

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



# CURRENTS

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# COST TO EDUCATE



25% of a seminarian's education is supported by donors like you.

**\$15,000** Financial gap for each seminarian, to be raised by Saint John's

**\$45,000** Tuition paid by each sending diocese or religious order for each seminarian.

**\$60,000**

Cost to educate and provide room and board for one year for each seminarian

In the 2021-22 Academic year, 15 dioceses and religious orders trusted Saint John's Seminary to educate their future priests. Those educated at Saint John's pay the tuition of \$45,000 per year per student. The cost to educate each resident seminarian at Saint John's Seminary is \$60,000 per year. In every Catholic educational model, from the parish school to university, the actual cost to educate is higher than tuition charged. This critical 'funding gap' is why we must rely on generous donors like you to continue to operate. Although each diocese raises essential funds to support vocations and priestly education, it only covers their seminarians' tuition. Therefore, please continue to not only pray for essential vocations, but also remember Saint John's critical work of educating and forming those who are called to ministry.



From Left: Mr. Nguyen Dinh, Mr. Mark Wegener, Mr. David Cataline

In an effort to reduce costs, please let us know if you do not wish to receive a print copy of *Currents*, our seminary newsletter. A digital copy is available at [www.sjs.edu/currents](http://www.sjs.edu/currents).

Please email us at [contact@sjs.edu](mailto:contact@sjs.edu) to be removed from the list.

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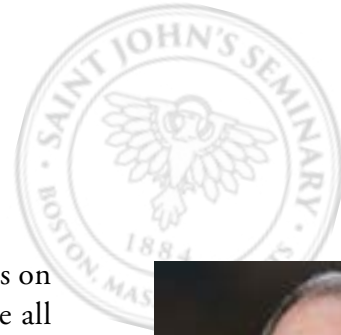
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## Greetings to all!

The summer of 2021 is coming to an end, and as I write these words on the eve of Labor Day Weekend, seminarians, faculty, and staff have all returned for a new year at Saint John's Seminary. With great joy we welcome nineteen new seminarians. Orientation and the in-house retreat have prepared us for the start of a new academic year. We are joined by new and returning seminarians from the Benedictines, Carmelites, Oblates of the Virgin Mary, Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, and seminarians of the Neocatechumenal Way.

After a summer that gave seminarians and faculty opportunities for more normal pastoral experiences, travel, vacations, and study, we are ready and eager to engage the work, study, and prayer of priestly formation in a more personal and complete way this year.

Those returning to the seminary building note some significant changes, most notably a new dining service and staff. Also, changes of appearance and ambience within the building remind us more clearly of our identity as a community centered around Jesus Christ and marked by prayer, fraternity, intellectual engagement, and evangelical zeal.

For over 135 years, Saint John's has been committed to forming men who see each day as a new opportunity to follow the Lord more closely through the gift of self and who accept every day as an opportunity for radical conversion: to examine their lives in terms of growth in obedience, in celibate, chaste love, and in simplicity of life.

As this new year begins at Saint John's Seminary, we are both hopeful and grateful. With the grace and blessing of God and the support of all of you, we believe we will continue to fulfill our mission to prepare good and holy priests and lay ministers for you and your families. Please know that you are always in our prayers.

God's blessing and peace be with you all!

**Very Rev. Stephen Salocks '80**

Rector

Saint John's Seminary



Welcome video from  
Very Rev. Stephen Salocks



# 14 ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Photo: Pilot photo, Gregory L. Tracy

## JOURNEY TOWARD THE PRIESTHOOD



Video by Fr. Fernando Ayala,  
Class of 2021

The highlight of the year at Saint John's Seminary is the ordination of our seminarians to the priesthood. Throughout the summer months we have had great cause for celebration as 14 men have been ordained priests to minister to you in parishes throughout New England and around the world.

For six years, these seminarians have been in the process of Priestly Formation, working hard to become faithful disciples of the Lord. The work and mission of the seminary is to configure the hearts of our seminarians to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. In the critical task of Priestly Formation, each

seminarian is accompanied by our dedicated team of formators, faculty, and seminary staff.

Fr. Connors, Director of Sacred Liturgy, writes, "One should not conceive the seminary like a graduate school or an internship. While our students engage in a rigorous program of studies of philosophy and theology and receive pastoral assignments throughout the Archdiocese of Boston and beyond, their time here cannot be measured merely in grades or service hours. Instead, their work involves allowing the Lord to transform them. In these walls, especially in the many hours spent in our chapel, the Lord transforms their hearts to be like His. The seminarians of Saint John's become men ready to lay down their lives in service of Jesus and His Church."

Receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders marks the beginning of a journey of ministry and service to Christ, His Church, and His faithful. As you celebrate these ordinations, we ask you to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, as well as the continued success of the seminary.

**GRACIOUS AND LOVING GOD,**  
we thank you for the gift of  
our priests.

Through them, we experience  
your presence in the sacra-  
ments.

Help our priests to be strong  
in their vocation.

Set their souls on fire with  
love for your people.

Grant them the wisdom, un-  
derstanding, and strength they  
need to follow in the footsteps  
of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision  
of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they  
need to spread the Gospel.

Allow them to experience joy  
in their ministry.

Help them to become instru-  
ments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus  
Christ, who lives and reigns as  
our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

*Prayer: United States Conference of  
Catholic Bishops*

### UPCOMING ORDINATIONS:

Rev. Br. Francis McCarty, O.S.B.

Rev. Mr. Anh Do

Rev. Mr. Duc Pham

Rev. Mr. Linh Chu



Photo: Pilot photo, Gregory L. Tracy

ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON AND THE  
DIOCESE OF KUMBakonam, INDIA  
May 22, 2021

Fr. Valanarasu Newton Williamraj (Diocese of Kumbakonam, India), Fr. Robert LeBlanc, Fr. Francis Godkin, F.P.O., Fr. David Campo, Fr. Kevin Pleitez, Fr. Fernando Ayala, Fr. Leonardo Moreira, Fr. Alwin Chinnappan (Diocese of Kumbakonam, India)



Photo courtesy of Laura Kilgus

DIOCESE OF PROVIDENCE  
June 5, 2021

Fr. Doan Nguyen and Fr. Daniel Mahoney



Photo courtesy of Jeff Witherow

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER  
June 5, 2021

Fr. Steven Lewis and Fr. Joseph Maurici



Photo courtesy of Jeff Witherow



Photo courtesy of Jeff Dachowski

DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER  
June 5, 2021  
Fr. Joseph Moynahan



Photo courtesy of Steve Kaufman

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER  
June 19, 2021  
Fr. John Larochelle



## PARISH SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS: PUTTING FORMATION INTO PRACTICE

Rev. Mr. Patrick O'Connor



Rev. Mr. Patrick O'Connor with Fr. David Michael, Beverly Collaborative

Every summer, each seminarian is assigned to a different parish in their diocese. Typically, this is a great part of seminary formation. For me, this summer was no exception. I was assigned to the Beverly Collaborative, a 3-church collaborative on the North Shore. During my experience this summer, I learned and experienced a lot which will be beneficial for my future ministry. For example, I was reminded of the importance of listening to the ideas and advice of others. I was able to share my ideas for ministry with the pastor and the parishioners, and listen to theirs in order to determine what would be the most fruitful option. They suggested that I run an online weekly Bible study, which proved to be very fruitful. Every Wednesday on Facebook Live, we would read through a chapter or two of *1 Corinthians* and have a conversation on the relevance of God's Word to our lives today. Each week, we had great conversations and fostered a greater love for the Scriptures.

