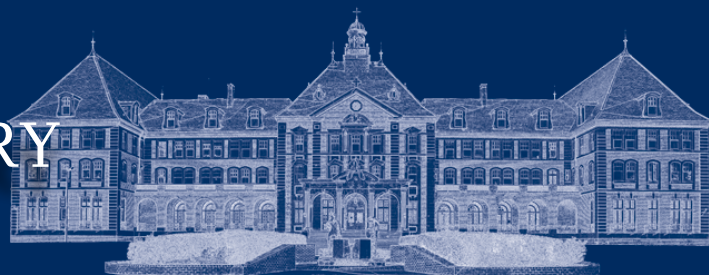


VOLUME 5, NO. 3 • FALL 2018

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology



NEW RENOVATION: *The Gayle & Tom Benson House of Priestly Formation*

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Spotlight



Very Rev. James A. Wehner
Rector/President

The Annual Fund: Missionary Leaders for Pastoral Ministry

These past several months have seen turbulent times for leadership in the Church as we all grapple with how to support victims of sexual abuse, address issues of accountability in dealing with perpetrators of abuse, and transparency of church processes and protocols. Yet, when we look into priestly formation today, there is a great sense of confidence and support of today's seminarians. Through the way we prepare, evaluate, and equip seminarians with the skills needed for ministry and address issues that deal with professionalism, relationships, intimacy, friendships, and boundaries, I believe Notre Dame Seminary remains on the forefront of how we competently deal with such matters. I thank God for our faculty and staff, the men who are taking their formation seriously, the laity who are enrolled in our programs, and the benefactors who make priestly formation possible due to their generosity. We remain a healthy, vibrant seminary community due to the integrity of standards and excellence.

In the midst of all this, we launched the first Annual Fund to support two key programs at the seminary: Missionary Formation in Puerto Rico and Leadership Formation provided by the Catholic Leadership Institute. Both of these programs aim to prepare seminarians for pastoral ministry in the 21st century. The \$100,000 goal of the Annual Fund supports both of these programs. The generosity of our benefactors reflects a sincere commitment to help our seminarians be the best future priests they can with a formation that will equip them for the realities of ministry in today's Church. Assuring all the faithful that our seminarians are properly prepared in a healthy, professional, competent manner will guarantee that priestly leadership in the Church will be holy and integral moving forward. Thank you to our supporters for making the Annual Fund a successful initiative.

NEW SEMINARIAN CLASS





INSTITUTION OF LECTORS

On Tuesday, October 16th, the Most Reverend J. Mark Spalding, Bishop of the Diocese of Nashville, presided over the Mass for the Institution of Lectors. The Rite of the Institution of Lector is one of the ministries a seminarian must receive before ordination. Those given the ministry of Lector are entrusted with reading the Sacred Scriptures during Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.



VETERAN'S DAY

On Veteran's Day, the seminary community gathered after Mass to honor all veterans who serve and have served our nation, especially those close to our NDS community. Displayed in the halls of the seminary were the names and photographs of seminarians' family members, staff, and even seminarians who are veterans.



Bonfire Games

Every year before seminarians head home for the Thanksgiving holiday, St. Joseph's Seminary hosts NDS for the annual Bonfire Flag Football game. Notre Dame Seminary took home the trophy with their fifth consecutive win. After the game, both seminary communities take part in a fraternal evening that includes dinner and a bonfire.



Institution of Acolytes

The Rite of the Institution of Acolytes took place at Notre Dame Seminary on Tuesday, November 6th, and Bishop Bernard E. Shlesinger III, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, presided over the Mass. Those given the ministry of Acolyte serve at the altar during the Mass and other liturgical celebrations. Acolytes are able to purify sacred vessels and are extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion.

GOD PROVIDES ON THE CAMINO

by Michael Beverung, Diocese of Lake Charles

This past summer I, along with Sam Bond and Collin Clark, traveled to Spain to walk part of the Camino de Santiago culminating in the Cathedral of St. James in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. We started our journey in León, Spain and walked nearly 200 miles to Santiago de Compostela.

Walking the beautiful Spanish countryside was wonderful but what was most rewarding was encountering the many people from all over the world along the way. To our surprise, many of these people were not walking the Camino as a pilgrimage, but what we came to realize is that they were searching for something greater in their life.

