



JOSEPHINUM TIMES

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends
of the House of Joseph

WINTER 2022



A Heartfelt Farewell to Bishop Robert Brennan

Page 2

Men Who Want to Become Saints: Reflections on Formation

Page 3

A Pastoral Presence in the Community: Ministerial Experience & Apostolic Works

Page 4

The Josephinum Diaconate Institute Receives Grant from Lilly Endowment

Page 12

From the Rector

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The winter *Josephinum Times* finds the Pontifical College Josephinum midway through its 134th year of seminary formation. Along with the close of the Year of Saint Joseph and the arrival of the New Year, this point naturally leads us to reflect on the recent past and to prayerfully welcome the workings of the Holy Spirit in this new semester.

First and foremost, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and best wishes to The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, who was installed as Bishop of Brooklyn in late November. As Bishop of Columbus and Vice-Chancellor of the Josephinum, Bishop Brennan was an unwavering source of support, energy, and encouragement for our seminary community. The loss of his



presence is deeply felt, but the legacy of his leadership and genuine friendship continues to inspire us.

We are persevering through the pandemic remarkably well, updating our protective measures as needed to maintain a healthy, safe environment. Meanwhile, all aspects of formation and seminary life are in full swing, as you will see in the following

pages. The seminarians actively strive for sanctity through the sacraments, prayer, formation, academic work, apostolic field placements, fraternity, and in their daily interactions with and support of each other.

Although the Year of Saint Joseph closed officially on December 8th, I remain in awe of the blessings that God has bestowed on us through the intercession of our patron. High on this list is your dedication to the Josephinum, the evidence of which is interspersed throughout this newsletter. Thank you for partnering with us in our mission.

It is said that, in his life of ministry, a priest will touch the lives of more than one million people. Consider the hundreds of millions whom ordained alumni of the Josephinum have blessed throughout our 134-year history! Please continue to pray for our seminarians as they strive for sainthood, that one day they too will go forth from the Josephinum and reach one million souls. Our mission to form holy, generous, adaptable, and resilient priests for the 21st century is possible only because of your prayers and generosity; thank you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau
Rector/President



Left: As Vice-Chancellor, Bishop Brennan was a frequent and most welcome celebrant of Mass in Saint Turibius Chapel.



Right: Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, presents Bishop Brennan with gifts of appreciation for his friendship and support of the Josephinum.

A Heartfelt Farewell to Bishop Robert Brennan

The Josephinum community joined the Diocese of Columbus in a heartfelt farewell to The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan in November. As Vice-Chancellor of the Josephinum since his arrival to Columbus in 2019, Bishop Brennan was an active supporter and devoted friend to the seminary.

Bishop Brennan joined us on All Saints Day to celebrate his last Mass as Vice Chancellor before he departed for New York to lead the Diocese of Brooklyn, the fifth largest diocese in the United States. A special dinner was held after the liturgy, during which seminarian John Paul Haemmerle (Columbus), President of the Theology Student Senate, offered words of gratitude to the bishop on behalf of the seminarians. "Bishop Brennan, you are a joyful, creditable witness to the Gospel, and the way in which you live this out is an inspiration to all of us," he said. "You are constantly striving to grow in holiness and to know and serve those around you. Thank you for this faithful witness of what it means to be a priest who is fully alive and who seeks to live out the greatness to which God has called you. I think all of us hope that when, God willing, we become priests, we will have the same energy, joy, docility, and zeal for souls that has punctuated your time here in Columbus."

Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, presented Bishop Brennan with a Josephinum sweater and embossed portfolio as small tokens of deep appreciation for his dedication to the seminary. "From the day of his arrival in Columbus, Bishop Brennan has been an incredible support to the Josephinum," he said. "We have benefited not only from his insightful leadership but also from his genuine friendship. Bishop Brennan's sincere enthusiasm for the priesthood and for vocations will leave a profound and lasting impact on our community and he will be deeply missed."

Men Who Want to Become Saints

Reflections on Formation

By Cameron Degani

As I prepare for ordination to the transitional diaconate at the end of this academic year, I reflect on my years of formation at the Josephinum and know that I have been provided with a truly blessed time and setting for preparation to be a priest of Jesus Christ. Although my past seven years of formation have not always been “easy,” they have certainly been grace-filled, as the Lord continues to transform me and my brother seminarians to be men who strive to be saints and who want to help others become saints.

Year after year, I am edified by how men from every background and age group openly seek to be molded by the formators, professors, and staff at the seminary. Many young men set aside other educational or job opportunities in order to discern God’s will and a life of priestly ministry. They bring joy and a wonderful sense of openness to the Josephinum community and to the parishes which they serve and call home. There are also older men who have left careers and leadership roles in order to deepen their relationship with God and to be prepared for priestly ministry, opening themselves up to the direction and critique of others with humility and docility.

At the seminary, all of us enter into a time and place where openness to the guidance and direction of those responsible for forming us is absolutely necessary. This, in reality, requires a great deal of vulnerability. Each man must submit himself, with all of his strengths and weaknesses, to the judgments and decisions of others. Each man enters into a community where he must recognize that his time is “not his own” but rather has been gifted to him by God, to be poured out for the good of others. This entails daily study and classes to learn the ways of thought and the fundamental truths of our Catholic faith in order to communicate this knowledge to others. It requires living in a community, learning how to share space and resources, and anticipating the needs of others with charity. It means deepening our spiritual life through daily prayer and

Mass, seeking to be strengthened by God’s grace and to overcome the daily struggles of temptation and sin. It calls us to serve in the community through weekly apostolic assignments with a spirit of generosity and joy, learning to see Jesus present in others.

In many respects, the time spent in seminary is a gift as well as a sacrifice. However, it is a sacrifice completely worth making. It is a gift completely worth accepting. As Catholic writer Léon Bloy so aptly put it: “The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint.” Indeed, may the men in formation at the Josephinum always strive to become saints, and in doing so, help others to become saints as well.