My classes at Saint John's Seminary helped prepare me for these sessions. Another great blessing of this format was that parishioners could watch the recorded sessions at a later date. Some parishioners would tell me that they would watch it with their families at a later point and others would watch it every Thursday

over breakfast! I'm very happy that this format was used, allowing this to happen. I had intended to use Zoom to make it more interactive, but Facebook Live was suggested to me and was certainly the correct suggestion! The parishioners needed the Facebook Live format, so I'm glad I learned to be open to the suggestions of others. Without this format, many parishioners would have missed out on the opportunity because of busy schedules.

Additionally, during the summer I had the opportunity to visit several homebound parishioners to bring them the Eucharist weekly. It was a blessing to bring the Bread of Life to these souls who have been thirsting for His presence, especially during the pandemic. We would have conversations about their faith, their sufferings, and their families. We called these visits "Communion and Conversation." This ministry proved to be very helpful to prepare me for my future priesthood. It reminded me of the beautiful souls who will be in my parish, even if I don't see them often. It reminded me of the need to always reach out to those who are not entering the church walls for whatever reason, and to bring Christ's presence when I do.

Read more about our seminarians and their Summer assignments at [www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news) or scan the QR code below



## THE MYSTERY OF LOVE IS FOUND IN PASTORAL FORMATION

Rev. Edward Riley, Director of Pastoral Formation



With our seminary school year now ‘up and running,’ many of our seminarians are ‘out and about,’ keeping all of the appropriate protocols required for immersing themselves into their pastoral placements where they have the joy of experiencing a great variety of pastoral settings and meeting people of all ages. Their placements within the Archdiocese of Boston or their home Diocese include hospitals, nursing homes, after-school programs, university Catholic centers, catechetical programs, prisons, residential programs for children and adults, and of course a great many parish ministries. On average, a seminarian will spend four to five hours each week in a formal assignment during his years of Second Pre-Theology through Third Theology and the better part of a weekend as a deacon in Fourth Theology, not including their summer assignments often in parishes.

Each pastoral setting is a moment of privileged encounters where seminarians can experience the Presence of the Divine Master ministering in and through them and those they will be accompanying throughout the coming school year. Their time visiting the infirm and the elderly, instructing children, teens or young adults in the faith, or be-

ing present to various ministries within our numerous parishes allows them to learn the service of priesthood under the mentorship of pastors, religious and lay men and women. They are constantly learning from and interacting with parish staff and parishioners where these encounters are as much about ‘receiving’ as they are ‘giving.’

“You shall love  
your neighbor as  
yourself”

(Mt 22:39)

One of the joys of seminary formation is the way a man learns about himself as he responds to the call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ. Each seminarian gains a better understanding of how Jesus Christ is working through his past life experiences - knowing a fair number of our seminarians have been out of college several years before entering Seminary - and learning how to embrace his strengths, weaknesses and limitations, all the while allowing these pastoral moments to shape and form him. These placements in the world provide the opportunities through which he prepares to serve others in sincere humility and with genuine authenticity. Each day is one for personal growth in self-awareness and self-identity in Jesus Christ.

Each pastoral encounter with the other person allows a privileged moment of deeper conversion often made known to him in his prayer later in the day or during the week when he can listen to the LORD who sheds Light on his experiences. Often he finds sharing these experiences with his seminary Spiritual Director and Formation Advisor, entrusted with his formation, brings greater clarity and discernment. These privileged conversations can often bring comfort and assurance to the seminarian that he is ‘in the right place.’ Whether visiting, teaching, listening or preaching, if ordained a deacon, a seminarian’s life is shaped in the ‘here and now,’ as well as benefiting his future priestly service to the People of God.

Pastoral placements can provide moments for conversion of heart, which is the daily desire of every disciple of Jesus Christ, but even more so for one called to Holy Orders. Please continue to pray for the good men here at Saint John’s Seminary, and the good work the LORD is doing in our seminary priestly formation program. And please know each man here - seminarian and priest, alike - prays for you and those dearest to you with great gratitude each and every day.

