

Circle of Friends

A NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM

SPRING ISSUE: MARCH 2022

Clergy Who Cook Offered Variety of Taste

Jambalaya, Samosas, ice cream, and Italian sweets were among the favorite choices of diners at the 12th Clergy Who Cook event in January. The diversified menu offered by the clergy chefs drew a full house of tasters and raised more than \$40,000 to help our seminarians. Again, the sold-out fundraiser brought people from all over Central Ohio to the Josephinum campus. Some of whom were so impressed they attempted to reserve a table in advance for next year! Co-chairs Sally Baughman and Marci Maynard and their event committee succeeded in bringing another delightful and delicious evening that succeeded in helping the mission of the FOJ!

Congratulations to the Winners!

Middle right: Deacon Paul Zemanek of Saint Brigid of Kildare Parish (Dublin), pictured with his wife, Cathy, was our winner for the People's Choice Award with his "Easy Jambalaya."

The "Most Complex" award went to both Father Brian O'Connor of Saint John XXIII Parish (Canal Winchester) and Deacon Anthony Bonacci of Saint Joseph Parish (Plain City). Father O'Connor made Chocolate Mint Ice Cream; Deacon Bonacci brought a plethora of Italian *dolce* (sweets).

Bottom right: Father Milton Kiocha, AJ, of Saint Peter Parish (Chillicothe) was chosen as the "Most Creative" with his Beef Samosas. His helpers were Sister Amelia Mary and Sister Saima Mary, both pastoral assistants at Saint Peter.



Thank you to our Clergy Chefs!



FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of the Josephinum,

I write this letter just after our basketball tournament and a few weeks into Lent. We hosted seven other seminary teams on February 11-13 at the 41st annual Helfant Tournament. While an enormous amount of work, it was a time of great blessing for everyone involved. The seminarians had the opportunity to grow in fraternity, renew old friendships, make new ones, and play some very competitive basketball. It was great to see some of you cheer on the PCJ Bulls, and I am grateful to the FOJ for your help in underwriting the event. Of course, the icing on the cake was the opportunity to present another championship trophy to the Josephinum Bulls!

At a meeting with FOJ leadership in January, I asked FOJ members to consider becoming tour leaders for groups that would like to visit the seminary. Your response was very positive and affirmative. By giving tours, you help promote the seminary to the larger community. In particular, we will need your help on Tour Day on Saturday, April 30, 2022. Doug Stein or Cody Thompson may be in contact with you to check on your availability and, if necessary, a time for training. *(See page 4 for details on a Hospitality Ambassador Orientation on April 2.)*

The spirit in the house remains strong. We are happy to be out of the strict COVID restrictions. Over the last two years, we went from running from COVID in March 2019, hiding from COVID, and now living with COVID. Applications for new seminarians are already coming in, and we've already accepted one candidate. These early applications are a good sign for next year. Still, I ask for your prayers for an increase in the number of men open to discerning a vocation and for an increase in dioceses and religious orders to send their seminarians here for formation.

I pray that you will be having a fruitful Lenten season and that God may continue to bless all of you. Thank you for supporting this incredibly important mission of forming holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests for service to God and His Church.

In Christ,
Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, STD



Father Steven Beseau

Welcome New Friends!

Gene Bostic
Valerie Coolidge
Pat & Judy Connelly
Thomas & Marilyn McCabe
Matt & Jennifer Morrison
Tom & Linda Vollmer
Jim & Cyndi Williams

Upcoming Events

Friends' Day of Reflection

Saturday, March 26 (see back cover)

Lecture Series

"From Christendom to Apostolic Mission:
Preparing the Church for the Postmodern World"
Reverend Monsignor James P. Shea
President, University of Saint Mary, Bismarck, ND
Catholic Identity Committee Chair, FOCUS
Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm, Jessing Center

New Board Members Elected

The Friends of the Josephinum elected new officers at its annual meeting in November. The new officers were blessed by Father Michael Kelly at a recent Board meeting.

L-r. Seated: Ginger West (Secretary), Marilyn Dono, and Ellyn Dekker. Middle row: Joseph Kohler, Rosemary Finneran (Vice President), Virginia Hardy (President), Venetia Bramlage, Monica Brown, John Reiner, and Father Michael Kelly (Coordinator of Spiritual Formation, College). Back row: Joseph Finneran, Chuck Bramlage, Don Brown, and Len Barbe.



President's Letter

Greetings Friends,

I hope you are well and being spiritually strengthened, as we persevere through the season of Lent with faith and hope in the Easter Blessings of Our Lord's Resurrection.

The FOJ Board members and I are very grateful and encouraged by your generous support to the FOJ events and the increase in memberships. Thank you! We are Friends of Jesus, as were the supporters to His Apostles and Disciples. Joining followers who are moved by faith to action.

Pray for our seminarians, they are not only from our Columbus diocese, but also other states and countries; some have answered God's call to the priesthood after high school, many after college, and others after successful careers. We ask for the intercession of Saint Joseph, our patron, for an increase in vocations, and that many will choose the Pontifical College Josephinum for their studies and formation.

The Board members and I wish you a Blessed and Happy Easter!

*With prayer and gratitude,
Virginia Hardy*

Thank you, Venetia!

For the past two years, the group has benefitted from the leadership of its President, Mrs. Venetia Bramlage. Thank you, Venetia, for your selfless dedication and genuine love for the priesthood and our mission. We will continue to be blessed with your friendship and your many gifts as you join the Executive Board of the Friends.



Meet David Johnstone

Hello, Friends of the Josephinum!

My name is David Johnstone. I am a seminarian for the Diocese of Columbus, currently serving the Ross-Pike County Consortium in my pastoral year.

I grew up in Marysville, Ohio, in a Christian family with two younger brothers. I graduated from Marysville High School, then attended Ohio Wesleyan University, receiving a B.A. in history and a minor in computer science. After university, I moved to China, where I taught English as a foreign language for four years and studied Mandarin for one. After returning to the U.S., I worked as a substitute teacher and then as a disaster case manager with the Salvation Army in the Seattle area.

Growing up, my family and I spent a lot of time at church. From an early age, I knew that God was asking me to serve Him in some capacity, but I did not know in what way. I moved overseas, worked for the Salvation Army, and got engaged.

However, around the time Pope Francis was elected to the pontificate, I began learning about Church history and the Catholic Church, about Apostolic succession, the priesthood, and the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Additionally, a local priest in the Archdiocese of Seattle, Father Tim Sauer, was an excellent example of Christ's love poured out for the Church. For these and other reasons, I converted to the Catholic Church and finally found how God



David Johnstone receives the Book of the Gospels from Bishop Frederick Campbell during the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes

was calling me to serve Him: the priesthood. My time at the Josephinum has been a mixed bag of blessing and struggle. The intensity of studies and prayer life has pushed me beyond my capacity and understanding to rely more totally on Jesus as the one who sustains and works through me in everything. My pastoral year has allowed me to put some of the theories of seminary into practice. Let me tell you, I absolutely love being in the parish and look forward (God-willing) to serving the Body of Christ in the people of God as a priest. I know you already do, but please pray for my brother seminarians and me, especially that we become more configured to Christ. We will pray for you and our future together in the Heavenly Kingdom.



Become a Josephinum Hospitality Ambassador!

Join in welcoming visitors to the Josephinum! A special orientation for tour guides, greeters & visit coordinators will be held Saturday, April 2, 2022.

11:00 Mass (Saint Pius X Chapel)

11:40 Program Overview (Conrardy Hall)

12:00 Lunch with Seminarians & Priest Formators (Refectory)

12:20 Tour Guide Training Presentation/Q&A (Conrardy Hall)

To register, please email Cody Thompson at cthompson@pcj.edu

Words from Our Chaplain

Our spring semester is about halfway through and it's been a successful but an unusually busy period! FOJ events have been reported elsewhere in this newsletter, but the Clergy Who Cook in January, Good Shepherd Dinner on April 25, and Tour Day on April 30 are all events that have, or will, welcome the FOJ and rejoice in your company. Be sure to not miss the the FOJ Day of Recollection on March 26!

We've had a packed schedule of events that the seminarians have either hosted or traveled to support, making a sharp contrast with last year's restrictions! In January, we traveled to DC for the March for Life, joining about 100,000 who braved the extreme cold. Here in Columbus, on two consecutive weekends, seminarians assisted at the women's and men's Catholic conferences—great gatherings that encouraged our men as well as had them serving the events. Also, the seminary hosted FOCUS' SEEK2022 event for college students from many different Ohio campuses. This was a major commitment for our men—cleaning, serving, and background roles. Possibly more significant was the witness of our seminarians in their pontifical cassocks mixing and socializing with the hundreds of college students present. It was great to have such a mutually edifying gathering here.

Socially, it's also been a full schedule. We hosted the Basketball Tournament with teams from other seminaries as far afield as Houston, TX. There were a couple of tense games but I'm happy to announce that the PCJ won again, for the 6th year running! Smaller-scale house socials included the chili cookoff that accompanied the Superbowl, a trivia night, and a Mardi Gras party in the pub.

Academically, we just finished midterm exam week. Despite the full schedule, everyone seems to keep on top of their studies, too.

Spiritually, the heart of our life together—our daily Masses and Holy Hours—keep us focused on the Lord. Two formation talks are among the spiritual highlights of this semester: Our spiritual formation coordinator, Father Brannen, gave a talk on the “Examen Prayer” that the men have taken to heart. A large number of them now follow this Ignatian practice that helps watch our heart through the day

and keep our thoughts and emotions on the Lord. Similarly, our Rector, Father Beseau, gave a talk on “Holy Leisure,” which has been part of what has transformed the house's observance of Sunday as the Lord's Day. It's been a year of significant and ongoing growth.



Father Dylan James

Our next event is a residential “Come and See,” giving young men considering coming to seminary the opportunity to join us for 4 days. They'll attend classes and prayers, witness our communal life, and be able to interact with the seminarians. These are often important moments for those discerning a call so please pray it's fruitful.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers, hard work, and donations—all of which keep the work here going and continue to provide priests for our future. May God bless you.

Father Dylan James
Chaplain



The Josephinum Bulls—winners of the annual Helfant Classic Basketball Shoot-Out!

Friends of the Josephinum Day of Recollection "The Eucharist: Reality and Power"

Saturday, March 26, 2022

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Saint Turibius Chapel

10:30-11:00 a.m.

"The Eucharist: Reality and Power" by Father Dylan James

11:15 a.m. Holy Hour

Begins with Rosary

Sacrament of Reconciliation available

Concludes with Benediction

12:15 p.m.

Mass

1:00 p.m.

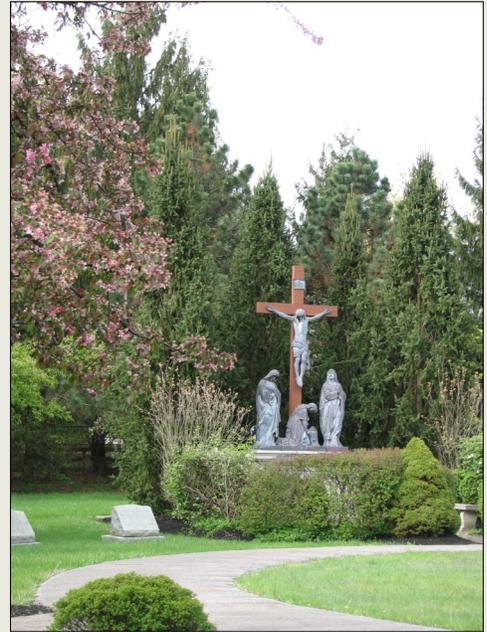
Lunch (Refectory)

RSVP by email to Virginia Hardy

virginia_hardy816@yahoo.com

with number attending by

Friday, March 18, by 4:00 p.m.



Circle of Friends

Friends of the Josephinum

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Editors

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