



NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology

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SPRING 2016



Year of Mercy

Clarion Herald
photo by
Frank J. Methe

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Fr. Jeffrey Montz, *Professor*



I'll always remember the night over 13 years ago now when my mom shared the exciting news with me that she was pregnant. At the time I was already in my first year of seminary formation at St. Joseph Seminary College. Roughly nine months later we were blessed with the birth of Jacob, my parents' fourth child. And it was such a beautiful experience to have a baby brother at home and throughout my years in the seminary and into my priesthood to be able to watch Jacob grow. One thing that was particularly hard for Jacob as he was growing up was to understand my schedule. He didn't have a full grasp of the concept of time and so every time I was able to come home either on the weekend as a seminarian or on my day off as a priest, it was a painful experience for Jacob to have to say goodbye because he didn't understand when he would see me next. During the week he'd ask my mom if he could call me to ask, "When are you going to come home?" even though the answer was always the same, "I'll be home on my day off."

Jacob's struggle to understand time really struck me whenever he would get into trouble for doing something to me he wasn't supposed to do. My mom or dad would tell Jacob that he needed to apologize to me. What became apparent to me was that Jacob's greatest fear was that I would be so angry with him that I would leave and he wouldn't see me again. I'd overhear him talking to my mom and dad asking them, "Do you think Jeff will still come home?" And so he'd come up to me to apologize, just heart-broken, carrying that fear that I was going to wash my hands of him altogether. He'd barely be able to get the words of apology out through his tears. Now what Jacob couldn't understand at his age was just how much I loved him and how I really wished that, if it was possible, that I'd be able to see him and spend time with him every day of my life. So at the first sign of Jacob walking up to me with tears of contrition in his eyes I had already forgiven him. He didn't have to say anything. He was forgiven because my disposition towards Jacob was one of profound love.

Well, this is an image I want to propose of God's Divine Mercy. We, in our sins, are little Jacobs. We know the rules; we know God's commandments, and yet, we break them, over and over again. We also know that our sins offend God and bring about separation between us and God, and yet, we sin anyway. And when we finally get up the courage to go before the Lord and ask for His forgiveness, we can sometimes carry that same fear that Jacob had in his heart. What if God won't forgive me this time? What if God decides that He's had enough of me, that He's tired of forgiving me for the same sins over and over again? And even though at the level of faith we know of God's forgiveness, at the level of feeling, we feel a lot of scorn for ourselves and so there can be a tendency for us to project that scorn onto God. But, by analogy, I believe that I know something of God's Heart and something of God's disposition towards us because I know of the love in my own heart for Jacob. God loves us tremendously! St. Catherine of Siena in her *Dialogue* uses two wonderful phrases to describe God's tremendous love for us. She says that God is crazy with love and drunk with love for us! And this is true; He is madly in love with us to the point that He wants to be with us infinitely more than I ever wanted to be with Jacob! He desires our company and wants us to spend as much time with Him as we're possibly able!

When we sin and are truly contrite in our hearts, God sees little Jacob walking up to Him with tears in His eyes and God is moved with pity. Before we can even vocalize the apology that we carry in our hearts, He's already forgiven us. This is what Jesus was trying to communicate to us through St. Faustina when He said things like, "Let the sinner not be afraid to approach Me. The flames of mercy are burning Me – clamoring to be spent; I want to pour them out upon these souls." Elsewhere, Jesus adds, "I want to keep pouring (these flames of mercy) out upon souls; souls just don't want to believe in My goodness." And again He says to St. Faustina, "Gather all sinners from the entire world and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. I want to give Myself to souls; I yearn for souls, My daughter. On the day of My feast, the Feast of Mercy, you will go through the whole world and bring fainting souls to the spring of My mercy. I shall heal and strengthen them."

So as we continue this Jubilee Year of Mercy, perhaps we can reflect upon Jesus' revelation to St. Faustina of His Divine Mercy. There He calls us to focus on His disposition towards us. He wants us to know that what is in His Heart for us is a fountain of Mercy, a fountain that is bursting, flooding forth to meet our sinful and wounded souls. All we must do is repent of our sins and allow Him to pour His Divine Mercy upon us.



Feast of Christ the King

On Sunday, November 22nd, seminarians were led in prayer by Father James Wehner during the ceremony honoring the annual Feast of Christ the King. The ceremony uniquely involved the blessing of the newly renovated organ speaker system and was preceded by Mass and the traditional procession in front of the seminary, pictured to the left. The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 under Pope Pius XI, making it a fairly recent entry to the liturgical calendar. It was part of his encyclical *Quas primas*, which chiefly addressed growing secularism in modern society.

Fourth Year Deacons Pilgrimage to the Holy Land



Jerusalem



Wading in the Jordan River



Church of the Holy Sepulchre



Boat Ride on the Sea of Galilee

Knights of Columbus Seminarian Mission Fund Donates \$5,000 to Notre Dame Seminary

The Louisiana State Council Knights of Columbus restarted a state wide raffle. They asked local Knights of Columbus Councils from all parts of the state to participate in this fundraiser by helping to sell raffle tickets. Some Councils conducted other types of fundraisers and donated their proceeds to this fund. The prizes for the raffle consist of 1st Place (\$5,000), 2nd Place (\$2,500), 3rd Place (\$1,000), 4th Place (\$500) and 5th Place (\$250). They conducted this fundraiser from May-December 2015. The Louisiana State Council feels this program provides them the opportunity to help support seminarians and help foster Vocations.



Christmas Luncheon for Priests

The Annual **Christmas Luncheon for Priests** event was held on December 1st at the beautiful Roosevelt Hotel in the Roosevelt Ballroom. Mass preceded the luncheon at Jesuit Church of the Immaculate Conception. Over 600 guests enjoyed this festive fundraiser to benefit Notre Dame Seminary. **Mrs. Stacy Pellerin**, the **2015 Honorary Chairperson**, was recognized during the luncheon for her tireless commitment to furthering the Seminary's mission, as well as her service to many Catholic and civic organizations and schools throughout the New Orleans area. The 2015 Christmas Luncheon event was dedicated to the memory of Maureen M. Poche.

Following Mass, guests proceeded across the street to the Reception/Luncheon, where they were greeted by the Archbishop Chapelle High School Chorale performing Christmas favorites. The Luncheon featured a Christmas Boutique, as well as Silent and Live Auctions. Father James Wehner, Rector/President of Notre Dame Seminary, welcomed guests and benefactors to the event. **Archbishop Gregory Aymond**, Chancellor of Notre Dame Seminary, delivered his greetings and the blessing before the meal. The winner of the 2015 Seminary Jewelry Raffle, generously donated by Greg Raymond of Raymond's Jewelry Creations, was drawn by Archbishop Aymond at the conclusion of the luncheon. **Mrs. Gayle Benson** was recognized as our 2015 event sponsor. The seminarians closed the event by singing the final prayer.

Special thanks to our 2015 event co-chairs, **Mrs. Allison Talley** and **Mrs. Wendy Vitter**; and Boutique coordinators, Mrs. Pattie Hron, Mrs. Linda Preston and Mrs. Cindy Nolan. The seminary community is also grateful to the entire Christmas Luncheon Committee for generously volunteering their time in preparation for this event. To volunteer for the 2016 Christmas Luncheon event, please contact the Development Office at 504-866-7426, ext 374 or by email to ylacour@nds.edu.



Chancellor's Dinner

Notre Dame Seminary held its second annual **Chancellor's Dinner** on Monday night, February 29th, in order to present awards to several outstanding supporters of priestly formation. The dinner is named in honor of the Chancellor of Notre Dame Seminary. That office is always held by the archbishop of New Orleans, currently Archbishop Gregory Aymond. Proceeds from the dinner make possible important projects at the seminary. The evening began with a cocktail reception in Shaw Hall, the main seminary building. Guests enjoyed appetizers, drinks, conversations, and music in the courtyard.

Following the cocktail reception, **NDS Rector**

Father James Wehner introduced each of the award recipients individually in the Notre Dame Seminary Chapel, as the chancellor, **Archbishop Gregory Aymond**, presented the recipients with their awards. The Chancellor's Award is awarded to someone who exhibits outstanding personal involvement and intentional action in supporting the mission of the seminary, offering generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure. This year, the recipient of the **Chancellor's Award** was **Mr. Frank B. Stewart, Jr.** The seminary formation program seeks to inculcate in its seminarians those virtues indispensable for a good priest. St. John Vianney is the patron saint of priests and an exemplary model of priestly virtue. For this reason, the award is given to a priest who has emulated the specifically priestly virtues of St. John Vianney. The **St. John Vianney Award** was awarded to **Fr. Ronald L. Calkins**, beloved pastor of St. Catherine of Siena parish and former pastor of Mary, Queen of Peace parish. Among the earliest Christian depictions of Our Lord is the image of the Good Shepherd. The Church understands a good shepherd as one who both leads and serves the community. Such a leader sets a good example for priests to follow in living out the leadership of Christ, the Good Shepherd, through service to the people of God. This year, **Mrs. Sharon Rodi** received the **Good Shepherd Award**, for the notable leadership she exercises in service and care for the good of the Church, following the example of Christ the Good Shepherd.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 24, 2016

Notre Dame Seminary Gala & Auction

7:00 pm at Notre Dame Seminary

(Patron Party begins at 6:00 pm)



Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Christmas Luncheon for Priests

Immaculate Conception Church

and The Roosevelt Hotel

Chancellor's Dinner

Date of Event TBA



Special Thanks to Our 2015 Event Committee Members

Gala Committee	O.J. & Sandy LaCour	<u>Boutique Chairpersons</u>	Beth Fry Clark	Sandy LaCour	Darlene Robert
<u>Honorary Chair Family</u>	Joe Ann Lindner	Pattie Hron	Barbara Collura	Lauren Lagarde	Sharon Rodi
The Drago Cvitanovich Family	Stanton McNeely	Cindy Nolan	Marcelle Connick	Gayle Levenson	Vicky Romaguera
<u>Patron Party Chaircouple</u>	Tim & Beverly Napier	Linda Preston	Mary Belle Connick	Michelle Lucio	Judy Salathe
David & Anna Jounadot	Michael & Kelley Olinde	Connie Abboud	Mary Clare Conwill	Irene Lutkewitte	Barbara Sandeman
<u>Auction Chaircouples</u>	Stu & Holly Palermo	Wendy Coote	Judy Legett Martin	Judy Legett Martin	Sandy Shilstone
Dcn. Carlo & Debbie Maniglia	Greg & Charlene Raymond	Elizabeth Creel	Dee McCloskey	Dee McCloskey	Laura Smith
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Luly Cali	Steve & Marie Yost	Joan Gogreve	Susan Ordemann	Susan Ordemann	Julie Ungarino
Joseph & Erin Caruso	Christmas Luncheon Committee	Kathleen Harrison	Jeanne Ory	Jeanne Ory	Susan Viator
Steve & Barbara Collura	<u>Honorary Chairperson</u>	Karen Haydel	Celeste Poche	Celeste Poche	Mullady Voelker
Joe Dicharry	Stacy Pellerin	Debbie Hill	Josephine Poche	Josephine Poche	Kathy Waltemath
Larry & Barbara Hedrick	<u>Chairpersons</u>	Connie Holden	Rachel Poche	Rachel Poche	Kelly Waltemath
Brett & Lisa Herr	Allison Talley	Kathy Hubbell	Cissy Poindexter	Cissy Poindexter	Leah Whann
Sam & Ann Johnson	Wendy Vitter	Debra Hymel	Jennifer Rabalais	Jennifer Rabalais	Maria Winn
		Marilyn Canale	Mary Jo Relle	Mary Jo Relle	Johanna Zuppardo
		Linda Capitelli	Donna Rittiner	Donna Rittiner	
		Emelie Cheramie	Mary Beth Rittiner	Mary Beth Rittiner	

If you are interested in volunteering at Notre Dame Seminary, please contact the Development Office at (504) 866-7426, ext. 374. Your time and service are greatly appreciated.

Marching for Life

Ryan Hallford, *Seminarian*



The 2016 March for Life did not quite go as planned. Among the many groups of people that converged upon the Capitol, nine buses of high schoolers from the Baton Rouge Diocese went to offer witness to the dignity of life on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Of course, as a director of this pilgrimage, I warned them beforehand that we would not pamper them. After all, who in their right mind would travel twenty plus hours to Washington D.C. cramped on a bus with extended technology free periods in order to march in the cold winter weather only to travel another twenty plus hours back? And still they went. Unlike a mere civics trip, our March for Life pilgrimage offers spiritual as well as educational activities providing opportunities to explore places of spiritual and historical relevance in the context of a community of faith rooted in daily prayer, mass, and a retreat-like experience. We offer this as a pilgrimage because at the heart of a culture of life must be a culture of love and mercy.



How are we gonna get it? *Prayer and Sacrifice!* This chant recited by our pilgrims provided a constant refrain reminding us what we were about. As pilgrims, not tourists, all difficulties became occasions for grace and virtue.

But we didn't journey alone. We fostered a culture of encounter. On every bus we had priests, seminarians, religious sisters, youth ministers, adults, young adult mentors, and chaperones who represent the various states of life present in the family of the Church. We spent time praying, playing, meditating, learning, singing, and even dancing together. In fact, casted in one of the skits, I performed the role of Baymax from Big Hero Six and defeated Darth Vader, Optimus Prime, and the Terminator in a robotic version of Dancing with the Stars culminating in this year's flash mob dance to the tune of "I need a hero." Our enthusiasm and anticipation for the day of the March for Life clashed with winter storm Jonas who snowed on our parade and sent us home early. When we heard that the conditions of the impending storm prevented reasonably safe traveling conditions within our desired traveling timeframe, we prepared for an early return. Since we had already spent the last few days preparing for the march, much disappointment came with this decision. Providentially, the night before the main presentation centered on the importance of redemptive suffering and trusting in God's will when our plans fall apart.

"We know that all things work for good for those who love God." (Romans 8:28) God provided us a wonderful opportunity to trust in the midst of disappointment. Anything we offer to God in faith, we trust that God will direct this to an even richer harvest. We went to D.C. for the March for Life, but God sent us back home and so we offered even this back to God praying, "Thy will be done." Winter storm Jonas brought to mind the prophet Jonah whom God sent to Nineveh to preach repentance. Jonah following his own plan decided to head the opposite direction only to be rerouted by a storm. While the circumstances are different in many regards, our plans also unraveled due to a storm in which God rerouted us back to Baton Rouge. After Jonah dies to his own plans, the whole city converts. Such is the power of faith.

Despite all the inconveniences, last minute changes, and disappointments, the students amazingly persevered in joy. They lived out the spirit of pilgrimage and gave praise to the Lord regardless of what happened. While the March in D.C. would have been a great experience, the purpose of pilgrimage is something much greater. If our hearts don't change, we become resounding cymbals. If our witness is not connected with prayer and sacrifice, we march in vain. Many of the pilgrims, much to my own surprise, mentioned this pilgrimage as their favorite because they learned to trust God even in the midst of disappointment. The day after we returned, our adventure continued. Our group gathered in Baton Rouge and participated in the Louisiana March for Life; an event that we would have otherwise missed. This year God reminded us that our culture of life must begin at home with us. I'm excited to see how the spiritual seeds from this year's March for Life pilgrimage will be harvested in our Diocese.

Priesthood Ordination Class of 2016



A Special Thanks to our Donors and Underwriters for Improvements to the Seminary by their Contributions to the Fall 2015 Newsletter

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ange, Jr.
Archdiocese of New Orleans – *Acompaño Mission Trip*
Reverend Douglas Brougner – *Acompaño Mission Trip*
Mr. Robert Charbonnet
Reverend Jerry Daigle, Jr. – *Acompaño Mission Trip*
Dr. Pamela S. Darr, M.D. – *Basketball Boards*
Reverend Richard Fabre
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The Florence Mauboules Charitable Trust – *Basketball Boards*
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Mr. Leon K. Poché, Jr. –
Altar Candles in Memory of Maureen Poché
Reverend John A. Poerio
Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Russell – *Aquinas Lecture*
Reverend Matthew Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Stephens
Ms. Emily R. Waguespack

Current NDS Underwriting Opportunities

1. Soccer Tournament Sponsor \$500.00
2. Aquinas Lecture Speaker \$1,000.00
3. Msgr. Tekippe Lecture Speaker \$1,000.00
4. Acompaño Mission Trip Sponsor a Seminarian \$500.00
(30 Seminarians Attending)
5. Fit for the Priesthood Initiative \$500.00
6. Altar Candles for the 2017-2018 Year \$800.00
7. New Desks for Seminarians \$500.00
8. New Beds for Seminarians \$500.00
9. New Desk Chairs for Seminarians \$250.00

Should you be interested in underwriting an expense, please contact the Development Office at (504) 866-7426. Your name will appear in the next edition of the NDS Newsletter as an underwriter to one of these expenses.

Notre Dame Seminary

St. Rita Parish—New Orleans Jared Rodrigue, *Seminarian*



At the request of our Rector, Father James Wehner, a committee has formed in order to begin initial preparation for our involvement in serving the people of God at St. Rita Parish in New Orleans. The committee is made up of volunteer seminarians from the Third Year Theologians, who are planning diligently in particular areas that need to be covered in order to fully prepare for our future involvement in the parish. This includes tasks such as researching the parish boundaries, as well as other places of worship and of notoriety within those boundaries. The bulk of the preparation involves meetings with key staff members: the current pastor, the secretary, the principal, the dean, as well as both the pastoral and financial council presidents. Lastly, this initial preparation involves listening to the parishioners of the parish — their thoughts, concerns, hopes, etc. — particularly at two town hall meetings. A main reason for this initial preparation and for the future ministry at

St. Rita's Parish is to give seminarians the experience of Parochial Vicars while we are still at the seminary, so that when we graduate from seminary, we will have better pastoral application of the wisdom and knowledge that we have acquired while at seminary. It has been very exciting and thought-provoking to work with fellow seminarians for this new adventure in the life of Notre Dame Seminary, and I am even more excited to see the fruits that will sprout for many years to come. As we wait with eager expectation for what lies in store for our future ministry at St. Rita's Parish, we stand firm in the confidence that indeed "God will provide." Deus Provident.

Candlemas

The seminary community celebrated the ancient Feast of the Presentation of the Lord known also as Candlemas on February 2nd. The liturgical rites provide the option of blessing candles and then having a candle light procession. We gathered at our Woman at the Well Fountain for the blessing of candles and then proceeded to the Immaculate Conception Chapel for the celebration of Mass. The feast recalls the visit that our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph made to the Temple in Jerusalem to follow the prescriptions of the law to present Jesus, as well as follow the rites for the purification of women. Simeon and Anna were in the Temple when they recognized Jesus as the Light to the Nations. Considering the darkness of sin we see throughout the world and the effects of sin in our own personal lives, we turn to the Lord asking for the same graces that allowed Simeon and Anna to recognize Jesus as God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God.



Oath of Fidelity

During the Spring semester each year, the seminary community gears up and prepares for the ordination of seminarians to the priesthood and the diaconate. In preparation for those ordinations, each seminarian participates in an evaluation with the faculty usually including the vocation director. The rector then conducts a canonical interview with each candidate to determine if the seminarian is properly motivated, free to enter into Orders, and is ready to embrace life-long commitments. The seminarian then handwrites a petition to his bishop asking for ordination. Before the seminary community, the rector leads the community in Vespers at which time each seminarian makes a Profession of Faith and then makes an Oath of Fidelity to uphold and teach the Gospel. Following this prayer, the rector then sends all documentation to the bishop for this review. Recently, candidates for ordination to the priesthood and diaconate participated in the ceremony for the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity. Let us pray for our future clergy.



Seminarian Serves in the Army

by: **Raney Johnson, Seminarian**



In discerning a vocation, some men find their calling to serve the Church while serving their country in the military. The Lord called Andrew Sanchez while he served in the Army. “Being in the army definitely made it easier to recognize my call to priesthood for several reasons,” Sanchez said. He said it was a chance to get away from a culture and place in which he was a Catholic in name only. “Living on my own many states away from home forced me to assess my relationship with God and the Catholic Church,” he said. “Over my four years spent in the army, each year I grew closer to Christ and lived my life more fully according to Catholic teaching.” This growth was not spaced out evenly over his four years he said. During his last two years in Fairbanks, AK at Fort Wainwright and his one year in Louisiana a Fort Polk, he said he benefited from being part of small but very active and devout military parishes. “I grew more in my faith in these three years than any other time in my life through frequent bible studies, young adult faith lectures and gatherings,” he said. “I was so blessed to meet three different army priests, one of which become a good friend, another a spiritual director and the third a great reference and encouragement through my seminary application process. Our Lord certainly used my time in the Army to bring me closer to Him, to grow in my faith and to reach a state of grace in which I was able to answer his call to seminary.”



Seminarian Andrew Sanchez (third from the right)

African Seminarians

The seminary is truly “catholic” when we see the diversity of culture and language through the Church and at the seminary. We are blessed to have seminarians from Uganda, Nigeria, and Kenya. These men are being prepared to be missionaries of the new evangelization for the Church in America and the Church in Africa.



Rosary with the Rector Blake Dubroc, *Seminarian*



One of the initiatives of the Devotional Life Committee this year was to encourage a voluntary Saturday morning rosary lead by the rector, **Father James Wehner**. The seminary community responded well to the invitation and on any given Saturday morning the rector would be accompanied in prayer by 35-45 seminarians. Father Wehner was excited about the initiative and decided that the focus of the prayer intentions would be for the preservation and promotion of life. We prayed in many areas throughout the city including a new Planned Parenthood facility on Claiborne Avenue, Hollygrove subdivision, and the levee surrounding the city, but we could most often be found praying at Causeway Medical Clinic, an abortion facility in Metairie.

Saturday mornings at the Metairie abortion clinic are heavily occupied with women seeking council or abortions and protestors on the sidewalks praying for a **contrary action**. Many different groups routinely gather there to pray, whether it be men from a Knights of Columbus Council from the neighborhood or the Northshore, families and individuals that have prayed there for decades, or newcomers seeking to take a pro-active stance for life. The atmosphere is always one of both tension and hope. The Seminary community has **donned** the sidewalks on many Saturdays but Saturday, January 30th has become one to remember.

The parking lot was full and it was suspected that the late-term abortionist was operating the clinic that day. About 40 seminarians were present and anywhere from 10-15 people from other groups were joining us in prayer that morning. It's not uncommon for a newcomer to mention how eerie the scene is and how one can almost see the spiritual warfare taking place. This Saturday certainly had that feel and many commented that there seemed to be a heightened sense of this spiritual awareness that day. As we were finishing the rosary we saw a taxi pull in to pick up a young woman from the clinic. The young lady got in the van and as it started to pull away the van stopped, backed up, and she put the window down as to call our attention. As few of us walked her way, it was impossible not be aware of her **ostentatious** smile as she said, "I had a scheduled abortion today but I walked out of it, I couldn't do it, Thank you!" Not only was her smile contagious but this news rang through our hearts and caused an almost immediate collective sigh of relief. Still in the midst of the conversation we were made aware that a similar situation was taking place in the back parking lot, another young lady was leaving the clinic due to a change of heart. This news brought about a resounding atmosphere of rejoicing and it seemed like, at least for the moment, a sense of **hope** permeated the whole grounds.

Indeed a battle was being fought that day but little did we know that Saturday, January 30th would be the last Saturday that Causeway Medical Clinic would be open for abortions. We found out two weeks later that the clinic had shut down the following week. For the previous two weeks they could not find another abortion doctor and the company officially sent their letter of intention to cease operation to the Department of Health and Hospitals on the week of February 15th. We certainly aren't claiming that our presence there on January 30th is the sole reason for its closure and we want to acknowledge that the real pro-life warriors are the individuals and families that have been praying at abortion facilities in New Orleans for over 28 years, but what we can claim is that the Rosary with the Rector that day, in particular, has opened our eyes and hearts to a real battle that takes place in prayer and real answers that come from our gracious Lord. Thank you, Father Wehner, for leading us in the battle and thank you, Mother Mary, for being our powerful intercessor.



Improv Night



SPORTS AT NOTRE DAME

Bonfire Game at St. Ben's

On Friday, November 20th, a group of NDS seminarians took part in the annual St. Ben's vs. Notre Dame Bonfire Game, an event that has brought the two seminaries together in a friendly game of flag football since the 1930's. After a preceding Mass said on the St. Ben's premises, the pious sportsmen competed once more for the legendary "Bonfire Champions" trophy, won by Notre Dame during last year's game. This year NDS was victorious once more (40-34) despite fierce competition from St. Ben's players. Live commentary provided by Cody Chatagnier and David LaPointe made the Archdiocesan livestream of the game, as entertaining as one might expect. The game was concluded with a blessing and closing statement from St. Ben rector/president, Fr. Gregory Boquet, who later provided meals for players and seminarian game attendees in the refectory. After the meal, the bonfire was lit, concluding the evening.



Basketball Game at Josephinum Seminary

Joseph Caraway, Seminarian
Derek Ducote, Seminarian



The Notre Dame Seminary Baratarian basketball team spent quality time growing together as brother in preparation for the Josephinum basketball tournament in Columbus Ohio. The preparation for the tournament involved weekly practices, fundraising, and a scrimmage against Rummel High School. With the generosity of St. Catherine of Siena's gym, the Baratarians were able to have practices involving several drills, plays, and scrimmages against local parishioners. The more entertaining aspect prior to the tournament was the fundraising video created by the team requesting support for the travel expenses. In creating the video, seminarians went to the French Quarter to perform humorous street performances to raise money. The video was posted to social media and many generous benefactors, family, and friends witnessed the playful personalities of the seminarians. The personalities were also shared with athletes of the local Rummel High School community in a basketball game. The game had many priests, religious, seminarians, families, and students from Chappell and Rummel High Schools in attendance. Fortunate for the Baratarians, they did not play the actual Rummel basketball team, and were victorious against some high school seniors. Overall, the preparations for the Josephinum basketball tournament was an advocate for much growth in the seminarian's formation and created life long memories and friendships among brothers.



"This tournament is always one of the highlights of my year," admits Andrew Schumacher, starting power forward for the team. With their second time participating in the Pontifical College Josephinum's annual inter-seminary basketball tournament, NDS was one of 10 seminaries who entered an elite ensemble of athletes to compete in fraternal pride for the Lord. 15 missionaries burning with zeal made the 922 mile trek to the frozen north. Lead by newly arrived mastermind and coach Fr. Jeffery Montz, who describes his team: "Perhaps what impressed me most was the quality of our men at Notre Dame Seminary. Not only are they dedicated to their vocation to holiness but they are genuine men..." Father went on to use words such as joyful, reverent, and dedicated to name a few. Andrew Schumacher, Colten Symmes, Joseph Caraway, Stephen Pellessier, Blake Dubroc, Andrew Rudmann, Andrew Gutierrez, Paul Nacey, T.J. Capaldi, and Carlos Lucito dominated the court. These sons of the heavenly Father represented NDS with heart unmatched by any other. Winning several games, sadly they were eliminated from the tournament with two close losses from the teams who went into overtime in the championship game. No question that these men were the true favorites of many, including an entourage of fans that traveled to support them: Mark Shoffner as their medic, Derek Ducote as a member of the coaching staff, and Trey Ange, who enthusiastically live-streamed the games for fellow seminarians, family and avid supporters. "Such a great experience with many other seminarians from around the country," recounts Trey.



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THE CASE FOR JESUS



THE BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE FOR CHRIST

BRANT PITRE

AUTHOR OF *JESUS AND THE JEWISH ROOTS OF THE EUCHARIST*

The Case for Jesus by Dr. Brant Pitre, Notre Dame Seminary Professor

About *The Case for Jesus*:

For well over a hundred years now, many scholars have questioned the historical truth of the Gospels, claiming that they were originally anonymous. Others have even argued that Jesus of Nazareth did not think he was God and never claimed to be divine. In *The Case for Jesus*, Dr. Brant Pitre, the bestselling author of *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, goes back to the sources: the biblical and historical evidence for Christ.

As *The Case for Jesus* will show, recent discoveries in New Testament scholarship, as well as neglected evidence from ancient manuscripts and the early church fathers, together have the potential to pull the rug out from under a century of skepticism toward the traditional Gospels. Above all, Pitre shows how the divine claims of Jesus of Nazareth can only be understood by putting them in their ancient Jewish context.

From the Afterword by Bishop Robert Barron:

“This book will prove to be a most effective weapon... against the debunking and skeptical attitudes toward the Gospels that are so prevalent, not only in academe, but also on the street, among young people who, sadly, are leaving the Churches in droves.” – Bishop Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism*