



JOSEPHINUM TIMES

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends
of the House of Joseph

FALL 2023



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Si Deus pro nobis quis contra nos – Romans 8:31

From the Rector



Dear Alumni and Friends,
The Josephinum is a holy, happy, and healthy place. Nearly any time of the day, you will see seminarians in the chapel praying and hear others laughing. They support and challenge one another with Christian charity, grace, and humility as they strive to become spiritual fathers who are holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient. It is a blessed privilege to be part of this community.

At the top of our “good news” list this year are the 28 new seminarians whose arrival boosted the spirit of a seminary already in a good place. Newly represented among our seminarians is the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy. I invite you to read more about the Order in this issue, along with a glimpse into daily life from a Propaedeutic Stage seminarian, a vocation story, and announcements of faculty publications, Josephinum Diaconate Institute developments, and our 2024 Good Shepherd Dinner honorees.

Our “good news” list would be incomplete without acknowledging two recent significant campus improvements. The remarkable generosity of a benefactor funded a new HVAC unit in the Theology building. Servicing the chapel, classrooms, and lounge areas, the unit has made a huge difference in the quality of life for the seminarians. Secondly, brickwork repair to the front of the administration building necessitated extensive new landscaping, beautifully accomplished by our longtime friends at Oakland Nursery here in Central Ohio.

With Thanksgiving in recent memory, my gratitude to God for this community is at the forefront of my mind. The prayerful support given to me by so many upon the death of my father in September reinforced for me what a very special place this is. The holy seasons of Advent and Christmas bring you to mind in a special way as well; know how grateful I am for all you do to support the seminarians and that you are always remembered in prayer.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, STD
Rector/President



Father Beseau with seminarians (l-r) Peter Russman (Wheeling-Charleston), Patrick Letterle (Birmingham) and Chad Walton (Columbus).

Rector’s Service Extended by Dicastery of Clergy

An official decree from the Prefect of the Dicastery of Clergy in Rome, Lazzaro Cardinal You Heung sik, has appointed Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, STD, Rector/President, to an additional term of three years of service. Presently in the fourth of his original five-year term, Father Beseau will continue to lead the Josephinum through June 2027.

The request for the extension originated from the seminary’s Vice-Chancellor, The Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus, in consultation with Christophe Cardinal Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States and Josephinum Chancellor; Father Beseau’s bishop, The Most Reverend Joseph Naumann, Archbishop of Kansas City in Kansas; and the seminary’s Board of Trustees.

Under Father Beseau’s leadership, the Josephinum has renewed its formation program, begun program adaptations required by the 6th edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation*, renewed its mission statement, updated a five-year strategic plan, and developed a new operational plan. In the past three years, the Josephinum has welcomed three new sending dioceses and religious orders, and experienced an overall enrollment increase each year.

“I am honored by the faith and trust placed in me by Cardinal You Heung sik, Cardinal Pierre, Bishop Fernandes, and the Board of Trustees,” said Father Beseau. “I look forward to continuing the work we have accomplished together, to strengthen this great seminary and further its vital mission.”

Practicing Prayer, Discovering Discernment

A Propaedeutic Seminarian's Perspective

By William Fuller
Diocese of Covington

When I was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Covington, I learned that a new year – the Propaedeutic Stage – had been added to the beginning of seminary formation. I had no idea what that was and I didn't even know how to pronounce it! I wasn't alone; no one I talked to before I got to the Josephinum really knew what it was going to be like. Now a few months in, I have found the Propaedeutic Stage different from what I expected. It's not easier or harder, simply different, with many blessings and graces.

Basically, the Propaedeutic Stage is a year-long period during which I and 12 other men from various dioceses are learning how to pray and discern the will of God. We often are set apart from seminarians in other stages, which is a requirement of the *Program of Priestly Formation*.

Our *Horarium*, or daily schedule, provides for free time as well as several obligatory prayer times. We start with Lauds and Mass in Saint Pius X Chapel with our own schedule of presiders, lectors, and servers. We pray the Rosary before lunch and the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 each day, then join the rest of the seminary community for Vespers and Compline.

Unlike most other years of formation, the Propaedeutic Stage has a minimal number of classes, to provide plenty of time for prayer and to limit stress. Though we take only two classes for credit, we are presented with many lectures each week about the spirituality of the priesthood, Catholic customs and traditions, and the purpose and goal of seminary formation.

