Board Member Becomes Bishop and Vice-Chancellor
Page 2

Rome Pilgrimage a “Grace-Filled Experience”
Page 8

A Joyous Ordination Season
Page 10

Seminarian Finds “Historical Gems” in Special Collections
Page 13
From the Rector

Dear Friends,

This Josephinum Times is a wonderful reflection of the celebratory spirit that filled our community throughout the spring semester and as the 2021-2022 year of formation drew to a close.

The episcopal ordination of our new Vice-Chancellor, Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, as Bishop of Columbus was a most welcomed and joyous event! Bishop Fernandes is a gifted, holy man with a wealth of experience in many areas of ministry, including seminary formation. He has been a great friend of the seminary as a Board member since 2019; we look forward to working with him to promote vocations and our mission.

Throughout the spring and early summer, many of our seminarians and alumni were ordained to the diaconate or priesthood. These celebrations filled us with gratitude for the privilege of having shared in each man’s path of discernment. The achievements of our 2022 graduating class, success of our Good Shepherd Dinner, graces of our seminarians’ pilgrimage to Rome, and upcoming arrival of new priests to our community — all shared in this issue — are more reasons for joy and hope.

Also within these pages is an invitation for you to join the Rector’s Circle giving society. If you are not already a member, please prayerfully consider joining. As a member, you would enter more deeply into the life of our seminary community and our mission to form holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests for the 21st century.

As we look ahead to a new year of formation, please continue to pray for our seminarians — both those who are returning and those who are about to begin their discernment in the House of Joseph. Thank you for giving so generously and for supporting them as they journey towards the ministerial priesthood.

Sincerely in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, STD
Rector/President
When he was ordained Bishop of Columbus on May 31, 2022, Bishop Earl K. Fernandes also became Vice-Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum. That position would have given him a seat on the seminary’s Board of Trustees, had he not already been a member.

Bishop Fernandes and Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, have known one another since 2005, when both were studying for doctoral degrees in Rome. In 2008, as dean of Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, then-Father Fernandes hired Father Beseau to teach moral theology, shortly before being assigned to the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC. When Father Fernandes returned to parish ministry in Cincinnati in 2019, Father Beseau, newly-appointed to the Josephinum, requested that the seminary Board consider him for membership.

“Even before Bishop Fernandes was appointed to the Board, I relied on him as an informal consultant to assist me in my job as Rector/President,” said Father Beseau. “He has brought to the Board his invaluable experience as a priest, pastor, theologian, academic dean, and a staff member of the apostolic nunciature. I am grateful that he will continue to serve as a member of the Board as Vice-Chancellor.”

Other trustees testify to the contributions already made by the new Columbus bishop, including Most Reverend Steven Raica, Bishop of Birmingham and Vice-Chair of the Board. “Bishop Fernandes is a man of joyful faith with a passion for priests and priestly formation,” he said. “He offers the Board, as well as those in formation, an excitement for responding generously to the call of God, the call to holiness and a life lived freely and fully for Christ.”

Josephinum alumnus Father Jeff Rimelspach C’79, a Columbus pastor and nine-year trustee, reflected on Bishop Fernandes’ work on the Board’s vision and mission committee. “He’s enthusiastic about the future of the Josephinum and of the priesthood in general,” he said. “A special charism of his is the desire to train good priests.”
The Priesthood is a Life Worth Living
A Vocation Story

By Sam Severance
Diocese of Columbus

I began thinking about the priesthood in eighth grade. I received my Confirmation that year, and had a theology teacher who challenged me to know the faith in a deeper way and provided a glimpse into the history of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Those planted seeds began to sprout and take form in high school, and I whole-heartedly started to consider the priesthood. Admittedly, as a teenager, the thought of the priesthood made me a little nervous. In my young mind, priests were unusual. They did not have wives or children and they chose to live outside the “norm.” Thoughts like these quickly made me disregard a future as a priest. I decided instead to focus on sports, hoping that the thoughts about the priesthood would subside. They did, for a time. But the Lord was still working on my heart.

I attended college where I played baseball but struggled to find an academic major. My focus was centered on sports and schoolwork was often an afterthought. During my junior year, I was required to pick a field of study. I surrendered to our Lord, who I knew was still asking that I attend seminary. He guided me to choose philosophical studies, with the help of a Catholic professor whose son had discerned the priesthood years earlier. This made him familiar with the process of priestly formation. Ultimately, philosophical studies would help my transition into seminary.

Shortly after, something else needed my attention. In 2018, I was diagnosed with a cancer called Osteosarcoma and, as a result, had my lower right leg amputated. I learned many lessons from this experience, two are worth mentioning. The first – I need God in my life and I am nothing without him. The second – the priesthood is a life worth living. Along with my family, my parish priest accompanied me throughout this period in good times and in bad times, which helped me to see the profound impact a priest can have on a life. After completing treatment, I returned to college to finish my degree and baseball career. I graduated in the spring of 2019 and entered seminary that fall.

My time at the Josephinum has been such a positive experience and has been blessed by many people. I have been able to grow closer to our Lord and continue to hear His call to the priesthood. I pray that my gratitude to those who support my vocation is reflected in my future priesthood.
Seminarians from the (arch)dioceses of Birmingham; Columbus; Lugazi, Uganda; Ogdensburg; and Santa Fe, and the religious order of the Fathers of Mercy became alumni of the Pontifical College Josephinum at its 123rd Commencement Exercises on May 7. Thirteen permanent deacons and lay persons from the Dioceses of Columbus, Harrisburg, and Saint Augustine were announced as degree recipients of the Josephinum Diaconate Institute. Degrees were conferred upon the seminarians by Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, Rector/President.

