic churches of this city are indebted to him for many generous gifts."

- A Friend of the Seminary and The Macdonough Estate each donated \$50,000 to help establish the seminary.

- Mrs. Kate Johnson donated 83 acres of land to the archdiocese in 1891 to serve as the seminary grounds. The land had been the site of her summer home, Heart's Ease. She also established a free hospital, St. Mary's Help, which is now Seton Medical Center in Daly City. 🌱

◀ Guests at the gala enjoyed the celebration of vespers, campus tours, a delicious dinner and lively auction, and a special video highlighting our faith-filled seminarians.



Scan to watch
Gala video



Praised Be Jesus and Mary!

A thank you note

BY BR. MIKHAEL MIHIC, COSJ

Life at St. Patrick's provides for us men an opportunity to grow to maturity, and spiritual security, through the four dimensions of our formation: pastoral, intellectual, human, and spiritual. It is more than just being social and clerical.

The call is to be mature men, *alter Christus*—another Christ, those who will exhort the faithful to stay close to God even when it is tough, and remain grateful.

This is our task:

to bring to the people of God what they spiritually ask, mainly the life-giving sacraments, primarily the Most Holy Eucharist, the Fount of immortality, Jesus Christ, the Word of God in our midst, He is the Divine Food for the healing of humanity. Truly, without the priesthood there is no Eucharistic Food, without which, there is no Church—the Mystical Body of Christ—and without the Church, it is difficult to search and in turn reach, eternal salvation.

That is why the priest of Jesus Christ is essential for the true spiritual life of mankind, leading us to life sapiential.

Dear friends, thank you for being so kind by supporting us, even when it's a difficult time.

With your help and aid, our building is restored, and the bills are paid. Thus, we can mature and grow, and soon, God willing, his Holy Grace on the faithful bestow. ✠



Br. Mikhael Mihic, COSJ, sitting with guests at the 2023 gala.

With a Grateful Heart

BY MARTHA SHERIDAN

How do we express gratitude? Often it is through a simple smile, kind words, or a thank you note. These important gestures form us in a habit of thanksgiving that helps us prepare our hearts for the ultimate expression of gratitude: the holy Eucharist. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that “Eucharist means first of all ‘thanksgiving.’”

In receiving the Eucharist, we thank God the Father for the gift of his Son and for the redemptive suffering Jesus endured for us. In receiving the body, the real presence, of Jesus in the Eucharist, we are united to his sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father. We grow more Christ-like. As one of my favorite homilists once said, we should not go to Mass to check off the box for attending Mass; we must be present, especially during the Eucharistic prayer, the center and high point of the Mass. Being present means that we are offering our gratitude to God. We are thanking him for the gift he left with us: Jesus Christ, his body, blood, soul, and divinity. In receiving Holy Communion, we receive countless precious graces from God.

Colossians 3:17 instructs us to thank God in every word and action: “Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” Speak every word in gratitude, and do everything with a thankful heart.

One of our seminarians, Br. Mikhael Mihic, COSJ, shared with me the accompanying poem (sidebar). He had in his heart a desire to write this to you, our benefactors, expressing his gratitude for your support. He said, “As I wrote the poem, my heart was full of joy and happiness.”

Joining Br. Mikhael, I take this opportunity to publicly express my heartfelt gratitude for your willingness to support our seminarians, faculty, and staff. Your own desire to make a difference is essential to the fulfillment of our mission. Thank you! ✠



MARTHA SHERIDAN

is the Director of Advancement at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Reigniting the Eucharistic Mission



St. Patrick's Seminary celebrated its annual Priest Day on November 21, 2023, the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone presided over the Mass, and Rev. Gary Thomas gave the homily.