These lectures are fascinating and very helpful in discernment, so much so that seminarians in other stages sometimes join us for them.

Another great aspect of the Propaedeutic Stage is the fraternity fostered among us. Early in the semester, we were collectively labeled the "Propaedeutics." We reside in our own hallway in the College building and have our own table in the Refectory for meals. In a short time, we have gotten to know each other very well and enjoy plenty of inside jokes and games of Uno.

One of the things that has helped us to build fraternity is the "technology fasting" that the stage requires. Before coming to the Josephinum, I thought that this would be very strict. The formators, though, have let us come up with ways to detach ourselves from smartphone addiction. We have found many ways to do this – even simply designating a table in our hallway where we keep our phones has been unbelievably beneficial.

The greatest thing about the Propaedeutic Stage is the Christian community we build as brothers. We are rarely alone, and Jesus is with two or more people gathered together in His name. As we accompany each other on our path to live as Christ commands, we build each other up. We are far from perfect, but God has blessed each of us with this community where Christ's love is fostered.

ON THE COVER: Reverend Stash Dailey, Vice Rector of the College of Liberal Arts and coordinator of the Propaedeutic Stage, guides Propaedeutic seminarian Juliot Voufo (Saint Thomas, VI) in using a breviary. *Below Left:* Father Nicholas Monaghan (Dean of Men) with "Propadudes" Juliot Voufo (Saint Thomas, VI), Will Fuller (Covington), and Colin Lee (Columbus). *Below Right:* Men in the Propaedeutic Stage have designated communal prayer times in Saint Pius X Chapel throughout the day. Pictured (*l-r*) are Will Fuller (Covington) and Leonard Berglund (Columbus).





Seminarian News



L-r: Mercedarian friar Father Joseph Eddy, OdeM, listens as Discipleship Stage seminarians Joseph Carner and Sean Castillo, both of Cincinnati, participate in a class discussion.

House of Joseph Welcomes Mercedarian Order

Newly represented among seminarians of the House of Joseph this year is the Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mercy, known as the Mercedarian Friars.

The United States Vicariate of the Order, headquartered in Philadelphia, established a new community at Columbus Holy Family Church in 2022. They also established there a student house, where their brothers preparing for the priesthood could reside while participating in formation at the Josephinum. Two of the friars at Holy Family – Father Michael Donovan, OdeM and Father Joseph Eddy, OdeM – guide the brothers’ formation and serve at the Josephinum as adjunct faculty and spiritual directors.

The Mercedarians were established in Spain in 1218 when Saint Peter Nolasco, a traveling merchant, began to help liberate and care for Christian captives held by the Moors in Granada and along the African coast. A Marian vision led him to seek guidance from his spiritual director, Saint Raymond of Pennafort, whose reputation and influence helped Nolasco’s initiative spread as he recruited more comrades. The Order’s members sometimes traded themselves as hostages, true to their vow to give up their own selves for others whose faith is in danger.

The sacrificial love characteristic of the Order has survived for centuries, as has its Marian devotion and imitation of Christ the Redeemer. Now in nine provinces throughout the world, spanning four continents and 17 countries, Mercedarians continue to rescue others from modern types of social, political, or psychological captivity. They work in prisons, marginal neighborhoods, among addicts, and in hospitals. In the United States, the Order gives special emphasis to educational and parish work.

“The friars are marked by a beautiful and sincere love for the Blessed Virgin Mary and a fierce loyalty and devotion to Our Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,” said Father Stash Dailey, Josephinum Vice Rector, in an interview with Columbus’ *The Catholic Times*. “The charism of the Order – their faith and commitment to charity – is powerfully beautiful and incredibly pertinent to the times we are living in.”

Confused Disbelief to Growth and Joy

A Vocation Story

By Max Gallegos

Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

I was born and raised in the small town of Fort Payne, AL – former Sock Capitol of the World and home of the country band Alabama – where prayer, love, food, and hard work were at the center of our household. Some of my best memories are of my family gathering for meals or at Adoration. While all was not perfect, I thank God every day for the grace of my home, where love and joy are ever-present, and for the Faith we share together.

I attended public school in Fort Payne, then entered Jacksonville State University to study marketing and computer science. It wasn't until the end of my sophomore year that I heard God's call on an intimate level. To be honest, I had never considered such a reality; my immediate response was confused disbelief. Nevertheless, a visit to the Josephinum put my life on an amazing path. After graduating from JSU, I began to pursue something to which I never thought God would call me – the priesthood. This pursuit has been an unfathomable source of growth and joy.

