

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



# CURRENTS

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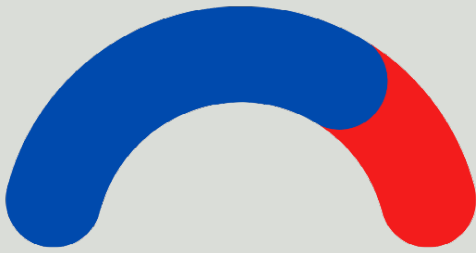
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Cover Image: Fr. Mark Gadoury  
Class of 2022, Diocese of Providence, RI  
Photo by: Rick Snizek

# COST TO EDUCATE



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

## Thank You!

In the 2022-23 Academic year, 14 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 seminarian, but the cost to educate each resident seminarian is \$60,000 per year.

Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "the laity are really co-responsible for the Church's being and acting." The laity play essential parts in the mission of Saint John's Seminary. Lay professors instruct seminarians in philosophy, Church history, the theology of the body, and other topics. Lay alumni train to minister and evangelize in places that the clergy cannot reach. Laity across the region pray daily that the men now in seminary will persevere in their vocations and one day be ordained.

Critically, support from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends gives Saint John's a way to equip our seminarians and students with the knowledge and tools necessary for a lifetime of service to Christ and His Church. The Saint John's Fund does more than just keep the lights on; it lights the way for a transformative educational experience for every seminarian and student.

**\$15,000** Financial gap for  
each seminarian, which has  
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.



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## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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inbox, please email us at [contact@sjs.edu](mailto:contact@sjs.edu).



## LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

**G**REETINGS TO YOU ALL from the seminarians, faculty, and staff of Saint John's Seminary.

With final exams and papers completed and grades submitted, the corridors here at Saint John's are much quieter these days. The seminarians have left for their summer assignments, as well as for some much-needed rest and recreation. Faculty and staff have wrapped up this past year's work and are engaging a quieter pace of life even as they begin preparations for the coming academic year.

The weekends of early summer, however, are a source of activity and excitement for all of us as we celebrate with those being ordained. Beginning on May 21, 13 of our fourth-year seminarians were ordained to the holy priesthood in Boston, Fall River, Providence, and Worcester. Five of our third-year seminarians were ordained to the transitional diaconate in Boston. We also rejoice with Anh Quoc Do and Duc Hoang Pham, class of 2021, who were ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 16 in Viet Nam for the Diocese of Da Lat. Additionally, 16 lay students graduated from our Master of Arts in Ministry and Master of Theological Studies Program. We rejoice with all our newly ordained and graduates and wish them all congratulations and God's blessings.

Summer time is also a time of transition. This year, we offer our farewell, best wishes, and many thanks for good and faithful service to the faculty members: Father Joseph F. Scorzello (18 years as Professor of Philosophy and Theology and Spiritual Director) and Father Edward Riley (12 years as Director of Pastoral Formation and Dean of Men).

We also prepare to welcome new faculty members: Dr. Anthony Coleman, who will serve as the new Director of Lay Formation Programs; Father Richard Fitzgerald, as Director of Pastoral Formation; Father Maurice A. Agbaw-Ebai, as Professor of Philosophy and Theology; and Father Stanislaus Achu, who will serve on the formation faculty while pursuing graduate studies.

Personally, I find that summer always provides a calmer and more user-friendly space to prayerfully catch my breath and give thanks for the many graces given to Saint John's Seminary over the past year. We have a wonderful faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees who are committed to the mission of preparing our seminarians for priesthood. We have an outstanding group of seminarians dedicated to responding to the Lord's call in their prayer, study, pastoral work, and fraternity. We have continued to feel and rely upon the support of so many of you. Without our benefactors and friends, none of this good work would be possible.