Cameron Degani is a third-year seminarian from the Archdiocese of Santa Fe.



Seminarian News

A Pastoral Presence in the Community

Ministerial Experience & Apostolic Works

The pastoral dimension of priestly formation at the Josephinum has at its center the apostolic works program. Seminarians gain firsthand ministerial experience through hundreds of hours of service in parishes, schools, hospitals, community outreach organizations, and senior care centers. In addition to the assistance the men provide to the Church and community, they are learning important pastoral skills necessary to be effective as future priests and pastors.

The variety of assignments offered to seminarians for their weekly visits is carefully planned, to expose them to many different ministerial settings. "Ministry of presence" assignments are given to Collegians, who visit with the elderly, disadvantaged youth, and the mentally disabled, as well as contribute to youth and youth adult parish catechesis. Each week, for example, seminarians Caleb Gaier (Cincinnati) and Brother Joseph Logan, CPM (Fathers of Mercy) spend an afternoon at The Run the Race Center on the West Side of Columbus. The Center welcomes young people to a fun, safe, and productive environment that offers tutoring, sports, art, music, and dance. "It has been such a great experience," said Brother Joseph. "Most of the children come from difficult family situations. We are there to be present to them, to love them, and to show them the joy and peace that comes from living a life centered on Jesus."

Pre-Theology and Undergraduate Pre-Theology seminarians visit nursing homes, take communion to the homebound, and engage in service to the poor. First and second-year

Andrew Feister (Gaylord), Brother Joseph Dixon, CPM (Fathers of Mercy), and Zachary Goodchild (Columbus) assist with the creation of an urban farm at Saint Stephen's Community House in Columbus. The farm will offer area residents an opportunity to grow fruits and vegetables in individual/family garden plots. Founded in 1919, Saint Stephen's is a faith-based settlement house dedicated to helping residents become self-sufficient through programs and services that strengthen families and empower the community.

Theologians are placed in hospitals, high schools, or parish youth sacramental programs. Columbus seminarians John Paul Haemmerle and Sam Severance, both assigned to Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, are exposed to a wide variety of interactions with students. "Our time at Hartley is both fun and deeply meaningful," said Sam. "By interacting with the students, we learn more about how today's teenagers experience and live the faith, which readies us to engage the young people who will be in the parishes we will serve, God willing, as priests."

Third-year Theologians' parish assignments offer them exposure to adult faith formation, liturgies, parish meetings, and baptism and marriage preparation.

Fourth-year deacons are also placed in parishes, often supervised by pastors who are Josephinum alumni, where they engage fully in the faculties of transitional diaconal ministry in preparation for priestly ordination.

Every placement has a site supervisor or pastor who keeps in communication with seminary formators and staff regarding each man's ministry at the site. "The Josephinum is blessed by the commitment and the concern shown by the site supervisors who provide guidance and feedback to our seminarians," said Deacon Joe Knapke, Pastoral Assignment Coordinator. "They are valued partners with us in both the formation of our future priests and in love for the Church."



Called to a Life of Service: A Vocation Story

By Deacon Daniel Dupre

From the time I was very young, I had a desire to serve others. My older sister, Nicole, and I grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the children of James and Paula Dupre. We were a strong evangelical Christian family and, as a child, I felt called to dedicate my life to God.

After high school, I had the opportunity to go to South America as a missionary and was sent to Argentina to work with the poor. I was amazed by the Catholic faith of the people I encountered there. They did not have many material possessions but had a faith unlike anything I had ever seen. I realized I did not know much about Catholicism and began reading more about it. Before I knew it, I was devouring anything I could find on Catholic theology, including the *Catechism* and the writings of Saint Thomas Aquinas.

I came to understand the nature of the priesthood – that the priest serves the people of God in a way that only he can, through the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and confession – and I knew that God was calling me to that life. I began to talk to several priests in Argentina; they advised me to return to my home diocese in the United States to discern my vocation. After returning to New Mexico, I began the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults at a parish near my home and, two years later, was accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Now, God willing, I will be ordained a priest on June 4, 2022.

I am grateful to the friends and benefactors whose generosity has made my discernment and formation possible here at the Josephinum. I would not be where I am today without you. I also want to thank everyone who has helped me in any way, particularly through prayer, on my journey. God bless you!



Deacon Daniel Dupre (Santa Fe) with members of his family after his ordination to the diaconate in May 2021.



Columbus seminarians John Paul Haemmerle and Sam Severance engage in catechesis with students at Bishop Hartley High School, assisted by teacher Mr. Dominic Dinovo. The seminarians participate in other activities at Hartley, such as Hawks Who Pray, an after-school praise and worship group.



Each week, seminarians Caleb Gaier (Cincinnati) and Brother Joseph Logan, CPM (Fathers of Mercy), spend an afternoon at Run the Race Center. Here, Brother Joseph lends a hand to the children in making frames for wooden Christmas trees.

Where They Serve

Bishop Hartley High School
Bishop Ready High School
Christ the King Parish
Church of the Resurrection
ProMedic Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation
Heinzerling Foundation
Immaculate Conception Parish
Joint Office for Inner-City Needs
Mohun Hall at Ohio Dominican University
Mount Carmel East Hospital
Mount Carmel Hospital – Grove City
Ohio Wesleyan University Neumann Club
Run the Race Center
Saint Charles Preparatory School
Saint Lawrence Haven Food Distribution
Saint Mary Parish Youth Ministry, Delaware
Saint Paul the Apostle Parish, Westerville
Saint Stephen's Community House
Villas of Saint Therese Assisted Living & Independent Living

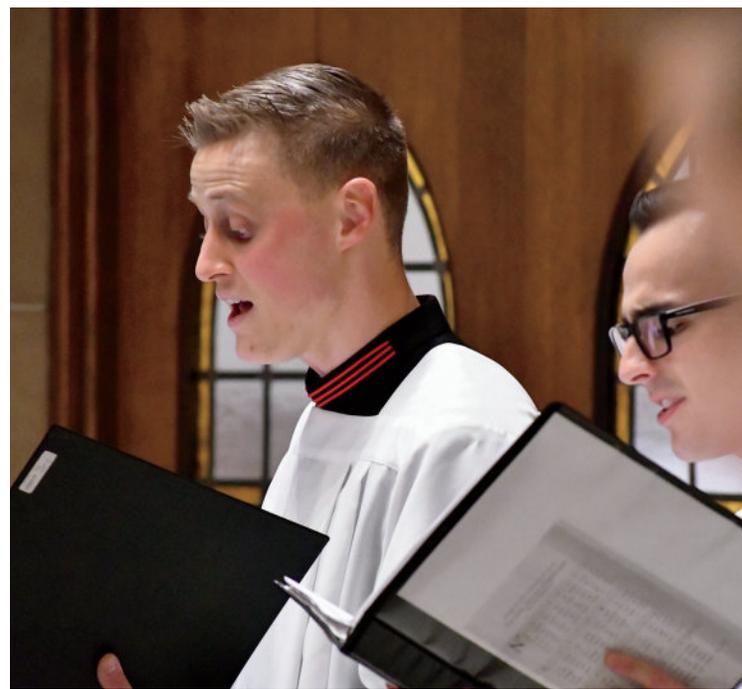
Snapshots of Seminary Life



Above: Many of our seminarians, along with spiritual director Father Michael Kelly (center), preparing to depart for a retreat at The Spiritual Center of Maria Stein in Mercer County, OH, led by the Most Reverend Robert Carlson, Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Louis.

Right: The College of Cardinals took home the Marshall Trophy after a win over the Theology Papal Bulls in the 2021 Mud Bowl. Many family members and friends came out to cheer on the teams at the seminarians' annual flag football game.





Clockwise from top left:

The 2021 Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecturer, Dr. Jonathan Reyes, Senior Vice President for Communications and Strategic Partnerships for the Knights of Columbus, presented “Addressing Poverty and Injustice in the Light of Christ: A Response to the Utopian Temptation of Our Age.”

Francisco Rodriguez (Birmingham) recites the prayer “Our Dead” during our commemoration of Veteran’s Day in Conrardy Hall. Francisco is a Sargeant in the United States Marine Corps; from 2011 to 2015 he served with 1st battalion 3rd marine regiment (1/3) and, from 2015 to 2019, in the reserve.

The Theology Student Senate sponsored a fiesta to commemorate Mexican Independence Day. The courtyard was alive with Mexican music and all enjoyed street tacos, house made salsa, fruit waters, and Mexican desserts. Pictured l-r: Christopher Hoffmann (Jefferson City), Eric Ruiz (Oakland), and Max Gallegos (Birmingham).

The Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk returned last fall and brought more than 400 people of all ages to campus. It was a great day to both support and celebrate vocations! Bishop Robert Brennan (then Vice Chancellor) and Father Steven Beseau (Rector/President) are pictured with race winner Patrick DePew (Birmingham).

Josephinum Choir members Joey Rolwing (Columbus) and Brother Joseph Logan, CPM (Fathers of Mercy) participate in Advent Lessons & Carols.

Bishop Raica Celebrates Admission to Candidacy

Last fall, the Rite of Admission to Candidacy was celebrated in Saint Turibius Chapel by The Most Reverend Steven J. Raica, Bishop of Birmingham and Vice-Chair of the Josephinum's Board of Trustees. Currently, there are nine seminarians from the Birmingham diocese in formation at the Josephinum, two of whom – Patrick DePew and Max Gallegos – were admitted to Candidacy.

Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders is an important step for seminarians who are discerning a priestly vocation. The men – usually in their first year of study in the School of Theology – have reached a maturity of purpose in their formation. In the presence of the bishop, they express publicly their intent to complete preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Orders and resolve to fully invest themselves to that end.

Candidacy is the first of many formal “milestones” on the path of discernment. Pivotal ones to follow in the years to come are institution to the ministry of lector, institution to the ministry of acolyte, ordination to the transitional diaconate, and ordination to the priesthood.



Top: Bishop Steven Raica and Father Wyman Vintson (Director of Vocations) with seminarians from the Diocese of Birmingham (l-r): Andrew Vickery, Hunter Limbaugh, John Stepnowski, Francisco Rodriguez, Max Gallegos, Patrick DePew, John Gardiner, Adam Sellers, and Collins Hess.

Middle: The Rite of Admission to Candidacy.

Left: Bishop Raica is assisted by alumnus Father Justin L. Ward T'19, Vicar for Sacred Liturgy for the Diocese of Birmingham.

Greetings to all of our alumni and friends! As we reflect on the Year of Saint Joseph and begin 2022, there is much good news to report from the Advancement Office.

Our New Advancement Officer

In November, we welcomed Mr. Cody Thompson to our staff. A native of Oceanside, CA, Cody previously was working for a Catholic charity in the San Diego area. We are grateful for his arrival and welcome his expertise!

Lilly Endowment Grant

The Josephinum received a grant of \$878,790 from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s *Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative* to support and expand The Josephinum Diaconate Institute. Special thanks to Father Louis Iasiello, OFM, for his leadership of the JDI. Full story on page 12!