Commencement remarks on behalf of the Class of 2022 were delivered by College of Liberal Arts graduate Tyler Fitzgerald (Ogdensburg). “Today we celebrate the hard work we have undertaken here at the Josephinum, immersing ourselves in the grand academic tradition of this seminary,” he said, “but we walk this stage today not for the sole pursuit of a degree, award, or honor – but of the priesthood. Being in formation to the priesthood not only means study and research, but is a time of zeal and falling in love with God and the Truth we learn in the classroom.”

Tyler also was the recipient of the Pinter Scholar Award. Named in honor of Rev. Msgr. Nicholas Pinter, PhD, professor of classical languages from 1902 – 1957, the award distinguishes the College seminarian who has excelled in academic formation in preparation for service to the Church.

In his remarks closing Commencement Exercises, Father Beseau spoke to the great gifts of being part of a seminary community. “All four dimensions of formation – human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral – are important in forming the intellect and the heart,” said Father Beseau. “Here, combining love of the intellectual life with love of God, the Church, and of the seminarians creates something very special. It is a blessing for us to be here today to celebrate these men as they go forward from the Josephinum.”
Snapshots of Seminary Life

Above: Columbus seminarians made their annual summer bicycle tour in May, and rode more than 80 miles around the diocese to visit parishes and schools to promote vocations.

Right: (L-r): Father Dylan James; Brother Joseph Dixon, CPM (Fathers of Mercy); John Paul Stepnowski (Birmingham); Shane Gerrity (Columbus); and Patrick DePew (Birmingham) visit with Sister Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, at the Columbus Catholic Men’s Conference.

Bottom of opposite page: The Josephinum Papal Bulls captured the championship win at the 41st Annual Helfant Classic Josephinum Shootout! Seven seminaries from around the country participated: The Catholic University of America (Washington, DC); Saint Joseph College Seminary (Charlotte, NC); Saint Mary’s Seminary (Baltimore, MD); Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary (Cincinnati, OH); Saint Mary’s Seminary (Houston, TX); Saint Paul Seminary (Pittsburgh, PA); and Saint Vincent Seminary (Latrobe, PA).
Congratulations to our seminarians who ran the 2022 Columbus Half-Marathon! L-r: Andrew Vickery (Birmingham); David England (Columbus); Brother Joseph Dixon, CPM (Fathers of Mercy); Collins Hess (Birmingham); Zack Goodchild (Columbus); Patrick DePew (Birmingham); Caleb Gaier (Cincinnati); and Gabe Kube (Cincinnati).

Max Gallegos (Birmingham) receives applause after his guitar performance at the seminarians’ Open Mic Night, one of many informal and entertaining events of the year.

Monsignor James P. Shea, President of the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, presented “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission: Preparing the Church for the Postmodern World” as part of our lecture series.
Rome Pilgrimage a “Grace-Filled Experience”

The generosity of an anonymous benefactor enabled a group of Pre-Theology and Theology seminarians to make a pilgrimage to Rome in May, accompanied by Father Steven Beseau and Father Eric Wagner, CR. The men had an unforgettable grace-filled experience, as evidenced here in their own words.

During the pilgrimage, it became clear that the city, which witnessed Sts. Peter and Paul being brought into eternal life through martyrdom, was also bringing new life to our seminarians.

Accompanying the seminarians on this journey was a unique privilege, for which I am exceedingly grateful!

Father Eric Wagner, CR

The whole trip was a joy! It not only fostered in me a greater love for Christ and his Church, but a desire to serve his Church as a future priest.

Sam Severance (Columbus)

Prayer raised our experiences to God and made our trip a true pilgrimage. Prayer—mixed in every day as the leaven of all our experiences—afforded me wonderful growth in my relationship with our Lord, and it gave me the time and space to be still, to wait, and to listen for his voice. I received much grace on this pilgrimage, and I know that God will continually unfold the significance it holds for me and my walk with the Lord.

Collins Hess (Birmingham)

God did so much in our lives as we journeyed each day. My favorite part of the trip was spending time with my brother seminarians. It was really special and needed in my life, and I am very grateful for this opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship with my brothers.

Zack Goodchild (Columbus)

It was a time filled with prayer, fraternity, and incredible experiences. Perhaps the greatest part was the opportunity to pray before the tombs of the Apostles. I look forward to seeing the graces received there unfold in my life.

Andrew Vickery (Birmingham)
Bringing Jesus to people, and people to Jesus — I think that this ultimately sums up the life of the Christian and, in particular, the life of the priest. My classmates and I just finished our pastoral year serving in various parishes throughout the Diocese of Columbus. It was a blessing to have this opportunity; time to re-focus on the one thing necessary — being with Christ, and inviting others to find their every answer in Him.

I was assigned to Saint Matthew the Apostle Parish in Gahanna, OH, where Josephinum alumnus Father Ted Sill ’89 is pastor. I enjoyed my time teaching in the school, assisting at Mass and sacred liturgies, training servers, giving presentations for RCIA, and assisting with home visits, house blessings, sick calls, weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Through these experiences, I grew to better understand who I am and who Jesus is calling me to be as His priest.

It was a gift to walk with the parishioners of Saint Matthew through their greatest joys and deepest sorrows; from serving at weddings and baptisms to presiding over funerals and burials, sometimes all in one day. Strange as it may seem, I particularly appreciated ministering at the funerals and burials because, although it was challenging, it was an opportunity to act as the celebrant and minister to people in a very direct way. Father Sill reviewed my preparations for these occasions, but he entrusted me with reaching out to the family to learn about the deceased, working with the funeral home, celebrating the rites, and ministering to the family in their time of grief.

Ministering to the people of God during my pastoral year was an enormous privilege. Not only did I get to walk with them on their spiritual journey and become a part of it, but I felt God working through me to accomplish His purpose in their lives. This year has given me the confidence to say with Saint Paul that I will gladly spend and be spent for the people of God.
A Joyous Ordination Season

The ordinations of our seminarians and alumni to the diaconate and priesthood bring joy and hope to the Church and all of the faithful. Please pray for vocations and for all of our alumni ordained this year.

**ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD**

**Diocese of Arlington**  
Father John O’Farrell PT’18  
Father Daniel Rice C’17  
June 4

**Archdiocese of Atlanta**  
Father Avery Daniel C’15  
May 28

**Diocese of Charlotte**  
Father Darren Balkey PT’18  
June 18

**Archdiocese of Cincinnati**  
Father Ethan Hoving C’17  
May 21

**Diocese of Charlotte**  
Father Avery Daniel C’15  
May 28

**Diocese of Covington**  
Deacon Michael Emlinger C’19  
April 9

**Diocese of Joliet**  
Father Brian Geary PT’18  
May 21

**Diocese of Covington**  
Deacon Augustine Pau Mang C’19  
April 9

**Diocese of Nashville**  
Deacon Nonso Ohanaka C’18  
May 28

**Diocese of Ogdensburg**  
Father Leagon Carlin C’18  
May 21

**Diocese of Phoenix**  
Deacon Miguel Solis C’18  
May 29

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe**  
Deacon Cameron Degani T4  
June 2

**Diocese of Toledo**  
Deacon Kyle Ink C’18  
May 21

**Diocese of Youngstown**  
Deacon Brook Benedict C’16  
Deacon Frederick Schlueter C’16  
June 4

**ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE**

**Diocese of Arlington**  
Deacon Jonathan (Tony) Bennett PT’19  
Deacon Stanley (Luke) Poczatek C’18  
April 23

**Diocese of Charlotte**  
Deacon Chukwunonso Nnebe-Agumadu PT’19  
June 4

**Diocese of Covington**  
Deacon Michael Emlinger C’19  
April 9

**Diocese of Joliet**  
Deacon Jeremy Leganski PT’19  
Deacon Frank Pusateri PT’19  
April 9

**Diocese of Nashville**  
Deacon Lukas Gruber T4  
June 25

**Diocese of Phoenix**  
Deacon Miguel Solis C’18  
May 29

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe**  
Deacon Cameron Degani T4  
June 2

**Diocese of Toledo**  
Deacon Kyle Ink C’18  
May 21

**Diocese of Youngstown**  
Deacon Brook Benedict C’16  
Deacon Frederick Schlueter C’16  
June 4

Top: Fourth-year seminarian Deacon Cameron Degani (Santa Fe) was ordained at the Aquinas Newman Center in Albuquerque on June 2. L-r: Father Steven Beseau (Rector/President), Degani, Archbishop John Wester, Father Michael Niemczak C’12 (Vocation Director) and Father Michael DePalma (Newman Center pastor). Photo by Sarah McIntyre.

Bottom: At his priestly ordination for the Diocese of Arlington, Father John O’Farrell PT’18 (right) was vested by fellow alumnus Father Stephen Vaccaro T’17. Photo by Joe Cashwell.
Clockwise from top left: Father Nonso Ohanaka C’18 of the Diocese of Nashville kisses the stole received at his ordination.

Father Michael Elminger C’19 receives the Laying on of Hands from Most Reverend John Iffert, Bishop of Covington. Messenger photo.

L-r: Father Michael Kelly (Coordinator of Spiritual Formation); Most Reverend Terry LaValley (Bishop of Ogdensburg and past Chair of the Josephinum’s Board of Trustees); and fourth-year seminarian and newly-ordained Deacon Lukas Gruber (Ogdensburg).

Father Ethan Hoying C’17 of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati promises obedience to his ordinary, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr.

During his ordination for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the palms of Father Mark Hellinger C’18 are anointed with the Sacred Chrism by Bishop Kevin Rhoades. Photo by John Martin of Today’s Catholic.
Josephinum Diaconate Institute Welcomes New Executive Director

Deacon Matt Coriale has joined the staff of the Josephinum as Executive Director of the Josephinum Diaconate Institute. He succeeds Father Louis Iasiello, OFM, now Franciscan Scholar in Residence at Siena College in Loudonville, NY, whose vision and leadership have prepared the Institute for growth and a strong future. Deacon Matt was ordained in 2008 and comes to the Josephinum after working for many years in the technology industry. He currently serves in the Diocese of Lexington, KY.

The 2021-2022 year has been a busy one for the Institute, which served students from 28 dioceses who were pursuing pre- or post-ordination formation. The Institute also began offering parallel coursework in English and Spanish for deacon candidates. This unique offering allows dioceses with mixed language cohorts to have shared intellectual formation in their preferred language. In addition to diaconal formation, the Institute also oversaw the completion and presentation of thirteen Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies degrees.

In late 2021, the Institute was awarded a grant of nearly $900,000 from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to develop programming for the ongoing formation of deacons through all stages of their ministry. This is an exciting opportunity to further the mission of the Institute in supporting the lifelong formation of deacons for the Church.

The Josephinum Diaconate Institute, formed by the Josephinum in 2007, provides pre- and post-ordination formation to diaconal aspirants and their spouses, lay ministers, and others preparing to serve the Church. More information can be found at diaconate.pcj.edu.
Seminarian Finds “Historical Gems” in Special Collections

Spring semester brought a unique experience for fourth-year College seminarian Tyler Fitzgerald (Ogdensburg). The soon-to-be Class of 2022 alumnus worked closely with Associate Professor Dr. Kevin Poole on a directed independent study of medieval manuscripts.

“When I first arrived at the Josephinum in 2018, I quickly learned that the A.T. Werhle Library is guardian to countless hidden historical gems,” said Tyler. “I knew I needed to get my hands on them! I have always had a love for history and genealogical research, so I was very excited when Dr. Poole and I began to explore the Special Collections.”

Enlisting the expertise of retired library director Mr. Peter Veracka, the pair examined and researched several items. “The independent study was both a brief introduction to manuscript studies for Tyler, who did excellent work, and an attempt to better understand and formally document the manuscript material,” said Dr. Poole.

