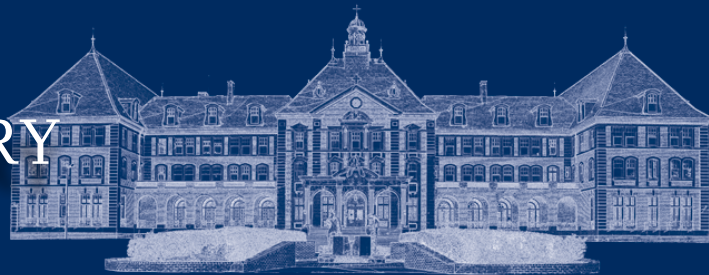


VOLUME 6, NO. 1 • SPRING 2019

NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology



2019 GRADUATION CLASS

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■ Acompaño Mission Trip
■ Annual Fund Thank You

■ Bible Marathon
■ Gala & Auction



Very Rev. James A. Wehner
Rector/President

With Gratitude to You

Dear Friends:

This past year saw many challenges in the life of the Church – both universal and national. I can state with confidence and assurance that the spiritual and formational health of the seminary is at its best. Our seminarians take their discernment and formation very seriously, and the faculty have charge that any seminarian who is not prepared or does not meet the high standards of priestly ministry will not proceed to ordination. With that said, our seminarians maintained a positive attitude this past year and recommitted themselves to solid preparation for ministry. Thanks to you, our Annual Fund as well as our Christmas Luncheon, Gala, and other fundraising events exceeded expectations, which no doubt represents your commitment to priestly formation. Notre Dame Seminary rates as one of the best seminaries in the United States due to your support, the leadership of our bishops and trustees, the confidence of our vocation directors, and the integrity of the seminarians. I also take this moment to salute the many lay students who are taking advantage of our programs – what an inspiration to see these women and men driven to be pastoral leaders in the Church. On behalf of the entire seminary community, thank you for your past and present support!

"Thanks to you, our Annual Fund as well as our Christmas Luncheon, Gala, and other fundraising events exceeded expectations, which no doubt represents your commitment to priestly formation."

2019 GRADUATION CLASS

Photo on cover.

1st Row: (L-R)

Br. Ton Dang - Missionary of Faith

Dcn. Adolfo Suarez - Diocese of Jackson

Dcn. Donald Bernard - Diocese of Lafayette

Very Rev. James Wehner - Rector/President

Cristian Casado-Carmona - Diocese of Tyler

Dcn. Andrew Gutierrez - Archdiocese of New Orleans

2nd Row: (L-R)

Dcn. Mark White - Archdiocese of Atlanta

Dcn. Brett Lapeyrouse - Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

Dcn. Randy Courville - Diocese of Lafayette

Dcn. Andrew Rudmann - Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dcn. Doug Busch - Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dcn. Mark Shoffner - Diocese of Jackson

Dcn. Kevin Mues - Diocese of Shreveport

Dcn. Dan Darmanin - Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dcn. Sal Istre - Diocese of Lafayette

3rd Row: (L-R)

Br. Bang Dao - Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer

Br. Huy Nguyen - Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer

Dcn. John Vu - Diocese of Baton Rouge

Dcn. David Frank - Archdiocese of New Orleans

Dcn. Braxton Ncaise - Diocese of Biloxi

Dcn. Patrick Riviere - Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

Not Pictured: **Dcn. Lee Poche** - Archdiocese of New Orleans

BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Notre Dame Seminary Baratarian Basketball Team traveled to Chicago for their annual basketball tournament. The tournament allows seminarians to play a game they love, but, most importantly, the tournament allows them to foster meaningful relationships with other future priests from around the country.



CANDLEMAS

On February 2nd, seminarians gathered for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, or Candlemas. Extraordinary elements of the Mass include a candle lit procession, a dark chapel, and chant. Processing into the chapel with lighted candles symbolizes the Christ child bringing light into the world of darkness.



St. Joseph Altar

This year NDS celebrated our usual Mass of the Solemnity of St. Joseph, which was followed by a blessing of the St. Joseph Altar and a lunch. However, this year, we also opened the altar to the poor so that they might share in the fruits of our Lenten almsgiving and charity.

Prison Ministry

As chaplains at Orleans Parish Prison, seminarians make weekly visits to meet with and evangelize inmates throughout the entire facility in both individual and group settings. The seminarians worked with the Catholic Charities Coordinator of Prison Ministry, Mr. John Messenheimer (middle). From left to right are seminarians Kyle Simonis (Atlanta), Dennis O'Donnell (Dallas), Peter Vale (New Orleans), and Nick Ware (Lafayette).



