



CURRENTS

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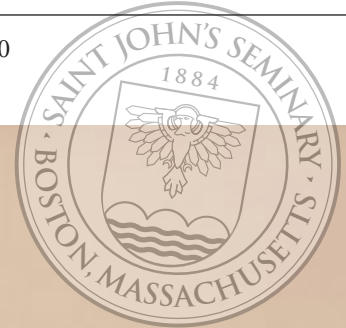


Photo: Courtesy of George Martell

PRAISE AND THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR NEW PRIESTS AND LAY LEADERS

Very Reverend Stephen E. Salocks, Rector



ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY COMMUNITY, it is an honor to share with you the news of our fourteen newly ordained priests, six transitional deacons, and six new lay leaders. I am sure you will join me in congratulating them on their accomplishments and eagerly look forward to greeting them in their new assignments and roles.

It goes without saying that this was not the end of the final year of formation that any of these individuals could have imagined. The end of their last year of seminary was completed remotely amid a global pandemic that forced most ordination dates to be delayed and then rescheduled. The good news is that, as of this writing, all of our seminarians have been ordained, and the new priests are beginning their new assignments across seven dioceses. Although it happens every year and it is the reason for the seminary's existence, the ordination of men to the priesthood still feels incredibly special and unique. It is the cause of great celebration. I invite you to keep in prayer six of our seminarians who still await their ordination to the transitional diaconate this Fall.

We must also recognize in a special way the six men and women who completed their studies and earned graduate degrees in the Master of Arts in Ministry and Master of Theological Studies programs. As the Lay Formation program at Saint John's Seminary begins its 20th year, our commitment to form lay leaders for the Church continues, and we are proud of the ways our alumni are making a difference in endless ministries across the region. Please keep an eye out for special 20th Anniversary events during the 2020-2021 academic year to celebrate the achievements of the Lay Formation program and our graduates.

Please know that we are most grateful for your continued support of Saint John's Seminary, and that you are continually in our thoughts and prayers as, together, we strive to follow our Lord and form future priests and lay leaders to proclaim the gospel in these most unusual times.

May the Lord bless and protect us all!

2020 PRIESTLY AND TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATIONS



Photo: Rick Snizek

Diocese of Providence, June 6
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Hiep Nguyen



Diocese of Manchester, June 6
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Ryan Amazeen & Fr. Joshua Livingston



Diocese of Rochester, June 13
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Joseph Martuscello



Diocese of Fall River, June 13
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Steven Booth



Archdiocese of Boston, August 1
Priestly Ordinations of Fr. Joseph Hubbard,
Fr. Matthew Norwood, Fr. Fernando José Vivas,
& Fr. Daniel Zinger



Photo: Carolee McGrath

Diocese of Springfield, August 15
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Stanislaus Achu, Fr. Matthew Barone,
& Fr. Valentine Nworah

THOUGH NOT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES imagined, fourteen men were ordained priests and four men ordained transitional deacons this summer. Six men are still awaiting their ordination as transitional deacons. All of these men have been prepared for their ministry as priests at Saint John's Seminary. Priestly Formation is developed through four pillars: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. Each seminarian is formed and prepared for the priesthood via coursework, ministry, spiritual direction, retreats, workshops and living in community with one another. We congratulate these men and continue to pray for those who are still awaiting their ordinations. Read more about each ordination by visiting: www.sjs.edu



Diocese of Worcester, June 20
Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Rev. Mr. John Larochelle



Oblates of the Virgin Mary, August 15
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Paul Kallal O.M.V.



Diocese of Manchester, May 30
Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Rev. Mr. Joseph Moynahan



Diocese of Portland, August 22
Priestly Ordination of
Fr. Alexander Boucher



Diocese of Rochester, August 15
Transitional Diaconate of
Rev. Mr. Joseph Maurici, & Rev. Mr. Steven Lewis



CO-WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD

Lay men and women hear and answer the universal call to holiness primarily and uniquely in the secular realm. They are found in each and every one of the world's occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life.

For lay persons, this call, given in the Sacraments of Initiation, is rightly described as having a "secular character" that is properly theirs as laity. The secular nature of their calling refers to the fact that God "has handed over the world to women and men, so that they may participate in the work of creation, free creation from the influence of sin and sanctify themselves in marriage or the celibate life, in a family, in a profession and in the various activities of society." This task is itself a participation in the mission of the Church. All of the baptized are called to work toward the transformation of the world.