In my years at the Josephinum, the quality of education we receive and the fraternity among seminarians have been instrumental in my discernment. While I do not wake up ecstatic about classes every day, I know that the content I receive will be inspiring, authentic, and liberating. The men in formation with me are striving to be the good, wholesome, holy men – and ultimately, holy priests – our world so desperately needs. Thus, in a time of despair and anxiety in our society, this place remains a beacon of hope for me and many others.

In June 2024, by the grace of God, I will be ordained to the transitional diaconate and then to the priesthood in summer 2025. As I look to my future life in ministry, I hope to bring to it the life, joy, and insightful education I have received here. Through preaching, teaching, counseling, and working with the youth and elderly, I hope to bring Truth to others in words and in witness.

ABOUT MAX:

Hobbies:

Golf (my favorite sport), soccer, basketball, football, good movies, playing drums, listening to Blues and Classical music, photography, videography, graphic design, and cooking. I don't excel at these, but I enjoy them all.

Favorite Movie: *The Count of Monte Cristo*; it shows the relationship between suffering and patience.

Favorite Food:

Gorditas de Harina, a Mexican dish cooked explicitly by my mother (though I will grant that there is a bias).



Left: Max prays the Liturgy of the Hours in Saint Turibius Chapel.

Right: Max mans the drums in the pep band at the annual Helfant Classic Basketball Shoot-Out.

Semester in Photos



Clockwise from top left:

The Friends of the Josephinum's 2023 4-Miler fundraising event was its most successful yet! The race drew a record number of participants and was a fantastic morning of support for our seminarians. Pictured with Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, is Sean Castillo (Cincinnati), the first seminarian to cross the finish line, placing 7th overall.

(R-I) Venes Laine (Ogdensburg) and Adam Sellers (Birmingham) were admitted to Candidacy for Holy Orders by The Most Reverend Frederick Campbell, Bishop Emeritus of Columbus. During the rite, each man declares publicly his desire to be bound in Holy Orders for the service of God and mankind. Candidacy also is a reception of that offering by the Church, and a new commitment by the candidate to care for his vocation.

A group of seminarians and priest formator Father Dylan James (fourth from left) made a fall trip to Hocking Hills State Park in Hocking County, Ohio. The park has more than 25 miles of hiking trails, rock formations, waterfalls, and recess caves.

The College of Cardinals and Theology Papal Bulls battled for the win at the annual fall Mud Bowl flag football game. College led Theology at the half, but the Papal Bulls made a comeback in the second half to capture the victory.

Father Rory Pitstick, assistant professor and priest-formator, offers a prayer during our annual commemoration of Veterans Day. Before joining our faculty last fall, Father Pitstick served for many years as an Air National Guard Chaplain.



Inspired by “Team Josephinum”

By Anne Mallampalli



I’ve never been much of a team fan for anything. For decades, in each state I’ve lived, I’ve felt like an outsider when people gush over their favored teams, especially football. Iowa State Cyclones or University of Iowa Hawkeyes? Pittsburgh Steelers or Pittsburgh Panthers? A scarlet and grey Ohio State Buckeye? It’s just never been in me.

Shortly after we moved to Columbus five years ago, my husband Rama and I experienced our first full-exposure to an Ohio State fan crowd: They were arm-in-arm, swaying, with tears streaming down their faces as they sang their hearts out in *Come, Christians Join to Sing*. How I wanted that loyal team feeling! Only I just couldn’t muster it.

More recently, Rama and I spent a Sunday afternoon at the Josephinum with about 90 other Rector’s Circle members. The seminarians and resident priests welcomed us into their home and we spent a lovely afternoon getting to know them on a personal level while we enjoyed delicious fare inspired by the ethnic and cultural diversity of the seminary community.

Father Beseau took to the podium to deliver a sincere and genuine welcome. He talked of his seminarian sons – both the returning men and the new arrivals – and introduced the new priest formators, spiritual directors, and academic professors. He shared a most precious vocation story of a priest he knew who had been ordained more than 60 years. Two transitional deacons shared their testimonies and blessed us. Everything about the day was meaningful, real, and spoke right to my heart.

I began to feel it. Being within those hallowed halls, I felt the gravitas; the history of those who had been there before us was palpable and I had a profound sense of being part of something much larger and greater. I began to wonder – is this akin to what true-blue fans feel when they enter a stadium?

The more I thought and felt the more I realized that I had finally found my team. The House of Joseph has it all – players, both new recruits and veterans; a dedicated coaching staff; scores of alumni; countless loyal fans; an *alma mater*; even a historic stadium. Above all, its “something larger and greater” is its very identity and mission which is Christ-centered, Eucharistic, and deeply spiritual.

How blessed Rama and I are to feel this allegiance and be part of this team. As Rector’s Circle members, we have season tickets with a box-seat view of the amazing things God is doing at the Josephinum in the hearts of the men who are discerning the priesthood. And the best part about cheering them on? We already know the final score! Christ has already won the victory for us.

Anne placed 481st in the Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk this fall. She serves on the Advancement Subcommittee of the Josephinum’s Board of Trustees and, along with her husband, Rama, is a member of the Rector’s Circle giving society.



Highlights from High Street

Growing Trends & Technological Advances

An Update from the Josephinum Diaconate Institute



JDI Executive Director Deacon Matt Coriale consults with a colleague on a new web-based learning platform that will enhance communication and collaboration among students.

The trend of growing the Josephinum Diaconate Institute (JDI) student body and participating dioceses continues! The demand for its Spanish language programming, in particular, has grown over 400% within the last two years. Men in a Spanish language cohort from Brooklyn recently began their formation, and a new student from South America can now study in his native language. “We are proud to be able to serve the Church with a full 5-year pre-ordination curriculum in Spanish,” said JDI Executive Director Deacon Matt Coriale. “We anticipate strong growth to continue in this area.”

The JDI is making many technological advances as well. Fall brought a major update of its online learning platform. Students are benefitting from a much-improved user

experience and instructors have new ways of using this technology to bring creative and innovative methods to their teaching.

Work on the Lilly Endowment Pathways grant project continues with the highly-anticipated launch of a new web-based learning platform in 2024 called *Josephinum Connect!* This exciting new tool will provide access to ongoing formation programming to deacons throughout the world. “*Josephinum Connect!* is more than just a learning platform,” said Deacon Coriale. “It is designed to foster connections and collaboration between deacons, enabling them to communicate with each other, discussing various interests, ministries, and other topics of interest to the deacon community.”



SEND US YOUR UPDATES!

JDI alumni news and contact information updates can be submitted online at apps.pcj.edu/alumni-update-form or via the QR Code. Be sure to include your ordination year and diocese, if applicable.

Pilgrimage to Rome & Siena

Josephinum friends and alumni are invited to make a special faith-filled journey to the Eternal City and the birthplace of Saint Catherine of Siena

October 9-17, 2024

Father Jeffrey Rimelspach '79, Chaplain

Highlights

- Lodging at a sisters' guesthouse, a 5-minute walk from the Vatican
- Daily Mass with and spiritual guidance from Father Rimelspach
- Guidance throughout Rome to beautiful churches and basilicas including Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran, the Church of the Gesù, and the Pantheon
- Private tours of the Vatican's Necropolis, Vatican Museums, and Sistine Chapel
- Sunday Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica
- Angelus with the Pope in Saint Peter's Square
- Day Trip to Siena, with visits to the Basilica of Saint Dominic and Siena Cathedral
- Front row seats for a Papal Audience
- Free time to explore independently

Facilitated by Cody L. Egnor C'15 of Saint Charles Pilgrimages

More information & registration at: stcharlespilgrimages.com/pcj-rome





Rick Jeric was named Vice President for Advancement in September 2023. He brings to the position more than 25 years of experience in Catholic institutional and diocesan development and advancement. Before joining the Josephinum staff as Senior Director for Major Gifts in October 2022, Jeric served on the seminary's Board of Trustees for nine years. Also prior to his current position, he established the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin for the Diocese of La Crosse, served as Executive Director for the Columbus Women's Care Center, and for 14 years was Executive Director for Development and Planning for the Diocese of Columbus.

From the Advancement Office

Undeniably, there is a positive, uplifted spirit at the Josephinum this year. The friendly, mature, and Christian manner in which our seminarians present themselves is an indication of hope for great priests to serve the Church. It is truly a joy to serve in this House of Joseph.

