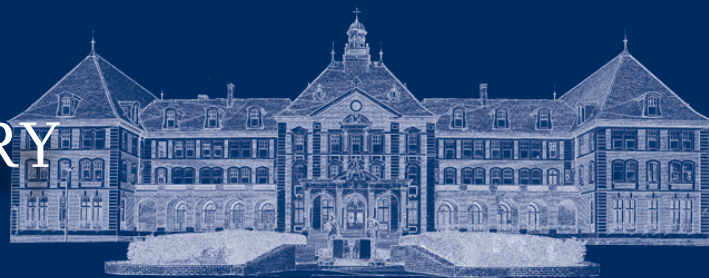


VOLUME 4, NO. 2 • SPRING 2017

# NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology



## NDS: Forming Missionary Priests





Saint Pope John Paul II describes the seminary as an “apostolic community.” It was in the context of Jesus calling the apostles and his teaching of the Gospel to them that we, as a Church, have received the Good News. Hence, when Jesus calls today’s seminarians to be with him, the Church sees in our seminarians our very youth – the Church is ever youthful as she continues her mission today. The youthfulness of the Church is not age-related rather speaks to how fresh and vibrant the Church is as new disciples are shepherded by Jesus. I have used this description to help seminarians understand how they should be viewing their love of the Church through their experience of seminary formation. Being in the seminary is not extraneous to their membership in the Church – they must love the Church from how they experience the Church including their time at the seminary. Notre Dame Seminary is a “youthful” Church reflected in the diversity of our community – 48

seminarians are from countries other than the United States. This cultural diversity has blessed our community with a vibrancy of thought, culture, worship, and pastoral approach. We learn from one another the richness of the Gospel of

We learn from one another  
the richness of the Gospel  
of Jesus – a gospel that  
can never be exhausted of  
meaning.

Jesus – a gospel that can never be exhausted of meaning. As pastor of this local community, I thank God for the blessings we receive each day from our seminarians.

# SAVE THE DATE

## — Gala & Auction —

*Saturday, September 30, 2017*

Notre Dame Seminary

## — Christmas Luncheon for Priests —

*Wednesday, November 29, 2017*

Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

Reception and Luncheon at The Roosevelt Hotel

*For more information regarding these events, please contact  
the Development Office at 504-866-7426 or visit [www.nds.edu](http://www.nds.edu)*

# Seminarian International Experiences



(left) Fr. Gregory Chauvin (NDS Alum), Andrew Sanchez (NDS Seminarian), and Andrew Schumacher (NDS Seminarian) serve Mass at St. Clare's Parish in La Vallee de Jacmel, Haiti



Seminarian Cletus Orji in Nigeria in early 2017



Fr. Deo Ekisa ministry in the Archdiocese of Tororo Uganda



Stephen Pellessier in Guatemala for Spanish immersion



Fr. Zachary Oburu (2016 graduate) at his ordination in Uganda



Blake Dubroc in Antigua in summer 2015 for Spanish immersion



Seminarians celebrating a traditional Eastern European Lenten meal



Blake Dubroc and Stephen Pellessier in Antigua in for Spanish immersion



Fr. Deo Ekisa in Rome with 2016 graduates, Fr. Jim Handerham and Fr. Amado Ramos



## A REFLECTION ON PRIESTHOOD

by Fr. Michael Richard (Class of 2016), Diocese of Lafayette, Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Magdalen, Abbeville, LA

Pope St. John Paul II once wrote that a priest “must cultivate a constant sense of gratitude for the many gifts he has received...” As I sit just 8 months into my young priestly life, I can see anew those blessings from the Lord. Over my seminary years, I was formed to serve as a minister in the Church’s central mission of bringing Jesus Christ to all peoples. Now, I see that beautiful mission field. Every day I have the opportunity to see God at work in the world... in the souls who enter the confessional, in the couple preparing for marriage, in the family who has



lost their loved one, and in the young students searching for answers. I have seen so many who open their hearts to the priest so that he might show them the light of Christ already within. Over and over, I am amazed at this wonderful gift of the priesthood, which opens the doors of faith. In this

mission field of the New Evangelization, I am always surprised at the ways in which the Lord reveals himself to others and to me. As a priest, it is a blessing to witness God at work in His people! How beautiful it is to see God laboring to love His children. Despite not knowing what lies in store for tomorrow, I have found great joy in this gratitude and great reason to trust that “God will provide.”