Annual Fund Appeals

Two leadership gifts of \$50,000 each kicked-off this year's appeal for the Annual Fund, which supports the daily operations of the seminary. The appeal featured an Advent Matching Gift Challenge that matched all gifts to the Annual Fund throughout Advent. We are pleased to share that, after final accounting, our generous benefactors gave \$166,000 to the Advent Appeal! Looking ahead, the annual Saint Joseph Appeal will be mailed in early March; in mid-March, seminarians will call alumni and friends for the popular Saint Joseph Phonathon. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Social Media

We continue to post regularly to Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. As part of our Advent Appeal, we launched a sponsored advertisement appeal on Facebook and Instagram to connect with new followers who support the priesthood and seminarians. Please like, share, and subscribe to our social media channels!

Upcoming Events in 2022

At the time we went to press, plans were well underway for the Friends of the Josephinum's wildly successful Clergy Who Cook! Special thanks to event co-chairs Sally Baughman and Marci Maynard for their fabulous leadership. Mark your calendars for Monday, April 25, for our Good Shepherd Dinner, our signature table-sponsored fundraising event at which the *Good Shepherd Award* and *Pope Leo XIII Award* will be bestowed. Lastly, 190 people have already signed up for Tour Day on the afternoon of Saturday, April 30. To reserve a spot, please email tours@pcj.edu.

Congrats 4-Miler Committee!

The Friends of the Josephinum 4-Miler Run/Walk was held on the Josephinum campus for the first time last fall and attracted well over 400 participants! Congratulations to event co-chairs John Reiner and Don Brown and to sponsorship chair Marci Maynard. This third-annual event raised \$39,000 to benefit seminarians!

Planning a Gift in Your Will

Become an eternal steward of the House of Joseph by naming *Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio* in your Will, to direct your executor to designate a prescribed amount or percentage of your estate to the seminary. A Bequest Notification Form may be found at www.pcj.edu/plannedgiving. Please reach out to us with any questions: Mr. Cody Thompson at 614-985-2234 / cthompson@pcj.edu, or Mr. Doug Stein at 614-985-2325 / dstein@pcj.edu.

Please continue to pray for our seminarians in formation and for men who are discerning God's will to enter the Josephinum in the fall. Your heartfelt support continues to make possible all we are able to provide for these courageous young men.

Douglas H. Stein
Vice-President for Advancement



From the Advancement Office



An Invitation to a Worthy Mission

By Cody Thompson
Advancement Officer

A native of sunny California, I was born and raised Catholic in Oceanside, San Diego. I attended San Diego State University, where I completed a degree in media in 2014. Since that time – through prayer, sacraments, community, retreats and formation – my faith has deepened as I have more intentionally sought God’s will for my life.

Feeling called to serve the Lord more directly, I began fundraising for a Catholic charity that served survivors of sex trafficking. This work opened my eyes to the power of the Church’s social service agencies and inspired me to explore other opportunities to do fundraising work for missions I could embrace wholeheartedly. Through friends and God’s providence, I learned of the opportunity to join the staff of the Josephinum.

The Holy Spirit invited me to take a leap of faith by leaving home and joining a new community. I am unquestionably glad I did so. The welcome I have received has been astounding and already I am inspired by the great love our alumni and friends have for the Josephinum. To be here and to be part of a mission so important for the future of our Church is a gift for which I am truly grateful.



The Rector’s Circle

We are excited to announce the forthcoming establishment of a new giving society called the Rector’s Circle. The Rector’s Circle will have four tiers which will be determined annually.

Tier I: \$1,500-\$4,999 Annually

Invitation to Special Events; Rector’s Circle Dinner; Wall of Honor Recognition

Tier II: \$5,000-\$24,999 Annually

Tier I benefits; Advent Lessons & Carols Concert/Reception Invitation

Tier III: \$25,000-\$49,999 Annually

Tier I & II benefits; Josephinum Summer Reception Invitation

Tier IV: \$50,000+ Annually

Tier I, II, & III benefits; Table for 6 at Good Shepherd Dinner

Follow us on Social Media

Scan these codes with your cell phone camera to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



Facebook



Instagram

An Estate Giving Tribute

The Legacy of a High School Alumnus

Bernard Joseph Olsavick of the Josephinum High School Class of 1955 died August 6, 2021, at age 83. His estate plan included a very generous provision for his *alma mater*, for which we are deeply grateful. Mr. Olsavick's legacy is a testament to what his years at the Josephinum meant to him, and how that time remained meaningful throughout his life.

Known affectionately as "Bernie," our alumnus was born in Monessen, a small town in western Pennsylvania. The name Olsavick speaks to his heritage – Bernie's grandfather had emigrated to the United States from present-day Slovakia; his mother was of Russian lineage.

After graduating from the Josephinum High School in 1955, Bernie studied briefly at Saint Vincent's College in Latrobe, PA, then headed west to

study at Healds Engineering College in San Francisco. He graduated in 1960 and joined the Fred J. Early Company construction firm in San Francisco.

Bernie was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1962 and served the two-year active duty obligation. He joined the Robert McKee company in Los Angeles for a short time, then accepted an offer to work in the estimating department of Turner Construction Company at its newly-established Los Angeles office.

In 1967, Bernie took a leave from Turner to accept a one-year civilian engineering assignment in Vietnam. He then resumed his career with Turner at its offices in San Francisco, Hong Kong, and New York. Bernie retired in 1995 and shortly afterwards returned to his childhood home of Pittsburgh where he lived his remaining years.

Bernard Olsavick (back row, far left) with his classmates of the Josephinum High School in 1955.





Highlights from High Street

Top right: The Josephinum Diaconate Institute offers continuing education and formation to permanent deacons, men who often come to the life of ministry after decades in other fields. Deacon Joseph Knapke worked as an engineer before hearing and responding to a call to the permanent diaconate. He serves at Saints Simon and Jude Catholic Church in the Columbus diocese and as Pastoral Formation Coordinator at the Josephinum.