This year, we are inviting you to be part of the Pray 27 initiative by joining us and Catholics across the region on the 27th of each month to pray for the continued success of Saint John's Seminary. Please see the explanation of the "Pray27 initiative" and the Prayer for Saint John's Seminary on page 9 of this newsletter.

Lastly, please be assured that we continue to pray for you each day. I thank you for your financial support, your wisdom and guidance, and most of all for your prayers.



Very Rev. Stephen E. Salocks, '80  
Rector

## PASTORAL FORMATION: WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

**A**FTER 35 YEARS AS A PRIEST OF the Archdiocese of Boston, I was quite surprised when Cardinal Sean O'Malley asked me, with the concurrence of Fr. Stephen Salocks, to become the Director of Pastoral Formation of seminarians at Saint John's Seminary. This position also interacts with the laymen and laywomen enrolled in the Lay Formation Programs of Saint John's Seminary. While being surprised at being asked to take on the assignment, I was also pleased with the thought of having an impact on the formation of future priests and lay ecclesial ministers who will minister in parishes across the New England region. At the same time, along with other priests, I will also continue to serve the parishioners of Saint Columbkille Parish in Brighton.

The role of any seminary is to form disciples after the heart of Jesus to serve the people of God. This ministry mainly happens at the parish level. However, it also encompasses other ministries such as chaplaincies, administrative support for a diocese, teaching, retreat work, and many others. The seminary is charged with the responsibility of insuring that its students and seminarians are formed within an academic, spiritual, human, and pastoral formation program in line with the Roman Catholic tradition. The seminary website states,

"Pastoral formation provides for the personal engagement of seminarians in Church ministry under the guidance of supervisors. It assists seminarians in their development of ministerial skills ... so as to prepare them to serve effectively in advancing the mission of the Church." To put it plainly, the goal of the Pastoral

**"The role of  
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Jesus."**

Formation Program is to ensure that the new priest is ready to get off to a good start "when the rubber meets the road." Of course, inherent in any formation program is the need to be open to continuous learning even after the seminary experience. Through various pastoral experiences a seminarian gains during his time at the seminary (such as in parishes, schools, homeless shelters, hospitals, and prisons), he can develop the passion for how he wants to conduct his ministry as a priest.

Over the past 35 years, I have served the Archdiocese of

Boston as a priest on both the administrative and parish level in Peabody, Milton, Wellesley, and Brighton. My family association with the Archdiocese of Boston goes back 5 generations, when my great-great grandparents arrived here in the late 1840s having survived the great Irish famine. My great-granduncle, Joseph Fitzgerald, and my grandfather's cousin, David Fitzgerald, were both priests of the Archdiocese, having been ordained in 1882 and 1914 respectively. I love the Church, and particularly, the Archdiocese of Boston. It is my prayer that all seminarians, diocesan and religious, will feel confident after their formal seminary training to go out to the world to "preach the Good News." Any contribution I may make to the goal of pastoral formation is my privilege.

Fr. Fitzgerald joins the Saint John's Seminary Faculty as the new Director of Pastoral Formation.



**Fr. Richard Fitzgerald**  
Director of Pastoral  
Formation

# GIVING THANKS FOR OUR NEW PRIESTS

**T**HE CONGREGATION SINGS the Litany of the Saints. The men about to be ordained lie faces down on the sanctuary floor. This is the prostration, an ancient gesture that, as St. Pope John Paul II said, “symbolizes total submission before the majesty of God [and] complete willingness to undertake the ministry entrusted to him.” It signifies death to self for the service of God, the ultimate meaning of all priestly spirituality. The candidates offer God their whole lives, which they will live in simplicity, celibacy, and obedience. **Saint John’s Seminary led them here.**

In 1992, St. Pope John Paul II prayed that seminarians would learn to “unite the offering of themselves to the Eucharistic offering of Christ.” For years, Saint John’s Seminary has trained these 13 men to do that. They have devoted years to studying Christian doctrine that they might proclaim it well. They’ve dedicated their energy to service in local parishes, learning to minister in the Church. They have presented their deepest joys and hopes, fears and sorrows, to the Lord in constant prayer. At last, they are ready to offer themselves entirely to Him. The cathedrals of Boston, Fall River, Providence and Worcester will witness that when new priests lie prostrate on their sanctuary floors.

