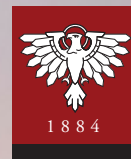


SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



CURRENTS

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135 • www.sjs.edu • WINTER 2020



LISTEN TO THE LORD'S CALL

Very Reverend Stephen E. Salocks, Rector



THE ARRIVAL OF ADVENT this year is most timely. As a new liturgical year begins, we once again hear the call to prepare for the coming of the Lord. The season encourages us to live in hope and anticipation like our Jewish and early Christian ancestors that we read about in the Scriptures. Like them, we long for the presence and assistance of the Lord in the midst of trials that seem to be overwhelming. As Advent progresses and we move toward the celebration of our Lord's birth, we look forward to hearing – and we need to hear – the many stories about the ways God continually entered into covenant with His people and the way prophecies challenged God's people to recognize and respond to His presence, plan, and power in their midst.

This is a time to hear and to respond to the cry to prepare for the coming of the Lord. When the prophet Isaiah challenges his people to prepare, to repent, and to wait for the God who will “rend the heavens and come down,” he is also challenging us. When John the Baptist cries out in the wilderness and invites the people of his day to seek repentance, he is also speaking to us.

Read more at www.sjs.edu or by scanning this QR code:



SCAN ME





FROM THE CRIB TO THE CROSS

Rev. Edward Riley, Director of Pastoral Formation



EACH CHRISTMAS SEASON can draw us deeper into the mystery of God's great love for us and so it can evoke by its very celebration an encounter with the Most Blessed Trinity: GOD the Father, GOD the Son - the WORD made Flesh in Jesus Christ - and GOD the Holy Spirit. This encounter becomes all the more awe inspiring when we take time to contemplate it within the quiet gaze upon the Crèche. It is here that we come to appreciate all the more that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity took on our lowly human flesh in order that He might redeem us and sanctify us. And yet, there is more!

When our eyes fall upon the beautiful figures of the Holy Family within this scene of our family Crèche, often keeping pride of place throughout the Christmas Season in our living room, on our dining room table or in another significant place in our home, we begin to 'see' the deeper reality of the Incarnation: we see that in Jesus' humanity, He has truly become "like us in all things but sin" (cf. Heb 4:15). It is in this subtle but profound



O God, who have made this most sacred night radiant with the splendor of the true light, grant, we pray, that we, who have known the mysteries of his light on earth, may also delight in his gladness in heaven. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Collect:

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Mass During the Night

truth that we begin to ‘hear’ again that our own humanity is ‘very good,’ that we are not just one of many creatures or a clump of random cells. Neither are we the sum of our sins but in fact every intentional smile, sincere word, or ardent act of charity can transform our soul and the soul of another, which reveals that it truly can be so: “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal 2:20). In fact, the Son of Mary reveals that our humanity - with all of its idiosyncrasies (speaking for myself!) - is important and that its perfection through a graced-filled virtuous and holy life will attain its true end for which we were redeemed by Christ: eternal life with the Most Blessed Trinity!

In seminary formation at Saint John’s Seminary, we know that the gift of priestly formation is to aid a man in becoming “a ‘living image’ of Jesus Christ, ... seek(ing) to reflect in himself, as far as possible, the human perfection which shines forth in the incarnate Son of God” (Pastores Dabo Vobis, “I Will Give You Shepherds,” 43).

Read more at www.sjs.edu



SCAN ME



Diocese of Providence, September 26
Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Rev. Mr. Doan Nguyen, & Rev. Mr. Dan Mahoney



Saint Anselm Abbey, October 2
Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Rev. Br. Francis McCarty OSB



Archdiocese of Boston, Diocese of Kumbakonam
Franciscans of Primitive Observance, October 24
Transitional Diaconate Ordination of
Rev. Mr. Fernando Ayala, Rev. Mr. David Campo,
Rev. Mr. Alwin Chinnappan, Rev. Br. Francis Godkin FPO,
Rev. Mr. Robert LeBlanc, Rev. Mr. Leonardo Moreira, Rev. Mr. Kevin
Pleitez, Rev. Mr. Steven Restrepo, Rev. Mr. Valanarasu Williamraj

TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE ORDINATIONS

Editorial Staff

ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE Saint John's Seminary community, we congratulate these men on their ordination to the Transitional Diaconate.