The Josephinum Diaconate Institute Receives Grant from Lilly Endowment

The Josephinum has received a grant of \$878,790 from Lilly Endowment Inc. to support The Josephinum Diaconate Institute (JDI). The effort is being funded through Lilly Endowment's *Pathways for Tomorrow* Initiative – a three-phase initiative designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

The JDI was inaugurated by the Josephinum in 2007 in response to the continuing education and formation requirements of permanent deacons, in accord with the USCCB's *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry, and the Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*. It offers educational programs through distance learning – in both English and Spanish – to diaconal aspirants and candidates, permanent deacons and their spouses, and lay ministers serving or preparing to serve the people of God through ministry in the Church.

The U.S. Catholic Church's 37,000 priests are supported in their care of congregations by 18,000 permanent deacons and lay ecclesial leaders. Although ordained to a distinct sacred office, permanent deacons face many of the same challenges today as priests, such as a decrease in their numbers and an increase in their pastoral responsibilities. Deacons must also comply with

many of the same ecclesial directives as those of priests; prominent among them is the need to commit themselves to a lifelong program of ongoing education.

"The grant from Lilly Endowment will enable the JDI to respond to the urgent need for programs designed to assist deacons in balancing the demands of their familial, professional, and ministerial lives; stay current with professional advancements; and become attuned to a changing cultural climate that challenges the beliefs, values, and quality of life of the faithful they serve," said Father Beseau. "Ultimately, the developments made possible by this funding will empower the Institute to further its mission to offer programs that instill in permanent deacons a lifelong thirst to grow intellectually, pastorally, and spiritually."

The Josephinum is one of 84 theological schools nationwide receiving a total of more than \$82 million in grants through the second phase of the *Pathways* initiative. Lilly Endowment, an Indianapolis-based private philanthropic foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr., launched the *Pathways* initiative in January 2021 because of its longstanding interest in supporting efforts to enhance and sustain the vitality of Christian congregations by strengthening the leadership capacities of pastors and congregational lay leaders.

Welcome to Our New Trustees

The Pontifical College Josephinum is honored to announce the addition of four new members to its Board of Trustees. We are most grateful to these new members for their gracious commitment to serve the seminary in such a vital capacity.



Bishop Richard G. Henning
Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville
Centre, New York



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
Bishop of Jefferson City, Missouri



**Sister Anne Catherine
Burleigh, OP**
Vicaress General, Dominican
Sisters of Saint Cecilia, Nashville



Mr. Patrick Madrid
Author, Speaker, Host of "Patrick
Madrid Show," Relevant Radio

Theological Collection Named in Honor of Peter Veracka

The long-awaited, pandemic-delayed formal recognition of Mr. Peter Veracka, MSLS, retired Director of Library Services, took place September 30, the Feast of Saint Jerome, patron saint of librarians.

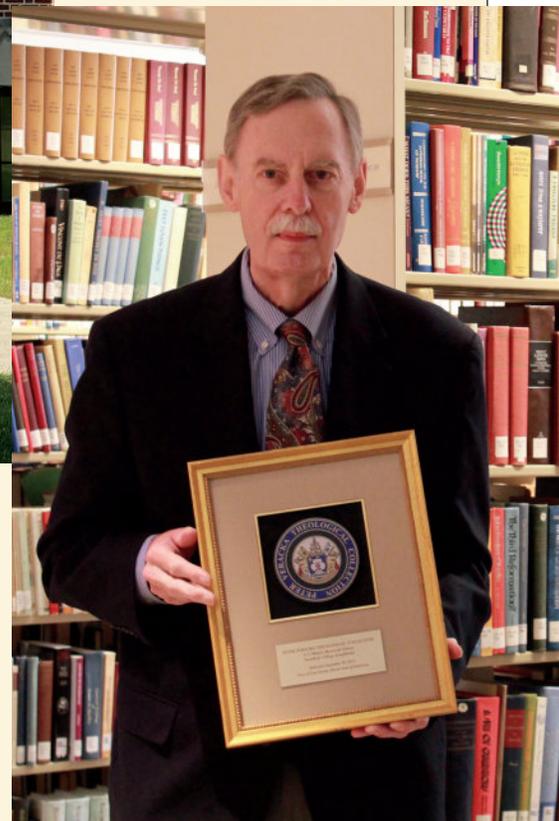
Following Morning Prayer and Mass, the seminary community, as well as friends present for the Alumni Day reunion, gathered for a special breakfast. Words of tribute were given by professor Dr. Kevin Poole; Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President, announced that the theological holdings of the A.T. Wehrle Memorial Library have been renamed the "Peter Veracka Theological Collection." The library shelves holding the collection now bear a special medallion and a framed acknowledgement graces the library entrance – lasting tributes to our friend and colleague's 45 years of dedicated service to the Josephinum.

The full text of Dr. Poole's tribute may be read on our website at www.pcj.edu/news.



A new sign gracing the entrance to the A.T. Wehrle Memorial Library designates the recently named "Peter Veracka Theological Collection" as well as "The Monsignor Anthony A. Kleinschmidt and Monsignor Gerald F. Durst Special Collections." The sign also notes that this wing of the building housed the Old Josephinum High School from 1931-1967.

Peter stands near the library collection now bearing his name.



Rector's Circle Dinner

The Josephinum honored its most generous supporters of 2020-2021 at the annual Rector's Circle Dinner. Board of Trustees members and friends gathered with seminarians, priest formators, professors, and staff for a beautiful evening of gratitude.



This page (clockwise from top left)

Mrs. Tina DiLorenzo, seminarian Jake Asuncion (Columbus), Mr. John DiLorenzo, and Father Jeff Rimelspach C'79.

Deacon Christopher Walsh and his wife, Deborah.

Mr. Roger Baughman, Mrs. Sally Baughman, and Josephinum scripture professor Father Eric Wagner, CR.

Board member Mr. David Karam (left) with Mr. Carmen Angelo and Mrs. Marjo Angelo.