Each priest will begin to live

that gesture on the day after ordination. For the first time, he will sacrifice Christ’s body and blood to the Father on behalf of all His people. In every Mass that follows, St. Pope John Paul II says, the new priest will “offer to God, in an act of thanksgiving and praise, all that he has received.” Through this sacrament, God’s people receive the grace and love to imitate their Savior.

We give thanks to God for our new priests. We rejoice in the great works they will do for the Church. We take pride in the men they have become, in their spirit of sacrifice, and in their lives of simplicity, chastity and obedience. We give thanks that there are dozens of seminarians behind them, training to surrender their lives to Christ on other sanctuary floors. But those men need your help—your prayer, your encouragement, and your financial support.

We give thanks for your generosity.



Photo: Diocese of Worcester, Facebook

Diocese of Worcester, MA:  
June 18



Pilot photo: Gregory L. Tracy

Archdiocese of Boston, MA: May 21



Photo: Rick Snizek

Diocese of Providence, RI: June 4



Photo: Diocese of Fall River, Facebook

Diocese of Fall River, MA: June 4



Mission Advancement  
Staff Article



## WE ARE HIS INSTRUMENTS

**I** WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST for the Diocese of Providence, RI on June 4 and I am so very grateful for my time at Saint John's Seminary. In formation at Saint John's, with the help and guidance of the priest faculty, and through theological studies, the wonderful gifts of daily Mass, adoration, and prayer, as well as pastoral experiences and living a community life with brother



seminarians, I was able to grow in maturity, and most especially in faith and prayer as a man of God. Seminary offers an environment to focus on Jesus, and grow especially in a deeper knowledge and love of God and His Church. I will miss my time at Saint John's for all these reasons. Having the structured life of study and prayer, and being surrounded by a faculty who desires me to be a better man, as well as brothers who are all like-minded, working toward the same end - priesthood. Seminary was truly such a gift and a "retreat" with the Lord as I listened to His voice in depths of my heart to see where God is calling me.

I honestly cannot believe just how fast my 6 years of total seminary formation flew by, especially my 4 years at Saint John's. I know I must remember that my time there was for the purpose of being ordained a priest of Jesus Christ, and I am so full of joy and excitement that God has finally brought me to this point. I most look forward to seeing how God will work through me in my ministry as a priest. Most especially in celebrating the life-giving sacraments of the Church, I look forward to sharing the life of Christ with those God entrusts to me, and being a spiritual Father to them. I am so humbled to be chosen by God to do His work.

I think the most challenging part of being a priest today is the culture and world that we are being ordained and sent into. We know



we live in a particularly secular and confused world where the truth of the Gospel is challenged and rejected by so many. While

this is a challenge we will face as new priests in the Church, it is also a gift. As the apostles went out from the upper room on that day of Pentecost with the power of the Holy Spirit into mission territory, into a world that did not know Christ, we too are being sent out in a similar environment. We must always remember that as priests, it is firstly God who accomplishes His work, while we are His instruments.

If I had any advice for a young man entering seminary today, I would have to echo the words of our Lord said throughout all of scripture, and also those of Pope St. John Paul II: "Do not be afraid." Even though we are so unworthy, and though it can be scary to respond to God's call (especially in our world today) we must remember that it is **He** who calls, and **He** will always provide us with the grace necessary to accomplish His will through us. We do not go out into the world alone, but in the name and power of Jesus Christ who said to us, his disciples: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20).