Having these encounters with people along the way gave me the opportunity to evangelize in a way that I never thought I would have the chance to. In sharing with them my faith and just being present to them, I was able to connect with these people. Walking all day long, exploring ancient pilgrimage sites, and enjoying meals with them, I was able to become more aware of their own struggles and share with them the joy of the Gospel.

Our motto here at Notre Dame Seminary is *Deus Providebit*, which is

Latin for “God will provide.” As each day unfolded on the Camino, I had to put all of my trust in God, knowing that He was going to provide for me that day; and He always did! From the people I encountered to the beautiful pilgrimage sites, God always provided for me in ways that I was not expecting.



Michael Beverung at the marker for the last 100km of the Camino.



Rock marker on the Camino de Santiago.



Sam Bond (Lake Charles), Michael Beverung (Lake Charles), and Collin Clark (New Orleans) at the Cathedral of St. James—the end of their journey on the Camino.

Healing the Hearts of Native Nations through the Ministry of Faith

by David Bailey, Diocese of Tyler, Texas

I spent fifteen years working for Native Americans on reservations and tribal communities across the U.S. It's been ten years since then, but for the past year, I've felt an increasingly strong call to once again devote time and energy to Native peoples.

This summer, I traveled to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota, home of the Oglala, Lakota. While there, I met with some of the priests, students, and faculty at Red Cloud Indian School (www.redcloudschool.org). On a reservation with 80%

unemployment, where people live far below the poverty line, the Catholic mission of Red Cloud offers hope. They harmoniously blend cultural elements and tribal language with good catechesis and quality education. I left that campus elated. Members of the 2017 graduating class told me over 90% of their class are in college on scholarships. One student said, "We go to Red Cloud to have a chance."

From there, I went to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana. The week ended with



Tribes gather for their annual 4th of July Pow-wow where they celebrate and honor their culture and heritage.



Beautiful landscape of the Indian Reservation.



Highway signs welcome visitors to the Oglala Lakota Nation.

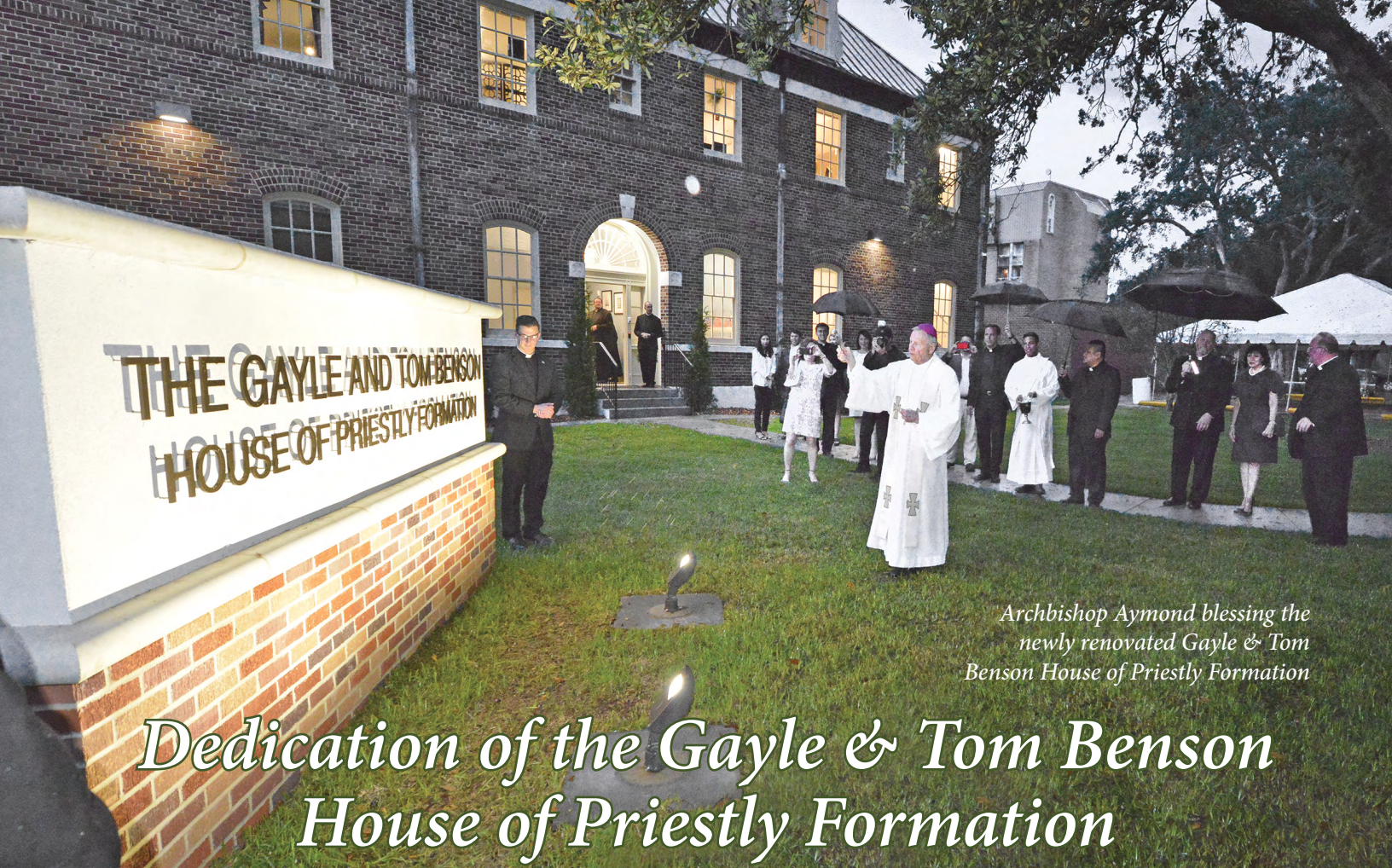
their annual 4th of July Pow-wow, a gathering of tribes from as far north as Saskatchewan, as far south as Arizona. Despite the growing epidemic of drug and alcohol addiction, there is cause for celebration. Many strong, sober, survivors gathered to sing, dance, and reminisce with tribes across Indian Country. In the midst of it all was me, basking in the company of friends and families I've known for over 20 years. It was hard saying goodbye.

There's great need for prayer,

hope, and healing for Native people. What they do NOT need is pity. Like everyone, Natives are created in the image and likeness of God and entitled to dignity. They are sovereign nations, too, and a proud people. So, we need to work together with Natives to empower, not enable, their people in overcoming addiction, extreme poverty, high rates of unemployment, and a growing number of teen suicides. Pray for Native people!

Notre Dame Seminary Art Exhibition: Students Helping Students

We invite you to join us at our Notre Dame Seminary Art Exhibition: Students Helping Students on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Notre Dame Seminary. 100% of the proceeds will benefit Red Cloud Indian School, on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Artwork will be featured from local artists, St. Rita School students, and NDS Seminarians.



Archbishop Aymond blessing the newly renovated Gayle & Tom Benson House of Priestly Formation

Dedication of the Gayle & Tom Benson House of Priestly Formation

by Jason Songe, Archdiocese of New Orleans

On Wednesday, November 7, 2018, the Notre Dame Seminary Community gathered along with Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Mrs. Gayle Benson to bless and dedicate the newly renovated Gayle & Tom Benson House of Priestly Formation. Mrs. Benson and her late husband, Mr. Tom Benson, have shown their support for priestly formation over the years by dedicating themselves to enriching the way seminarians live and learn.

Before Mr. Benson's passing in March of 2018, Mr. and Mrs. Benson made a donation to Notre Dame Seminary to renovate what was previously known as the Lourdes House, housing only 12 seminarians. Because of their generosity, the renovated building now houses 24 seminarians. With a growing enrollment, the renovation of the house was a necessity for the seminary.

On the evening of the dedication, seminarians, faculty, staff, and guests gathered as Fr. James Wehner, Rector/President of Notre Dame Seminary, and Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Chancellor of Notre Dame Seminary, offered words of immense gratitude to Mrs. Benson. Fr. Wehner began by speaking on Mrs. Benson's love for her Faith and the future of our Catholic Church. "Mrs. Benson has been a

tremendous leader in the community and brings her faith into the public square," Fr. Wehner said. "She has expressed her love for the Catholic Faith with her support of priestly formation and so many other ministerial priorities in the Church. Notre Dame Seminary is a better place because of Mrs. Benson." Raney Johnson, the Seminarian Association President, and Deacon Patrick Riviere, the Theology 4 Class President, presented Mrs. Benson with a bouquet of flowers and offered their words of gratitude to Mrs. Benson, letting



Seminarian Raney Johnson presents Mrs. Gayle Benson with a bouquet of flowers as a sign of gratitude from the entire seminarian community.

her know that her generosity directly affects the lives of the seminarians in our community.