Bishop Jeffery Monforton, Bishop of Steubenville, with Mrs. Venetia Bramlage and Board member Mr. Chuck Bramlage.

Opposite page (clockwise from top left)

The Rector's Circle Dinner concluded with a singing of the "Salve Regina" by our seminarians, with Bishop Robert Brennan and Father Steven Beseau.

From the Diocese of Birmingham are (l-r): Seminarian John Gardiner; Bishop Steven Raica, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees; Father Josh Altonji T'17, Board of Trustees member; and seminarian Max Gallegos.

Father Steven Beseau with Father Scott Kopp, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Youngstown, OH.

Bishop Robert Brennan, Mrs. Gretchen O'Loughlin, and Father Michael Lumpe T'04, Vice-Rector of the College of Liberal Arts.

Seminarian Sam Severance (Columbus) and Mr. Jack Stickle.



Alumnus of the Year Awards Presented

The recipients of the 2021 Jessing Alumnus of the Year Award are Father Dennis Mullen '70 and Mr. Richard Kotarba '67.

Father Dennis Mullen has been connected with the Josephinum for 63 years, having arrived as a young high school student in 1958 and remaining at the seminary to complete studies for the priesthood. "As a seminarian, Father Mullen was highly respected

"My story," he said, "is actually the story of hundreds of young men who have passed through these halls, have studied here, and have moved on to significant achievement."

by his classmates," said Mr. Michael Fry, Josephinum Alumni Liaison. "He was elected president of the student body and was known as a serious and zealous student."

As the years passed, Father Mullen returned often to his *alma mater* for reunions and personal visits, many of which included working with the

Josephinum stamp collection, as he had done decades earlier as a seminarian.

In his ordained ministry, Father Mullen served the Diocese of Superior as vocation director, permanent diaconate program director, nursing home chaplain, and pastor. He was state chaplain for the Wisconsin Knights of Columbus and was a faithful attendee of the Knights' national meetings. A most profound gift to the Knights and to the

Church was his work in initiating and supporting an adoption fund with a local Knights Council.

Mr. Richard Kotarba came to the Josephinum as a high school freshman in 1955, stayed through his first year of college, then attended John Carroll University and Boston College Law School. After graduating in 1966, he

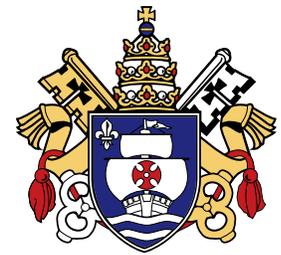
joined the law firm of Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in Pittsburgh, PA. In 1973, Mr. Kotarba was made partner in the firm and became chairman of its commercial and real estate law sections.

Mr. Kotarba was appointed to the Josephinum's Board of Trustees in 1978 and elected Chair in 1981. He, his wife Barbara, and their three children have often returned to the Josephinum for reunions. "From his home in Pennsylvania, Mr. Kotarba has been instrumental in organizing local western Pennsylvania alumni reunions to foster connection between the Josephinum and former students," said Mr. Fry.

In his gracious acceptance of the award, Mr. Kotarba spoke of the Josephinum with much respect and admiration, noting that his years in seminary laid the foundation for further study and for a lifetime of success in the field of law. "My story," he said, "is actually the story of hundreds of young men who have passed through these halls, have studied here, and have moved on to significant achievement."

Father Mullen and Mr. Kotarba receive the Jessing Alumnus of the Year Award from Father Steven Beseau, Rector/President.





Faculty and Alumni News

Father Art Lenti, SDB, was highly-regarded as a master and remarkable teacher of Sacred Scripture. He taught at the Josephinum from 1967-1975.

A “Master and Outstanding Teacher” of Sacred Scripture

Father Arthur J. Lenti, SDB

January 31, 1923 – January 6, 2022

Adapted from a story by Father Michael Mendel, SDB '78

A native of the Alessandria province of Piedmont in Italy, Arthur Lenti entered the Salesian novitiate at Colle Don Bosco in 1939. He emigrated to the United States and made his first profession at Don Bosco Seminary in Newton, NJ, in 1940. After theological studies at the Salesian Pontifical Athenaeum in Turin (1946-1950), he was ordained on July 2, 1950.

Father Lenti was assigned to the Salesian theologate in Aptos, CA, to teach Sacred Scripture, particularly Old Testament, of which he was a master and outstanding teacher. In 1967, Father Lenti joined the Josephinum faculty as a Scripture professor, where his classes were in high demand throughout his tenure until 1975.

Father Arthur was renowned for his depth of knowledge of Don Bosco and his work with and contributions to the *Journal of Salesian Studies*. His research gave birth to *Don Bosco, His Pope and His Bishop: The Trials of a Founder* (Rome: Libreria Ateneo Salesiano, 2006) and to the monumental 7 volumes of *Don Bosco: History and Spirit* (Rome: Libreria Ateneo Salesiano, 2007-2010), which have been translated into Italian, Spanish, and other languages. Father Arthur explained: “I call this survey *Don Bosco: History and Spirit* because Don Bosco’s life and work were played out in the context of the fateful events that created a new religious and political world, and thereby also shaped his thinking and action; ‘Spirit’ because through discernment, interpretation and acceptance he discovered the meaning of this new world and courageously responded to its challenges: his vocation.”

Beyond his scholarship, Father Arthur was treasured by countless confreres, students, and friends who appreciated not only his vast learning (in numerous fields beyond Scripture and Salesianity) but also his friendliness, cordiality, and generosity. **Father Timothy Ploch '76**, one of Father Arthur’s students at the Josephinum and later his provincial in California, compliments his total dedication to the Word of God and to Saint John Bosco and compares him to Saint Francis de Sales as a scholar and a gentleman. The author of this article, also Father Arthur’s student at both the Josephinum and Berkeley, “found in him a wonderful friend and mentor.”

MEMORIAM

Father David Cillo
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Ordained May 11, 1985
Died June 2, 2020

Reverend David M. Cillo was born August 7, 1959. As a young man interested in cars and caddying at Longue Vue Club, Father David felt the love and call of Jesus Christ. As he grew in faith, his love of Christ deepened through high school at Penn Hills. After completing minor seminary and an undergraduate degree at Duquesne University, Father Cillo entered the Josephinum.

Known for his sense of humor, practicality, dynamic sermons, genuine concern and compassion for the faithful, Father Cillo served at Holy Sepulcher, Saint Colman, Saint Louise de Marillac, Saint Bartholomew, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Holy Redeemer, Saint Bernadette, and as chaplain at Serra Catholic High School.

Father Cillo was a volunteer fireman and a regular in the kitchens of churches and homes of parishioners, family, and friends. An avid car enthusiast, he enjoyed cooking and collecting and repairing antique timepieces, particularly grandfather clocks.

Father Cillo is predeceased by his father, Anthony A. Cillo and is survived by his mother, Dorothy "Dolly" Cillo, brother Philip (Monica) Cillo, sister Mary Ann (Deacon Joe) Compomizzi, nephew Immanuel Compomizzi, and many loving family members and friends.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated at Saint Elizabeth of Hungary Parish.

.....

Father Jeremiah J. Reen, SDB
Salesians of Don Bosco
Ordained April 3, 1971
Died July 10, 2021

Father Jeremiah J. Reen, SDB was a professed Salesian for more than 61 years and a priest for more than 50 years. He was born in Boston in 1941, the son of Irish immigrants. He attended Mission High School in the Boston suburbs until his junior year, then in 1957 enrolled in Don Bosco Juniorate in Haverstraw for his senior year.

Father Jeremiah made his first profession as a Salesian on September 8, 1959, then completed college studies at Don Bosco Seminary in Newton and the Salesian Pontifical Athenaeum in Rome. He returned to the U.S. in 1964, made his perpetual vows in 1965, then entered the Josephinum to begin four years of study.

Following ordination, Father Jeremiah served at Sacred Heart Juniorate in Ipswich, MA, as prefect of studies before being assigned to Don Bosco College in Newton as catechist and dean of students, academic dean, and registrar (1972-1975). He taught philosophy there while studying for a doctorate at Saint John's University.

In 1982, Father Jeremiah was named assistant pastor of Saint Philip Benizi Parish, Belle Glade, where he ministered to the Spanish and Haitian communities for over 26 years. He spoke Spanish when he arrived and taught himself Creole while there, to better serve the many farm workers from Latin America and Haiti. He moved to the Saint Philip Residence at Mary Help of Christians Center in Tampa in August 2010.

In addition to his parish ministry, Father Jeremiah was a prison chaplain, and served in this role with his characteristic kindness and gentleness. He was well-known, well loved, calm, patient, and generous with everyone. He was a hard worker and loved to pray.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated July 14 in Mary Help of Christian Church, Tampa. Burial was in Salesian Cemetery, Goshen.

Father Victor Wesolowski
Diocese of Columbus
Ordained May 24, 2008
Died July 27, 2021

Father Victor Ray Wesolowski was born in 1956 to the late Raymond and Odell (Webb) Wesolowski. Before answering a call to the priesthood, he worked as a title agent and as an investigator in a county public defendant's office. He served on city council in Mount Vernon, OH, from 1998-1999.

Father Victor attended the Josephinum for Pre-Theology then entered Pope Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, MA. In his 13 years as a priest, he ministered in many parishes in the Diocese of Columbus. He served at Perry County Consortium of Catholic Parishes, including Saint Bernard, Corning; Saint Patrick, Junction City; Church of the Atonement, Crooksville; and Saint Rose, New Lexington. He was pastor of Saint Luke, Danville and Sacred Heart, Coshocton.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated on July 31 at Saint Vincent de Paul Church, Mount Vernon, with Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan as the main celebrant and priests of the Diocese of Columbus concelebrating. Interment followed at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Mount Vernon.

.....

Father Harold F. Schmitt
Diocese of Peoria
Ordained May 30, 1959
Died August 16, 2021

Father Harold Francis Schmitt born in 1931 in Henry, IL to Fred and Helen (Stahler) Schmitt.

He is survived by his brothers: Richard (Barbara) Schmitt, of Tiskilwa, Gerald Schmitt of Henry; sisters: Sharon Jason, and Joy (Bernard) Wunder, of Lacon, Betty Shearer, of Henry, Pam (Ernest) Waldschmidt, of Lacon.

Father Schmitt graduated from Saint Mary School in Henry, then completed high school, college and theology studies at the Josephinum.

In his 62 years of priesthood, Father Schmitt served parishioners at Saint Patrick, Ottawa; Immaculate Conception, Monmouth; Saint Philomena, Peoria; Immaculate Conception, Carthage; Sacred Heart, Dallas City; Saint Mary, West Point; Saint Augustine Church, Saint Augustine; Saint Patrick, Raritan; Saint Mary, DePue; Saint Mary's Cathedral, Peoria; Saint Mary, Kewanee; Saint Maria Goretti, Coal Valley; Saint Mary, Ottawa.

Father Schmitt was Chaplain to Daughters of Saint Francis of Assisi and Saint Joseph Nursing Home, both in Lacon, and was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated August 24 Saint Mary Church of Saint John XXII Parish, Henry, with burial at Calvary Cemetery, Henry.

.....

PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

Father Andrew P. Marinak

Diocese of Harrisburg
Ordained May 26, 1956
Died September 19, 2021

Father Andrew Marinak was born in Steelton, PA, in 1928, the eldest of ten children of a humble milkman, Andrew, and his wife Josephine. He heard the call to the priesthood at age 14, just before entering Bishop McDevitt High School in Steelton. He completed grade 10, then enrolled at the Josephinum.