Read more at [www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news)

# WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN'S

Saint John's is pleased to welcome three new members to our Board of Trustees



MR. JOHN CORCORAN  
Founder, Trinity Partners



MR. BRIAN J. HEALY, CPA  
Partner, Healy & Healy



REV. MSGR. ALBERT KENNEY, S.T.L.  
Vicar General and Moderator of  
the Curia, Diocese of Providence

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Saint John's welcomes 19 new seminarians to our community



MR. CHRISTOPHER BARTON  
Archdiocese of Boston  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. ALDEN BRONSON  
Archdiocese of Boston  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. LUCAS DACOSTA  
Diocese of Fall River  
1st Theology



MR. ALEXANDER DETIRADO  
Neocatechumenal Way  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. MATTIAS EMANUEL  
Diocese of Speyer, Germany  
In Residence



MR. MOISES FRANCHI  
Neocatechumenal Way  
1st Pre-Theology



BR. JOHN-MAGDALENE FANDERS  
Disalced Carmelites  
3rd Theology



MR. MATTHEW HARRINGTON  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2nd Theology





MR. JOSEPH JASINSKI  
Archdiocese of Boston  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. ADAM JONES  
Oblates of the Virgin Mary  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. NICHOLAS JONES  
Diocese of Providence  
1st Pre-Theology



BR. ISAAH KLENA  
Discalced Carmelites  
1st Theology



MR. JAIRON OLMOS  
Diocese of Providence  
2nd Theology



MR. DIEGO MENDOZA  
Neocatechumenal Way  
1st Pre-Theology



BR. MOSES URLAKIS  
Discalced Carmelites  
1st Theology



MR. SAUL QUECHOL  
Neocatechumenal Way  
1st Pre-Theology



BR. FELIX MARY WALDRON  
Franciscans of  
the Primitive Observance  
1st Theology



MR. TIMOTHY WALSH  
Archdiocese of Boston  
1st Pre-Theology



MR. AARON YOHE  
Archdiocese of Boston  
2nd Theology

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## THE FIRST STEPS OF SEMINARY FORMATION

On September 1, Cardinal Seán O'Malley offered the Mass of the Holy Spirit to open the academic year at Saint John's. In his homily, he reflected on the importance of seminary formation for the life of a diocesan presbyterate. For the nineteen new seminarians, the cardinal's reflections concluded the orientation process, which integrates the new men into the community which they have joined and the rule of life they have undertaken. Its organizers, seminarians Rodrigo Martinez and Paul Born, sat down to talk about the process and reflect on how it prepares men for seminary life.

Unlike a college or university, Saint John's must introduce new men not only to a place, but to a community, a formation process, and a spiritual way of life. To a new seminarian, Paul Born remarks, everything from the breviary to the dress code can seem foreign. Martinez elaborates, the orientation period must introduce men to individual and communal life, and to the areas of human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. Reflecting on their own five and six years in formation, Born and Martinez agree that time moves quickly. As a result, orientation needs to "help the new men to

transition in and dive into formation right away."

In his opening homily, Cardinal O'Malley reminded the seminarians that all their days here share one end: the "formation of an intentional presbyterate," capable of living the promises of ordination. "As we begin this new academic year," he urged, "I ask you to consider the promises you will make at your ordination – promises of prayer, promises of celibacy, promises of obedience."

### **"The work of the seminary is among one of the essential tasks of the Catholic Church."**

His Eminence Seán P. Cardinal O'Malley,  
Homily: Opening Mass

By experiencing the daily order of prayer and the human and spiritual formation of the seminary, the seminarians learn what their vocations will demand of them as individuals and prepare for their formal promises of prayer, celibacy, and obedience to their bishop.

The orientation period joins the new men to the community at Saint John's spiritually and socially. Seminary life teaches men to live a common life, centered on Christ; Mar-

tinez hopes that new seminarians come "to feel like a family, and we welcome them into this new family." The orientation period supports that goal in various ways, but Born says a common spiritual life is foundational. It takes many forms: praying the Office in choir, assisting at Mass together, simply observing the devotion of brother seminarians.