CELEBRATING THE 2020 LAY FORMATION GRADUATES

WE CONGRATULATE OUR 2020 GRADUATES. Our students come to us with varied backgrounds and experiences, but are all united in their desire to grow in their knowledge of the faith and to serve the Church through various ministries.



JAMES 'GUS' ADAMS

Gus is a parishioner at St. Anthony's Parish in East Falmouth, MA, which is part of the Falmouth Catholic Collaborative, Diocese of Fall River. He has been married to his wife, Lisa for 31 years, and they have three grown children. Together they have owned and operated Falmouth Physical Therapy for the past 28 years.

He is extremely grateful to Msgr. Steve Avila for his guidance and encouragement in growing in his faith. It was Msgr. Avila who recommended taking a course at Saint John's Seminary prior to pursuing the diaconate in Fall River.

Gus serves as a Lector at St. Anthony's and also works as a core leader in the That Man Is You program which encourages men to grow in their faith and be the true leaders.



FRANCES ANDERSON

Fran attended Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy pursuing a degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation she began her career in the giftware wholesale industry. In 2008 she saw an advertisement in her parish bulletin for an Administrative Assistant, which led to a career change from the public sector to Church ministry. Fran loved working within this environment and quickly became involved in both faith formation and pastoral ministries.

Fran began her quest for knowledge with the Catechetical Certificate Program (CCP) offered at Saint John's Seminary. Following completion of the CCP she was accepted into the Master of Arts in Ministry program in 2016. Fran is currently working as the Director of Faith Formation for grades K-6 in the Lexington Catholic Community.



DEACON RON GERWATOWSKI

Deacon Ron was ordained by Cardinal Seán O'Malley in September of 2019. He is serving at Saint Mary Parish in Franklin, MA.

The Master of Arts in Ministry program (MAM) played a significant role in Deacon Ron's discernment to the Diaconate. Many years ago, he began taking classes, one class per semester, to gain a greater understanding of the faith. He was getting very close to completing the MAM degree when

he was called to the Diaconate. He then began taking classes in the Diaconate formation process. The MAM experience, combined with heartfelt conversations with others in the program, confirmed Ron's calling.

The MAM program established a very strong foundation for Ron's Diaconate formation, giving him a significant head start in scripture, theology, and ministry.

PAMELA 'PAM' GUERRIEO

In 2016, Pam came to the Master of Arts in Ministry program (MAM) with the intention of moving from parish-based ministry to college ministry as a campus minister. Her plans changed, however, through her MAM field education experience at Mary Immaculate nursing home in Lawrence, MA.

Pam's experience ministering to the elderly residents at Mary Immaculate, along with her experience as a hospice volunteer with Compassus Hospice, have awakened a desire in Pam to focus her ministry efforts on the elderly population. She is enrolled in a CPE (clinical pastoral education) program beginning this September 2020, upon completion next April, Pam hopes to become employed as a hospice chaplain where she will minister to the spiritual needs of hospice patients and their families in nursing homes and their own residences.



LINDA RILEY

Linda Riley is the Ministry Manager for the Saugus Catholics Collaborative. She works with both staff and volunteers to create and manage volunteer programs that serve the Collaborative community.

Linda believes that she is called to serve the people of God in whatever ways her particular talents and abilities can be of use. This is why she enrolled in the Master of Arts in Ministry program, so that she can be more effective in her ministry.



Prior to joining the Saugus Catholics Collaborative, Linda was the President/CEO of Linda Riley Media Services, a full service advertising and marketing communications agency in Peabody, MA.

MICHAEL SOLOMON

Michael grew up in Newton, MA and attended Catholic Memorial School. Then he went to Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he majored in Catechetics and Theology. It was at Franciscan that Michael realized he had a love for catechesis and for teaching. So, after many years of catechizing, doing ministry, studying theology and the classics, he believes his Master of Arts in Ministry degree has prepared him well for the next step. Michael is excited to begin teaching middle school this fall at Our Lady of Lourdes Classical Academy in Denver, CO.



LAY FORMATION

Forming disciples.
Proclaiming Jesus Christ.

