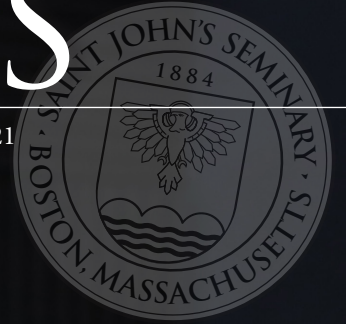


SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



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View Fr. Salocks' Easter Message on our YouTube Channel



SCAN ME

## Greetings to all!

Winter weather is giving way to the first days of Spring, and we welcome the Easter Season. Our observance of Lent has given us a fresh perspective on what it means to trust in God, rely on our Lord, and be open to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We are more aware of the crises, hungers and temptations that are part of our lives, and we have grown in confidence that we never face such circumstances alone and that, with and in Christ, we can and will prevail.

This is certainly true for our life at Saint John's Seminary over the past year. Looking back at the challenges we have faced, as well as some notable accomplishments, everyone here at Saint John's feels great encouragement and hope for the future of the Seminary.

We have persevered with priestly and lay formation despite the challenges of the pandemic. Adapting to the circumstances and making every effort to protect the health and well-being of the community, we have developed the necessary platforms to continue instruction both on-line and in-person. We have celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Lay Formation Programs by means of various virtual events that have drawn increasing recognition, registration, and participation.

We have moved successfully through the process of re-accreditation self-review, visitation, and approval by the New England Commission of Higher Education. We continue to increase our contact with our alumni, learn what is on their minds and find ways to celebrate the impact they are having on the Catholic communities they serve.

Finally, through it all, we have continued to be grateful for God's many blessings and to pray for all of you, our benefactors and all who share our vision and mission through donations and prayers. Please know that we continue to need your support. We, in turn, will continue to form, develop, and strengthen young men as priests dedicated to the service of God and the Church.

May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with you all!

**Very Rev. Stephen Salocks '80**  
Rector  
Saint John's Seminary

## Dear Friends,

On March 4, 2021, Saint John's Seminary successfully completed the process of comprehensive evaluation for reaccreditation with its regional accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). The Commission provided Saint John's with a full term of ten years before the next comprehensive evaluation—signaling confidence in the ability of Saint John's to pursue and achieve its mission with excellence.

As one of seven regional accreditors throughout the United States, NECHE provides accreditation for most post-secondary, collegiate institutions throughout New England. NECHE accredits a member school as a whole, and in this process, also accredits each of the various degree programs offered directly by the school. Saint John's Seminary has been a NECHE member since 1969 and offers six degree programs under the accreditation of NECHE.

Similar to the recent NECHE reaffirmation of accreditation, Saint John's Seminary went through a successful reaccreditation in 2017 with the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), an accreditor which specializes in theological graduate education in North America.

To share a few highlights of the findings from the recent comprehensive evaluation visit, the NECHE visiting team found that Saint John's Seminary was “a highly mission conscious organization” with “solid planning instincts.” The Seminary's formation programs were judged to be “vigorously mission-centered and effectively organized,” providing a “coherent and rigorous study of its academic subject matter.” The visiting team and Commission also provided helpful suggestions to Saint John's by which the institution might continue to improve in the fulfillment of mission.

Saint John's thanks all those who participated in the extensive work of this accreditation process, even in the midst of a pandemic: the Seminary's Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, seminarians and students. A special thanks must be given to those bishops and superiors of religious communities who send seminarians to Saint John's and who participated in conversations with the NECHE visiting team. Finally, Saint John's offers sincere thanks to members of the visiting team and the NECHE staff and members of the Commission for their encouragement, insights and collegial company.