## First Time Pastor

by Fr. Matthew Graham (Class of 2015)  
Diocese of Baton Rouge

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, I became the Administrator of two parishes in Assumption Civil Parish along Bayou Lafourche: St. Jules in Belle Rose, LA and St. Elizabeth in Paincourtville, La. St. Elizabeth has a small school of about 230 students with grades ranging from Pre-K3 to 8<sup>th</sup>. Before I even celebrated a Sunday Mass in my parishes, I had two funerals. In my first two months, I celebrated 12 funerals. In my first year of priesthood, I only celebrated two funerals in neighboring parishes. I did not get a chance to really sit and talk with my staff as their new leader until about a week after I started.



very dedicated and active pastoral council made up of both parishes that helped me to learn the needs and desires of the parish, as well to receive feedback on the transition. They have worked with me to address concerns of parishioners and have helped me to learn the culture of people in the area.

I learned quickly how much of the culture of the area revolved around the faith. Early in September before the harvesting of the sugar cane crop, I was invited to celebrate Mass and bless the equipment and the two sugar mills in my parishes. In early November, I had a tour once they were in full operation, which excited the engineer in me. Also in November, another big event is the blessing of the graves. I have three cemeteries in my two parishes.

My experience these past 9 months has shown me the people have a great love for their priests and is an affirmation of the vocation that God has given me. There is always something new each day to learn when it comes to being in charge: hiring a new DRE, figuring out what do when you have no music minister, dealing with cemetery maintenance, annual budgets, requests by various groups to do programs and promotions, and learning the latest dance moves with the Pre-K4 students! In the end, God always provides!

## An Old Soldier Goes Rolling Along In Seminary

by Seminarian Doug Busch

As young soldiers sing, “The Army Goes Rolling Along”, and trudge through the muck and grind of selfless service to this great nation, so old soldiers never die; some never even fade away but continue to serve and rattle the young. I am one of those old troopers you just cannot get rid of! I heard a higher bugle call while on a 5-year spiritual pilgrimage as a long-haul truck driver that brought me here to Notre Dame Seminary.

I retired from the U.S. Army in 2002. A native of Metairie, Louisiana, I grew-up in St. Francis Xavier parish and graduated from Holy Cross High School in 1975. I was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where I played football, even against Tulane in the Superdome in 1977. I was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1979 and served in the Armor and Cavalry during the Cold War.

Some of my most memorable moments included long frigid nights of patrolling the Czechoslovakian border in the mid-1980s and playing “Hide and Seek” with Russian helicopters attempting to track my unit’s movements. There



were many indiscreet war games to complement long hours of scheduled training to keep us combat ready.

I married Mary in 1982 and we served one another as battle buddies for 24 years through the thick and the thin.

We had three sons who have all served in the Army- Brad, Matthew and Adam. Our oldest, Brad, who passed away in 2011, deployed with the 20th Special Forces Group to Afghanistan before the invasion of Iraq in 2003, Matt was and still is an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialist, and our youngest son, Adam, has deployed to Afghanistan twice as a helicopter pilot. He is there now. His wife and three children anxiously await his return to Fort Riley, Kansas, for their daughter’s First Communion.

I entered seminary in August 2013 and earned one of the first Bachelor in Philosophy degrees from Notre Dame in 2015. I am now in the Masters of Divinity Program as a Second Theologian. I served Saint Rita Catholic Church on Lowerline Street in summer ministry this past year and I am an active parishioner there. I attempt to do everything I possibly can to support the new relationship that formed between St. Rita and Notre Dame in July 2016.

I will turn 60 years old in May but my heart and mind are kept strong and sharp by my professors, younger seminarian brothers, staff and priests. My days are genuinely as tough a challenge and filled with opportunity as they were in the Army! I consider this to be a very exciting and humbling thing! God has been more than gracious and kind to me!

**Congratulations to Seminarian Joey Martineck and the cast and crew of Garden, the Musical, for an outstanding production in March.**





# A Blessed Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

by Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes

**D**uring the first ten days of January members of the Fourth Theology Deacon class made a sacred pilgrimage to the Holy Land. I was privileged to be a fellow pilgrim and to serve as their spiritual director.