Saint John's Seminary is a graduate school of theology and offers two fully accredited graduate degree programs in Catholic theology for laity, religious, and deacons in addition to forming future priests. These two degree programs are faithful to the Catholic intellectual tradition, are carefully crafted to provide an integrated and thorough study of Catholic theology, and allow for specialization in one of two themes: acquiring skills to minister within the Church, or honing one's skills to participate fully in the New Evangelization of the world.

www.sjs.edu/layformation

Currents' is the newsletter of Saint John's Seminary in Boston, MA. With this publication, our community, strives to engage current and future supporters of the seminary with important and inspirational content as we live out our mission to educate, form, and support your next generation of priests and lay leaders. Questions or comments regarding content may be sent to: contact@sjs.edu



JOIN US IN PRAYER

Our Seminarians keep your intentions in their prayers when they gather daily for Mass, Adoration, and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Submit your prayer intentions by scanning the QR code below.



God, please give to your Church today many more priests after your own heart. May they be worthy representatives of Christ the Good Shepherd. May they wholeheartedly devote themselves to prayer and penance; be examples of humility and poverty; shining models of holiness; tireless and powerful preachers of the Word of God; zealous dispensers of your grace in the sacraments. May their loving devotion to your Son Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary his Mother be the twin fountains of fruitfulness for their ministry.

St. John Vianney's Prayer for Priests

SEMINARY COLLABORATION STATEMENT FROM CARDINAL O'MALLEY

Archbishop of Boston & Chair of Saint John's Seminary Board of Trustees

July 14, 2020

The Very Rev. Stephen E. Salocks, Rector of St. John's Seminary and the Very Rev. Brian Kiely, Rector of Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary today announced that with the assistance of their leadership teams they are working together to develop a proposal for strengthening and revitalizing priestly formation by way of the seminaries coming together on one campus.

As directed by Cardinal Seán O'Malley, this effort seeks to preserve the distinctive traditions and strengths of both seminaries while sharing faculty and achieving operating efficiencies. The institutional collaboration will serve candidates beginning formation following times of employment in the private or public sectors, or having worked for the Church, and candidates more recently having completed undergraduate or graduate education. Both seminaries, working together more closely, will remain committed to forming faithful and effective priests for service to the people of God.

Charting a shared future calls for reimagining priestly formation with recognition of the challenges and opportunities emerging for the Catholic Church in the United States. The shared programs will build on each seminary's best practices while responding to the changing circumstances of the Church in current times and going forward, always holding fast to the foundational principle of excellence in priestly formation.

The seminaries begin this collaboration project with confidence that the Lord will provide Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary and St. John's Seminary the strength and insight to provide His Church with shepherds after His own heart. Together they affirm their dedication to the sacred mission of forming priests for generations of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Boston and beyond.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LAY FORMATION

In 2000, Saint John's Seminary formed the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization in order to prepare lay ecclesial ministers for service in parishes throughout New England.

Dr. Aldona Lingertat, Director, Lay Formation Programs, notes that "Our students and alumni are our greatest legacy. They carry on the mission of the Church in so many different and wonderful ways. Wherever the Holy Spirit leads them, they respond to God's call to serve His Church and minister to those in need." With a 20 year legacy, we will celebrate throughout the 2020/2021 academic year. Although we would like to celebrate this milestone with you in person, our celebration must be a virtual one due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Follow the link below to register for the virtual celebration of Lay Formation at Saint John's Seminary.

Scan the QR code to celebrate with us!



PRIESTLY FORMATION DURING A PANDEMIC

Rev. Thomas K. Macdonald, Vice-Rector

Despite all the challenges that Covid-19 has imposed on educational institutions throughout the world, St. John's Seminary opened its doors this fall to yet another class of young men desiring to follow the Lord's call. Opening the seminary in the midst of these challenges was not easy. Indeed, it felt something like what St. Peter must have experienced when the Lord Jesus, walking toward him on the stormy sea, invited him to step out of his boat and come to Him over those dark and deep waters. Like St. Peter, we at St. John's Seminary had a choice before us: we could see the pandemic raging around us as all-powerful or we could step out in deeper trust that the Lord would sustain us as we answered His call. We chose to step out in trust. We chose to see this year as an opportunity for the whole seminary community to draw closer together in Christ. While going forward with our formation program has required significant sacrifices to ensure everyone's safety, laying down certain freedoms for the good of others stands at the heart of what it means to be a priest of Jesus Christ.



Seminary, most fundamentally, is meant to be a school of fraternal charity. Pandemics cannot cancel our lessons in loving others. On the contrary, times like these can drive that most essential lesson deeper into our hearts.

Priests are called to serve their people in good times and in bad, when it is easy and when it is hard, in sickness and in health. Priestly formation must reflect this. That is why St. John's Seminary opened its doors this academic year. While we hope and pray for better times in our world, the truth is that we tend to grow the most in times of trial and hardship. Please join us in our prayer that the trials and sacrifices of this academic year will only serve to mold us into priests even more ready and willing to lay down our comforts for the sake of the flock we seek to serve.

FACULTY BLOG

BEWARE OF WHAT WILL KILL THE SOUL

Rev. David Barnes, Director of Spiritual Formation

HYPOCRISY, POSSESSIONS, POWER, pleasure, prestige, popularity, coziness with the world, and false prophets who are like wolves in sheep's clothing: these are all things that could destroy us. We are all very susceptible to these dangers and it's worth all of us examining ourselves and our circumstances to make sure we are not walking dangerously close to the third rail. Do I know the voice of the Good Shepherd? Do I love his voice? Am I too concerned about how I am perceived by others? Is my version of Christianity almost indistinguishable from some political platform? Am I more concerned about worldly comfort than eternal life? Am I allowing myself to be seduced by a false prophet? Beware.



Read more at: www.shepherdspost.blogspot.com



An excerpt from
BISHOP DEELEY
Homily, Mass of Installation
Diocese of Portland, ME.

We are a Church that draws its life and strength from the Eucharist. We need priests to make that possible. As we strengthen our parish communities as places of welcome where young people can encounter Jesus, we need to engage them in conversation about what the Lord might be calling them to do with their lives. When we see young people who show signs of love for the Eucharist and a desire to serve others, we can invite them to pray about what God could be telling them to do with their lives.

I encourage you, whether you are a parent, priest, parishioner, or member of a religious community, to invite someone you know to consider a religious vocation. We all have a vocation, a call from God to live out our lives in a particular way. In helping our young people realize their particular call, we might also ask God to assist us in living better the call he has given us so that we might better serve him by the example of our lives.

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135



A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

BOSTON'S CATHOLIC SEMINARIES Remain at Forefront of Priestly and Lay Formation Through New Entity

The Catholic Archdiocese of Boston is blessed to be home to two distinct seminaries: Saint John's Seminary, founded in 1884, the oldest Major Seminary in New England, and Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary, founded in 1964.



Read Cardinal O'Malley's statement on page 6.

2020 ORDINATIONS HONOR A PRIEST



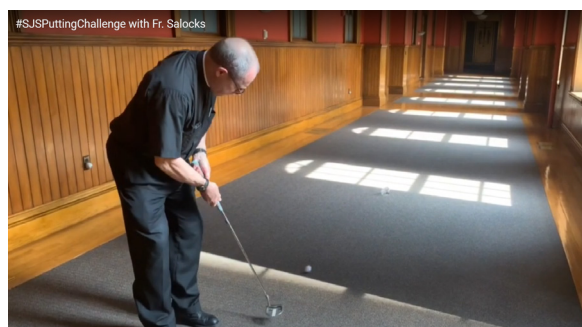
These fourteen newly ordained priests are now serving you at their assignments across seven dioceses: Boston, Fall River, Portland, Providence, Rochester, Springfield, and Manchester.

They have been prepared for their ministry as priests at Saint John's Seminary. Priestly formation is developed through four pillars: human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral.

This blessing is a direct result of the endless prayers of Catholics across the region like you who have asked the Holy Spirit to bless our Church with vocations. Please consider honoring these men and their accomplishment by supporting Saint John's Seminary as we continue to prepare the next class of men for ordination during these uncertain times. Scan the QR code to make a donation, or visit our website: www.sjs.edu



THE SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY PUTTING CHALLENGE



Fr. Salocks, Rector of St. John's Seminary, starting the Putting Challenge and challenging the greater Saint John's Seminary community to participate.

A big Thank You to all of those who made our Saint John's Seminary Putting Challenge this Summer such a success. Thank you all for participating and we look forward to being able to gather in person next year for our annual Golf Tournament on August 23, 2021.

