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• Alumnus, Military Chaplain to Join Community of Formators

The year-long Propaedeutic Stage provides seminarians with time to grow in prayer, trust, and fraternity, thereby laying a solid foundation for vocational discernment.

The work of Roman Catholic seminaries throughout the world is governed by the Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis (The Gift of the Priestly Vocation), a document produced by the Congregation for Clergy in Rome—first in 1970, amended in 1985, and revised in 2016—then disseminated to conferences of bishops for implementation. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 6th edition of the Program of Priestly Formation, released in June 2022, delineates for U.S. seminary administrators the most recent revisions to the Ratio.

The most substantial change is the addition of the new Propaedeutic Stage. Beginning in fall 2023, every seminarian new to the Josephinum will begin with this year-long experience. The Propaedeutic Stage is an introductory yet intensely focused period—primarily spiritual and pastoral in nature, with some academic components—that lays a solid foundation for discernment, providing seminarians with a period of time to grow in prayer, trust, and fraternity.

The Josephinum will provide them with:
• Living space set apart from seminarians in other stages
• A distinct horarium (daily schedule)
• A chapel dedicated to personal prayer and liturgies
• Spiritual direction and formation advisor meetings with priest formators
• Seminars on the priesthood, celibacy, and Catholic traditions and practices
• Parish and cultural experiences
• Engagement in charitable works

“The expansive layout of our campus, the vast cultural and service opportunities throughout Columbus, and the diversity of Dioceses we serve all of our priest formators’ projects is well-suited to provide the components of this unique program,” said Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President. “A man who completes the Propaedeutic Stage and requests to continue his formation will possess a solid foundation of prayer, increased self-awareness, a spirit of generosity, and the necessary receptivity to embrace and thrive in subsequent stages of formation.”

Watch future publications to read more about the 6th edition of the “Program of Priestly Formation” and how it is changing seminary formation.

Events for Spring 2023

Please visit www.pcj.edu for current event information.

Spring Tour Day

Saturday, April 29

Online reservations: appts.pcj.edu/openhouse

The Jessing Society

Lauds, Mass & Breakfast

Tuesday, May 2

Have you included the Josephinum in your estate plan or are you considering doing so? Please come to enjoy a morning with our seminarians and priests.

Reservations: 614-885-5585 or tbecker@pcj.edu.

COMING UP AT THE JOSEPHINUM

The Ratio and a New Stage of Formation

TIMES

IN BETWEEN THE

SNAPSHOTS OF SEMINARY LIFE

Clockwise from top left:

Sailing on the Sea of Galilee are seminarians who made a year-end pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Their itinerary of sites included: Nazareth; the Qumran Caves in the Judaean Desert where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered; the Mount of Temptation overlooking Jericho; the Jordan River; and Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land.

The 42nd Annual Helfant Classic Shootout welcomed teams from: Borromeo Seminary in Cleveland, OH; Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, OH; Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, MI; Saint Joseph College Seminary in Charlotte, NC; Saint Mary’s Seminary in Cleveland, OH; and Saint Meinrad Archabbey Seminary in Saint Meinrad, IN.

The Josephinum was a strong presence at the 2023 March for Life in Washington, DC! Pictured are seminarians preparing for Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and our entire representation of seminarians and priests.

The Most Reverend Jeffrey Walsh, Bishop of Gaylord, presided at the Installation of Lectors and Acolytes in December. It was a joy to welcome him for his first visit to the Josephinum since his episcopal ordination and installation last fall.

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A Gift of Service

Manifesting God’s Love and Care in the World

Departure from a lifelong career as an estate planning attorney, Reverend Rory Pitstick received a question from a client with an opportunity to explore new ways to devote his time. A period of prayer and reflection brought him to a single, clear vision: to become a Josephinum seminarian and work in the vineyard of Bridget Mary Regan, manager of the Bishop Josephinum’s Main Library. Pitstick, who holds a Master of Divinity degree from the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, has spent much of his career in legal work, including more than 20 years at the law firm of Robinson, Arps, Liddle & Bernstein, where he represented clients in tax planning, estate and probate work, corporate, real estate, and business law. Pitstick joined the staff of the Library in 2002, and served as its Director from 2005 to 2015. Today, he is the Assistant Director of the Library.

Ordination Candidates Profess Faith, Take Oath

Seminarians in the third and fourth years of Theology who are about to be ordained transitional deacons and priests, respectively, will profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and take on the role of “set apart” at the conclusion of their solemn vows. The vows are a commitment to a life of service, following the example of Jesus. The solemn profession of the vows is a significant step in the candidate’s vocation journey. The solemn profession ceremony is a public declaration of a candidate’s commitment to a life of service. The vows are taken in front of the church and are witnessed by the congregation. The vows are a public declaration of a candidate’s commitment to a life of service for the benefit of the church and the world.

A Doctor of the Soul: A Vocation Story By Joshua Solarz

Reverend Rory Pitstick

By Joshua Solarz
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At the age of 68, Pitstick found a new calling in life, when he was invited to go to Christ and His Church. One freshman year, two students inside I was completely empty. I had a girlfriend. I thought working at a doctor’s office courses from home and began working at a doctor’s office. When hearing more about the priesthood from a seminar presented by Pitstick, I signed up for a seminar with a vocation seminar. That led to a meeting with our vocation director, with whom I shared my lack of peace about a medical career. He encouraged me to consider the priesthood. He said, “There are other careers that are available to you.” In that moment, I was introduced into the Catholic faith and the vocation to discern becoming a priest. My priest, a Doctor of the soul, received a government citation. Retirement from active ministry in 2003 was an adjustment for Pitstick, but he found meaning and purpose in his life. “I found the greatest lesson in the greatest love – what Joseph taught me – and how to live, and how to love,” he once said.

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