**Dr. Paul Metilly**  
Academic Dean  
Saint John's Seminary

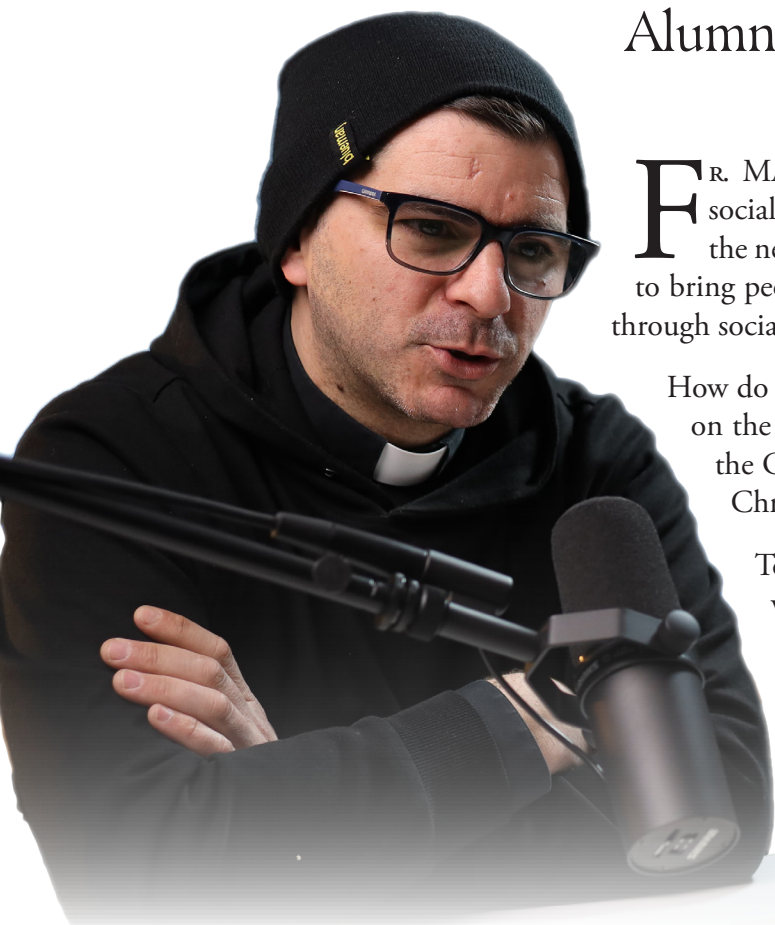


Read more at  
[www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news)



# SOCIAL MEDIA: A TOOL FOR EVANGELIZATION

## Alumni Spotlight



**F**R. MARCOS IS SOMEONE WHO has a self-proclaimed dislike of social media, but through the experience of the pandemic, and the needs of his community, he was able to see the value it serves to bring people closer to the love of Christ. Evangelizing the culture through social media is something every Catholic is able to do.

How do you use social media? Who do you present yourself to be on the apps you use? Challenge yourself today to be a herald of the Gospel on social media. Share your faith, share the love of Christ, proclaim the Gospel.

To read more and to view a video reflection by Fr. Marcos, visit [www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news) or scan the QR code.



Follow Fr. Marcos on Instagram  
[@fr.marcos.boston](https://www.instagram.com/fr.marcos.boston)

Follow the seminary on Instagram  
[@SJSBoston](https://www.instagram.com/SJSBoston)

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## MISSION EXCELLENCE PROGRAM IN LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

**T**HIS TWO-YEAR PROGRAM for those in priestly formation at Saint John's Seminary offers a unique opportunity to equip future priests with management and leadership tools and skills. This program has been divided into two separate modules. The third-year theology seminarians focus on practical and technical skills of running a parish or any organization, from budgeting through philanthropy, to property management. While the fourth year theologians are introduced to topics of leadership.

The curriculum for the management module is built upon a faith-based approach to church management. Classes focus on specific management topics within the context of church leadership and include both lectures and hands-on activities. We discuss topics and provide tools for goal setting, technology/data, stewardship, financial literacy, budgeting, transparency, financial statements, personal finances organizing human resources, organizational structure and behavior, and advisory board utilization.

The leadership module, designed for the fourth year theology seminarians, provides a roadmap to achieving leadership excellence. Classes are designed to help Seminarians be better equipped to take on the wide variety of challenges and opportunities leadership provides. Seminarians are led through the foundational aspects and practical implications of leadership. All classes include a combination of lectures, guest speaker presentations, and practical hands-on activities.

# PASTORAL FORMATION DURING A PANDEMIC

PASTORAL FORMATION PUTS the other three pillar of formation, Academic, Spiritual, and Human, together into a well-integrated whole. The goal of priestly formation in the seminary is to form and prepare men for the work of ministry, especially parish ministry.

Our seminarians usually have a particular interest, skill, characteristic, or quality that somehow confirms or motivates their desire for ministry in the Church. The formation program at the seminary helps the seminarian cultivate those skills that are necessary for ordained ministry and are ex-

ternal and practical expressions of Christian discipleship. Saint John's Seminary strives to form men who are adequately prepared for the challenges faced in ministry at a parish. This preparedness for ministry in the modern world is fostered by the pastoral formation experiences of seminarians. Pastoral placements are tailored to the formation needs of each seminarian. Ministry supervisors and faculty members are all experienced parish priests who understand the challenges of parish life and ministry.

As coronavirus cases surged in Boston, Cardinal Sean P. O'Mal-

ley designated a task force of 21 priests to be trained to safely anoint Covid-19 patients. Several members of our faculty: Fr. Tom Macdonald, Fr. Ryan Connors, and Fr. David Barnes, were part of this group. They have been able to share their account and experience of what it was like to be one of the "covid priests" during regularly scheduled formation workshops with our seminarians. Fr. Ryan Connors has also recently presented an academic paper titled *Holy Anointing for Holy Suffering* during a conference at Ave Maria University in Florida.

