



# FRIENDS OF THE JOSEPHINUM

## Circle of Friends Newsletter

APRIL 2024

### Clergy Who Cook

The 13th Annual Clergy Who Cook was a rousing success! In this case, 13 was most definitely *not* an unlucky number. On the contrary, the popular event rocked and raised more than \$60k! It continues to grow in popularity. The amount of energy generated by the wonderful chefs and fun-loving guests is amazing. A number of adjectives come to mind regarding the evening ~ competitive, tasty, fun, loud, crowded (!), and vibrant. This is an evening when friendships are renewed and new friendships are formed. The best part? All for the seminarians! Here are the winners:

**Grand Chef Award:** Father Peter Gideon

**People's Choice Award:** Father Tom Gardner

**Most Creative Award:** Deacon Anthony Bonacci

**Most Complex Award:** Father Dylan James

Thank you to event Chair, Marci Maynard, and the entire committee for another successful event. Planning is already underway for the 14th CWC tentatively set for the last Friday in January 2025.



CWC's "Grand Chef" award went to Father Peter Gideon



"Most Creative" winner Deacon Anthony Bonacci with his assistants.

### Meet Our New Leadership!

Meet our newly-elected officers, **Dan and Michele Cleary**. Dan shares, "We are a family rooted in faith and service, and the Josephinum is our extended family." Dan and Michele are lifelong parishioners at Immaculate Conception and have two adult children: son Finnegan and daughter and son-in-law Ada and Steven. The Cleary's are no strangers to the Josephinum having sponsored the 4 Miler and CWC, and they support seminarians through many other initiatives. Their FOJ vision has three goals:

1. EXPAND MEMBERSHIP and increase participation
2. FOSTER FRIENDSHIPS and cultivate a sense of belonging within the Josephinum community
3. Have FUN and RAISE FUNDS for the seminarians

The Cleary's invite us into this vision as we collaborate, connect, and share talents. Their message is "together let's live out our faith and zeal for the Lord as we witness the formation of the men called to serve the Church." Reach out to Dan and Michele at [danielcleary614@gmail.com](mailto:danielcleary614@gmail.com) or 614-402-4274.



The Cleary Family

## A Note from the Editor

I don't know about you, but this unpredictable early spring weather plays havoc with my psyche. Nevertheless, it's all good and the daily weather changes can surely remind us to be spiritually "ready" for anything. There is much joy right now especially with the ordination of our three new Transitional Deacons—Sam Severance, Joey Rolwing, and Kevin Girardi. I had the pleasure of attending Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church the day after the ordination, and heard inspiring words given by Deacon Girardi in his first homily. FOJ member Ginger West, my husband Richard, and myself were in the first row and Ginger had her phone camera ready. I am happy to share this photo with you all. Have a blessed and happy Easter season!

*Diane Prettyman*



Newly-ordained Deacon Kevin Girardi (Columbus) assists at his first Mass at Our Lady of Victory Church.

## Looking Ahead to the 4 Miler!

Another record crowd is expected for the 6th annual *Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler* on September 28, 2024. The course will flow two miles through the Woods of the Josephinum neighborhood before stretching across two miles of the Josephinum campus. We expect 800 participants (150 more than last year!) to run/walk this year, including seminarians, family members, faculty, and priest-formators.



All who cross the finish line will be specially recognized during the morning celebrations. Each participant will receive an official event official shirt, a keepsake medal, a loaf of bread, a bottle of wine or a jar of Trappist jam. At the end of the race, participants will enjoy freshly grilled burritos and White Castle sandwiches, culminating in a social hour of fun for the crowd of participants and fans.

### Sponsorships

Event organizers predict a record amount of sponsor and donor contributions will be raised for this year's 4-Miler. Silver, gold, and platinum-level sponsorship opportunities will be available soon. Contact [danielcleary614@gmail.com](mailto:danielcleary614@gmail.com) for more information and consider becoming a sponsor this year!

### Registration

Registration will open online on June 1st.