At the conclusion of the semester, Tyler shared his findings with the seminary community. He spoke of his favorite items in the collection, one of which is a Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin from 14th century Germany, made for a Carmelite monastery of nuns. “The parchment has been so worn down over centuries of use that one can feel thumb-shaped indents on its edges,” he said. “It was a surreal feeling to hold that manuscript and place my thumbs where countless nuns did centuries ago!”

Both Dr. Poole and Tyler hope that their efforts will inspire others to continue the work they have begun and to take advantage of all that the library has to offer. “I was spoiled during my time here with such a remarkable library and staff who go out of their way to help,” said Tyler. “It is difficult to part ways with such a treasure.”

Manuscripts and print material from the Middle Ages through the 19th century were displayed in the library after Tyler’s presentation reflecting on his independent study.

Left: The study and research conducted by Tyler (left) and Dr. Kevin Poole (center) benefitted from the expertise of retired library director Mr. Peter Veracka (right).
The 2022 Good Shepherd Dinner was a delightful gathering of friends, supporters, and honored guests, including Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and Josephinum Chancellor; and then Bishop-Elect Earl Fernandes, now Bishop of Columbus and Josephinum Vice Chancellor.

Event highlights included a keynote address by author and Catholic radio host Patrick Madrid, special toasts, vocal performances, and the presentation of awards. Former faculty member and administrator Reverend Raymond Enzweiler of Covington was given the Good Shepherd Award in recognition of his seminary work and contributions to Catholic education. Very Reverend Steven Beseau, Rector/President, said that Father Enzweiler “never gave up his most important job, that of being a shepherd for Christ’s sheep. Fully present to those who need him, he guides others closer to Christ and the peace and joy our faith offers.”

The Pope Leo XIII Award was presented to Mr. John Erwin of Saint Paul Parish, Westerville, for his support of priestly vocations as seminary Treasurer and Vice President of Administration. “It has been an honor to work here, and I give thanks to God for letting me play a small role in helping to form good priests for the Church,” he said.

A surprise announcement by Archbishop Pierre named Mr. Erwin as a Knight of The Pontifical Equestrian Order of Saint Gregory the Great. The Order, established in 1831 by Pope Gregory XVI, is one of the five orders of knighthood of the Holy See. The honor is bestowed upon Catholic individuals in recognition of their personal service to the Holy See and to the Catholic Church, through their unusual labors, their support of the Holy See, and the examples they set in their communities and their countries.

Since his appointment as Chancellor in 2016, Archbishop Pierre has been a strong supporter and friend of the Josephinum. Words of gratitude to the Nuncio for his service to the Church throughout the world were offered by Bishop-Elect Fernandes, who also affirmed that the Josephinum will be close to his own heart as Bishop of Columbus. “This institution will shape the priests for the next millennium. Priests like Saint Joseph who are courageous, chaste, and compassionate; gentle souls, good-hearted and zealous shepherds for Christ.”

The dinner is the Josephinum’s signature fundraising event which, according to Mr. Doug Stein, Vice President for Advancement, raised a record-setting $145,000 this year. “This resounding success was made possible by the many dioceses, parishes, organizations, and individuals who sponsored the event, as well as by the great generosity of those who attended,” he said.
Kleinz Society Highlights
Seminarians’ Research

By Douglas Fortner, PhD
Associate Professor of Philosophy

The annual meeting of the Kleinz Society is an ongoing Josephinum tradition which honors alumnus and philosophy professor, Reverend Monsignor John P. Kleinz, PhD (1913–1990). The meeting further promotes the communal sharing of intellectual labors within the context of philosophical study toward enrichment in all areas of seminary formation.

Two presentations by seminarians were given at this year’s meeting. The first by Collins Hess (Birmingham) on “The Essential Role of Contemplation in Human Fulfillment According to the Thought of Aristotle and Saint Thomas Aquinas” analyzed the importance of contemplation—a core philosophical concept first acclaimed by the ancient Pythagoreans—in light of its various ontological, anthropological, ethical, and theological dimensions.

A second presentation by Shane Gerrity C’22 (Columbus), titled “Knowing, Doing, and Making: A Thomistic Analysis of the Intellectual Virtues of Prudence and Art in Relation to Technology,” clarified the relationship between the intellectual virtue of prudence and art, specifically regarding the many challenges posed to the contemplative life by human technology.

The meeting was blessed with the presence of an alumnus who knew Monsignor Kleinz personally as a family friend. Dr. Philip M. Scherer, Josephinum high school student from 1955–1958, shared his personal reflections on the life and thought of Monsignor Kleinz. With several of Monsignor Kleinz’s personal effects, including his doctoral diploma, on prominent display in the lecture hall, the evening provided not only an opportunity for stimulating philosophical reflection, but also a joyous occasion to celebrate the respective contributions of three different generations of Josephinum alumni.

Who was Monsignor Kleinz?

In summer 1934, on a special car of the Pennsylvania Railroad moving out of his native Chicago bound for Columbus, young John Philip Kleinz made his first acquaintance with other Josephinum students. One of these boys, a high school sophomore, was Clarence DeRuntz (later Monsignor “Moe” DeRuntz) – the two eventually would become colleagues and lifelong friends.

As a seminarian, Monsignor Kleinz’s writing abilities were recognized from the start; throughout his years at the Josephinum, he was frequently called upon to produce material for dramatic presentations and contributed to The Josephinum Weekly newsletter.

Years later, in a tribute to Monsignor Kleinz, Monsignor DeRuntz wrote of the “great awe and respect,” he held for his fellow student in the early days of their acquaintance. With characteristic humor, Monsignor DeRuntz recalled that writing wasn’t Monsignor Kleinz’s sole talent. “He was the organist whom I admired for his dexterity in playing and pumping the old clunker,” he wrote.