In the early years of his priesthood, "Father Andy" served as an assistant at several parishes, including Saint Joan of Arc in Hershey, PA. His first pastoral assignment was as the chaplain of the Lewisburg Federal Prison in Lewisburg. He was pastor at Holy Cross Parish in Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Middletown, and Corpus Christi in Chambersburg.

Father Marinak returned to his hometown parish of Saint James in Steelton, where he was a compassionate force of the Catholic faith and known by all as a true 'local' priest. Later, he was assigned to Sacred Heart in Cornwall. In 2003, Father Andy retired to Myrtle Beach, SC, where he enjoyed filling in for other priests in the area, playing golf, and supporting many local outreach programs and retreats.

Father is survived by two brothers, Charles Marinak of Edgewater, FL and Robert Marinak and wife, Rose of Ocala, FL; and sisters Mary Ann Muretic of Oberlin and Josephine Malovic of Fairfax Station, VA.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated September 29 at Prince of Peace-Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Church by Most Rev. Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of Harrisburg. Burial was in the Priests' Circle of Holy Cross Cemetery.

.....

Monsignor James G. Innocenzi

Diocese of Trenton
Ordained April 24, 1976
Died January 13, 2022

James Innocenzi was born in 1949 to Albert and Gilda (Mastrobattista) Innocenzi. He attended Saint Joachim School and Cathedral High School in Trenton, NJ, then earned an undergraduate degree from the Josephinum in 1971 and an MDiv from Saint Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore, MD, in 1975.

In his priesthood, Monsignor Innocenzi served at Our Lady of Lourdes, Milltown; Holy Angels, Trenton; Assumption, New Egypt; Saint Edward, Milford; Saint Michael, Trenton; and Saint George, Titusville. He was chaplain to the Trenton Fire Department and was active throughout New Jersey in the work of the Knights of Columbus.

Monsignor Innocenzi was respected for his ministry in the Diocesan Tribunal; he served as judge, Vice-Officialis; Vice Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, and as Judicial Vicar. In 1997, he was honored by then-Pope John Paul II by being named a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor.

"Monsignor Jim" was an icon of the humble disciple of the Lord. Through his diligent attention to the needs of the people he was called to serve in many and diverse ministries, he generously shared the presence of our loving God. He is survived by his brother, John Innocenzi and sister-in-law Mary of Langhorne, PA; his nephew Jared Innocenzi and his wife Sarah of Boulder, CO; many cousins, and Rose Moore and family.

The Funeral Mass was celebrated January 21 at Saint George Church, Titusville, followed by entombment at Saint Mary Cemetery Mausoleum, Hamilton.

2020

Mary Gallagher, mother of Father John Gallagher T'93, May 10.

Martin Walsh '64, August 25.

Elizabeth "Betty" Morman, mother of Father James V. Morman, TOR, T'87, September 30.

Kathryn Byars, sister of Father John Gallagher T'93, October 4.

2021

Betty Knippenberg, mother of Fathers Robert Knippenberg T'00 and Patrick Knippenberg T'07, May 28.

Hugh J. Biggar '57, June 13.

Terence Steinbauer C'78, June 13.

Eric Nanneman PT'16, July 1.

Kevin H. Axe '67, July 1.

Gerald Pollauf '59, July 28.

Bernard J. Olsavick '55, August 6.

Robert Knippenberg, Sr. father of Father Robert Knippenberg T'00 and Father Patrick Knippenberg T'07, August 15.

Catherine Huntsinger, sister of Father Patrick Kibby T'84, September 5.

Richard C. Harlacher '67, September 20.

Halina Jaszcz, housekeeping staff member from 1988 to 2006, September 20.

James T. Beshalske '75, October 3.

Juan Carlos Perez, student from 2017 to 2018, October 3.

Dianna Cherry, sister of housekeeping staff member Melody Smith, November 5.

Jean Finn, longtime member of the Friends of the Josephinum, December 8.

Stanley P. Bednarczyk, Jr. father of staff member Carolyn Dinovo, December 15.

2022

Christine Kalungi, mother of Father Joseph Ssebayingga T'01, January 12.

James A. Wellmann, father of Father Andrew Wellman C'13, January 18.

Joseph R. Lumpe, father of Father Michael Lumpe T'04, Vice Rector of the College of Liberal Arts, January 22.

Anastacio Yang, father of professor Dr. Eric Yang, January 22.

James R. Hahn, father of Father Bill Hahn T'04, January 28.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 127

7625 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43235-1498
www.pcj.edu

Events for Spring 2022

Please visit www.pcj.edu for the most current information on events.

Spring Live-In Weekend

Thursday, March 10 – Sunday, March 13

Friends of the Josephinum Day of Recollection

Saturday, March 26

Lecture Series

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm, Jessing Center
Reverend Monsignor James P. Shea
President, University of Saint Mary, Bismarck, ND
Catholic Identity Committee Chair, FOCUS Board

The Jessing Society Mass & Lunch

Tuesday, April 5

Good Shepherd Dinner

Monday, April 25, 6:00 pm, Jessing Center



STAFF

Editor

Carolyn A. Dinovo
614-985-2211
cdinovo@pcj.edu

Graphic Design

Gayle Holton Design

Contributors

Father Steven P. Beseau
Cameron Degani
Carolyn A. Dinovo
Deacon Daniel Dupre
Michael J. Fry
Father Michael Mendel, SDB
Douglas H. Stein
Cody Thompson

Photography

Ashley Rene Photography
Natalie Atkins
Carolyn A. Dinovo
Max Gallegos
Madison Massey
Ken Snow
Douglas H. Stein

Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43235

Visit us at www.pcj.edu!