### Event Committee

**Event Co-Chairs:** Don Brown and John Reiner

**Sponsorship Chairs:** Michele and Daniel Cleary, and Pegi Gill

**Promotions & Advertising:** Monica Brown

**Radio Publicity:** Ellyn Dekker

**Race Day Operations & Logistics:** Kathy and David Miller, Joe Kohler, and Chuck Mers

## A Word from Our Chaplain

The Spring semester is racing, paper deadlines and travel plans abound, yet the spirit of the House is strong!

We welcomed another crop of potential seminarians to our latest 'Come and See' live-in event. Fall is still a long way off, but we're hopeful of another increase in enrollment and expect more priests to join us.

A few new events have been added to our already full calendar. Spiritual formation expanded its Hispanic dimension with the addition of a Posada event for Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Chaste Celibacy seminar (led this year by Father Carter Griffin) has now become a regular annual event. Pastoral vision of the men was aided with two contemporary movie showings, namely, *The Sound of Freedom* (pertaining to the evils of human trafficking) and *Cabrini* (life of Saint Frances Cabrini). Attending the March for Life in Washington, DC remains a valuable part of that vision. Social events included a Burns Night (inspired by Father Nicholas Monaghan) while a Madden tournament joined the in-house Foosball tournament. Notably, after last year's defeat, the PCJ achieved victory in the annual Basketball Tournament! On the academic front, a new course particularly worthy of mention is the Faith & Reason course focusing on the relationship between modern science and religion. The course has been made possible by adjunct faculty member Sister Agata Smoron, a former particle physicist.

Events dedicated to welcoming visitors, especially Friends of the Josephinum, continued this past semester: the FOJ Annual Mass and brunch, Lessons & Carols, FOJ Day of Reflection (led by Father Paul Hrezo), and Clergy Who Cook. The latter event had a PCJ priest (yours truly) contribute (cook) and he (yours truly) was supported by a great team of seminarians. Yes, yours truly even took home a prize! It was good to see visitors attend and support events!

As always, thank you for your support for the great work that is being done here, especially for your prayers.

*Father Dylan James*  
Chaplain



Father Dylan James



L-r: At CWC are Joshua Dyke (Columbus), Leonard Berglund (Columbus), Father James and Aaron Schaefer (Columbus)

## We are pleased to welcome the following new members!

Bob and Denise McGee  
Jim and Mary Lynne Lamb  
Todd and Kathy Gummer  
Michael and Diane Zieg  
Michele Gardner

John Fields  
Stephen and Lynne Greaves  
Richard and Wei Kozlowski  
Michael and Brandi Cassone  
Patrick and Nancy Madrid

Anton and Elizabeth Kaufmann  
Ryan and Renee Olney  
Colleen Sass  
Ellen Dury

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends of the Josephinum,

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support of the Pontifical College Josephinum. Your prayers, dedication to our mission, and generous contributions continue to make a profound impact on the formation of our seminarians and the mission of the seminary. As we journey through the seasons of the current formation year, I would like to share some of the updates and happenings at the seminary:

In January, we made a pilgrimage attending the annual March for Life in Washington DC, to include attending the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Due to the increase in the number of seminarians, we ended up needing another bus for the journey. It was a joyful and prayerful time as we witnessed the sacredness of all human life, especially the life of unborn children.

In February, in addition to our already busy *horarium*, we also hosted the annual Helfant Classic basketball tournament. This year, also due to the increase in the number of seminarians, we formed two teams, one from the College of Liberal Arts and one from the School of Theology. As many of you already know, the Theology team was victorious, and I had the great pleasure to present the championship trophy to the team.

In March, three of our men were ordained deacons at the Basilica in Lancaster, Ohio. It was a day of immense joy to see these men persevere through several years of discernment, prayer, and formation and then at last receiving the gift of entry to the Order of the Diaconate. Later this spring, two other men from their class will join them and four other men will be ordained priests. Be assured that you, our Friends of the Josephinum, share in this work.

Always know that you are included in my daily prayers, and I ask for your continued prayers for the seminary community. May God bless each of you abundantly for your generosity and commitment to the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, STD*  
*Rector/President*



Father Steven Beseau

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JOSEPHINUM



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

*Editor: Diane Prettyman*  
*Layout: Carolyn Dinovo*