

Circle of Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM

FALL ISSUE: OCTOBER 2022

4th Annual 4-Miler Another Success!

Another great success! The 4th Annual Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler hosted 563 runners and walkers on October 8th on the grounds of the PCJ! Event participants were thrilled to once again have the opportunity to celebrate the beautiful day on the seminary grounds. Father Steven Beseau, PCJ rector, greeted and blessed the runners and walkers to start the day! Shirts, medals, and wine or Trappist jam rewarded those who completed the event. Yummy Sbarro Pizza and White Castle sliders topped off the treats, celebration. Thank you to M3s Sports, Don Brown, and John Reiner who organized the day, the proceeds of which provide funds for the seminarians. Marci Maynard and Monica Brown managed sponsorships/advertising. A special word of gratitude to our sponsors and advertisers!



Drone photo by seminarian Christopher Dixon (Columbus)

Presented By



Partners



Monica & Don Brown

Bramlage Family

Dono Family

Les & Marci Maynard

Foster & Jan Moffo

Frank Courtney & Peggy Gill



FastSigns friends with Monica Brown and Marilyn Dono



Don Brown, Father Steven Beseau, and John Reiner

FOJ Board News

Friends' activities are managed by a Board of Directors who are elected by the general membership at the annual meeting. Thank you to the Board members below who were elected last November and led our efforts for 2021-2022!

Len Barbe	Rosemary Finneran
Chuck Bramlage	Virginia Hardy
Venetia Bramlage	Joseph Kohler
Don Brown	Marci Maynard
Monica Brown	Ardith Mers
Frank Courtney	Chuck Mers
Ellyn Dekker	John Reiner
Marilyn Dono	Cassie Reynolds
Joe Finneran	Ginger West

Long-time Board members **Ellyn Dekker** and **Marilyn Dono**, who served in various leadership positions and made outstanding contributions to the FOJ since it first began, are retiring from the Board. Thank you to dedicated Board member **Joe Finneran** who is also retiring. **Virginia Hardy** (photo next column) and **Ginger West** are nearing the end of their terms as president and secretary, respectively. New officers will be selected at the November Board meeting. We welcome **Kathy Miller** who has recently joined!



President's Letter

Greetings Friends,

I hope all is well with each of you!

The Board members and I continue to be grateful for your commitment to the Friends. We also extend a heartfelt welcome to our "New Friends!" It is a real blessing to be part of this group – putting our faith into action by what we do, helping our seminarians, and being of support and service to the Josephinum.

As many of you know, the Friends sponsor two outstanding fundraising events – the 4-Miler and Clergy Who Cook – organized by dedicated members who give time and talent to present fun and profitable occasions. The proceeds from these events, combined with your membership dues, generate the funds that help our seminarians with a variety of needs. We sponsor a Josephinum scholarship for an international seminarian and contribute to the Holy Land pilgrimage experienced by seminarians each winter, which adds so much meaning and depth to their formation. Last spring, we were a sponsor of the Good Shepherd Dinner – the seminary's biggest fundraising event. Many Friends have become Hospitality Ambassadors and have assisted with seminary events such as Tour Day.

Looking ahead, there are many upcoming opportunities for Friends. The Annual Mass, Brunch and Meeting is on November 6 and our Day of Recollection will be on December 10. I hope you will attend!

My term as President will end in December. It has been a blessing and an honor to serve in this position. I am very grateful to everyone for your prayers and support.

With prayer and gratitude,
Virginia Hardy



Words from Our Chaplain

This is my third year writing as chaplain to the Friends and each year I write about a situation that gets better and better! Last year, the big improvement in the morale of the house related to the easing of COVID restrictions and the renewed opportunities given to seminarians, like going on pastoral assignments.

This year, we have even more reason for a positive disposition in the house: For the first time in many years our enrolment has increased, and increased significantly! The year began with 20 new seminarians, a third of the house, bringing the total to 60. We also have new dioceses sending men, which implies future years will continue to have more men. An added factor in this hopeful statistic is the fact that our largest numbers are in the lower years of study. Among the new men are three Ugandan seminarians who studied philosophy at Ugandan seminaries and now join us for four years of theology.

More significant news this fall is the addition of the new priests to the formation team: Father Stash Dailey as Vice-Rector (Discipleship Stage), Father Peter Fegan, OP as Dean of Men (Discipleship Stage), Father Kenneth Brighenti as Vice Rector (Configuration Stage), and Father Bernie Mulcahy, OP, becoming a full-time resident formator. We have been keen to welcome the new priests and they seem to be adapting to their new roles quite easily.

In terms of events, the orientation week started well, introducing our new men to seminary life.

Academically, courses are now well underway. Socially, the opening event of the year was the PCJ World Series baseball game and cookout, which Theology won again despite a now much larger College contingent. Theology also captured the 2022 Mud Bowl victory! Spiritually, the formation year had a great start with **Mother Olga Yaqob (right)** leading an inspiring series of talks during our 40 hours of Eucharist Adoration, concluding with a beautiful outdoor Blessed Sacrament procession.

It was great to have the FOJ with us on campus for the 4-miler run! Looking ahead, Sunday, November 6, is

the annual FOJ Mass and Meeting, joining the seminarians at their Sunday liturgy. Lastly, I'm pleased to announce that Father Mulcahy has kindly agreed to lead the FOJ Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 10.

Please pray for the success of our next Live In on November 10-13, when men enquiring about seminary life will have an opportunity to join us. Thanks, as always, for your prayers and all your support. We are all very appreciative of the work of the FOJ!

Father Dylan James, Chaplain



Father Dylan James



Father James (third from left) and seminarians at the 4-Miler



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of the Josephinum,

We begin the 135th year of formation for future priests at the Pontifical College Josephinum. While things have changed through the years, the mission has remained the same: to form men to be good and holy priests.

The formation year is off to a great start. We welcomed 20 new seminarians to the Josephinum, one of our largest incoming classes in many years. Not only are these excellent numbers, but these are also fine young men who have already added to the spirit of the house.

This year look for a new strategic plan from our Board of Trustees and a renewal of our formation program based on the latest edition of the *Program for Priestly Formation* published this last summer.

Thank you for all you do to support the seminary and the seminarians. Your prayers, presence, and financial support are essential aspects of our mission to form holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests. If I could ask for one more thing, would you pray for my intentions and needs as Rector/President? I have entrusted many people and things to Saint Joseph and, more recently, Saint Philomena. These two powerful intercessors know what they are. If you could also pray, we can expect even greater things to happen at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau
Rector/President



Father Steven Beseau

2022-2023 CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

FALL SEMESTER

Annual Mass, Brunch & Meeting – November 6
Board Meeting – November 15
Day of Recollection – December 10

SPRING SEMESTER

Board Meeting – January 10
Clergy Who Cook – January 27
Board Meeting – March 14
Board Meeting – May 9



Circle of Friends
Friends of the Josephinum
7625 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43235
614-885-5585 | www.pcj.edu/friends

Editors
Ellyn Dekker
Carolyn Dinovo