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

## 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

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

View photos from all Holy Week Liturgies on our Facebook Page



# THE SAINT JOHN'S GRADUAL

By: Deacon Steven Lewis  
Seminarian: Diocese of Rochester, NY



THE ASSERTION, "THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE," is widely attributed to St. Augustine. However, in all the volumes of his

works the Church has preserved, it's not clear that he actually said it. I think one of the reasons this statement circulates is because it expresses an intuitive truth.

The Christian is called to communion with the God who created him or her. And as we lift our hearts and minds to Almighty God, it is fitting not only to add our voice as well, but to impart every beauty we can in our public communal prayer. God's voice creates everything out of nothing; our voice in return can echo back the wonder of creation with the added beauty of music. It is fitting to render back unto God those gifts He has bestowed upon us.

In the experience of the early days of the Coronavirus pandemic, many Catholics were deprived of opportunities for the graces through the sacraments, especially with the cessation of public Mass. In my diocese, this covered much of the Lenten and Easter seasons in 2020, and even delayed my ordi-

nation to the Diaconate.

The return to public celebrations of the Mass was a cause of great joy, one that almost demanded music to accompany it. Unfortunately, the public health directives cautioned that singing might help spread the disease, and so diocesan guidelines limited us to a single cantor. Since social distancing also suggested avoiding altar servers, the natural thing for me to do is return to the friendly confines of the choir loft. And so I did.

At Saint John's Seminary, we had a custom of singing for most of our Masses. Occasionally, especially Sundays and for more solemn occasions, we would substitute hymns sung by the entire congregation or sacred anthems from our rich choral tradition sung by the Seminary schola alone.

Taking this history and adapting it to the pandemic in the parish, what were the options? Singing the responsorial psalm seemed contrary to its purpose, as the people were asked not to sing in response on account of the pandemic. The ancient Gradual Antiphon from the *Graduale Romanum* was a suitable alternative. There were three obstacles: the texts were in Latin, with which my parish's congregation was not familiar; and their length was not suited to the liturgical action at a daily Mass in the typical parish; and their difficulty was hard to sustain singing for daily Mass.

The most recent translation of the propers appears to be directly approved by the predecessor organization to the USCCB for use in the transitional 1965 Roman Missal. A 1955 collection of simplified Latin chants of the propers was published in France (*Chants*

*Abrégés des Graduels, des Alleluias, et des Traits*) and made available online through the work of the Church Music Association of America. This is the model for the work that has yet to be completed in English: Take the most difficult chants in the Church, and set them to easier-to-sing psalm tones, as granted by permission of the Vatican (S.C.R. no 3697), all arranged according to the current liturgical calendar.

It is a gift to have the opportunity to work with a willing pastor to begin the process of learning and then producing musical scores of Gregorian Chant to dignify the Masses in time of pandemic, and then further actually singing them for the sacred liturgy. By the time I moved to serve in the sanctuary as a newly ordained Deacon, cantors from the parish (with the support of its music director) have continued singing these propers on Sundays. Upon return to the seminary, this work gained a second venue.

Both the parish and the Seminary are under the patronage of St. John the Evangelist, and thus the work of the "Saint John's Gradual" has begun. It is my hope it can be completed, endorsed, and published as an ongoing means to enrich the celebration of Holy Mass for edification of the people and for the greater glory of God.

To read more and to hear a recording of the Saint John's Gradual, scan the QR code below:





# EVENTS

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



## Called to be Co-Workers

Reflections on lay leadership  
and the fruits of lay ministry



SCAN ME

View reflections from our  
celebration of lay formation on  
our YouTube Channel

## 19th Annual Golf TOURNAMENT

Save the date: August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Black Rock Country Club



Contact: [golf@sjs.edu](mailto:golf@sjs.edu)



## Presbyteral ORDINATIONS

Archdiocese of Boston and the  
Diocese of Kumbakonam, India  
May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Diocese of Manchester, NH  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Diocese of Providence, RI  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Diocese of Rochester, NY  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Diocese of Worcester, MA  
June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Visit our website for more  
details.

O God, who on this day, through your Only  
Begotten Son, have conquered death and  
unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant,  
we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of  
the Lord's Resurrection may, through the  
renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in  
the light of life.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*From the Collect prayer,  
Easter Mass during the day,  
Roman Missal*





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# EVERY GIFT COUNTS

Support the  
**SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY FUND**  
and make an impact now.

It is a fundamental truth that, as a Catholic Christian, you need priests. These priests provide Sacraments (weekly and for major life moments, such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals), passing on our faith, and service as chaplains and a myriad of other ministries. At Saint John's Seminary, our mission is to prepare well trained and educated priests, who will continue to serve as the bedrock of our faith far into the future.

We simply cannot do this alone. If you believe as we do, that educating those called to the service of the Church is our collective responsibility, then we ask you for your generous support for the work of Saint John's Seminary.

**Donate today and learn more at [www.sjs.edu/everygiftcounts](http://www.sjs.edu/everygiftcounts) or scan the QR code.**