From the beginning, we committed ourselves to traveling, not as tourists, but as genuine pilgrims. This meant embracing the challenges of the journey with a spiritual heart. At our Mass of departure in Notre Dame Chapel, we begged for the grace to walk with the Lord in the land he trod in such a way that we might become more committed disciples and more fruitful apostles, as well. The first days were spent in Galilee. Mr. Said Mriebeh became our trusted and competent guide. His remarkable knowledge of history, geography and religious studies helped us greatly to appreciate the background for each of the sacred places. Our Galilean base on the Mount of Beatitudes provided us with a graced opportunity, not only to celebrate Mass on this holy mountain, but to visit Tiberius, Capernaum, Cana, Bethsaida, and Tagba where the Lord Jesus conferred the primacy on Simon Peter after his resurrection from the dead. We even ventured out on the Sea of Galilee on a boat reminiscent of the type of fishing boat used in the time of Jesus. But not quite as sea worthy as the original apostles, we motored rather than rowed.

At each sacred location after our guide provided his helpful background, we took the time to read publicly the scriptural account connected to that site, to engage in personal prayer, and then sometimes to sing a hymn expressive of our religious experience at that moment.

During the second part of our pilgrimage Jerusalem became our home base. We

returned from the city to Galilee to visit Nazareth, Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, and Mt. Tabor before descending through the Jordan valley to Jericho and Bethany Beyond the Jordan. Because a flat tire had delayed our arrival at the Jordan, border officials turned us back. Refusing to let this disappointment deter us we renewed our Baptismal promises in the bus, a rather unusual locale, but none the less significant to do as close to the River Jordan site of Jesus' baptism as possible.

Our Jerusalem base, of course, made it possible to travel south to Bethlehem and Bethany, north to Ain Karem (the site of the Visitation) and east across the Kedron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane. In the city, we visited the dungeon where Jesus was probably held after his capture, the "Upper Room," the place of public condemnation by Pilate, the Way of the Cross, Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre. Visiting the sites, visualizing what it must have been like in

the time of Jesus, immersing ourselves in the mysteries associated with each of these locations overwhelmed our limited human abilities to absorb.

For me, singing the solemn Angelus in the grotto which marked the room where Mary may very well have experienced the Annunciation...and letting the words in Latin, "...And here the Word was made flesh" penetrate the depths



*Archbishop Hughes celebrates Mass assisted by Deacon Cain Galicia-Ramirez (left) and Deacon Brice Higginbotham (right) on the Mount of the Beatitudes.*



*Archbishop Hughes offers some thoughts to the pilgrims on the Mount of the Beatitudes.*





*Archbishop Hughes celebrates Mass assisted by Deacon Ryan Hallford (left) and Deacon Pat Broussard (right) at the Apostles Grotto near Gethsemane.*

of my soul, was a very graced moment. But what moved me most was making the Way of the Cross in the streets of Jerusalem in the early hours of the morning before the shops opened and then celebrating Mass in the tomb just above the slab on which the body of the Lord probably was laid and from which he rose from the dead. What a grace to re-present in sacrament what historically took place in that sacred spot. And we could not have been more than fifty yards from Golgotha, where the Lord had been crucified. For a priest of 59 years it can't get any better than that... except in the life to come.

A very important by-product of the pilgrimage was the special bonding of our pilgrimage group. We experienced long days, rising for personal prayer, offering morning prayer in common, traveling to the holy sites, celebrating Mass at one of them each day, sharing three meals a day, offering evening prayer together and then returning to our rooms to journal about the day. One of the deacons preached at each of the Masses.

On the final day, we had the blessed opportunity to meet with Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate. He



*The pilgrims take a group shot during lunch.*



*The pilgrims cross the Sea of Galilee on a reproduction of a boat from the time of Jesus.*

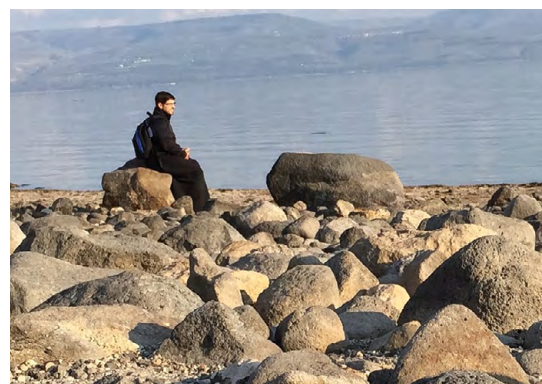
helped us appreciate both the opportunities and the challenges of the Christian community and especially Catholics in the Holy Land. In fifty years, the Christian population has decreased from 40 % to 1.5% due to pressures from continuing conflicts, restrictions in social and economic opportunities and safety in the face of persecution. How sad for the land of the Lord's birth, life, passion and resurrection!