Ordained at the Josephinum on May 26, 1940, Monsignor Kleinz remained at the seminary and spent the next 32 years teaching philosophy, psychology, sociology, and social doctrine. He worked with Monsignor Leonard Fick on The Josephinum Review, and was a frequent contributor to the Columbus diocesan newspaper. Monsignor DeRuntz recalled, “Frequently, during faculty conversations, John would say, ‘I wrote a column about that once.’ Or hearing something unusual, he would say, ‘I’ll have to write a column about that.’ And he would!”

Monsignor Kleinz left the faculty in 1972 to serve in various capacities in the Columbus diocese. Upon his retirement in 1978, he returned to the Josephinum, became the first editor of The Josephinum Journal of Theology, and continued to write extensively. Upon his death in 1990, he was laid to rest in the Josephinum cemetery.
The outpouring of gifts received throughout the winter and spring — especially through our Saint Joseph Appeal and seminarian phonathon — is a blessing for which we are profoundly grateful. We reached an all-time record high in gifts! Our fundraising has been quite strong these past several years, due to your deep and abiding commitment to the formation of priests for the Church. Your financial support and prayers for vocations and our seminarians have played vital roles in getting us through the many challenges of the past few years.

In addition to a significant increase in cash gifts, we have received several Charitable Gift Annuities (CGAs) over the past two years. CGAs are considered planned gifts which require a formal agreement with the seminary. Please reach out to me anytime to talk about this opportunity.

Estate gifts — like all gifts — are important to the financial health and long-term viability of the Josephinum. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, approximately $800,000 was received through the bequests of alumni and individuals from all walks of life. If you have not already done so, please consult your attorney and consider adding “Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio” as a beneficiary in your will. Alternatively, two estate attorneys provide pro-bono services to those interested; they are listed at www.pcj.edu/plannedgiving.

Remember that your prayers are vital and your gifts always make a difference. Please pray for our seminarians, pray for vocations, and give regularly to the House of Joseph. Congratulations and Deo Gratias to all of our newly ordained alumni and alumni celebrating anniversaries this summer!

Douglas H. Stein
Vice President for Advancement
614-985-2325
dstein@pcj.edu
CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Advancement Office seeks volunteers to join the Josephinum Hospitality Ambassador program. Ambassadors strive to enhance the seminary’s public visibility, provide event hospitality, and share its rich history and mission in various contexts. Volunteer areas include finance, budgeting, fundraising, communications, events, public relations, tours and more.

To join or find out more about this service opportunity, please complete the survey at apps.pcj.edu/hospitalityambassadorssurvey and a staff member will contact you. Thank you!

Ambassadors assist with many events throughout the year, such as our ongoing tour program. This spring, nearly 300 people came to campus for a guided tour, such as this one led by Alumni Liaison Michael Fry T’85.

An Invitation to the Rector’s Circle

We extend to you a special invitation to join our Rector’s Circle giving society. Generally, Rector’s Circle membership for each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) is extended to donors who make cumulative gifts of $1,500 and above in the previous fiscal year. Unique to this year, membership for 2022-2023 may be attained through August 14, 2022. For more information about your membership status, please contact Cody Thompson at cthompson@pcj.edu / 614-985-2234.

The Rector’s Circle has four tiers of giving levels with signature event benefits attached to each tier. All members are welcome to attend these seminary community events:

- Opening of the Formation Year Mass & Community Picnic (August 21)
- Mudbowl (October 1)
- Fall Lecture & Reception (October 26)
- Helfant Classic Inter-Seminary Basketball Tournament (February 17-19)
- Open House Tour Day (April 29)

If you are not already a member of the Rector’s Circle, please prayerfully consider joining. Membership is a powerful testament to your belief in our mission to form holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests for the 21st century.

Signature Events for Rector’s Circle Members

Each tier includes the benefits of the lower tiers

**Tier I: $1,500-$4,999 Annually**
- Rector’s Circle Reception

**Tier II: $5,000-$14,999 Annually**
- Advent Lessons & Carols Service/Reception

**Tier III: $15,000-$24,999 Annually**
- Spring Lecture Private Reception
- Two Tickets for Good Shepherd Dinner

**Tier IV: $25,000+ Annually**
- Table for Six at Good Shepherd Dinner

For more information, please visit www.pcj.edu/rectorscircle or email cthompson@pcj.edu.
The Chalice as a Legacy

There is a special legacy attached to the chalice of a priest. An integral part of his life, it is hoped that the vessel will continue to be used by other priests after his death. It is, in fact, customary for a deceased priest to will his chalice to another priest or seminarian so that the legacy of the deceased priest’s ministry may live on.

From time to time, an ordained alumnus bequeaths his chalice to the Josephinum, requesting that it be given to a fourth-year seminarian who will soon be ordained to the priesthood. Reverend Thomas Marickovic ’81 of the Diocese of Harrisburg dedicated decades of ministry to many parishes and health care facilities throughout the diocese. After his death in December 2020, his close friend and classmate, Father Lawrence Sherdel ’81, notified us of Father Marickovic’s estate provision of a chalice to the Josephinum.

The chalice was re-plated and restored with great care and was passed on to Deacon James Ssebunnya of the Diocese of Lugazi, Uganda, who will be ordained to the priesthood on July 30, 2022, in his native country. Father Marikovic’s legacy of ministry will live on — thousands of miles away — each time Father Ssebunnya celebrates the Mass.

Deacon James Ssebunnya holds the chalice and paten of the late Father Thomas Marickovic ’81 — the legacy of a priesthood that spanned nearly four decades.

Save the Date for Alumni Day 2022

Alumni Day 2022 will begin with a special reception on the evening of Wednesday, October 12. Many other memorable and informative events, including the presentation of the Jessing Alumnus of the Year Awards, will take place on Thursday, October 13. Please join us in honoring our award recipients Reverend Robert Gonzalez and Mr. Jason Shanks!

More information on registration, accommodations, and events is forthcoming at www.pcj.edu/alumni and by email. Please save the date!
Father Stash Dailey C’04 returns to his alma mater this fall to serve as Vice-Rector and Dean of Men for the Discipleship Stage/College of Liberal Arts. He will retain his role as Vicar for Religious for the Diocese of Columbus, a position through which he has facilitated the presence of 15 orders in the diocese.

Father Dailey will serve primarily as a formator, guiding seminarians in their discernment of a priestly vocation. “Our young men who want to be priests are in need of someone to walk with them,” he said, in a May 2022 interview with Columbus’ The Catholic Times. “I am not convinced I’m the right one to do it, but it is what the Lord has made clear I am to do. Please pray for our seminarians, the men who are our future priests, and pray for the priests who have the privilege of walking with them as they learn from the Divine Master.”

Father Dailey was ordained in 2008 for the Diocese of Columbus. In addition to parish ministry at Saint Michael (Worthington) and Holy Family (Columbus), he has served as a retreat master and preacher, spiritual director of Sacred Heart Columbus and the Sacred Heart Enthronement Network, and as a consultor for several religious congregations.

Father Stash Dailey is often engaged by parishes in Columbus – and beyond – to speak on devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Alumnus Appointed College Vice-Rector

Father Brighenti and Father Fegan, OP to Join Community of Formators

Father Kenneth Brighenti, KGCO joins the Josephinum Community as Vice-Rector of the Configuration Stage/School of Theology.

Father Brighenti comes to the Josephinum following nine years as pastor at Saint Magdalen de Pazzi Church in the Diocese of Metuchen. Ordained in 1988, he was engaged in parish ministry until 2009, then served as Vice Rector and Director of Apostolates at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. Father Brighenti holds a PhD in Theocentric Studies from LaSalle University and is author of many books including Catholicism for Dummies, John Paul II for Dummies and Catholic Mass for Dummies. He has also co-hosted many shows on EWTN, including “Web of Faith.” He is a Third-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus, member and chaplain of the Amerigo Vespucci Society, founding chaplain for Unico National (an Italian-American service organization), and a Knight of Grace in the Constantinian Order.

Father Peter Fegan, OP, will serve as a formator and an instructor in both the College of Liberal Arts and School of Theology.

Born in Maryland and raised in northern Virginia, Father Peter attended the University of Dallas, graduating in 1993 with a degree in philosophy. He made his first profession with the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph in 1995, was ordained a priest in 2001, and completed an STL in moral theology at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC, the following year. Father Peter has devoted much of his priesthood to parish ministry; he has also been engaged in teaching and seminary formation at the Josephinum (fall 2008), Saint John Vianney Seminary in Denver, CO, and Providence College in Providence, RI. He served most recently at Saint Patrick Church in Columbus.
Reflections on Seminary & a Life of Ministry

Bishop William Skylstad ’60 graciously granted this interview, offering reflections on his years at the Josephinum and his life of ministry. Since his ordination on May 21, 1960, he has served as pastor, teacher, seminary rector, diocesan chancellor, Bishop of Yakima (1977-1990), Bishop of Spokane (1990-2010), and Vice President and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2001-2007).

When did you first hear a call to the priesthood?
I am the oldest of six siblings with an immigrant father from Norway and mother from Minnesota. Our family – apple farmers – lived in Methow Valley, WA, a very non-Catholic area 16 miles from our local parish. I went to a one-room country school house and a consolidated public school. I mention that reality because already in the sixth grade I felt a strong call to priesthood. In recent decades, I have come to appreciate even more the powerful call of the Holy Spirit, even for a 12-year-old.

What about the priesthood attracted you?
I always admired our pastors. I was an altar boy and served in both parishes for which my pastor was responsible. He would pick me up on the way to Stations of the Cross. The pastors would often stop by at our home for dinner, so I came to admire them and their ministry very much.

How did you come to attend the Josephinum?
My pastor, Father Raymond Klemmer ’40 was ordained at the Josephinum. He and my parents suggested that is where I should attend. So at 14 years of age, I took the train from Wenatchee to Chicago and then Columbus.

What are your best Josephinum memories?
The lifestyle was such that you would never forget; the bonding together and sense of community were strong. The regimen was relatively strict and full. The liturgical life was integrated into our daily routine. We were asked to do two hours of labor every week: I was on the book binding crew, and I also learned to be a ham radio operator with the encouragement of Father Gerald Durst. Participation in sports was a must. Other strong memories are participating in the marching band, glee club, and choir under the direction of Msgr. Walter Rees.

How did those experiences prepare you for ministry as a priest and bishop?
The strong fraternity was carried over to my priestly ministry. There was tremendous diversity in our student body with seminarians from 32 states, so as priests, we had priestly friends all over the country. The hard work, the formation program, the spiritual experience, the comradery, one never forgets. Accepting challenges of everyday life, both the joys and disappointments, were certainly formative. I will be forever grateful for those 12 years at the Josephinum.
How have you kept in touch with your classmates?
As the class of ’60 we had a very close bond. Over the decades we attended alumni reunions and also scheduled regular gatherings amongst ourselves. Most of my classmates came to my ordination as Bishop of Yakima in 1977. Those of us still living keep in contact. I now live with Father James Kuhns ’61 and we keep stories of the Joss alive!

Can you speak to your service with the USCCB?
Life is full of surprises. For me this was a huge one. From the beginning of my ministry as bishop, I was involved with the USCCB on committees and various outreach programs. One of the great challenges as I began my service as Vice President of the Conference was the beginning of the abuse crisis. That challenge as we well know continues to be very much with us. Chairing the general meetings, the administrative committee, the regular meetings with the Holy See were all part of the package never to be forgotten. Regular meetings with Pope Saint John Paul II and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI were most memorable and inspiring.

What aspects of ministry have been closest to your heart?
I have always loved pastoral ministry. Of course, the role of a bishop is eminently one of pastoral ministry as well. I’ve also loved the area of spirituality and presenting retreats. Over the years, I have shared over 50 retreats for bishops, priests, deacons, and religious around the country. My involvement with World Wide Marriage Encounter profoundly impacted my ministry. It is an example of lay ministry in the Church at its finest with so many couples dedicated to strengthening marriages and family life.

How would you encourage men who are discerning the priesthood?
I would strongly encourage them to be a person of prayer staying close to the Lord. Secondly, they need to be humble persons of relationship (with God, themselves and others), relating to every one as brother and sister in God’s kingdom. Lived well, the priesthood is a great life and a powerful witness!

The full text of this interview may be found at www.pcj.edu/alumni
IN MEMORIAM

Father James Baker
Diocese of Dodge City
Born April 4, 1937
Ordained May 25, 1963
Died October 30, 2021

Born and raised in Erie, PA, James Baker entered the Josephinum in 1951, where he completed high school, college and graduate study. After ordination, he served in many parishes until 1984, when he began studies for a licentiate in Canon Law at Saint Paul University in Ontario, Canada. He then served as Chancellor, Vicar General, and Judicial Vicar for the dioce – as well as a parish pastor – until his retirement in 2006. In retirement, he continued to serve as a judge on the diocesan tribunal and the tribunal of the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Father Baker served the youth of Southwest Kansas through his activity with the Boy Scouts of America. He began volunteer work in scouting in 1963 and went on to serve as scoutmaster, district chairman, and a member of the executive board. He received the scout’s District Award of Merit in 1975, the diocese’s Saint Gregory Award in 1980, and the Silver Beaver Award, the highest award a Boy Scouts of America Council can give a volunteer scout, in 1981.

“Father Jim” loved to travel and vacationed in every U.S. state, the District of Columbia, Austria, Rome, Canada, and Mexico. In retirement, he enjoyed his work as a driver and attendant at a funeral home.

The Funeral Mass for Father Baker was celebrated at Saint Dominic Church, Garden City, with burial in nearby Valley View Cemetery.

Father Jean-Michel Lastiri
Diocese of Fresno
Born June 13, 1956
Ordained April 27, 1985
Died February 25, 2022

Jean-Michel Lastiri grew up in Hanford, CA; he attended Thomas McCarthy Catholic School, Hanford High, Fresno State University, and the Josephinum.

Father Lastiri dedicated more than 35 years of ministry to the Church, serving in various parishes and on many diocesan committees throughout his priesthood. His last pastorate was Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hanford, CA. All his life he was surrounded by the love of his dear family, many friends, and countless parishioners whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his mother Marie Lastiri, brother Steven Lastiri (Cheryl), nephews Shane Lastiri (Teresa) and Tyler Lastiri (Emily) and niece Serena Diaso. He is also survived by his dearest friend Leon Pereira and many cousins including Lisa Mattingly (Scott), Anastasio Lastiri (Mendi) and Frank Echeverria.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Immaculate Heart of Mary, with burial at Saint Peter Catholic Cemetery, Fresno.

Monsignor Terrance M. Lawler, KCHS
Diocese of Metuchen
Born March 4, 1945
Ordained May 24, 1974
Died February 6, 2022

A native of New Jersey, Terrance Lawler came to the Josephinum after graduating from Phillipsburg Catholic High School and Saint Mary College.

A priest for 45 years, he served many parishes throughout the diocese. His administrative talents were shared in his work as director of the Office for Priest Personnel and the Office of Vocations; episcopal vicar of Middlesex County; dean of the Raritan Bay Deanery; and membership in the College of Consultors and the diocesan Board for Seminary Education. He also was chaplain to the Knights of Columbus.

In 2002, Msgr. Lawler was installed as a Knight in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; he was elevated to Knight Commander in 2013. He was a lover of Ireland and was a proud fan of Notre Dame football, the New York Giants and the New York Yankees. His warmth and good humor, and his embrace of parishioners, made him a beloved addition to the parish communities where he served.

Msgr. Lawler is survived by his nephews, Terry (Lisa) O’Hare and Brian (Peggy) O’Hare; brother-in-law Thomas O’Hare. In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by his sister and best friend, Judith O’Hare.

The Funeral Mass for Monsignor Lawler was celebrated at Saint Philip and Saint James Church, Phillipsburg, where Monsignor was baptized, received his First Communion and confirmation, and celebrated his first Mass. He was laid to rest next to his parents in the parish cemetery.

Father Isidore “Sid” Joseph Figlia, SDB
Salesians of Don Bosco
Born April 8, 1930
Ordained June 1, 1968
Died March 6, 2022

In his 53 years of priesthood, Father “Sid” Figlia served in many of the works of the New Rochelle Province, most notably 11 years in Boston at the Salesian Boys & Girls Club of East Boston as executive director, at Don Bosco Tech as director, and 19 years at Saint John Bosco Parish in Harvey, LA, as assistant pastor and pastor.

Sid was born in Brooklyn and, after high school, served in the U.S. Army. Discharged as a sergeant in 1952, he attended Don Bosco College in Newton, NJ, then did practical training at Salesian schools in West Virginia and Florida. In 1964, after professing perpetual vows, Brother Sid began studies at the Instituto Salesiano in Bollengo, Italy. He returned to the U.S. as part of the first contingent of Salesians enrolled at the Josephinum three years later.

As a newly-ordained priest, Father Sid served at Salesian schools in Tampa and Newton, then returned to Rome for studies at the Salesian Pontifical University. In 1976, he became executive director of the Salesian Boys & Girls Club in East Boston. The success of his six-year tenure, as well as of his broader priestly ministry, was recognized by the Club in 2011 with the Don Bosco Award.

After 16 years as pastor of Saint John Bosco, Harvey, he retired in 2011, to the Salesian assisted living facility in Tampa where, as a faithful confessor, he was loved for his caring warmth and smiling face as he ministered to those who sought comfort in the sacrament.

Funeral Masses for Father Sid were celebrated at Mary Help of Christians and at the Marian Shrine Chapel, Stony Point, NY, with burial at the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, NY.

Father Jean-Michel Lastiri
Diocese of Fresno
Born June 13, 1956
Ordained April 27, 1985
Died February 25, 2022

Jean-Michel Lastiri grew up in Hanford, CA; he attended Thomas McCarthy Catholic School, Hanford High, Fresno State University, and the Josephinum.

Father Lastiri dedicated more than 35 years of ministry to the Church, serving in various parishes and on many diocesan committees throughout his priesthood. His last pastorate was Immaculate Heart of Mary in Hanford, CA. All his life he was surrounded by the love of his dear family, many friends, and countless parishioners whose lives he touched.

He is survived by his mother Marie Lastiri, brother Steven Lastiri (Cheryl), nephews Shane Lastiri (Teresa) and Tyler Lastiri (Emily) and niece Serena Diaso. He is also survived by his dearest friend Leon Pereira and many cousins including Lisa Mattingly (Scott), Anastasio Lastiri (Mendi) and Frank Echeverria.

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Funeral Masses for Father Sid were celebrated at Mary Help of Christians and at the Marian Shrine Chapel, Stony Point, NY, with burial at the Salesian Cemetery in Goshen, NY.
Monsignor Carlton P. Hermann
Diocese of Sioux Falls
Born February 5, 1927
Ordained June 7, 1952
Died April 16, 2022

Carlton Hermann attended the Josephinum for high school, college, and major seminary. Upon his ordination, he served as an associate pastor at the diocesan cathedral, then at parishes in Hoven and Bowdle. In 1959, Father Hermann began a series of pastoral appointments that would take him to many other parishes throughout the diocese. His pastorate at Saint Wenceslaus lasted 19 years until his retirement in 1997.

As a retired priest, Monsignor remained very active, presiding at parish liturgies and gatherings of the Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas. He offered sacramental ministry to the infirm and imprisoned, at Boy Scout Camp and the House of Mary Shrine, and to the residents of Avera Majestic Bluffs Senior Living Facility. He served as Co-Vicar for Retired Priests and on the Priest Senate.

Among many distinctions, Monsignor began the infamous “Polka Mass” in Tabor as part of its annual Czech Days celebrations. He was a lifetime member of the Czech Heritage Preservation Society. Always eager for a good conversation, he was sure to be present at the next parish gathering and was a fixture at the weekly priest meals in Yankton, sharing wisdom gained from his 70 years of priestly ministry and encouraging his brother priests. He is perhaps best remembered for his witness of remaining positive in his disposition toward all persons and all things, even ones with the greatest challenge.

The Funeral Mass for Monsignor Herman was celebrated at Sacred Heart Church, Yankton, with burial at Saint Mary’s Cemetery, Roseville.

Father Francis W. Voellmecke
Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Born October 6, 1935
Ordained December 20, 1959
Died May 15, 2022

Former faculty member Father Francis Voellmecke served the Josephinum in many capacities from 1980-1989, including College Vice-Rector, associate professor of philosophy, and College formation program director.

His own studies for the priesthood began at age 13, at Saint Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati. He continued studies in Rome, where he was ordained, then spent the early years of his ministry as an associate pastor and high school religion teacher. He completed a doctorate at The University of Notre Dame, then served as rector of Saint Gregory Seminary before coming to the Josephinum. Father Voellmecke ministered for several years in Salt Lake City, UT, then returned to parish ministry and seminary teaching in Cincinnati until his retirement in 2011.

Father Voellmecke, in his office at the Josephinum

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

2019
Wilfred Hakenewerth ’51, January 9.

2020
John Kealy T’73, February 13.

2021
Helen I. Donovan, mother of Father Dennis Donovan T’83, August 28.
James Beshalske ’75, October 3.
Anna Voelker, mother of Father Nicholas Voelker, KHS, T’02, November 2.
Maria Bowora, mother of Father Sheunesu Bowora T’16, December 31.

2022
Dale H. Bennett C’90, January 6.
James Wellmann, father of Father Andrew Wellmann C’16, January 18.
Joseph R. Lumpe, father of Father Michael Lumpe T’04, January 22.
James R. Hahn, father of Father William Hahn T’04, January 28.
James Cline, father of Father Brian Cline C’05, February 9.
Kathy Doerr, mother of Father Brian Doerr T’98, February 22.
Mary Margaret Olivas Anderson, sister of Michael A. Olivas C’72, February 23.
Phyllis Sizemore, mother of Father David Sizemore C’91, March 5.
Dr. Bernard McFadden ’56, March 15.
Aloysius Merkel ’50, March 25.
John McGrath ’62, April 3.
Bernadette Schalk, mother of Father David Schalk C’04, April 4.
Anthony J. Petracca, father of Father Anthony Petracca T’85, April 10.
William “Billy” Reynolds, father of Father Taylor Reynolds C’10, April 11.
Dr. Michael Olivas, C’72, April 22.
Mark C. Reed T’87, May 8.
Robert Kehres, brother of Father Franklin Kehres ’68, May 14.
Rita Begert, mother of Steven Begert-Clark C’87, May 24.
Brian Farkas, brother of Sean Farkas UPT’15, May 28.
Ralph Silleck, father of Jeffrey Silleck C’79, May 29.
Joseph A. Malesic, father of Bishop Edward C. Malesic ’87, June 3.
Laura Gardner, sister of Father Tom Gardner T’15, July 9.
Events for Fall 2022
More information on these events forthcoming at www.pcj.edu and on social media.

Parents & Family Welcome
Friday, September 30 – Sunday, October 2

Mud Bowl
Saturday, October 1

Rector’s Circle Reception
Monday, October 3

Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk
Saturday, October 8

Alumni Day Reunion
Wednesday, October 12 – Thursday, October 13

Fall Lecture
Wednesday, October 26
Timothy P. O’Malley, PhD
McGrath Institute for Church Life; Notre Dame Center for Liturgy