Following the presentation and prayer service, Archbishop Aymond and Mrs. Benson walked through the halls of the new Benson House of Priestly Formation to bless each room. “We have gathered here to bless a house where the love of Christ will bring together those who in charity, prayer, and service desire to follow him more faithfully and closely,” said Archbishop Aymond.

The Benson House of Priestly Formation will enrich the lives of seminarians today and for many years to come. The Notre Dame Seminary community thanks Gayle Benson and the late Tom Benson for their generosity over the years. Our community is a better place because of you.



Deacon Patrick Riviere gives a tour of the house to guests including Gayle Benson and Archbishop Aymond.



Kay and Craig Smith and Fr. Tim Hedrick enjoy the reception following the blessing.



Deacon David Frank in his newly renovated room.



Seminarian Mathew Dunn (Diocese of Baton Rouge) and Wendy Vitter

A Humbling Diaconate Internship

by Deacon John Vu, Diocese of Baton Rouge

Going into my diaconate internship at Immaculate Conception Church in Denham Springs, I knew that I would have some difficulty adjusting both to my new role as a deacon and to the new parish environment and parishioners. I had some reservations about big parishes (this parish has over 4,000 families), since I have only had experience with smaller parishes. However, my worries were quickly put to rest because everyone was extremely welcoming and I was put to work right away. Since the parish is large, there were always activities, meetings, classes, and liturgies going on; there was never a dull moment!

Besides serving at daily and weekend liturgies, I was also involved in Vacation Bible School, apologetics class, Scripture class, retreats, Mighty Moms (an ecumenical group that serves food to the poor), RCIA, bringing Holy Communion to the sick and other liturgies like baptisms, marriages, and funerals. Being able to serve in all of these functions as a deacon is a truly humbling experience, because it makes me realize how unqualified I am, yet the People of God are gracious enough to see past those flaws and affirm the gifts that I do have.

I quickly found out that the graces from Holy Orders were more than enough to cover for my inadequacies. For example, as an introvert, I have always *hated* public speaking. Yet whenever I

proclaim the Gospel or preach homilies, I have this surge of excitement and energy, which I can only attribute to the movement of the Holy Spirit. I have really grown attached to Immaculate Conception Church, which I proudly called “my parish” for the past five months.

Words simply cannot express my gratitude to all those who have supported my vocation through prayer, words of encouragement, and many other ways. I especially thank those who are actively involved in my formation. I assure you of my prayers; I ask for your continued prayers as I move closer to priestly ordination. May God bless you abundantly with his love and graces.



Dcn. John with his parents, younger brother, and his Diaconate Internship Mentor, Fr. Frank Uter.



Dcn. John with the RCIA Core Team at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs.



Dcn. John assists in planning Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception Parish in Denham Springs.



Dcn. John along with other seminarians and priests from the Diocese of Baton Rouge welcomed their new bishop, Bishop Michael Duca, in August.

2018-2019 Annual Fund: Forming New Evangelizers

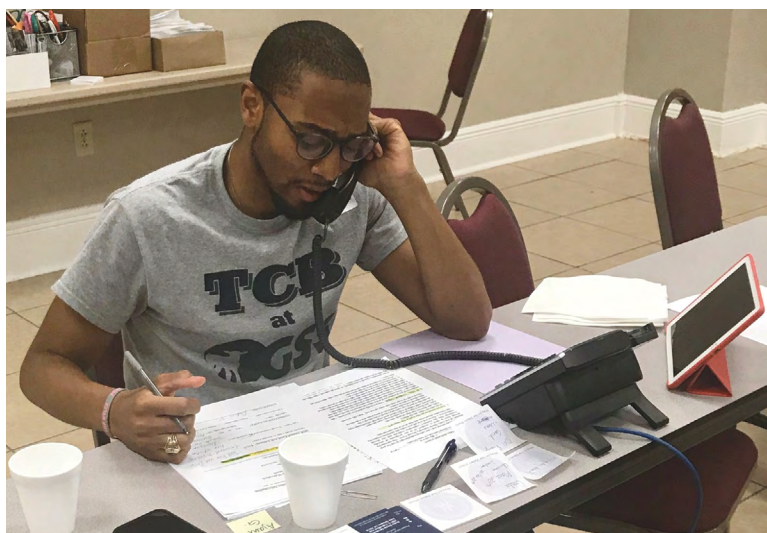
This Fall, Notre Dame Seminary instituted our first **Annual Fund**—*Forming New Evangelizers: Missionaries & Shepherds*. Notre Dame Seminary is committed to providing our seminarians with the very best theological and spiritual formation possible through a strong priestly formation program, including **pastoral leadership** training and **missionary experience**. Two unique training efforts offered at the seminary are the focus of the 2018-19 Annual Fund: the **Catholic Leadership Institute** that trains seminarians to better understand their own leadership styles in preparation for working with a parish staff, cultivating administrative skills, and addressing management issues in ministry; and **Acompaño**, a radical immersion mission experience.

In September, our seminarians assisted our appeal efforts by reaching out to hundreds of our loyal supporters, alumni, volunteers and friends of NDS during the Annual Fund **Phone-A-Thon**. Our seminarians enjoyed speaking with so many of you by phone and receiving your prayer requests, which have been added to the seminary's Book of Intentions. **Thank you** for taking their calls!

It is not too late to make your contribution to the 2018-2019 Annual Fund and **help us as we form**

YOUR future priests—the priests that will serve you and your parishes for years to come.

To make a donation, please return the envelope enclosed in this newsletter or visit www.nds.edu/donate-now to donate online. For more information about how your gift directly impacts our seminarians, visit www.nds.edu/annual-fund.



Seminarian Ajani Gibson, Archdiocese of New Orleans, calling friends of NDS during our 1st Annual Phone-a-thon.



The funds raised from our Annual Fund helps to send our seminarians on the annual Acompaño Mission Trip. This year, they are traveling to Puerto Rico - please keep them in your prayers!

Building Up the Body of Christ: The People of NDS

SEMINARIAN ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Seminarian Association (SA) is a group of seminarians elected by their peers to serve the community in a leadership position. The SA Executive Board serves the community in various ways including

organizing community events, bringing observations and recommendations to the faculty, and overseeing various areas of the campus.



*Seminarian Association Executive Board (L-R):
Juan Carlos Garcia-Mendoza (Secretary), Elijah Thomson (Devotional Life Representative), Patrick Held (Treasurer), Raney Johnson (President), Michael Lamy (Vice President), Taylor Sanford (Apostolic Life Representative), Connor Poirrier (Social Life Representative)*

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

The success of the priestly formation program at Notre Dame Seminary and all the programs that are offered to the faithful depend on a staff that is dedicated and loyal to the mission of the Catholic Church. Our administration and staff at NDS work to enhance the lives of the seminarians

and build up our Church as the Body of Christ. Everything our staff does here at NDS reflects their faith in God and their desire to provide the Church with faithful and holy priests.



*Administrative Board (L-R): Caroline Butterworth (Director of ILEM), Debbie Panepinto (Registrar), Dr. Rebecca Maloney (Dean of Students), Caroline Thriffley (Director of Events & Communications), Yvette LaCour (Director of Development), Travis Gehrkin (Director of Facilities)
Not pictured: Michelle Klein (Business Manager)*



Administrative Assistants (L-R): Elizabeth Babin (Dean's Office), Tanya Cenac (Lay Programs Office), Sharon Mason (Receptionist), Lori Martin (Pastoral Formation Office), and Jan Hattier (Rector's Office)

NEW FACULTY: *Oath of Fidelity & Profession of Faith*

Fr. James Wehner offers a blessing over the new seminarians as they begin the school year.

At the beginning of the school year, five new faculty members took an Oath of Fidelity and the Profession of Faith during Solemn Vespers on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Fr. Jerry Daniels and Fr. Jacob DuMont will serve as spiritual directors. Fr. Peter Finney will serve as the associate director of pastoral formation. Dr. Andrew Geist will serve as a professor for biblical studies, and Br. Stephen Synan will serve as the director of pastoral counseling. In his homily, Fr. James Wehner, Rector/President of Notre Dame Seminary, spoke about accountability of leadership in the Church since the Oath of Fidelity and the Profession of Faith are required of those who serve in unique ministerial leadership roles. The Oath and Profession promises the adherence of the new faculty to the Magisterium of the Church as they help to form future priests. The gospel recalled the words of the Lord in chapter six of John that brings to all believers God in the presence of Jesus, the

Bread of Life, who is the source of all life, and all that is good, true, and right. As they began the new school year, the new seminarians also received a blessing at the conclusion of Vespers. Following Vespers, the seminary community enjoyed the beginning of the year banquet, which included toasts, salutes, and final prayers.



New Faculty sign the Oath of Fidelity during Solemn Vespers on August 19th.



Faculty (L-R): Br. Stephen Synan, Dr. Andrew Geist, Fr. Peter Finney, Fr. Jacob DuMont, and Fr. Jerry Daniels



Seminarians and faculty enjoy dinner after Solemn Vespers.

PROMOTING VOCATIONS:

New Diocesan Vocation Directors

Fr. Tri John-Bosco Nguyen: Archdiocese of Atlanta

by Viet Pham

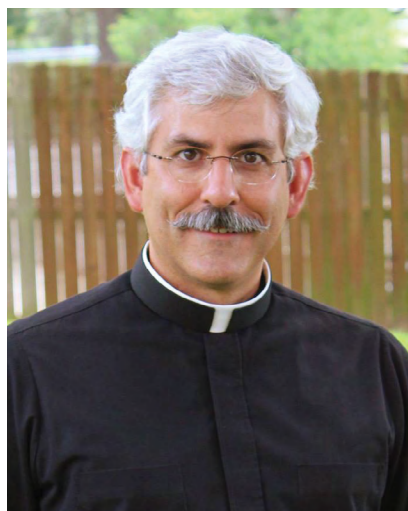
Father Tri John-Bosco Nguyen was named the new Director of the Vocations Office for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. When asked about his vision for the new position, Father Tri said: “We are blessed to be called into the mission of Christ. By being humble and trusting in Him, we will allow ourselves to be led and formed by His Holy Spirit to fulfill that blessed call.”



Fr. Jerry Daigle: Diocese of Shreveport

by Dcn. Kevin Mues

Fr. Jerry Daigle is a recent alumnus of Notre Dame Seminary. He serves the Diocese of Shreveport as Vocation Director and as the Chaplain to St. Frederick High School. He spent this summer leading Vocations Camps for high school students who are discerning vocations to priesthood or religious life. He has also led many fundraising campaigns on behalf of the vocations office.



Fr. Adam Urbaniak & Fr. Colten Symmes: Diocese of Biloxi

by Adam Frey

Father Adam Urbaniak has served as the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Biloxi for the past two years. His motto, *Duc in altum, into the deep*, is an expression of his desire for all those discerning their vocation, to go deeper in their prayer. As the newly appointed Assistant Vocations Director, Father Colten Symmes is involved in many of the Catholic schools to stir a desire in the hearts of our young people to pray for God's will in their lives.





Fr. J.D. Matherne: Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

by Rusty Bruce

Father John David Matherne was appointed to the Vocations Office staff for the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux in April of 2018 as well as the Bishop's Liaison for Youth Formation. His approach to vocation recruiting centers around personal holiness. "If we can work on human and spiritual formation with a young person, the raw material needed to build a relationship with God, then we can help that person attune their ear to God's call—whatever that may be in their life."

Fr. Patrick Broussard: Diocese of Lafayette

by Casey Dugas

Last year, Father Patrick Broussard was appointed as the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette. As Director of Vocations Father Broussard's main role is the fostering and recruitment of vocations for the Diocese of Lafayette. This has been achieved through being present at many of the Catholic high schools throughout the diocese and continuing work on the local college campus the University of Lafayette Louisiana.



Fr. Austin Gilstrap: Diocese of Nashville

by Patrick Held

Fr. Austin Gilstrap was appointed to serve as the Vocation Director for the Diocese of Nashville in July 2018. Since Fr. Gilstrap's ordination in 2015, he has served as Secretary for the Late Bishop David Choby and as the Chaplain for Pope John Paul II High School. He is honored to be able to serve the Diocese of Nashville in this new role and is excited to see the continued growth of vocations under the leadership of Bishop J. Mark Spalding.

Fr. Joshua Martin Neu: Diocese of Tyler, TX

by AJ Motte

Father Joshua Martin Neu was appointed as the Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Tyler, TX in January 2018. Along with his great love for the Sacred Scriptures, Fr. Neu has particular interests in the Sacred Liturgy, Historical Theology, and Linguistics. It does not take long to perceive Fr. Neu's profound zeal and love for the Church and his commitment to inspiring and assisting others in living out the Faith well in today's world.