The only other time that I had visited the Holy Land was in September of 1960. This, of course, preceded the Six Day War of 1967 and Israel's annexation of the whole of Jerusalem and all of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights. Now, all the territory once belonging to Jordan or Syria or Egypt, has become Israeli occupied land. The seething fears and anger are understandable and unfortunately explode periodically in horrible terrorist attacks. Peace will depend on the addressing of mutual grievances, a guaranteed homeland for displaced Palestinians, mutual recognition of sovereign Palestinian and Israeli states and a guaranteed free access to those holy places, held sacred by Jews, Christians or Muslims. Lasting peace requires justice in the addressing of a half century of yet unresolved human issues.

May God grant to this sacred land, the peace that only he can give. May God bless and reward all those who made this graced pilgrimage possible.



*(left) Deacon Colm Cahill reads the Universal Prayer at Tagba where Saint Peter declared his love for Jesus three times and Jesus charged him "Feed my sheep."*



*Deacon Brice Higginbotham prays on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.*





*Oath of Fidelity - T4 Class*

During the Spring semester each year, the seminary community 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. On Sunday, January 15, the seminary community witnessed the candidates who are preparing for priesthood ordination taking the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity which took place during Vespers. The rector preached on Saint John the Baptist's acclamation from the gospel that day – Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The candidates were reminded that the oath they are taking is an

oath of one's commitment to God's Word and one's personal word. Each seminarian signed the Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity after speaking both during solemn Evening Prayer. The rector will prepare documentation later in the week for bishops to make the official "Call to Holy Orders to the Order of Presbyter." Following Vespers, the seminarians were treated with a formal dinner as a welcome back as the Spring semester begins. Let us pray for our future clergy.



*Oath of Fidelity  
(altar at NDS) -  
T4 Class*

*Oath of Fidelity -  
T3 Class*





# Springtime is for Giving Back

*Ask the LORD for rain in the spring season, the LORD who brings storm clouds, and heavy rains, who gives to everyone grain in the fields.*

Zechariah 10:1

Spring is a perfect time to think about all the blessings God has given us in this world. Now is the season we give thanks to God for all he has done for us this past year and throughout our lives. Although charitable gifts are most commonly made in the form of cash, many of Notre Dame's supporters contribute other types of assets that provide tax advantages as well as meaningful support for our Seminary.

## Gifts Through Your Will

Gifts to Notre Dame Seminary through your Will – also known as a bequest - defined outright or calculated by a percentage of the net estate can assure that God's faithfulness in your life can be an encouragement to future generations through the work of Notre Dame Seminary.

## Gifts of Appreciated Securities

The IRS allows you one of its most significant tax breaks for gifts of appreciated securities.

## Gifts of Retirement Plan Assets

If you are over 70 1/2 years old and receiving income from an IRA, there may be a tax-advantaged way to make these assets work for you and help Notre Dame Seminary.

## Gifts That Provide a Life Income

You can make a gift now, obtain tax benefits, and receive income for the rest of your life.

## Gifts of Life Insurance

Donate an existing policy by naming Notre Dame Seminary as the owner and receive an income tax deduction.

## Gifts of Real Estate

Make a substantial gift to Notre Dame Seminary through a transfer of residential, commercial, or undeveloped real estate. You can also transfer title to your personal residence now, while retaining the right to live in or use it for the rest of your life!

If you are interested in learning more, please contact the Development Office at 504-866-7426, ext. 374.

## A Special Thanks to our Donors and Underwriters for Improvements to the Seminary by their Contributions from November 2016-March 2017

Rev. Douglas Brougher – New Crucifix for Classroom

Robert Charbonnet

Mark and Joan Chifici

Angela Comstock

Dr. and Mrs. Armando Corripio – In Honor of Rev. Than Vu

Rev. Michael Deering

Rev. Richard Fabre

Suzanne Farina

Knights of Columbus Council 4<sup>th</sup> Degree – Fit for the Priesthood Initiative

Knights of Columbus Council #6872 – Fit for the Priesthood Initiative

Knights of Columbus Council #12072 – Fit for the Priesthood Initiative

Ken Leithman

Rev. Francis Offia – In Memory of Margaret Offia

Stacy and Jim Pellerin – Acompaño Mission Trip (Sponsor a Seminarian)

Bessie Poché

Rev. John Poerio

Msgr. Paul Rohling

Serra Club of Downtown New Orleans – Fit for the Priesthood Initiative

Diane Schexnayder – In Honor of Seminarians Felix Hinambona and Lawrence Ochwo

Vinton Columbian Club – Fit for the Priesthood Initiative

Truyen T. Vu

## THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE NDS ALUMNI WHO HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN 2017.



*We enjoyed having you at the seminary for Alumni Day on February 23rd!*

*Fr. Mark Franklin, Fr. Frank Candalisa, Fr. Joe Krafft and Fr. Michael Deering at NDS Alumni Day.*



# Weekly Adorers

by Seminarian William Fruge

Beginning last semester, every week a new group of seminarians visits St. Rita's Parish on weekday mornings, known as the "St. Rita's Adorers". This entails walking from Notre Dame Seminary to St. Rita's at 5:30am, unlocking the church doors, setting up for Mass, exposing the Most Blessed Sacrament, leading Morning Prayer, serving Mass, and locking up afterwards. These are simply the visible duties of the seminarians. One of my favorite parts, however, is the unseen duty of each seminarian, which is to pray for the members of St. Rita's Parish and for all of their intentions.

I was very excited the first time my group was called upon to be St. Rita's Adorers.

It was cold and dark as we walked toward the church on that first morning, but stars were scattered throughout the sky. Only a few lights were on as we passed the many houses along the way. The unusual stillness and silence in a city that is so busy and noisy during the day allowed me to reflect on the unique opportunities that we were given that week: the opportunity to experience a pastor's role of praying for his parishioners, the opportunity to pray for the people of St. Rita's Parish that we encounter

each Sunday at Mass, the opportunity to pray for those living in the surrounding neighborhood, many of whom we have never met and possibly never will. After opening the church and seeing the warm light stream out of the large doors, I hoped that someone passing by might be prompted to enter the church to pray, or at least that their thoughts would be elevated to heavenly things. Regardless, I knew that our prayers would bear fruit, one way or another.

It brought me great joy to have St. Rita's parishioners join us for adoration before Mass, and I look forward to praying at



St. Rita's again. Next time, I hope that an even larger crowd of people will gather together with us to spend time with our Lord in silence, to make room for Him to work in our lives, and to show Him our gratitude for the many blessings we have received.

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence."

"Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration with exposition needs a great push. People ask me: 'What will convert America and save the world?' My answer is prayer. What we need is for every parish to come before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in holy hours of prayer."

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta



# ST. RITA INITIATIVE

by Brent Smith, Third Year Theology, Notre Dame Seminary

Last Fall marked the beginning of a new and unique partnership between Notre Dame Seminary and St. Rita Parish. Third year theologians studying at Notre Dame Seminary were assigned to various positions that are meant to immerse the seminarians into parish life, as well as offer benefits to the parishioners and students of St.

Rita School. For my part, I have been visiting the 3rd grade class at St. Rita School, taught by Ms. Rattler. The partnership has offered a two-fold advantage. It allows for a spiritual presence and witness to the students and faculty of the school.

The initiative also provides for a new dimension to formation of seminarians. The seminarians involved are preparing for diocesan priesthood. In this service of God's Church, each man will be called to minister to everyone, yes, but in a particular way to the souls of his particular parish community. Association with St. Rita's School has provided an opportunity for the seminarians to cultivate and experience how this intentional discipleship is lived out in the real world, in an actual parish. It has affected our formation in many ways,

including the way that we pray. Each weekday morning a group of seminarians opens up the church for Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Morning Prayer and Mass. This is a time offered as intentional prayer for the community of St. Rita Parish.

This immersion into parish life is unique to Notre Dame Seminary. I wondered how we would be received into this new environment as we began



*Seminarians Brent Smith and Andrew Schumacher*

visiting the 3rd grade class. From the start, the experience has been a positive one. The teacher is always so appreciative of our presence. Some days, we are simply present to the students, helping if we can with their studies and activities. Other days we might provide some insights into the Catholic faith or anecdotes of our mission experiences. The students have been receptive and welcoming. Stories of our mission trips have inspired the

teacher to organize a local mission trip to a hospital or nursing home so that the students can experience what missionary work is all about. We are hoping to make this "mini-mission" happen soon. It will hopefully be one of many ways that we humbly share how anyone can seek to imitate Christ in service and prayer for others, even in your own neighborhood. I hope we have done this in some small way for our neighbors at St. Rita Parish and School.

## Current NDS Underwriting Opportunities

1. Aquinas Lecture Speaker  
\$1,000.00
2. Msgr. Tekippe Lecture Speaker  
\$1,000.00
3. Acompaño Mission Trip Sponsor a Seminarian  
\$500.00 (40 Seminarians Attending)
4. Security Upgrades-Fence  
\$3,000.00
5. Security Upgrades-Cameras  
\$40,000.00
6. Priest Vestments for St. Joseph's Hall Chapel  
\$500.00 (4 Colors Needed)
7. Deacon Vestments for St. Joseph's Hall Chapel  
\$500.00 (4 Colors Needed)
8. Annual Retreat for Seminarians  
\$500.00 (133 Seminarians Attending)
9. Spanish Hymnals  
\$2,500.00 (125 Hymnals)

*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.***





# CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR PRIESTS

The Annual **Christmas Luncheon for Priests** event was held on November 29<sup>th</sup> 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. Ann Stevens**, the **2016 Honorary Chairperson**, was recognized during the luncheon for her commitment to furthering the Seminary's mission, as well as her service to many Catholic organizations throughout the New Orleans area.

Following Mass, guests proceeded across the street to the Reception/Luncheon, which 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 2016 Seminary Jewelry Raffle, generously donated by Greg Raymond of Raymond's Jewelry Creations, was drawn by



*Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Fr. Jim Wehner with 2017 Honorary Chairperson, Mrs. Ann Stevens*



*Christmas Luncheon and Reception at The Roosevelt Hotel*

Archbishop Aymond at the conclusion of the luncheon. The seminarians closed the event by singing the final prayer.

Special thanks to our 2016 event co-chairs, **Mrs. Allison**

**Talley** and **Mrs. Wendy Vitter**. 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 2017 Christmas Luncheon event, please contact the Development Office at 504-866-7426, ext 374 or by email to [ylacour@nds.edu](mailto:ylacour@nds.edu).



*Guests Gayle Benson and Angela Hill enjoy the Christmas Luncheon and Reception at The Roosevelt Hotel*



*Auction items line the tables at the Luncheon and Reception at The Roosevelt Hotel*



# 2017 Chancellor's Dinner

**N**otre Dame Seminary held its third annual **Chancellor's Dinner** on Tuesday night, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

**Ronald Cambre**. 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. Billy O'Riordan**, beloved pastor of St. Ann Church & Shrine. 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, **Mr. and Mrs. John and Deborah Blancher**, owners of Rock 'n' Bowl and Ye Olde College Inn, received the **Good Shepherd Award**, for their commitment to following the example of Christ the Good Shepherd.



*Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Honorees Mr. and Mrs. John and Deborah Blancher*



*Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Honoree Fr. Billy O'Riordan*



*Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Honoree Mr. Ronald Cambre and wife Mrs. Gail Cambre*



*Mr. Peter Quirk and Honoree Mr. Ronald Cambre*



*Mrs. Sharon Rodi, Stacy and Jim Pellerin, Seminarian Andrew Schumacher, Dr. Pamela Darr and Fr. Joe Palermo*



# FR. DAVID KELLY'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

by Seminarian Raney Johnson

Fr. David Kelly, NDS professor, celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on February 2, 2017. Fr. Kelly started his discernment of the priesthood at an early age, "I remember thinking I would be a priest early on in my life," he said. "Maybe around first communion." Fr. Kelly's desire to become a priest strengthened after he became an altar server. "There is where I started to see the early stage of what the priesthood is," he said. Fr. Kelly said he did poorly in his first year of studies while attending Boston Latin School, a fact that was the result of the lack of instruction he received in English grammar.

However, when Fr. Kelly finished high school and entered the seminary, he said he realized he had the ability to learn, especially learning foreign languages, a talent he possessed throughout his life. "The languages came easy to me," he said. Philosophical and Theological studies

were not as easy to study for Fr. Kelly as studying Latin was. After finishing theology studies, Fr. Kelly was ordained in 1957 and assigned to a parish. However, Fr. Kelly held another desire in his heart to serve the less fortunate. "I always thought in the seminary I would like to serve the poor," he said. Fr. Kelly eventually joined the Missionary Society of St. James a group started by Fr. Kelly's archbishop at the time, Cardinal Richard Cushing, for diocesan priests who wanted to serve in Latin America for a period of five years. His first assignment was in Peru. It was his missionary activity in the Latin Americas that gave him the opportunity to learn Spanish for the first time. "It was a delight for me to be able to learn Spanish," he said. Fr. Kelly's first introduction to the missions in South America was not a smooth transition. "My first introduction to the mission was spotty because we were



not prepared," he said. Despite this, Fr. Kelly knew the importance of his missionary ministry to the people. "It was either us or nobody. We knew if we were not there, there would be no one to evangelize them," said Fr. Kelly. During his time in Peru, he realized that he wanted to spend the rest of his life in the missions, so he joined the Maryknoll Fathers, a religious order focused on missionary activity throughout the world. As a Maryknoll priest, Fr.



Kelly spent many of the years of his priesthood in the missions in Guatemala and El Salvador. After retiring from missionary work with Maryknoll, he returned to the United States where he continued to serve the poor. Eight years ago, Archbishop emeritus Alfred Hughes invited Fr. Kelly to come to Notre Dame Seminary to

teach moral theology. His many years in Central and South America provides his teaching of moral theology with many different experiences and examples of the Church's social teaching to share with his students. Fr. Kelly enjoys spending his priesthood teaching and serving at Notre Dame Seminary. "I am very happy that I can be a part of what we are doing here," he said.

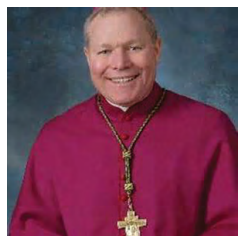


# Congratulations!

*Notre Dame Seminary congratulates the following:*



Most Rev. David P. Talley, newly installed Bishop of Alexandria



Most Rev. Edward J. Burns, newly installed Bishop of Dallas



Msgr. Louis F. Kihneman, III, who will be installed as Bishop of Biloxi on April 28<sup>th</sup>.



Notre Dame Seminary is also grateful for Bishop Ronald P. Herzog, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Alexandria. Bishop Herzog retired on February 2, 2017.



Congratulations to Archbishop Gregory Aymond as he celebrates his 20th anniversary as bishop.



Most Rev. Roger Paul Morin, Bishop Emeritus of Biloxi, will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate at the Notre Dame Seminary Commencement Exercises in May 2017.



Congratulations to Most Reverend Shelton Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux, as he celebrates his 10th anniversary as a bishop.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Notre Dame Seminary is grateful to the many volunteers who graciously support our mission through their countless hours of service to the seminary.

We are especially thankful to outstanding volunteers: **Barbara and Larry Hedrick**.

Barbara and Larry have been dedicated volunteers and generous supporters of the seminary for many years. They have served in numerous capacities, most notably as Gala Auction chairpersons, coordinating our calling team and solicitation of vendors. They have also worked on the Logistics team for the Gala in support of the seminary's major annual fundraiser. Larry's gift of photography and Barbara's talent for needlework and sewing have also been great blessings to the seminary through the years.



*Barbara, Fr. Tim and Larry Hedrick*

Barbara and Larry have been married since 1975. They are the parents of Lori, Larry and Fr. Tim, who is the parochial vicar at St. Catherine parish. Barbara and Larry also have two grandchildren. They are longtime parishioners of St. Philip Neri parish in Metairie, where they serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Eucharist and work with the altar society, as well as assisting the pastor in various

capacities.

Thank you, **Barbara and Larry**, for your faithful service and friendship to the seminary community through the years. Your selflessness and generosity are an inspiration to all those who know you. We appreciate the many ways you have served NDS and are grateful for your support of our future priests!





NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology

2901 S. Carrollton Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Prsrt Std  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
New Orleans, LA  
Permit No. 33

# 2017 GRADUATION CLASS