As part of the day's events, Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu shared a talk titled "The Eucharistic Revival beyond the Altar." The following is an excerpt from that talk, which urged priests and all of the priestly people of God to remember that the Eucharist is not a mere object of reverence but the very person of Jesus Christ. Encountering "the same risen Jesus who changed the lives of the early disciples" imparts upon us "a new way of being in the world":

The same Eucharist we place so reverently in the tabernacle actually leaves the church once it enters those who are privileged to receive the Eucharist. When we leave the Mass, we are dismissed for mission, but not simply as independent individuals; we are, in a very real sense, tabernacles who take the presence of Christ wherever we go. . . . It is precisely because we receive the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and therefore take him out to the world that we cannot excuse ourselves from being involved in building up the Kingdom of God. The Christ whom we take out to our homes, our places of employment, and our body politic is the same Christ whose presence perdures in the tabernacle. It is his presence that can enable us to accomplish more in his Name than we could possibly accomplish on our own. While we have within us the same Jesus who is reserved in the tabernacle, no one should genuflect before us, but they should see that there is an ever-burning light in us that overcomes the darkness of the world. ✚

Jubilarians

Rev. Joseph P. Ternullo

50 years

Rev. Gary Thomas

40 years

Rev. Daniel Nascimiento

25 years



1) Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone confects the Eucharist at the annual Priest Day Mass.

2) Jubilarian Rev. Gary Thomas gives the homily for the Priest Day Mass.

3) Priest Day honoree Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu gathers with the seminarians from his diocese: Rev. Mr. Anthony Tran (Theology IV), Rev. Mr. Francis Pham (Theology IV), Rev. Mr. Kurt Meyer (Theology IV), Mr. Larry Denis (Theology III), and Mr. Edgar Pobre (Theology I).

4) Rev. Kevin Joyce enjoys dinner and conversation with his brother priests.

5) Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu delivers the Priest Day keynote address.

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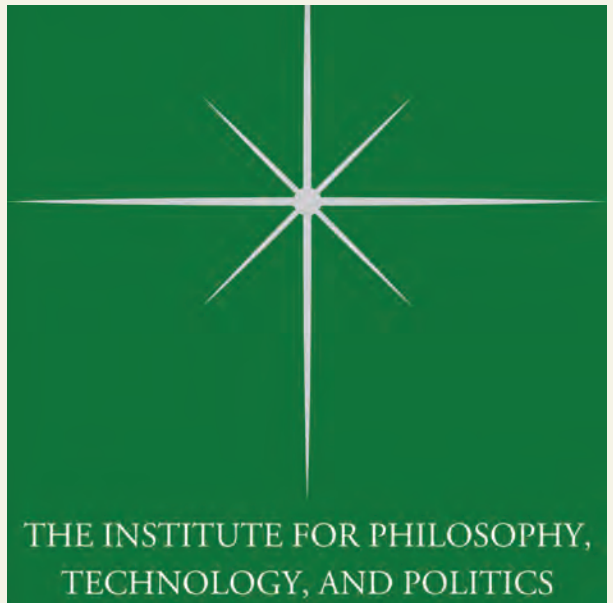


NEW DEVELOPMENTS

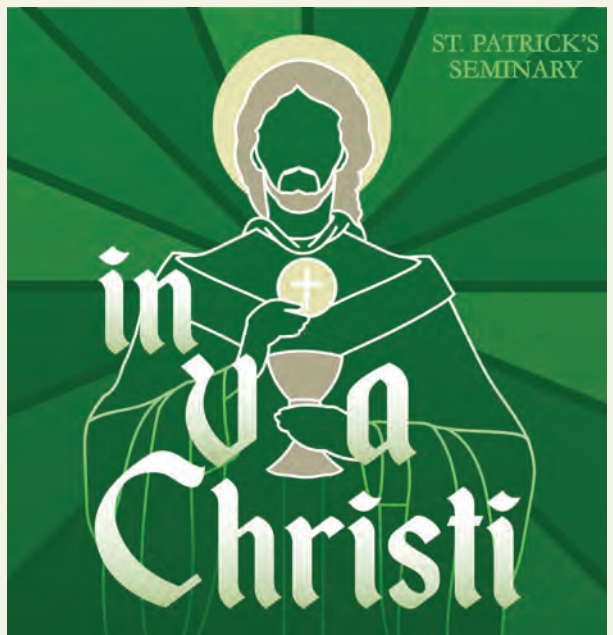
▲ Dr. Anthony Lilles, Fr. Stephen Akers (Monterey, '15), Mr. Patrick Germann, and Mr. Joshua Lesan record an episode of *In Via Christi* in Gellert Memorial Library.

Expanding Formation: New Projects at St. Patrick's

A new initiative, the Institute for Philosophy, Technology, and Politics, was launched this year under the direction of Dr. Mark Shiffman. Many of the fundamental questions whose pressure we feel today concern the power of technology, the state, political movements, and non-state actors over the conduct of daily life. The institute brings together participants from various fields—academic, public intellectual, journalistic, ecclesiastical, political, legal, military, and commercial—to foster dialogue about the forces and institutions shaping life in the contemporary world. Its first event, which took place in October 2023, was a discussion panel on the role of the Church in the economic and political difficulties of the Democratic Republic of Congo (the source of much of the cobalt that powers Silicon Valley), with contributions by two Congolese seminarians. Seminars in Spring 2024, one featuring best-selling author Matthew Crawford and the other in partnership with *First Things* magazine, have addressed recent changes in the structures of technocratic and administrative governance in the United States and in the transatlantic sphere more broadly. Plans for the future include a multidisciplinary and wide-ranging discussion of the challenges of artificial intelligence. ✚



We also anticipate the launch in summer 2024 of our new podcast for ongoing priestly formation, titled *In Via Christi* (On the Way of Christ). The podcast, produced by Dr. Caitlin Jolly, is one way in which St. Patrick's is extending its mission of formation beyond the seminary walls. In each episode, a faculty member or other honored guest-expert; a priest-alumnus; and our student co-hosts, Mr. Patrick Germann and Mr. Joshua Lesan (both of the Diocese of Stockton) enter into profound conversation based on a text authored, in most cases, by the participating faculty member. As our recording sessions have shown so far, this occasions high-quality conversation to the benefit of priests, as they face new questions in parish ministry, and of seminarians, who obtain from their "elder brothers" in the presbyterate a realistic sense of the joys and challenges of priestly life. Join us for season 1 as we ponder with Fr. Joseph Fessio, Archbishop of Portland Alexander Sample, Fr. Mark Doherty, and others the theme of spiritual fatherhood! ✚



The St. Patrick's Seminary community mourns the passing of the following members:



Rev. Michael L. Barré, PSS

Fr. Michael L. Barré, a priest of the Society of St. Sulpice, died at age 80 on September 25, 2023. Fr. Barré is remembered for his excellency as a scholar of Old Testament texts. Using his exceptional linguistic skills, he made significant contributions in the translation and interpretation of prophetic books, including Isaiah and Habakkuk. Ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Memphis, TN, in 1970, Fr. Barré was admitted to the Sulpicians in 1974. After earning a BA from St. Mary's College in St. Mary, KY, he went on to earn a series of ecclesiastical degrees between 1968 and 1981 from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland. His education also included the completion of a doctorate in near eastern studies from Johns Hopkins University in 1978. An excellent teacher with a noted sense of humor, Fr. Barré served on the faculty of St. Patrick's Seminary from 1970-1973 and again from 1978-1992. ✚



Rev. Msgr. John Raymond Coleman

Rev. Msgr. John Raymond Coleman died on February 27, 2024, at the age of 98. A native of San Francisco, he attended both St. Joseph's Seminary and St. Patrick's Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1950. Fr. Coleman was beloved by many friends and parishioners, not only from St. Francis of Assisi Church in East Palo Alto, where he served for many years until his death, but also from parishes in San Francisco, Richmond, Alviso, Mountain View, San Jose, and Gilroy. Fr. Coleman was known as a man of God, and many have praised his exceptional generosity and love for the poor. He was also loved for his joyful spirit; good sense of humor; and giftedness as an athlete, artist, and musician. Recognized as a "priest's priest," Fr. Coleman also had a deep devotion to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Prior to his death, he was the oldest living alumnus of St. Patrick's. ✚

- Rev. Edward Anthony Bohnert '85
- Rev. Michael B. Brillantes '83
- Mr. Donald P. Coleman
- Rev. George Crespin
- Rev. Phillip F. D'Auby, SM '61
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- Rev. Mr. Antonio Paulino
- Rev. Thomas M. Parenti '74
- Rev. David M. Pettingill '62
- Br. Arnold Stewart, FSC
- Rev. Robert Kevin White '61



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.



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