We are celebrating our highest enrollment since 2019! With greater numbers come greater needs. We know that the Josephinum maintains the highest standards of formation for these men. There is also the reality of ongoing temporal needs and maintenance, ensuring that our seminarians have quality facilities.

The Josephinum Fall Appeal is the easiest and most direct way to support our seminarians. These donations are immediately put to work and have a direct impact on the men. Gifts may be made online at pcj.edu/give or mailed to our office. Thank you, most sincerely, for your generosity.

The legacy of alumni and benefactor support over the years continues today and ensures a sound future. The close of our fiscal year on June 30 showed much growth in the Annual Fund, events such as the Good Shepherd Dinner, and the Jessing Society. Please prayerfully consider joining the Society by remembering the seminary in your will or estate plan.

In other news, our annual Alumni Days reunion brought together a wonderful group, mostly made up of members of the Class of 1973. I am pleased also to share that our Advancement Office welcomed the return of former staff member Mrs. Allison Moore as Database Administrator, and the arrival of Mr. John Michael Adelman as Advancement Associate.

On behalf of the entire Advancement staff, I extend to you the deepest appreciation for everything you make possible for our seminarians. May God richly bless you throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons and in the year to come.

Rick H. Jeric
Vice President for Advancement
614-985-2203 | rjeric@pcj.edu

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Give Online to Support Our Seminarians



Good Shepherd Dinner Honorees Announced

The recipients of the Josephinum's 2024 Good Shepherd Award and 2024 Pope Leo XIII Award – the two highest honors it bestows annually – are **The Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight '94**, Bishop of Jefferson City, MO, and **Mr. J. David Karam** of Upper Arlington, OH, respectively.

Bishop McKnight was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Wichita in 1994 after graduating from the Josephinum. Following doctoral studies at the Athenaeum of Saint Anselm in Rome, he returned to the Josephinum and for many years served in various teaching, formation, and administrative capacities. He was executive director of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations from 2010-2015. Upon completion of his term, he served as a pastor in Wichita until his episcopal ordination and installation as Bishop of Jefferson City in 2018.

Throughout his priesthood and into his episcopacy, Bishop McKnight has maintained a strong connection to the Josephinum, most recently by accepting an invitation to join its Board of Trustees. "Bishop McKnight's connectedness to the Josephinum, knowledge of the Church in the United States due to his work with the USCCB, and particular interest in the permanent diaconate have all been tremendous gifts to the Josephinum," said Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, Rector/President. "He brings insight and perspective to our national identity and to the continued efforts of the Josephinum Diaconate Institute. We are grateful for his strong commitment to our mission, which he exhibits most visibly by entrusting seminarians of Jefferson City to us for their formation."

Mr. J. David Karam is the Chief Executive Officer of the Sbarro restaurant chain. Before joining Sbarro, he served as president of Wendy's International; president and vice president of finance of Cedar Enterprises, one of the largest franchisees in the Wendy's system; and senior auditor for Touche & Ross. He and his wife, Lisa, are active members of Saint Agatha Church in Upper Arlington, Ohio.

As a member of the Josephinum's Board for the past eight years, Mr. Karam has offered impactful direction and vision to the seminary, especially in the areas of finance and advancement. "The Josephinum has been a grateful beneficiary of Mr. Karam's business expertise and his passion for the Church," said Father Beseau. "He is a gifted visionary – always looking to the future to see what is possible. Not only does he see an incredible future for the Josephinum, he is tireless in his efforts to help us realize that future."

Both awards will be presented at the Good Shepherd Dinner held at the Josephinum on April 15, 2024. The dinner is the Josephinum's signature fundraising event; a variety of sponsorship and underwriting opportunities are available to individuals, parishes, dioceses, organizations, and companies. To learn more about supporting the Good Shepherd Dinner, please visit pcj.edu/goodshepherd.