THE REWARDS & CHALLENGES OF A FIRST-YEAR PRIEST

by Fr. Blake Dubroc, Parochial Vicar and Religious Administrator at Sacred Heart Church and School in Ville Platte, LA

Since being ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ on June 3, 2018 for the Diocese of Lafayette, there have been so many grace-filled and rewarding moments, but generally, the most rewarding moments always seem to be when God uses me to bring healing to His people. On numerous occasions, God has used the gift of the priesthood to offer my presence, a moment of clarity, or His Sacrament of Reconciliation to bring a lost soul back to Him. To participate in these moments, to watch it all happen in front of you, and to know that it all happened because years ago you said “yes” to the Lord’s invitation to participate in His work of salvation is both humbling and an

honor. There is nothing more joyful for me than to see someone “get it” – to see their faith come alive and to watch them become who God has called them to be. I have had the pleasure of seeing this many times in my short time being a priest. Our Lord is so good to His people.

At the same time, I have faced challenges during this first year of being a priest. One of the most challenging parts has been learning how to juggle all of my responsibilities as Parochial Vicar, Religious Administrator, coach, spiritual director, brother, son, friend, counselor, etc. There never seems to be enough time in the day for all of

the tasks that need to be done. It has been humbling to realize that I cannot do them all and that our Lord is not asking me to do the impossible. I have had to grow and trust in His providential care; learn to do what I can while still taking care



Fr. Blake ministering to the youngest of his flock!

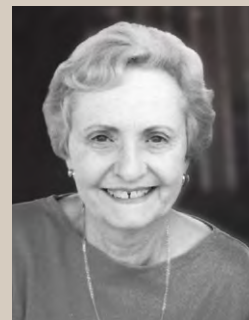
of my own physical, spiritual, and mental health; and remind myself that I am not their Savior—He is. After a few months of priesthood, I realized that ministry was exhausting...**but the priesthood was amazing!!** The challenges have helped me grow just as much as the joys have, and it is in accepting the challenges that I have grown to be more like Christ and in union with Him. This, I now know, is the mission of a Priest of Jesus Christ.



Fr. Blake serves as an assistant football and baseball coach for local high school teams.

In Memory of Mrs. Sandy Barousse

On March 7, 2019, the seminary lost a good friend and faithful co-worker, **Sandy Barousse**. The seminary community was blessed for many years by Sandy’s service to and support for our seminarians. Sandy worked as the English as a Second Language Tutor in the Academic Resource Center at Notre Dame Seminary. She taught research, writing, and composition and was a cherished faculty member as an educator, “step-mother” and confidant to seminarians from around the world. She cherished her students and cared for them as her “boys” regaling them with her humorous stories while keeping them on the task of becoming priests. Sandy profoundly and directly influenced the formation experience of many future priests during her time at NDS. Our faith assures us of God’s mercy and of the hope of the Resurrection. We pray that Sandy may rest in peace and enjoy the rewards of God’s Kingdom.



Black History Month: Bishop Cheri Challenges NDS Community to Explore African-American History