STUDYING TO EVANGELIZE: *Lay Programs Enhance Archdiocesan Ministries*

by David Doyle, Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership Student

When I was asked to write a reflection on my time as a student and lay minister, I was honestly at a loss as to what I was going to say. However, I've come to realize that everything comes down to serving Christ and the Church. As a lay student at NDS, I have had the unique opportunity to study with people from all around the Archdiocese, which has influenced not only my learning but also directly impacted my ministry. I work for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in the Office of Evangelization. My time at NDS has given me a greater insight into what is going on in our many different parishes and how we, as the Office of Evangelization, can better serve them. This has happened in both the classroom, as well as sitting around the table at lunch or after class. Everyone is there for one purpose, to serve Christ, to bring God to his people.



David Doyle and his ILEM classmates.

Studying at NDS as a lay student has also allowed me to grow in my own formation as a minister and a disciple. While I have always been comfortable with the academic portion of class, I quickly realized that I needed to step out of my own comfort zone and interact with those I studied with on a deeper level. This has transferred into my ministerial experiences as well, both working in the Office of Evangelization and in my parish. The formation I've received as a lay student at NDS led me to step out of my comfort zone and film a reflection video for the Archdiocese and help with confirmation preparation at my parish, which is something I wouldn't be able to do effectively

without the lay formation based on the 4 pillars. My time at NDS in ILEM, and now, as I near the conclusion of MAPL, has truly changed my ministry and my life.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—Allison Talley



Notre Dame Seminary has many volunteers who graciously support our mission through their countless hours of service to the seminary. This fall, we recognize one of our hardest working and most dedicated volunteers, **Mrs. Allison Talley**. Always willing to offer a helping hand, Allison has served as our Luncheon Chairperson for four years and before that served as the Luncheon Auction Chairperson.

Allison is married to husband, Chuck, and they are parents to four wonderful children—Richard, Robert, Christie, and Lauren. In addition to the time she commits to NDS, Allison is also involved in numerous other organizations around the city. She currently serves as a volunteer room mother at The Good Shepherd School where she mentors and tutors students. Allison has chaired events for St. Catherine of Siena and Jesuit and has served on the alumnae board at Mt. Carmel Academy. As someone who is committed to serving the poor through volunteering, Allison traveled to Nicaragua with a group of women to minister to children in Catholic orphanages.

Allison is truly a woman of strong Catholic Faith who enjoys giving her time in service to others. The entire Notre Dame Seminary community thanks Allison for her dedication to and love for our future priests!

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Nathan Long ('08)

by Sam Bond, Diocese of Lake Charles

Fr. Nathan Long, came from humble roots growing up in Lebleu Settlement, in Southwest

Louisiana. After graduating from Notre Dame Seminary, Father Long was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Glen John Provost for the Diocese of Lake Charles on May 10, 2008. He currently serves as chaplain of the Catholic Student center and is the pastor of Our Lady of the Lake at McNeese State University in Lake Charles. In addition to his pastoral responsibilities Fr. Long is in charge of a formation house called the Vianney House, where young men who are discerning a vocation to the priesthood live while studying at a local university. The men are introduced to the celebration of daily Mass, holy hours, Liturgy of the Hours, and the general day to day activities of a priest. Fr. Long was recently appointed Rector of St. Luis Catholic High School in 2017. When he is taking a break from his many obligations, Fr. Long enjoys hiking, canoeing, mountain biking, and making puzzles.

The Notre Dame Seminary community would like to thank Fr. Long for his constant support and dedication to NDS! This summer, we were able to renovate the seminarians' recreational area, referred to as the BIB. Fr. Long, graciously helped underwrite the cost of this expense with a generous donation to the Seminarian Association.



Notre Dame Seminary Alumni Association Board

PRESIDENT: Father Matthew Graham, Diocese of Baton Rouge, Class of 2015
VICE PRESIDENT: Father Alexander Albert, Diocese of Lafayette, Class of 2016
TREASURER: Father Louis Sklar, Diocese of Alexandria, Class of 2001
SECRETARY: Father Colm Cahill, Archdiocese of New Orleans, Class of 2017

The NDS Alumni Association Board invites you to **SAVE THE DATE** for our Annual Alumni Day on **Thursday, February 28, 2019!** Gather your classmates to join us as we celebrate our Alumni and Anniversary Classes.

Visit www.nds.edu/alumni-day for more information!



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SAVE THE DATE



NOTRE DAME SEMINARY GALA & AUCTION

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Notre Dame Seminary

*For more information, please visit
www.501auctions.com/NDSGala or contact
the Development Office at (504) 866-7426, ext. 375.*