Usually at the start of their final year, Seminarians are ordained to be transitional deacons, and finish their seminary formation serving on weekends at local parishes. The defining charism of the order of deacon is that of service, reflecting the servanthood of Christ "who came, not to be served, but to serve". The diaconate is a three-fold ministry of word, liturgy, and charity. To be a deacon means to be a living example of service to others.

The year these men will spend as transitional deacons will be an intense period of pastoral and liturgical preparation for their ordination to the priesthood.

Among other duties, deacons are able to preach, baptize, and witness marriages, as well as preside over wakes and funerals.

Read more at www.sjs.edu

*We pray, that these your
 servants, whom you gra-
 ciously choose today for
 the office of Deacon,
 may be effective in
 action, gentle in
 ministry, and constant
 in prayer.*

The Roman Missal:
 Collect, For the Ordination of Deacons

SERVICE IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

Dcn. John Larochelle, Diocese of Worcester



I STOOD WAITING PATIENTLY in front of the nurse at the desk as she looked at me and said “I’m sorry, COVID regulations state that patients are only allowed to have three visitors and you aren’t one of the names on the list.” I

had been told by the family before coming that this rule did not apply to clergy who were visiting patients, but the nurse was confused.

“I will try calling upstairs to see if they will give permission for you to visit the floor” she finally said. After a brief wait the rule was clarified and I was issued a special badge to be displayed at all times and allowed to go upstairs to visit the young man who had just had major surgery. My visit was short as his family had to wait until I was finished before they could go upstairs themselves. Only one visitor at a time! Still, I was able to spend time with him, to

*“despite the challenges,
it has been a time of
great joy”*

read from Scripture and to pray with him, and finally, to give him a blessing.

I was ordained a deacon for the Diocese of Worcester this past June 20th, two weeks later than planned because of the pandemic. It would be easy to focus on the challenges and difficulties of being ordained and serving as a deacon during this time but that would be misleading because, despite the challenges, it has been a time of great joy. In Matthew’s Gospel

Christ tells his disciples “I came not to be served but to serve” and so it is fitting that this last year of seminary formation, which is spent learning to conform ourselves ever more closely to Christ, should be spent as one who is ordained to serve others in charity.

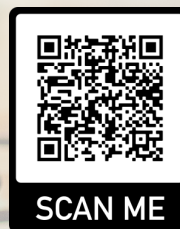
Read more at www.sjs.edu.



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.



SCAN ME

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF LAY FORMATION

THE LAY FORMATION PROGRAMS

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston, opened our first virtual celebration with these words, "we are blessed to offer both Master of Arts in Ministry and Master of Theological Studies Programs, greatly enhancing the quality of lay leadership at our parishes, agencies, and central ministries."

These exciting virtual events are made possible through our partnership with Mario Costabile who is the Executive Director of Array of Hope. Our gratitude also extends to Bonnie Redgers, a MAM '02 graduate and Producer at Catholic TV, who has hosted these virtual events.

