



SUMMER • 2023

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SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

CURRENTS

FORMING THE
PASTORAL HEART

COST TO EDUCATE



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

Thank You!

In the 2023-24 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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LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

“Encourage each other daily, while it is still today.” (Hebrews 3:13)

Each day, the prayer of the Church, The Liturgy of the Hours,” begins with the invitatory Psalm 95, a psalm which offers joyful praise to God and acknowledges our need to be ever attentive to his presence. There is one verse that always gives me pause for reflection: “If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts” (Psalm 95:7-8). It resonates so well with the brief but potent exhortation (at the top of psalm) from the Letter to the Hebrews (3:13): “Encourage each other daily, while it is still today.”

The word “today” in both the psalm and Hebrews is significant. Today is a time of opportunity when we can avoid sin and remain faithful. More importantly, because it implies a sense of urgency, “today” is the time to encourage each other to live and grow in the faith. Today is the time to hold fast to our relationship to Christ and in Christ. Today is the time to encourage those around us and to be encouraged by them as, together, we seek to hear and answer the Lord’s call.

Saint John’s Seminary is dedicated, every “today,” to the ministry of encouragement, and the quieter weeks of summer give us the opportunity to acknowledge and express thanks for the moments of encouragement. We are mindful of our efforts to encourage our seminarians who are responding to the call to priesthood and to the students in the Theological Institute who are preparing to serve the Church. We are also mindful of the ways so many of you have encouraged the seminary in the fulfillment of its mission through your spiritual and material support.

To paraphrase St. Paul’s words to the Philippians, we “thank God in all our remembrance of you, always in every prayer...thankful for your partnership in the gospel” (cf. Philippians 1:3-5). May you and your families and friends know and enjoy God’s blessings in the closing weeks of summer and in the year ahead. As the beginning of the fall semester and a new academic year draw closer, we look forward to the ways we can continue to encourage one another in Lord and in the work of the Gospel.

God’s peace be with you all!



Very Rev. Stephen E. Salocks, '80
Rector



SAVING SOULS AND SPRING ROLLS: A SUMMER IN THE LIFE OF AN OCEAN STATE PARISH

When Saint John's breaks for the summer, each man heads back to his home diocese (or stays in Boston) to live and work wherever their Bishop needs him. Most seminarians find themselves in parishes, though some may work at a traveling summer program like Totus Tuus or get specialized formation at the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) in Nebraska. While the point of a summer assignment is to get us used to the typical life of a priest, assignments are never mundane and there is always something to make each summer extraordinary.

My own summer was spent at Ss. John and Paul Parish in Coventry, RI, considered the largest in the Diocese of Providence. No wonder, then, that our rectory was at full capacity with three priests and two seminarians! On top of the normal events of parish life –

Communion calls to the homebound, hospital visits, funerals, and baptisms – the Lord had plenty of surprises and special moments in store. This summer saw the return of Fr. Doan Nguyen (class of 2020) from Vietnam, the Ordination of Fr. Patrick Ryan (who is a big brother to me and, by God's providence, grew up in this parish and had his first Mass here), and the first official visit to the parish by our new Bishop, Richard Henning.

Aside from the busy life of a summer assignment, each man gets some time to himself, usually one day per week, which he is free to use either at home,

with friends in the area, or even back at St. John's. I split my own free time between visits to brother seminarians in Providence and Boston, check-in's at my first assignment at St. Michael's in South Providence (home of St. John's own Deacon Jairon Olmos), and of course home visits.

Most assignments are either 8 or (in my case) 10 weeks, leaving about a month to spare before coming back to Brighton and beginning a new year of formation at Saint John's Seminary. This year, I'll be using some of that free time to get back into traveling (which Covid put the brakes on) and treat my mom to a week in Austria. We'll be staying at the Gaming Kartause, a former Carthusian monastery (circa 1370) where I studied abroad back in my college days at Franciscan University of Steubenville.



Fr. Doan Nguyen (class of 2020)



Fr. Patrick Ryan and Bishop Henning



Mr. Michael Santos, Seminarian
Diocese of Providence
Rhode Island

LETTER FROM DR. ANTHONY COLEMAN: THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE

Starting in September, lay alumni of Saint John's Seminary will see a new title on seminary correspondence – or perhaps, a new, old title. With the new academic year, the Seminary will inaugurate the Theological Institute of Saint John's Seminary to host its M.A.M. and M.T.S. degree programs.

For more than 20 years, these degree programs have prepared hundreds of lay students for careers in teaching, chaplaincy, or ecclesial ministry. Saint John's opened its first lay degree program, the M.A.M., in the year 2000, under the leadership of Fr. Paul Ritt and Dr. Aldona Lingertat. In 2011, the M.T.S. degree program was established, and the combined programs were named the Theological Institute for the New Evangelization (TINE).

Alongside the degree programs, TINE also sponsored a catechetical certificate program, to serve all Catholics with an interest in learning more about the faith but no desire to pursue graduate study.

In 2019, administration of the catechetical certificate program, and the TINE name, was transferred to the Archdiocese of Boston's Secretariat for Evangelization. Saint John's retained responsibility for the graduate degree programs.

This summer, both the certificate programs and the Theological Institute moniker will be returned to the Seminary. While the archdiocese has ably stewarded the Theological Institute as it has continued its important catechetical work, this administrative move promises to be fruitful for both Saint John's, the Church in New England, and, of course, the Archdiocese of Boston.

Under the care of Saint John's Seminary, the Theological Institute will find a new capacity to

reach out to and engage the faithful from across New England, and not merely from the Boston area. It promises to strengthen the seminary's graduate degree programs by exposing certificate students to the subject matter encountered in the M.A.M. and M.T.S. programs. And the transition will allow for a more efficient allocation of personnel across the archdiocese, since many certificate instructors are full-time members of the Seminary's academic faculty.



This administrative change, in short, will streamline the ministries of catechesis and theological instruction within the seminary and Archdiocese, while leveraging Saint John's regional connections to help The Theological Institute reach a larger and more diverse audience.



Dr. Anthony Coleman
Director of The Theological Institute
of Saint John's Seminary



1871
SAINT PAUL
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FORMING THE PASTORAL HEART

In many ways, a seminarian's first parish assignment has the potential to be the most formative. For the first time in formation, the man is immersed into parish life and is able to experience – to a small degree – the life for which he is studying. I started to feel excitement for my summer parish experience in February of the past year, filled with zeal to share the Gospel and to bring people closer to Christ.

Eager to get to work in the parish quickly as possible, I arrived at the Hingham Catholic Collaborative in Hingham, Massachusetts the Monday after ordination weekend. The following eight weeks were filled with serving daily Masses, funerals, and adoration; making visits to the sick and homebound; and spending informal time getting to know the parish families and their stories. I shadowed my pastor for the first two weeks, getting a sense for the life of a parish priest and witnessing what it means to minister to others with a heart conformed to Christ's.

Soon after those first two weeks, I began to make visits to the homebound on my own. In these meetings, I tried to emulate what I saw in my pastor: a listening ear and a compassionate heart, rooted in a deep love for the Eucharist and a personal relationship with Christ. I spent time hearing the stories of a German woman who survived World War II and praying with a woman who had recently lost her husband of 67 years, and at the end of these visits sharing with them the gift of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. I often left these visits inspired by the

great faith of these people and the trust they have in Jesus's love, and would be eager to come back the following week to facilitate that encounter with Jesus.

As the summer progressed, I felt my desire for the priesthood grow immensely. These visits and various ministerial opportunities, flowing from my own personal encounter with Christ in sacrament and prayer, revealed to me the privileged role the priest plays in the lives of God's faithful. Inspired by the witness of the priests in this parish, I pray that the Lord continues to form my heart into the pastoral heart of a priest as I continue through seminary formation, and in particular that He continues to remind me of the privilege and responsibility I have to share the Gospel.

I have seen only a glimpse of what lies ahead, and I long for the day when I am able to share the Eucharist with my parishioners through the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Until then, I will continue to ask the Lord to conform my heart to His, that His will be done in my life above all else, and that I continue to encounter His healing love and mercy to better love and serve His people.



Mr. Nick Colón, Seminarian
Archdiocese of Boston

SUMMER CONFERENCE | MENTAL HEALTH AND THE CARE OF SOULS (INCLUDING YOUR OWN)

Priests from around New England gathered at Saint John's on Thursday, July 20 for a daylong conference exploring the topic of pastoral care and counseling for those who are facing mental health challenges. Presenters Christine M. Williams, Ph.D., and Mario Sacasa, Ph.D. spoke about the distinction between the roles of priests and trained psychiatrists. In addition to these presentations, conference attendees were lead in a discussion by Fr. Thomas Nestor about the mental-health challenges that priests face in the course of their ministries and tips for navigating them.



Learn more about events like this one in the future at www.sjs.edu/events.



WHEN THINGS CHANGE... GOD IS WITH YOU!

At Vacation Bible School (VBS), in St. Benedict's Parish of Benedicta, Maine, the 40+ children who attended the day camp responded very positively to the calls from the camp leaders and myself. Throughout the week, the children grew in their understanding of how God is present in their lives. As a seminarian, I played the role of Daniel from the Bible. I wore a chain around my neck and a burlap sack to play the role of Daniel who was a prisoner, for a time, in Babylon. Wearing my clerical attire underneath this garb, I shared with the children some teachings about the Most Holy Eucharist.

At the beginning of each day, the camp leaders and I would bring the children into Saint Benedict's Church. There we would see the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance, as well as parishioners, on their knees, praying for the success of the VBS program. I would bring the children to the foot of the steps leading into the sanctuary where we would pray together. I would then share with the children a teaching on the Most Holy Eucharist. I would begin my talks with the call of the day such as: "when things change..."

And they would respond, "God is with you!"

Or, “when you are afraid...”

“God is with you!”

Or, “When you are lonely...”

“God is with you!”

I would then ask the children “who is in the white disk surrounded by the gold piece that looks like the sun?”

The children would all respond enthusiastically, “Jesus!”

I would explain to the children that God is with us everywhere, but He is most especially present to us in the Most Holy Eucharist. I shared with them that when we eat normal food, our body breaks down the nutrients so that every single cell of our body receives nourishment from what we take in. Just so, when we receive the Most Holy Eucharist, Jesus fills every cell of our body with His presence so that He can make us more like Himself.



Throughout the week, the children grew in their understanding of how Jesus is present to them in the Most Holy Eucharist. On Friday of the week, Fr. Dominic Savio, pastor of St. Benedict’s Parish, celebrated a Mass where the children actively participated. Being a year away from ordination to the priesthood, I am most especially grateful to God for His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. Whenever I receive Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist, I give thanks to God that He fills every cell of my body with His presence. I give thanks that He makes me more so a part of Himself whenever I receive Him so that when things change, or I am afraid or lonely, I can say definitively that He is with me.

Mr. Matthew Valles, Seminarian
Diocese of Portland
Maine



PRAY 27

FOR SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY



ON THE 27th 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 27th?

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

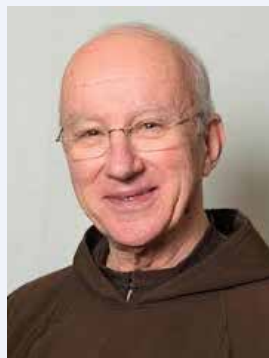
Visit www.sjs.edu/27

Email us at: 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



WELCOME TO SAINT JOHN'S!



Fr. Regis Armstrong, OFM Cap.

Born on Long Island, New York, Regis John Armstrong is a Capuchin Friar Minor and a world-renowned expert on Saints Francis and Clare of Assisi and Saint Bonaventure. He has authored or edited a number of books and many journal and encyclopedia articles related to his research. Fr. Armstrong earned a PhD in Historical Theology and Spirituality from Fordham University, has taught at the Pontifical University Antonianum in Rome and, more recently, at The Catholic University of America where he is now emeritus professor of theology and religious studies. Saint John's Seminary is thrilled to welcome Fr. Regis into the seminary community as a professor and as spiritual director to our seminarians.



Fr. Donald Brick, OCD

My name is Father Donald Brick a Discalced Carmelite priest. I was born and raised in Michigan. I love Our Lord and Lady along with good comedy. It is an honor to serve at Saint John's Seminary and look forward with enthusiasm a great year. Yours in Christ

*“What a person is before God
that he is and nothing more!”*

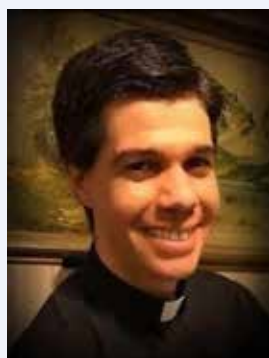
St. Francis of Assisi, Admonition

THANK YOU TO OUR DEPARTING FACULTY



Fr. David Barnes

Fr. Barnes has served the seminary community faithfully as a Director of Spiritual Formation for three years. We thank him for his years of dedicated service to our seminarians and we wish him all the best as he begins his new assignment as the Administrator of St. Patrick's Parish in Stoneham, MA in the Archdiocese of Boston.



Fr. Cristiano Barbosa

We thank Fr. Barbosa for his three years of service to the seminary community as a Professor of Theology. We wish him well as he begins his new assignment as the Episcopal Vicar for the Central Region and the Secretary for Evangelization and Discipleship in the Archdiocese of Boston.

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