**Fr. Mark Gadoury**  
Class of 2022  
Diocese of Providence, RI

# GOING FORTH INTO THE VINEYARD

**G**OD'S LOVE IS COMPLETE. I've come to understand and appreciate this truth more fully through my experience in the Lay Formation program at Saint John's Seminary. In a world searching for meaning, Jesus Christ – and the unconditional love He poured out for each of us in His Paschal Mystery – offers the only real answer that will satisfy our souls and lead us to eternal life. In St. Augustine's insightful words: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

By virtue of our Baptism each of us is called to participate in the life of Christ and to witness to the Gospel as members of the Body of Christ. For me, the nature of this calling evolved over many years and led me to enroll in the Master of Arts in Ministry Program. I envisioned taking a more formal role in Church ministry work. I'd say it was "love" that led me to the program: Love shared with my husband and my family; love for my "sisters-in-Christ" who formed the faith formation community I led in my local parish through the Women of Grace apostolate; most of all, it was love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Blessed Virgin Mary and a desire to do the Father's will.

Moving forward in faith, I trusted in the wisdom of Saint

John's integrated Lay Formation Program to better equip me for the important vocation of a "co-worker in the vineyard," and I was never disappointed! I confess that I thoroughly enjoyed my academic classes. I delved into Scripture, Philosophy, Theology, Liturgy, Ecclesiology (among others), and

**"It is my humble hope that as I go forth deeper in the vineyard, I'll be able to witness effectively to God's unfathomable love."**

in turn developed a new level of knowledge and fluency that I will continue to build on. The two-year formation program offered a path to explore "human" and "spiritual" truths that are essential to maturing in one's faith and becoming an effective minister of the Church. And the two years of apostolic field education enabled exploration of ministry roles with the advantage of active personal

reflection and supervision.

Transitioning from student to alumni ranks, I'm most grateful to have participated in this superb integrated program with outstanding and supportive professors and peers. I'd encourage anyone who currently works in pastoral ministry or is thinking about a potential "encore career" in lay ministry to take a serious look at this amazing program.

It is my humble hope that as I go forth deeper in the vineyard, I'll be able to witness effectively to God's unfathomable love and, in doing so, encourage others to open their hearts more fully to rest in the Lord.

Read more reflections from our graduates at: [www.sjs.edu/news](http://www.sjs.edu/news)



**Lynne O'Connor**  
Class of 2022  
Master of Arts in Ministry



# SHARING OUR MISSION THROUGH COMMUNITY

## MASS AND RECEPTION WITH BISHOP REED

On the evening of 30 March, Saint John's Seminary welcomed 40 guests for its spring reception. Attendees joined the community for 5 p.m. Mass, celebrated by Bishop Robert Reed of the Catholic TV Network. A two-hour reception followed, allowing guests to mingle with seminarians and learn about the mission of Saint John's.

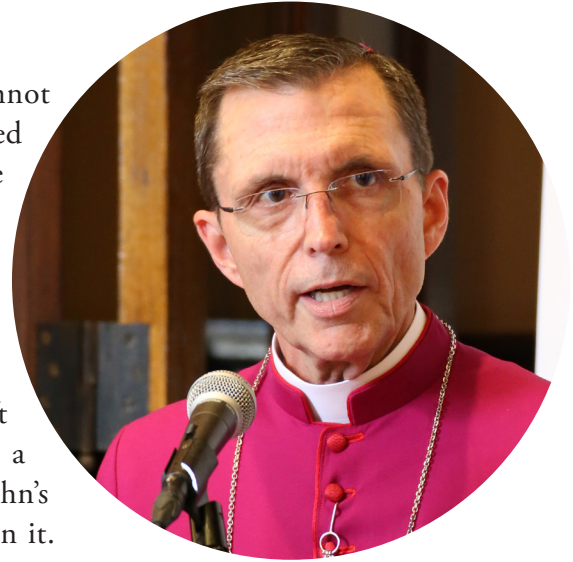
Around 6:30 p.m., with the reception in full swing, Bishop Reed took a few moments to share some remarks on that vital mission. In the world of today, he remarked, "We need our priests now more than ever, for without them we would not have the comfort and consolation of the sacraments, the life-giving stream of grace." Training New England's priests, of course, is Saint John's unique mission, but it is not one that priests and faculty undertake alone. "First-class education comes at a cost," Bishop Reed continued. "We need men and women like you to prayerfully consider giving of your time, talent, and treasure so that the critical ministry of this seminary can move forward." Every lay Catholic shares the responsibility for forming the priests of tomorrow, through prayer and financial support.