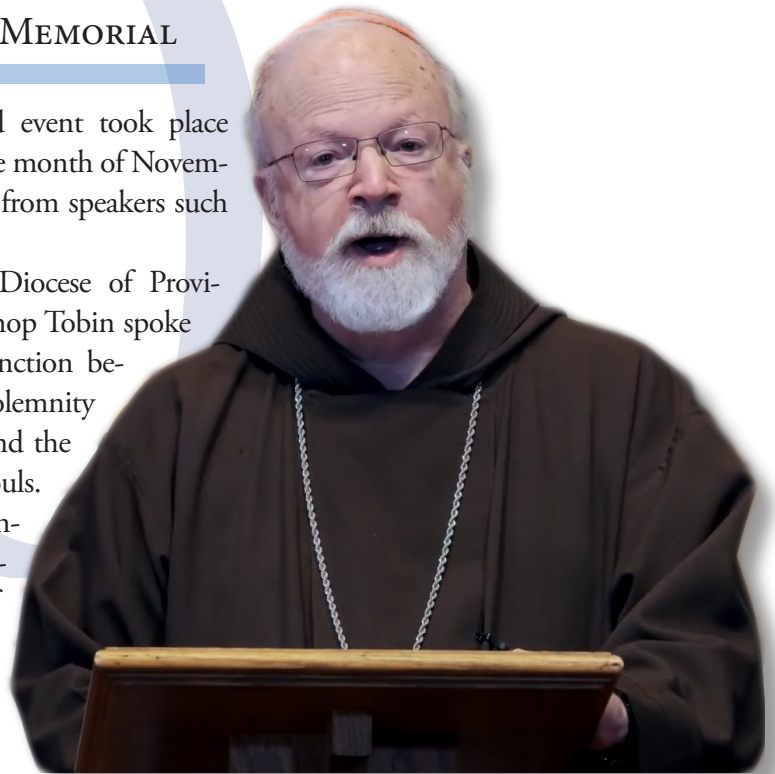
REFLECTIONS ON THE ROSARY

Our first event took place during the month of October, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. We explored this beautiful devotion through a conversations between Fr. Joseph Briody who is a professor of Sacred Scripture, and Fr. Willy Raymond who is the President of Holy Cross Family Ministries; and Fr. George Eveans and Sr. Regina Dick FSP. These discussions focused on the Rosary, the life of Ven. Patrick Peyton, and Marian Spirituality.

ALL SOULS MEMORIAL

Our second event took place during the month of November. We heard from speakers such as Bishop Tobin of the Diocese of Providence, RI. Bishop Tobin spoke about the distinction between the Solemnity of All Saints, and the Feast of All Souls. We also remembered in a special way all of our beloved deceased faculty, alumni, students, family, and friends.

We invite you to join us again for our third virtual event on 02/24/2021 which will be a Lenten Retreat. To register and to learn more, scan the QR code or visit: www.sjs.edu/celebrating20



Cardinal Sean speaking at the October Virtual Celebration of Lay Formation



SCAN ME

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Paul Metilly, Academic Dean



SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY is known for the excellence of its faculty in all areas of formation. This tradition continues with the addition of numerous excellent faculty members in the 2020-21 academic year. We also saw the departure of three full-time faculty members at the conclusion of the last academic year.

To read about all of our new faculty members and those who have departed from Saint John's Seminary, please visit www.sjs.edu, or scan the QR code below.

NEW FACULTY



**Rev. Maurice
Agbaw-Ebai**
Theology



**Prof. Lourdes
Alvarez**
Spanish



**Rev. Cristiano
Barbosa**
Theology



Rev. David Barnes
Director of Spiritual
Formation



**Dr. Michael
Coughlin**
Church History



Prof. Peter Kreeft
Apologetics



Prof. Marcus Otte
Philosophy



Rev. Nathan Ricci
Canon Law



**Rev. Kevin
Staley-Joyce**
Patristics



Rev. Peter Stamm
Theology



**Prof. Julianne
Shanklin**
Canon Law

DEPARTING FACULTY



Msgr. Marc Caron



Prof. Janet Hunt



**Rev. David
Pignato**

Universities and seminaries are defined by the quality and commitment of their faculty. The presence of our faculty in the lives of our students and seminarians is a vital part of their formation as the next generation of parish priests and lay Catholic leaders.

While these are challenging times for higher education all over the world, we welcome each of our new faculty members to the Saint John's Seminary community.

Our Priestly Formation Program and Lay Formation Programs are grounded in the four pillars of formation: Academic, Spiritual, Pastoral, and Human. We invite our readers to learn more about these formation programs by visiting our website at www.sjs.edu.

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

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