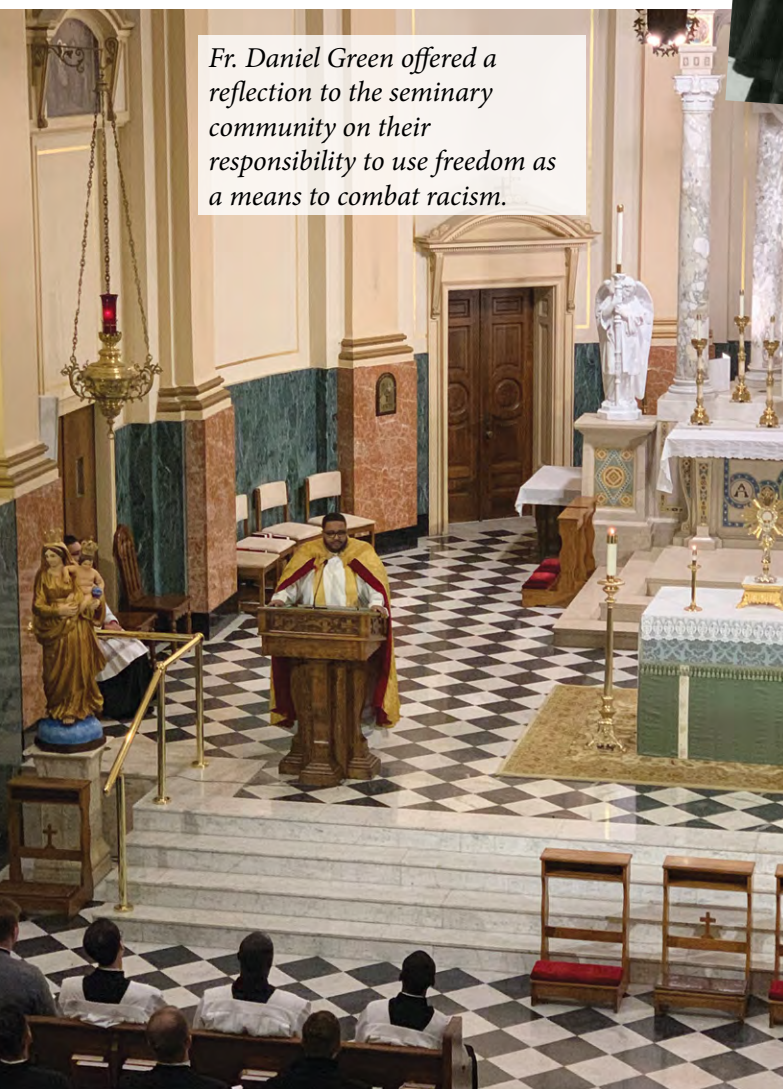
by Ajani Gibson, Archdiocese of New Orleans

If anybody asks you who I am, tell 'em I'm a child of God." The Notre Dame Seminary Community sang these words with Bishop Fernand J. Cheri, Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans, as he inaugurated the yearly observance of Black History Month. In his homily, Bishop Cheri expounded on the contribution of African Americans to the Church and to the country. He stated: "Black history is my history. Black history is your history. Black history is our history." It is a history that he challenged the community to explore throughout the year.

As a part of the exploration of this history, each day reflections for prayer and study were offered to the community. These reflections included topics such as men and women on the road to sainthood, slavery, African-American contributions to art and



Fr. Daniel Green offered a reflection to the seminary community on their responsibility to use freedom as a means to combat racism.



Each day, reflections for prayer and study were offered to the community. Reflections highlighted topics such as Historical Black Colleges and Universities and The Harlem Renaissance and people such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and St. Peter Claver.

music, and the scourge of racism in the United States. Each reflection highlighted the dynamism of African-American history and culture.

The observances for Black History Month concluded with vespers and the Second Annual Soul Food Dinner. Father Daniel Green, Director of the Office for Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of New Orleans and Pastor of Blessed Trinity Parish in New Orleans, offered a reflection on the Christian responsibility to use freedom as a means to combat racism. Gathered at dinner, Father Green dialogued with the community on the Church's engagement in the African-American community and their roles as future pastors to all people.

During this Black History Month, the African-American experience was explored and celebrated. This celebration cast light on the dynamism of a people often misunderstood and neglected. Ultimately, the Notre Dame Seminary Community was reminded that all peoples are children of God.

Acompaño Mission Trip: Giving & Receiving the Father's Love

by Jedidiah Preble, Diocese of Dallas

Several years ago, someone asked me why I wanted to go on a mission trip. My answer was very simple: because I want to be happy. I could not tell you why, but somehow, I knew that if I wanted to be **happy** I needed to **serve others**. Now, I had been on many mission trips before, but the Notre Dame Seminary Acompaño Mission Trip gave me a deeper insight into how and why service engenders joy.

Our trip took us to Puerto Rico where



Kevin Kolker (Diocese of Dallas) and Deacon Andrew Rudmann (Archdiocese of New Orleans) pray over a woman and offer her blessings.

we accompanied orphaned and abandoned children, the elderly, and the needy. We also helped two families bring their homes up to human living conditions - one family had no functioning bathroom for over two years. However, it was during the group reflection time every evening that I received my little epiphany.

During one of the first reflections, Archbishop Aymond set the tone of the trip by calling to mind the Father's love for us as children. With that idea in mind, I came to recognize my role as that of a child helping his dad. I was reminded of the times my dad let me "help" him with chores around the house even though my help only delayed his progress. My dad was more interested in expressing his love for me and spending time with



Dan Fitzgerald (Archdiocese of Atlanta) offers a listening ear to a man in Puerto Rico.

me than accomplishing his task. I got the sense that maybe God was doing the same thing; He was letting me help Him love his children in Puerto Rico just to show me He loves me. God allowed me to experience His love for me by giving me the opportunity to love others. Of course, God does not need my help, but that just makes it all the more touching.

I hope to bring this lesson along with me throughout my life and especially as I continue to discern the priesthood.



Seminarians from Notre Dame Seminary traveled to Puerto Rico for their annual Acompaño Mission Trip.



The missionaries wake up bright and early to begin their trip to Puerto Rico.



Seminarians work to fix up a family home.

NDS BIBLE MARATHON: 100 Hours Preaching the Word of God

by Br. John Joseph Bourque, Community of Jesus Crucified

"For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leaped from heaven from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed..." (Wisdom 18:14-15)

This quote resonates so well with us here at Notre Dame Seminary after completing the first "Bible Marathon" on

New Orleanian soil. In both the clamor of Carrollton traffic and the "gentle silence" of the "half gone" night, the powerful Word of God leapt down and dwelt among us for 100 continuous hours, and we are filled with sincerest gratitude. At first, when people asked us "Why are you doing this?" We simply replied, "Why not?" However, heeding the injunction of St. Peter to "to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1 Pt 3:15) we are offering the origin and motivation behind the Bible Marathon.

Unfortunately, Catholicism is associated with a sedentary spirituality. Too often those who have deep faith keep it under a bushel basket. While Christ's earnest prayer to the Father before His Passion was "that they [the Church] might be one" (John 17:11), He also stated, "I do *not* pray that you should take them out of the world..." (John 17:15). Christ expects us to bring our faith out *into* the world so that we might be made one.



A group listens as Julie Ungarino, St. Catherine of Siena Parishioner, proclaims the Word of God.



Seminarian Garret Broussard, from the Diocese of Lake Charles, reads in the late hours of the night.

While certain elements of Christianity cause friction, the Word of God is revered by *all* who believe in the Son of God. Proclaiming the Word aloud from our campus was a declaration of our faith but also a declaration of our desire to be made one with our fellow Christians.

We have certitude that the Word of God is both fully human and fully divine. Since the Word of God is fully human, the proclamation of the Word aloud sanctifies both the proclaimer and the listener. Since the Word of God is



Fr. James Wehner, Rector/President at NDS, begins the Bible Marathon with the Book of Genesis.

fully divine, the proclamation of it glorifies God in a unique way. We experienced both the glorification of God and the sanctification of men and women during our 100-hour reading. God's generosity was not outdone.

At 9:40 pm on Friday, Malachi Walker, a seminarian from the Diocese of Nashville, read the last book of the Old Testament (i.e. "The Book of Malachi") with the baleful spirit that it evoked. He ended it with, "LEST I COME AND STRIKE THE LAND WITH UTTER DESTRUCTION!" A crowd of people stood silently with the uneasy feeling that the Old Testament left in our hearts. In the silence, Nick Nappier, a seminarian from the Diocese of Tyler, TX, approached the podium and sang a lengthy "Alleluia" while others lit numerous candles offering a reverent light around the tent of meeting. Dcn. Andrew Gutierrez incensed and chanted the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel. The ominous end of the old commenced a new beginning – the Good News was sung, and we journeyed with Christ in the Gospels for the next nine hours. From that point forward, the "light" that God had promised "in the beginning" was lit in our hearts. Notre Dame Seminary and all the Bible Marathon participants are left with this light of Christ burning – and this accounts for the hope that is in us.

2019 BIBLE MARATHON STATISTICS

200+ Participants
100 Non-Stop Hours
73 Books of the Bible
14 Christian Denominations
9 Languages
Innumerable Graces



"I support Notre Dame Seminary because of what they are doing in providing solid Catholic formation to these seminarians. It is the future of our church and such a worthy cause."

—Mary Waitz Riviere



"We have to support our future priests, for without our priests, we do not have the Eucharist."

—Gregory LaCour

"We support Notre Dame Seminary because our Catholic faith is very important to us, and we need priests to guide us in our faith and administer the sacraments to us. Therefore, we want to do our part to support the young men who are studying for the priesthood."

—Tommy and Jerrye St. Martin

"I choose to support Notre Dame Seminary because it is an investment in the future of my Catholic faith and helps secure the future of our Catholic Church."

—Dottie Haydel



— Thank You for

The generosity of our supporters is not surprising! Our supporters have a great love for the seminary and for the priesthood. We are grateful to all of our faithful friends of NDS, who supported the seminary this year through our fundraising events, general donations, volunteering of time, prayerful support, and gifts to our first Annual Fund drive.

"We need our priests! Now more than ever, people desire the Gospel message of hope, and they yearn for the nurturing touch of Christ that comes to us through the sacraments. This is only made possible by prayers, encouragement, and support for our future priests. My involvement in the seminary has always been to ensure that no calling from God to the priesthood ever be hindered by financial need. Through support of our future priests, we are investing in the sacramental life of our children and our children's children."

—Pattie Hron

New Spring Gala & Auction

With over 650 attendees, the **2019 Spring Gala and Auction** was a huge success raising more than **\$210,000**. We are incredibly thankful for our loyal donors who continue to support our Gala and Auction year after year. Save the date for next year's Gala and Auction, which will be held **Saturday, March 28, 2020**.

"The seminary is the place where the 'servants of the servants of God' are formed and we want to support that formation in any way we can. The task of those in ministry is to help the laity further the kingdom of God in the world; they are responsible to us and we are responsible to them—so we are so glad to support whenever the opportunity presents itself."

—Caroline Butterworth, Director of ILEM at Notre Dame Seminary





"To our Seminarians, thank you for your generous and loving "Yes" to God's call to discern a priestly vocation. In the midst of the noise and confusion of our world you have heard that still, quiet voice of the Lord calling you to follow Him. We offer you our gratitude and our loving support and prayers!"

—Gordon & Ann Stevens

2018 Christmas Luncheon

With over **800 attendees**, the **2018 Christmas Luncheon for Priests** was held at The Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans. Raising over **\$100,000** for the programs of priestly formation at NDS, we thank all those who attended and supported the Christmas Luncheon. Save the date for the 2019 Christmas Luncheon for Priests, which will be held **Tuesday, December 3, 2019.**

"In these times of crisis, it is especially important to support these good and holy men who have discerned their vocation to the priesthood. I want to do all I can to offer my time, talent and treasure in order to be part of the solution. My interaction and time with these young men has been an incredible blessing! Their hearts are on fire for God, His Church and for servant leadership. It is in them that I see a beautiful hope and future for our Church."

—Lauren Lagarde



Your Support! —

2018-2019 Inaugural Annual Fund

Special thanks to our steering committee for the 2018-2019 Annual Fund –

Development Advisory Committee members **Mr. Lloyd Tate, Mrs. Jamie Lassere, Mrs. Debbie Maniglia and Mrs. Patt Schafer** for their leadership, insight and support of our seminary development plan and implementation of the new Annual Fund for the seminary.

- Over **500 gifts** received for the 2018-2019 Annual Fund totaling over **\$250,000** to support our annual mission trip, seminarian retreats, and leadership training for seminarians.
- Over **400 prayer intentions** received from donors.
- Many gifts made **in memory of loved ones** and honoring seminarians or beloved priests.
- **1/3 of all gifts** were from **NEW supporters**
- **75% of our seminary faculty/staff** supported.
- **85 Priest Alumni** supported the Annual Fund

Thank you for your great support of Notre Dame Seminary. Because of you and your generosity, we are able to better form **your future priests** to be not only pastoral ministers but also **missionary disciples** and **shepherds of our Church**. The **2019-2020 Annual Fund** will begin this Fall – we hope we can count on your support this year!

Catholic Women in Action

Thanks to Catholic Women In Action, a committee of the Catholic Community Foundation, for their great prayers of support during weekly Eucharistic Adoration held every Thursday at NDS this past Spring Semester. Members of CWIA offered these Holy Hours for our priests, our seminarians and for healing in our Church.

Pictured are CWIA members: Yvette LaCour, Stacy Pellerin, Lauren Lagarde, Cindy Nolan, Jane Nalty, and Anne Dardis.



"I love supporting Notre Dame Seminary because lay people and priests make up our Catholic community. One cannot survive without the other. Working with the seminary continues to make this a priority in mind and heart."

—Debbie Maniglia

"We support NDS because the Church needs good, holy priests... now more than ever in our lifetime. We must attend to their physical and spiritual needs so they will be there to "lead us, guide us along way" to Heaven."

—Mike and Cindy Nolan

OATH OF FIDELITY & PROFESSION OF FAITH: *Preparing for Ordination*

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 and vocation directors. 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.

On Sunday, February 3rd, the Theology 4 Deacons took their

Oath of Fidelity, where Fr. Jim Wehner, Rector/President, shared his words about living out the three offices of priest, prophet, and king in priestly ministry. On Sunday, February 17th, the Theology 3 class, took their Oath of Fidelity, where Fr. Wehner reminded the soon-to-be deacons of the importance of being peacemakers and pure in heart.

Let us pray for our future clergy!

"When I told my parents about the Oath of Fidelity, I played it off as a minor event. Afterwards, however, my mom told me, 'I'm so glad we came!' It is amazing that something so simple as professing the Creed that we say every week can have such an incredible impact both on myself and others. It was moving doing this together with the guys who I have been praying and studying with for the last four to six years, knowing that it is the last step before priestly ordination. The ceremony really puts into perspective why we are doing this in the first place: to be faithful to the God who loves us, called us, and now sends us to spread that love to a world that is longing for it. If only we show that true fidelity to God and His Church, He will take care of the rest."

—Deacon Patrick Riviere, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux



The T3 class who took their Oath of Fidelity on February 17th.



The T4 deacons who took their Oath of Fidelity on February 3rd.



Sam Bond and Br. John Joseph Bourque taking their Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith.



Deacons Lee Poche, Patrick Riviere, Andrew Rudmann, and Mark Shoffner sign their Oath of Fidelity.



Max Tenney, Director of Sacred Music, directs the NDS Schola during Mass.

Liturgical Music Formation at NDS

by Max Tenney, Director of Sacred Music

The Office of Sacred Music at Notre Dame Seminary exists to support the liturgical and spiritual formation of the seminarians. The Church's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, called the musical tradition of the universal Church a "treasure of inestimable value, greater even than any other art." The belief in the importance of singing in the liturgy is fostered principally through the instruction of the entire community in the daily singing of the Holy Mass, and, as well, the Divine Office.

Seminarians are regularly exposed to Gregorian chant, Renaissance polyphony, and traditional Christian hymnody. Members of the Seminary's Schola Cantorum (Latin for "school of singers") benefit from a structured pedagogical approach, which focuses on all the requisite skills for singing including ear training, sight singing, and vocal development. As well, a general survey of Sacred Music is provided, as is instruction in proper vocal technique for singing the Mass.

In the Schola Class, discussions frequently occur that focus on pastoral music issues that may often be encountered in the parishes. Taught as well are strategies



The NDS Schola sings carols during The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

for the development of basic skills in and appreciation of music and the collaborative roles necessary to lead music in a parish setting. Additionally, Schola members gain the knowledge of the pastoral function of music within the context of the Sacred Liturgy, and they are provided the tools needed to both evaluate a parish music program and its resources, as well as understand the effective administration of a parish music program.

Beyond the music at daily Mass and the Divine Office, the Schola presents two programs each academic year to support the spiritual formation of the seminary community. In early December, at the beginning of Advent, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols recounts the story of the birth of Christ through the reading of Sacred Scripture and the singing of traditional seasonal carols. In the spring semester, during Lent, the ancient service of *Tenebrae* is sung which focuses on the passion and death of our Lord.

Should you have questions about the Sacred Music program at Notre Dame Seminary, please contact the Director of Sacred Music, Mr. Max Tenney, at mtenney@nds.edu.



Guests at the NDS Gala and Auction enjoy performances by the Schola throughout the night.



*Fr. Wehner and Archbishop Aymond
with David & Anna Jouandot,
the 2019 Honorary Chaircouple*



*Paulette and Frank Stewart with Br. John
Joseph Bourque*



*Mrs. Gayle Benson and Mr. Harry
Connick, Sr.*

2019 Gala

Although a new time of year, the **Notre Dame Seminary Gala & Auction** drew hundreds of benefactors, alumni, and friends of the seminary to the historic campus on **Saturday, March 30, 2019**. Notre Dame Seminary Rector/President, **Fr. Jim Wehner**, and Chancellor, **Archbishop Gregory Aymond**, as well as the seminarians welcomed guests as they arrived at the seminary to show their support and love for our future priests.

The evening began with the Patron Party where guests enjoyed the sounds of the **Rummel Raider Jazz Band**, delicious appetizers, exciting raffles, and a beautiful champagne fountain. Once the Gala began, guests poured into the dining room to enjoy cuisine from over forty restaurants and businesses around the city including: Drago's Seafood Restaurant, Lagniappe Luncheonette, Pigeon Catering, Catholic Community Radio, Vincent's Italian Cuisine, and many more! The crowd favorite of the gala was the dessert room which was overflowing with cakes, cupcakes, and pastries from bakeries all over the city including Nothing Bundt Cakes Metairie & New Orleans, La Louisiane Bakery, Manny Randazzo's, Swiss Confectionery, Haydel's Bakery, and many more.

With over 250 items on the auction boards, guests gave back to the seminary by bidding in the silent auction throughout the evening. During the night, guests made their way to the Live Auction Room where Fr. Wehner and Archbishop Aymond presented **David and Anna Jouandot as the 2019 Honorary Chaircouple**. As loyal supporters of Notre Dame Seminary, we thanked David & Anna for their dedication to and constant support of our future priests.

Following the presentation, an exciting Live Auction began with Deacons



*Lisa Herr (Gala
Committee Member)
with Fr. Joe Krafft*



*Deacons Carlo Maniglia,
Andrew Gutierrez,
and Andrew Rudmann
served as our guest
auctioneers.*

& Auction

Carlo Maniglia, Andrew Gutierrez, and Andrew Rudmann as our guest auctioneers. Guests bid on items such as a George Rodrigue "Drew Brees" Blue Dog Print Autographed by New Orleans Saints Quarterback Drew Brees, Dinner for 10 at the Louisiana State Governor's Mansion with Governor and Mrs. John Bel Edwards, and Dinner for 12 in the Notre Dame Seminary Private Dining Room. As the evening ended, seminarians helped guests check out and gather their winning auction items.

The seminary community is grateful to all of our 2019 Gala Sponsors, especially our Chair of Peter Event Sponsors: **The Azby Fund, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Canizaro, Harry & Londa Connick, David & Anna Jouandot, The Knights of Columbus Louisiana State Council, Ray & Patti Masset, St. Patrick Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, and The Edward L. Rispone Family Foundation.** We would also like to thank all of our dedicated Gala Committee, whose members worked countless hours and many months in preparation for the event.

Event Chaircouples: Tim & Lisa Thriffiley and Frank & Rhonda Tusa

Auction Chaircouples: Steve & Luly Cali and Deacon Robert & Pam Pendzimaz

Patron Party Chaircouples:

Joseph & Erin Caruso and
Tim & Beverly Napier

Food/Beverage Chaircouples:

Owen & Laurie Leftwich,
Raymond & Cissy Yakelis,
and Kathleen Sammons

We continue to thank our benefactors, friends, and volunteers for their dedication to and support of Notre Dame Seminary!



*Dr. Rebecca and
Mr. Steve Maloney*



Garret Broussard (Lake Charles), Marty Broussard, Lai Nguyen (Lake Charles), Annette Belcher, and Treville Belcher (Lake Charles)



*Seminarian Michael Lamy (New Orleans)
with his mom, Cindy Roth*



*Mr. Rennan Duffour (Louisiana State Council
Knights of Columbus) and Deacon Andrew
Rudmann (New Orleans)- Mr. Duffour was
the winner of the 50/50 Raffle and generously
donated his winnings back to NDS!*



*Catholic
Community
Radio served
delicious pork
sliders to
guests.*



*Seminarians help throughout the evening by
checking guests in and helping them bid in the
auction.*



Over 50 alumni priests gathered to con-celebrate the Alumni Day Mass.

— ALUMNI DAY 2019 —

On Thursday, February 28, 2019, Notre Dame Seminary priest alumni traveled from all over the Gulf Coast to attend Alumni Day. Alumni Day gives our alumni the opportunity to visit campus, celebrate Mass, reconnect with classmates, and celebrate another year of their priestly ministry. The day began with an Alumni Association meeting, where the Alumni Association heard from our Rector, Fr. Jim Wehner, as well as the Seminarian Association President, Raney Johnson. The Alumni then presented a monetary gift to the Seminarian Association. This year, the Alumni Association gift was designated for upgrades to the seminarian exercise facility, which will continue to enhance the quality of life and community living among the seminarians.

After the meeting, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Chancellor and Alumnus of NDS, celebrated Mass with over fifty alumni priests con-celebrating. Fr. Joseph Palermo, the guest homilist, was among those celebrating milestone anniversaries. Celebrating his 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, Fr. Palermo was ordained for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in 1994 and began serving as a spiritual director at Notre Dame Seminary in 2007. Fr. Palermo now serves as the pastor at St. Francis Xavier in Old Metairie. Notre Dame Seminary is thankful to Fr. Palermo for the many ways he has served and continues to serve our NDS community!

Following Mass, alumni, faculty, and fourth-year theologians enjoyed a reception and lunch served by our third-year theologians. Thank you to our Alumni Association for their service to the Church and their continued support of NDS!

Fr. Joseph Palermo, celebrating his 25th anniversary, and Fr. Michael Richard, celebrating his 3rd anniversary.



Deacon John Vu and Fr. Pat Broussard from the Diocese of Baton Rouge.



Archbishop Aymond offers words of gratitude to Alumni and the NDS community.



Fr. Trey Ange and Fr. David Ducote were excited to con-celebrate the 2019 Alumni Day Mass!

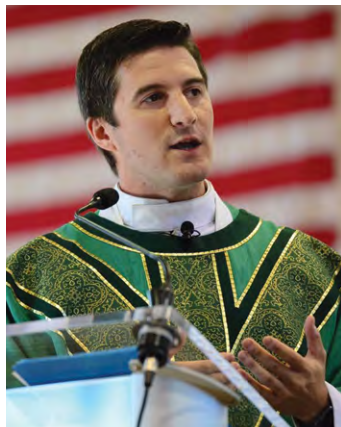


Alumni, faculty, and 4th year theologians, enjoyed a delicious lunch served by the 3rd year theologians.

ALUMNI

SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Kurt Young ('12), Archdiocese of New Orleans



Fr. Kurt Young graduated from Notre Dame Seminary in 2012 and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans in the same year. Fr. Kurt began his priestly ministry as the parochial vicar at St. Philip Neri and as the Assistant Chaplain to Archbishop Chapelle High School. Most recently, Fr. Kurt has been serving as Chaplain to Archbishop Rummel High School, his alma mater, and as the Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. As the Director of Vocations, Fr. Kurt has worked closely with our seminarians from the Archdiocese of New Orleans and has been a large part in building up the Church and assisting seminarians in discerning God's call. This Summer, Fr. Kurt will continue building up the Church in a new role as he joins the Notre Dame Seminary faculty as a formation advisor. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Kurt back to NDS and having him work with seminarians from all of our various dioceses!

"I am truly looking forward to joining the faculty and staff of Notre Dame Seminary. I am the priest that I am today thanks to the formation that I received in my time at NDS, and now I have the opportunity to help to mold those who will be the priests of tomorrow. I am honored to have the privilege of helping to form the next generation of priests because it is my belief that priestly formation is of the utmost importance for the future of our Church. I pray that I will be an effective co-worker in the vineyard of the Lord as we seek to form men after the heart of Christ."

—Fr. Kurt Young

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — Erin and Joseph Caruso



The Notre Dame Seminary community is grateful to its many volunteers who give countless hours of their time in service to support our mission. This Spring, we salute longtime and faithful NDS volunteers, Erin and Joe Caruso. Always willing to help in any way they can, Erin and Joe have served on our Gala Committee since 2009 in various leadership roles, including serving as co-chairs of the event, patron party, and dessert room. Joe has also served NDS for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee.

Erin and Joe are not only generous to NDS but also give of their time to many other schools and ministries around the Archdiocese of New Orleans including their alma maters Brother Martin High School, Archbishop Chapelle High School, and The University of Holy Cross, as well as The Willwoods Community. As a couple, Erin and Joe devote their time and energy in giving back to the Church, and their dedication to and love of the seminary does not go unnoticed.

Truly role models of generosity, we thank Erin and Joe for their hard work and humble service to NDS. We are grateful for you and all that you do for our future priests!

"The seminary has a comprehensive formation program to ensure men who answered God's call to serve will be effective shepherds for the people of our Archdiocese and our broader church. As Catholics, we should all be proud that we have this incredible asset right here in our Archdiocese and do all we can to nurture it."

—Joe and Erin Caruso



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SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON FOR PRIESTS

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Mass at Immaculate Conception Church

Luncheon at The Roosevelt Hotel

SPRING GALA & AUCTION

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Notre Dame Seminary

*For more information, please contact Caroline Thriffley in the
Development Office at (504) 866-7426, ext. 375 or visit www.nds.edu.*