The evening raised twenty-one thousand dollars for Saint John's Seminary, but its impact on

seminarians and guests cannot be quantified. It introduced seminarians to some of the generous men and women who fund their education. Benefactors met some of their future priests and heard the stories of God's grace in their lives. Forty guests left Lake Street that evening with a deeper knowledge of Saint John's vital mission and their place in it. For all those reasons, the seminary looks forward to welcoming more visitors at a reception this fall.

## LAY PROGRAMS ALUMNI MASS

On Wednesday April 27, Saint John's welcomed fifty alumni of its Lay Formation programs for an alumni Mass, celebrated by Fr. Jason Jalbert, Vicar General of the Diocese of Manchester and former Trustee of Saint John's Seminary. After Mass, alumni and seminarians joined Fr. Jalbert for a reception and dinner in the refectory. This time provided a fitting occasion for seminary leadership to acknowledge Dr. Aldona Lingertat, outgoing director of the Lay Formation Programs, for her many years of service to Saint John's Seminary. Alumni then adjourned to the Medeiros Room for fellowship, conversation, and tributes to Dr. Lingertat.



## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

Saint John's virtual event series continues with engaging contributions from theologians across the country. In February, Fr. Joseph Thomas offered a Catholic history and theology of ecumenism, which received a warm review in the Boston Pilot. In preparation for Holy Week, Dr. Gregory Vall continued the series with a reflection on Christ's Agony in the Garden derived from his new book, *Ecclesial Exegesis* (CUA Press, 2022). The 2021–2022 series concluded with a webinar on biblical interpretation and theology by Fr. Kevin Silverberg on May 18. We thank all of our contributors and look forward to continuing the series next year.

Follow us



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Fr. Stephen Salocks & Fr. Jason Jalbert



# PRAY<sup>27</sup>

FOR SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY

ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> OF EACH MONTH, join Catholics across the region in reciting this prayer for the continued success of Saint John's Seminary.

## PRAYER FOR SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY

O God, our heavenly Father, who so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life: watch over Saint John's Seminary and the community gathered in the study of your holy teaching, that they may be rightly formed for so great a service. Father of all holiness, we pray that those, whom you have entrusted to this seminary to be formed as messengers of the Gospel and ministers of the altar, will learn through prayer the truths they must someday teach, and will grasp with the conviction of faith the mysteries their lives must exemplify. Grant, we pray, that through this seminary your disciples might be holy, know your truth, and reflect your glory on earth. All this we ask through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Prayer adapted from: Book of Blessings,  
Catholic Book Publishing Corp.*

## WHY THE 27<sup>th</sup>?

The patron saint of Saint John's Seminary is St. John the Evangelist, whose feast day is celebrated on December 27.

As a community united in prayer, we choose to hold the 27th of each month in special regard as a day of prayer for the mission of Saint John's Seminary. Each month we call to mind an aspect of our mission as we pray for the success of our critical work for the Church.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Request prayer cards and a poster for your parish
- Form a prayer group dedicated to praying for Saint John's Seminary
- Share this prayer through email or social media
- Sign up for monthly email reminders

## AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Visit [www.sjs.edu/27](http://www.sjs.edu/27)

Email us at: [contact@sjs.edu](mailto:contact@sjs.edu) to request prayer cards or a poster for your parish

Scan the QR code below to sign up for monthly email reminders





# 2022 ORDINATIONS

13 SEMINARIANS ORDAINED TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Photos: George Martell

[www.sjs.edu/ordination22](http://www.sjs.edu/ordination22)

The Saint John's community offers heartfelt congratulations to our thirteen ordinandi. Please join us in offering prayers of support and thanksgiving for their new ministry as priests.