But at Saint John's, common life reaches beyond the chapel and sacristy. Orientation also marks the beginning of the social life that builds up the community. Activities like playing sports together after lunch or sharing fellowship in the common room in the evenings create a sense of common identity and fraternity.

Today's seminarians will depend upon that fraternity throughout their priestly lives. Cardinal O'Malley reminded them that they will "be part of a presbyterate that works together to carry the ark of the covenant into the promised land." The ministry of the diocesan presbyterate is too vast for an individual priest to complete alone. From orientation onward, Saint John's has a single purpose – to form priests who, together, will sanctify and lead God's people.

Read more at [www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news)



Photo: Group photo with Cardinal Seán O'Malley after the Opening Mass

View more photos on our  
Facebook page



# EVENTS

[www.sjs.edu/events](http://www.sjs.edu/events)



## 19th Annual Golf Tournament

Re-Scheduled

**Monday, October 25, 2021**

The Tournament has been rescheduled due to the effects of Hurricane Henri.

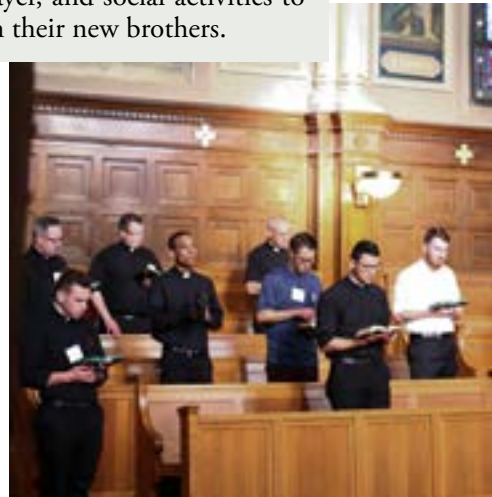
**Your chance to win \$10,000!**

Raffle tickets can be reserved at [www.sjs.edu/golf](http://www.sjs.edu/golf)

Please contact Carol McKean with any questions at [carol@carolmckeanevents.com](mailto:carol@carolmckeanevents.com) or call 617-461-6403



Orientation week for new seminarians was filled with campus and city tours, prayer, and social activities to build fraternity with their new brothers.



## FORMING FAITHFUL CATHOLIC LEADERS

The Lay Formation Program of Saint John's Seminary is about growing in holiness by learning more about our faith through intellectual engagement, belonging to a vibrant Catholic community, deepening our relationship with God, and nourishing our prayer life.

Lay Formation at Saint John's is an academic and pastoral formation program for Catholic men and women, deacons, and professed religious who are interested in taking the 'next step' on their Christian journey of ministry. Those who apply to the Lay Program seek an opportunity to deepen their union with Christ and develop their ability to par-



Photo: George Martell, Lay Formation Programs Graduates, 2020-2021

ticipate in the Church's mission of evangelization as missionary disciples. Our 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.

### ARE YOU SEEKING A LIFE OF MINISTRY?

For more information about this program please contact:  
**Ellen Oesterle**  
Assistant to the Director of the M.A.M and M.T.S. Degree Programs  
Phone: (617) 779-4104 ext. 2  
Email: [ellen.oesterle@sjs.edu](mailto:ellen.oesterle@sjs.edu)



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# ALL SOULS 2021

## We Prayerfully Remember

As Catholics, the month of November brings us an opportunity to pray for and cherish our loved ones who have gone before us and whom we commend in the love of Jesus Christ. During the month of November it is our joy to remember these souls at Mass, during morning and evening prayer, and at daily Eucharistic Adoration.

We invite you to submit the names of your departed loved ones either by filling out the included envelope, visiting [www.sjs.edu/allsouls](http://www.sjs.edu/allsouls) or by scanning the QR code to the right.



Scan QR code to  
submit names