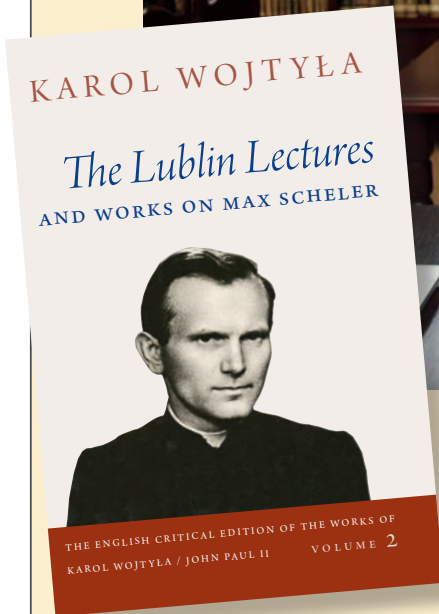
Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
2024 Good Shepherd Award Recipient



Mr. J. David Karam
2024 Pope Leo XIII Award Recipient



Faculty, Staff and Alumni News



Dr. Ignatik conducts research for *The Lublin Lectures and Works on Max Scheler* at the library of the Archdiocesan Major Seminary in Białystok, Poland.

New Volume of Pope Saint John Paul II's Works Translated by Dr. Ignatik

Associate professor Dr. Grzegorz Ignatik is translator and an editor of the English Critical Edition of the Works of Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II, Volume 2, entitled *The Lublin Lectures and Works on Max Scheler*, released in November by The Catholic University of America Press.

The publication presents Wojtyła's lectures at the Lublin University from 1954-57 and his articles related to the ethical issues discussed therein. Also included is his 1953 habilitation thesis on Max Scheler and other essays related to Scheler's thought. Max Scheler (1874-1928) was a German philosopher known for his work in phenomenology, ethics, and philosophical anthropology.

A native of Poland, Dr. Ignatik's interest in the writings of Karol Wojtyła developed naturally due to his cultural and religious identity. "I am Polish, I speak Polish, and I am Roman Catholic – so, naturally, I study the thought of John Paul II," he says jokingly. In

all seriousness, he considers the teachings of Karol Wojtyła/John Paul II to be a particular remedy to the woes of the contemporary life not only in the West but also around the globe. "Whether philosophical or theological in nature, these teachings show a path to a truly human life that glorifies God in the world," he said.

Dr. Ignatik joined the Josephinum faculty in 2012. His previous scholarly works include: a translation of Wojtyła's book *Love and Responsibility* from Polish to English (2013); authorship of *Person and Value: Karol Wojtyła's Personalistic and Normative Theory of Man, Morality, and Love* (2021); and translator of Volume 1 of the English Critical Edition, *Person and Act and Related Essays* (2021). His new book, *Communicating the Mystery of Life: Karol Wojtyła and "Humanae Vitae,"* will be released in 2024.



Father James Ssebunnya with seminarians at Saint Joseph's Minor Seminary in Nyenga, which has more than 350 students studying for Ugandan dioceses. Conversations with the priests there contributed to Father Kasperczuk's understanding of priestly formation in Uganda.

Ugandan Faithful Served by Alumni

By Father Marek Kasperczuk
Coordinator of Sacred Liturgy

I recently traveled to Uganda to visit Father James Ssebunnya T'22 in his home Diocese of Lugazi, to check on Father James and his work at Saint Mathias Mulumba Kitimbwa Parish. I also hoped to learn more about the Church, pastoral reality, and needs of the local people, and to be immersed in Ugandan culture and history, to help our new seminarians from Uganda better prepare to serve in their country of origin in the future.

Upon arriving, I was welcomed by Father James and another alumnus, Father Paul Ssebuitoogo T'03, pastor of Saint Paul Parish in Mukono and Assistant Director of Vocations for Lugazi. His priestly ministry and welcoming manner have attracted new priestly vocations; his parish has become a welcoming home to many priests and seminarians. It was impressive to see how Father Paul has

skillfully incorporated into his ministry the priestly formation and pastoral experience he received in the U.S., especially in the area of administration.

Staying at Saint Mathias gave me a real experience of pastoral ministry in Uganda. Father James and the pastor, Father John Chrysostom Musanje, were very kind and caring during my visit; the attentive parish staff ensured we had all we needed. Sharing daily meals gave us time to discuss the local diocese and Church, daily activities, and culture.

A rural parish, Saint Mathias encompasses an area with a radius of 30 miles. There are 55 chapels; Sunday Masses are celebrated on a rotating basis. Father James is chaplain to the 15 Catholic schools within the parish boundaries. We celebrated Mass for 150 students from one of the schools, who actively participate in it on their own initiative at 6:30 a.m. every weekday. The

highlight of my liturgical experience in Uganda was Sunday Mass, with well-prepared liturgy, beautiful music, and a long procession with the gifts, including the natural products of the area. It was amazing to see the great love, respect, and appreciation shown by the parishioners, especially to Father James.

Father James described for me the many ways his time at the Josephinum prepared him for his ministry. Academic formation exposed him to wide horizons in Church tradition, doctrine, discipline, and practice – a wholistic formation that prepared him to respond to various pastoral scenarios in his diocese. Adequate preparation for celebrating the Mass and other liturgical activities instilled in him a deep respect for the liturgy and he now guides those he serves to do the same. Spiritual formation initiated him into the arduous though

rewarding endeavor to be a holy priest. From a pastoral perspective, Father James models the value, deep sensitivity, and respect he saw that U.S. priests have for their parishioners.

I was a privileged recipient of the pastoral charity, humility, kindness, and openness of The Most Reverend Christopher Kakooza, Bishop of Lugazi. My meeting with him was an exceptional opportunity to learn more about the Church in Uganda, and to discuss some local customs and pastoral concerns. Father Vincent Wasswa, Director of Vocations, and I exchanged visions for priestly formation in Uganda and the U.S. This conversation proved our shared care for the high quality of priestly vocations, understanding the different formation requirements, and discussing cultural differences.

It was a great blessing to meet the parents of Adrian Kyambadde and Wynand Ssenkusu, two of our current seminarians from Lugazi. I assured them of our care for their sons

so far from home. The welcoming atmosphere, sincere comments of the parents, and the opportunity to talk about life at the Josephinum reinforced for all of us the importance of a supportive, loving family.

Reflecting on my trip revealed to me that two things determine the strength of the people of Uganda: family and faith. Families live near each other, stay together, share daily activities, and support each other in challenging living conditions, creating a loving, safe environment for their children. My visits to the Catholic shrine of Ugandan Martyrs at Namugongo and the liturgical celebrations at Saint Mathias showed me how important faith is for the Ugandan people. Their prayerful manner, profound participation, and beautiful singing of the children's choir and the liturgical assembly at Mass will be forever with me. Without a doubt, the faith of the people of Uganda and other African countries will help to ensure the survival of the Faith in our contemporary times.

Left: Father Kasperczuk had the pleasure of meeting the families of Father Ssebunnya's diocesan brothers Adrian Kyambadde (left) and Wynand Ssenkusu, two of our current seminarians from the Diocese of Lugazi.

Below right: Father Ssebunnya with The Most Reverend Christopher Kakooza, Bishop of Lugazi.

Below left: (r-l): Father Ssebunnya with his mother, Rose Mary Namulasa; Father Kasperczuk; and Father James' siblings outside of the family's home.



Alumni Days Reunion Recap

Alumni Days 2023 will long be remembered by all who attended! Participants enjoyed liturgies and meals with the seminarians, social gatherings, updates from the treasurer and rector, and a historical visit to Mount Calvary Cemetery in Columbus, where many orphans and priest faculty are laid to rest.

It was our privilege to present the Jessing Alumnus of the Year Award to Monsignor Ken Morman '73 of the Diocese of Toledo and Mr. Dan Mosca '66, of Browns Summit, North Carolina. Both men were selected from nominations submitted by fellow alumni; the honorees were recognized for their service to the Church and community, and for their support of the Josephinum and its mission in the spirit of Msgr. Jessing.



Clockwise from top:

Alumni Days 2023 was enjoyed by many ordained alumni, lay alumni, and spouses and family members.

Attendees who this year celebrate their 50th reunion (*l-r*): Edward Hinde, Msgr. John Cody, Ron Werran, Robert Houlihan, Msgr. Ken Morman, Dan Hanket, Deacon Larry Miller, and Marvin Rezabek. Honoree Mr. Dan Mosca '66 with Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President.

Gathered at the statue of Msgr. Jessing are (*l-r*): Chris Golliver '03, Tom Whitney '69, Michael Fry '85, Msgr. Ken Morman '73, Ron Werran '73, Edward Hinde '73, Marvin Rezabek '73, and John La Jeunesse '69.

IN MEMORIAM

Monsignor Eugene C. Kohls

Diocese of Saint Augustine

Born December 23, 1931

Ordained May 25, 1957

Died October 12, 2023

Eugene C. Kohls was born in Ottawa, OH, to Cornelius J. Kohls and Mary Rose Recker. He grew up in nearby Leipsic and graduated from Saint Mary's Catholic School. At age 13, he entered the Josephinum, where he completed high school, college, and graduate study for the priesthood.

After his ordination, Father Kohls' first year was spent in Saint Petersburg assigned to Bishop Barry High School and Sacred Heart, Pinellas Park. He became diocesan Vice-Chancellor in 1958; three years later he was sent to Rome to complete a doctorate in Canon Law at the Pontifical Lateran University. Upon his return to Saint Augustine in 1964, he was named administrator of Blessed Trinity in Jacksonville and continued his work as Vice-Chancellor and then, beginning in 1966, as Chancellor.

While serving as pastor of Resurrection in Jacksonville in 1967, Father Kohls was named a Monsignor. The following decade would see him named an Honorary Prelate of His Holiness, Vicar General of the diocese, Pro-notary Apostolic of the Holy See, and pastor of Assumption in Jacksonville. He concluded his tenure as Chancellor in 1992 but continued as pastor of Assumption until he retired in 2002.

Msgr. Kohls is survived by his brother, Richard F. Kohls (Joann), his sister, Betty K. Thibault (Normand), and many nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Assumption Church on October 21.

Reverend Michael Greb, OFM Cap

Order of Friars Minor Capuchin

Born August 8, 1958

Ordained July 22, 1989

Died October 26, 2023

Michael was born to Ralph and Dorothy Koeper Greb in Pittsburgh, PA. He began seminary studies for the Diocese of Pittsburgh at Duquesne University, then attended the Josephinum for two years of theological studies before discerning a call to the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin.

As a Capuchin friar, "Father Mike" served in many parishes in Pennsylvania: Our Lady of Peace in Conway; Saint Wendelin in Butler County; Saint Clare of Assisi in Clairton; Saint Joseph in Cabot; Saint Cecelia in Rochester; Saint Felix in Freedom; and Our Lady of the Angels in Pittsburgh. At various times, he also was a hospital chaplain, vocation director for the Capuchins, and associate director of Paul VI Pastoral Center in Wheeling, WV.

In 2013, Father Mike began a 10-year assignment as chaplain of McGuire Memorial in New Brighton, PA, where he loved ministering to the disabled and the people who served them.

Known as energetic and zealous for the Faith, Father Mike was a passionate preacher, made several pilgrimages abroad, and served as spiritual mentor for many. He enjoyed conversation and made friends generously and easily. A Pittsburgher at heart, he was an avid fan of its sports teams.

Father Mike is survived by three brothers and three sisters: James (Karen), Mary Ann Lecci (Donald), Paul (Susan), Edward (Susan), Elizabeth Sandhagen (Harrold), and Jennifer, and many nieces and nephews. The Funeral Mass for Father Mike was celebrated October 31 at Saint Augustine, Pittsburgh.

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

2022

Wayne Dick '58, father of Ronald Dick T'88, December 3.

Michael Greenwood, brother of Kevin Greenwood '90, December 19.

2023

Loretta Heuser, mother of Father Jim Heuser, SDB T'84, January 18.

Jean Ridenour-Evenden, mother of Kenneth Ridenour C'73, June 15.

Gary F. Schaffer, father of Bishop W. Shawn McKnight T'94, June 19.

Stevie McKenzie, brother of Father Bill McKenzie T'82, July 6.

Patricia Klos, mother of Father Michael Klos T'92, July 9.

Rebecca J. Moreland Rhoades, mother of Dion Goolman C'84, August 3.

Maria Theresa Jeric, daughter of Rick Jeric, Vice President for Advancement, August 13.

David Michael Beseau, father of Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, September 10.

Richard Staib '63, brother of Father Donald Staib '61, September 12.

Carolyn Gross, mother of Father James Gross T'99, September 26.

Tammy Helle, mother of Christopher Helle C'11, October 15.

Dr. James Louis Poirot, father of Jeffrey Poirot C'96, October 17.



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Upcoming Events for 2024

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Inter-Seminary Basketball Tournament

Saturday, February 17 – Sunday, February 18

Spring Live-In Weekend

Thursday, March 7 – Sunday, March 10

Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecture

Reverend Thomas Petri, OP
Wednesday, March 13
7:00 p.m. | Jessing Center

Good Shepherd Dinner

Monday, April 15
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Spring Tour Day

Saturday, April 27

The Jessing Society Lauds, Mass & Breakfast

Tuesday, April 30

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