\*At the time of publication in June, Br. Marzonie and Br. Thorpe are awaiting their ordination later this Summer.



**Fr. Maxwell  
Chukwudiebere**  
Archdiocese  
of Boston



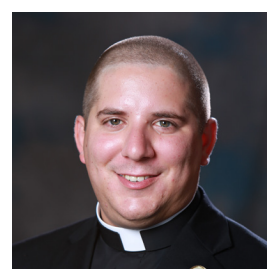
**Fr. Mark Gadoury**  
Diocese of  
Providence



**Fr. Matthew Laird**  
Diocese of  
Fall River



**Br. Nathan  
Marzonie, OMV\***  
Oblates of the  
Virgin Mary



**Fr. Derek Mobilio**  
Diocese of  
Worcester



**Fr. Patrick  
O'Connor**  
Archdiocese  
of Boston



**Fr. William J.  
O'Donnell, III**  
Diocese of  
Fall River



**Fr. Gregory  
Quenneville**  
Diocese of  
Fall River



**Fr. Steven Restrepo**  
Archdiocese  
of Boston



**Fr. Nicholas Stano**  
Archdiocese  
of Boston



**Fr. Nathaniel  
Sanders**  
Archdiocese  
of Boston



**Br. Leland Thorpe,  
OMV\***  
Oblates of the  
Virgin Mary



**Fr. Laurent Valliere**  
Diocese of  
Fall River



# LAY FORMATION PROGRAMS GRADUATES

The Saint John's community offers heartfelt congratulations to our sixteen Lay Formation Programs graduates:



**Romanus  
Ejikeme Ajaero**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



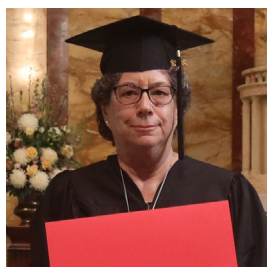
**Deacon  
Jared Auclair**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Deacon Ronald A.  
Dowding**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Deacon  
Anthony Foti**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Peggy Higgins**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Matthew  
Allen Giles**  
Master of  
Theological Studies



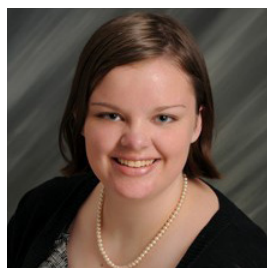
**Timothy Habeeb**  
Master of  
Theological Studies



**Deacon Joe  
Harrington**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Jessica Keefe  
Reynolds**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Moira McCarty**  
Master of  
Theological Studies



**Lynne O'Connor**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Deacon Frank  
Perez de Alderete**  
Master of  
Theological Studies



**Deacon Peter  
Richardson**  
Master of Arts in  
Ministry



**Daniel Sousa**  
Master of  
Theological Studies

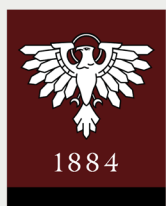


**Sister Louise Marie  
Turner, MICM**  
Master of  
Theological Studies



**Nicolas  
Twaalfhoven**  
Master of  
Theological Studies

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS  
127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135



## Saint John's FUND

Donating to the Saint John's Fund is one of the most powerful ways you can make an impact for the future of the Church. Support from alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends gives Saint John's a way to equip our seminarians and students with the knowledge and tools necessary for a lifetime of service to Christ and His Church.

**DONATE TODAY** by completing the enclosed envelope, by visiting [www.sjs.edu/fund](http://www.sjs.edu/fund) or by scanning the QR code.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT