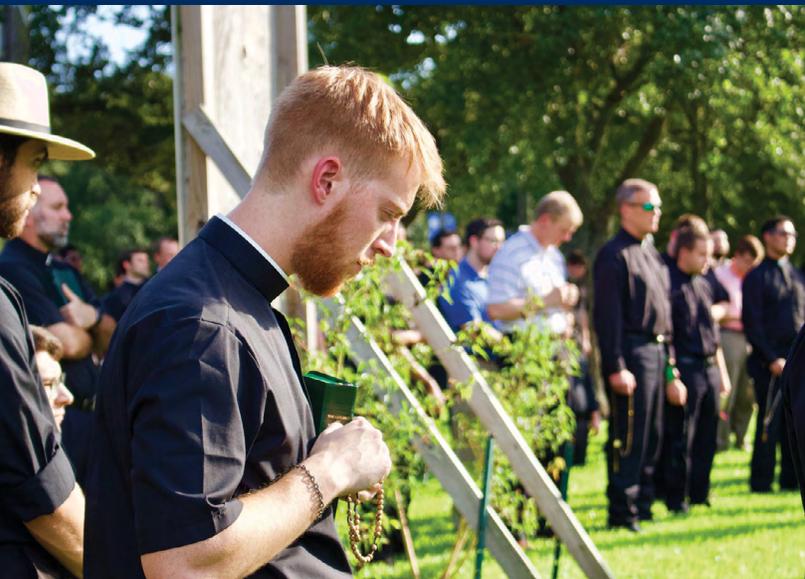


NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

Graduate School of Theology



THE FOUR DIMENSIONS OF PRIESTLY FORMATION



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Very Rev. James A. Wehner
Rector/President

The Renaissance Priest for a New Evangelization

The title of this reflection summarizes the approach that NDS takes in forming our future priests of the Church. By “renaissance”, we mean a priest who appreciates “culture” and how the Gospel is preached, introduced, and inculturated into culture. The Gospel is not “counter-cultural” rather it proposes culture as a “good” and extension of God’s plan for creation. However, the Gospel may be “counter-societal” because there are practices, laws, trends that actually subvert, diminish, and even destroy culture. It is here that the Church’s missionary activity seeks to purify culture from vice and evil – this is the work of the new evangelization. We use the word “new” because humanity is constantly finding itself in “new” situations of life that include positive developments such as technological advancements, medical successes, scientific discovery, and so on. Here, the Gospel enlightens these advancements as the work of God in creation. Similarly, we find “new” situations where unjust laws are passed, moral ethics are violated, people are marginalized – here, the Gospel proposes “truths” that are to remedy and promote Good News in these realities. Therefore, priestly formation must prepare a priest to enter into these situations as “good shepherds” (as renaissance men) who lead people to the Gospel where Jesus proclaims his saving plan for each person.

NEW SEMINARIAN CLASS





Seminarian Becomes American Citizen

This Summer, seminarian Andy Gonzalez (Archdiocese of New Orleans) became a citizen of the United States of America after a long and extraordinary journey. The Cuban native passed his citizenship tests in May after many weeks of studying and preparation. On June 6th, seminarians and other members of the NDS community were present to support Andy as he was officially sworn in as an American citizen.



SEMINARIANS TRAVEL TO ROME

David Bailey (Tyler), Nick Nappier (Tyler), James Rome (Houma-Thibodaux), and Patrick Held (Nashville) were able to gather together in Rome this past Summer. The seminarians visited many churches and historical sites during their pilgrimage, including St. Peter's Basilica.



Pro-Life Speaker – Patricia Sandoval

On October 4th, Patricia Sandoval, pro-life speaker and author of “Transfigured”, offered a Formation Conference to the seminarians of NDS. Patricia spoke about how she came to know Jesus after working for Planned Parenthood and having three abortions of her own. Through her testimony, Patricia was able to offer seminarians a view of the importance of loving and forgiving a child of God who has had an abortion.



Drogo's Capp Bar

Seminarians love their coffee! The Social Life Committee of the Seminarian Association created St. Drogo's Cappuccino Bar. Seminarians, faculty, and staff can stop by the Capp Bar on certain days during the week to enjoy specialty coffee including cappuccinos and homemade cold brew. St. Drogo is the patron saint of coffee makers and coffee lovers! St. Drogo, pray for us.

New Faculty & Staff at NDS



Reverend Kurt Young, D.Min. (candidate)

Director of Human Formation

In 2012, Fr. Kurt Young graduated from Notre Dame Seminary and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Fr. Kurt began his priestly ministry as the parochial vicar at St. Philip Neri and as the Assistant Chaplain to Archbishop Chapelle High School. Fr. Kurt then served as Chaplain at Archbishop Rummel High School, his alma mater, and as the Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Fr. Kurt joins the NDS community this school year as the Director of Human Formation.



Reverend Timothy Hedrick, J.C.L.

Professor of Canon Law

Fr. Tim Hedrick is an alumnus of St. Joseph Seminary College and Notre Dame Seminary. After being ordained as a priest of Jesus Christ in 2014, he served as parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Metairie while also completing a Licentiate in Canon Law from Catholic University of America. In 2018, Fr. Tim was named the 10th pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish. This fall, Fr. Tim joins the NDS community as an adjunct professor of Canon Law. When not teaching at the seminary, Fr. Tim serves in the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Tribunal.



Nathan Mastnjak, Ph.D.

Professor of Sacred Scripture

Dr. Nathan Mastnjak received his Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East from the University of Chicago in 2015. After graduating, he took a position as a lecturer and research fellow in the Jewish Studies program at Indiana University and in 2018 accepted a position as a research fellow in Judaica at Harvard University. He joined Notre Dame Seminary in 2019 as Professor of Sacred Scripture.



Jordan Haddad, Ph.D. (candidate)

Director of Lay Ministry Programs & Lay Formation

Jordan is an alumni of NDS, having graduated in 2015 with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies. After attending NDS from 2012-2014, Jordan worked as a theology teacher at Mount Carmel Academy for two years. For the past three years, Jordan has been completing a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and is currently writing his dissertation. As Director of Lay Ministry Programs and Lay Formation, Jordan is responsible for promoting, directing, and developing the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry and the Master of Arts in Pastoral Leadership programs.



Chase Rodrigue

Coordinator of Campus Activities

Chase is a native of the small town of Litcher, Louisiana. He is a graduate of St. Joseph Seminary College where he earned his Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy. He has worked in communications and administration in the Archdiocese of New Orleans for two years and is pursuing his Masters of Arts in Theological Studies at Notre Dame Seminary. Chase's primary responsibilities at Notre Dame Seminary involve facility and guestroom scheduling as well as reception and administration.

Welcome to Alaska: Immersing in the Graces of CPE Internship

by Seminarian Andrew Sanchez, Archdiocese of New Orleans

“Welcome to Alaska, its big and crazy and woolly,” was what I heard from one of the regular Catholic volunteers at Providence Alaska Medical Center this summer during my Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) internship. I could not have said it better myself. Alaska is indeed big, crazy, and woolly, and it certainly lives up to its nicknames, “The Last Frontier” and “Land of the Midnight Sun.” Sunset in peak summer is 11:45 PM! Alaska is filled with natural wonders. It has vast mountain ranges (14 in total!) and glacial fed ice-cold streams, rivers and lakes, which I thoroughly enjoyed taking a quick dip in. It has abundant wildlife and thousands of hiking and biking trails which double as cross country ski trails in the winter.

There is no shortage of natural beauty in Alaska, and this is just what I needed this summer. However, before I get too ahead of myself, let me backup and focus on the true reason I was in Alaska this summer and the abundant graces that flowed from my time there.

My bishop was generous enough to allow me to go to Alaska this summer for CPE, which is usually done somewhere in the Gulf South. CPE is a mix of clinical and didactic experiences aimed at preparing me to minister to those in a hospital setting. I spent time learning about various topics such as active listening and multiculturalism. I spent time ministering to sick and dying patients and their often distraught families. I spent even more time (or so it seems) sharing my own feelings and opinions and listening to the feelings and opinions of my fellow CPE summer interns whose faith backgrounds varied from Buddhism to Lutheranism. From these experiences, I learned what it means to truly listen in a way that is loving, humble, self-giving, and fully attentive. I learned to give of myself for the service of those most in need both in the hospital and in my CPE program. I had a handful of sleepless nights when I worked the overnight on-call shifts (4 total but who’s count-

ing). It was hard and it hurt, but in the end it was fulfilling and rewarding. Most importantly, it was an affirmation that God is calling me to spend my life serving his people as a priest of Jesus.

I also received tremendous graces in the relationships and friendships I established and rekindled. I lived in Fairbanks, AK, for 2 years, so I was excited to get back and visit two former roommates who are still there. It was truly a joy to my heart to visit these young families in Fairbanks. I also had the pleasure to meet many new people in Anchorage, all of whom in their own unique ways welcomed me with the loving charity of Christ. I met the Thompson family who all attend daily Mass as frequently as possible. They invited me over for dinner twice despite having nine growing children

of their own to feed. I met the Dominican fathers who I stayed with for the month of June at the Cathedral rectory and who were some of the most hospitable and intellectual hosts I have ever had. I met the Bragiels, who immediately felt like that crazy, but awesome, aunt and uncle duo most people seem to have. They helped me not take things so seriously, they showed me around the local hiking trails, and they even let me borrow their car when they went out of town. I could go on and on about the people I met and the graces



Taken at 11:30 PM, Andrew experienced the beauty of Alaska and the abundant wildlife.



The fun-loving Bragiel family and Andrew enjoyed getting to spend time together over dinner with lots of laughs.



Andrew Sanchez with Fr. Emauel and the Thompson boys after enjoying dinner and playing a game of basketball.

God offered through each one, but I suppose the world itself could not contain the pages that would be written. All of my personal interactions this summer remind me how amazing it is to be so readily welcomed and loved by others. I look forward to sharing my life and love with the people of God. Even more so, I look forward to serving them in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord and High Priest.

Andrew hiked to the top of Mt. Brady near Eagle River in Alaska.



Deacon Rusty Bruce teaching a religion class on Adoration.



Deacon Rusty Bruce with altar boys from around the diocese for the Bayou Eucharistic Procession.

Diaconate Internship: **A Teacher of a Different Sort**

by Deacon Rusty Bruce, Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux

I knew I would be doing the usual diaconal ministries: baptisms, weddings, funerals, preaching, and shut-in visits during my internship. These were all things that I had been eagerly preparing for during seminary formation at Notre Dame Seminary. My parish assignment at St. Bernadette in Houma, however, came with a few unexpected, but pleasant, ministry opportunities that I had not foreseen. For starters, it came with a summer day camp program and a large parochial school. Prior to seminary, I had pursued a career as a history teacher. When I could run from God's call no longer, I left teaching behind, or so I thought.

Once at St. Bernadette, I started visiting the campers. I played their games, tagged along on their field trips, and built a good rapport with many of them. After two months of going to Mass with them and sitting in on their religion lessons, I said goodbye to many of them knowing that I would soon see some of them at our parochial school.

When school started, my pastor and I jumped right into car line duty with the teachers, helping to welcome students and their parents to campus. The principal and staff soon realized how much I wanted to be a part of the school. I began to visit the classes to introduce myself and sit in on their lessons. I became

so involved with the school that I was put on a teaching rotation for the third through seventh grade religion classes. I ate lunch with them and played soccer at recess with them. The students and their parents came to expect my daily visits, and I looked forward to them.

Outside of the classrooms, I realized the true impact



Deacon Rusty Bruce dressed as Batman for superhero dress up day.



Deacon Rusty Bruce preaching at Summer Day Camp Mass.



Deacon Rusty Bruce officiating at a marriage convalidation.

that my ministry was making on them. While they were interested in what I was teaching, they became more interested in who I represented for them—a disciple of Christ.

It was outside the classroom by my visible presence among them that the greatest lessons were taught.

2019-2020 ANNUAL FUND:

Teach, Sanctify, Shepherd

D*eus Providebit!* This Latin phrase is inscribed above the main entrance to Notre Dame Seminary. It means – *God Will Provide*. In scripture, we see again and again how God provides what is necessary for the People of God. We recognize that the blessings God has bestowed upon Notre Dame Seminary are a result of the support of our mission from benefactors and friends like you.

This August, we kicked off the 2019-2020 Notre Dame Seminary Annual Fund. We thank our benefactors for their friendship and generous support of the Annual Fund. The funds raised support courses, programs, missionary trips, leadership training, retreats, pastoral assignments, preaching seminars, and liturgical preparations, which are all designed for the seminarians to be formed as *teachers, sanctifiers, and shepherds*.

Deacon David Dawson (Diocese of Baton Rouge) assisted in acknowledging our donors who contributed to our annual fund.

In September, our seminarians participated in our annual Phone-A-Thon, where they reached out to hundreds of our loyal supporters, alumni, volunteers, and friends of NDS. The seminarians thoroughly enjoyed talking with so many of you by phone. Thank you for taking the time to speak with them!

Know of our continued prayers for all of you and your intentions.

As we continue the 2019-2020 Annual Fund, it is not too late to make a contribution and help us as we form pastoral and servant leaders who vow to build up our Church. God has and continues to provide for Notre Dame Seminary because of you!

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 benefits our seminarians, visit www.nds.edu/annual-fund.



Joseph Rivera (Archdiocese of New Orleans) and all of our seminarians had a blast talking with benefactors and friends of NDS!

Josh Page (Diocese of Lake Charles) and Ryan Stoer (Diocese of Jackson) made phone calls to seek support of our Annual Fund.





Spiritual Formation Program at NDS encourages seminarians to establish an intimate relationship with God, the Father. With a sincere devotion to Our Lady, seminarians gather weekly to pray the rosary as a community.



Seminarians go on the Acompaño Mission Trip each year in December to engage in missionary and pastoral formation.

FULLY FORMED: The Dimension

by Seminarian Jason Songe, Archdiocese of New Orleans

Formation—a word we hear often at the seminary, but what does the word actually mean? According to the *Program for Priestly Formation (PPF)*, which sets standards for Catholic seminary formation around the world, “formation, as the Church understands it, is not equivalent to a secular sense of schooling or, even less, job training. **Formation is first and foremost cooperation with the grace of God.**”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ document, *The Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*, states that, moved by the grace that is available to all Catholics, seminarians make themselves “available to God’s work of transformation” and make a place for the Lord to dwell in us.

The four dimensions of formation are **human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral**, and the interplay, or symbiosis, between them is at the heart of priestly formation at Notre Dame Seminary.

“The functioning of a priestly formation program depends upon the interrelationship of those elements,” according to the NDS formation handbook. “No one part of the formation process works independently of any other.”

Rector of Notre Dame Seminary, the Very Rev. James Wehner, explains: “The thresholds and goals of the four dimensions of priestly formation are designed for integration so that at any given

time the seminarian is developing habits and practices natural and virtuous to his style of life. This ‘style’ is pointing towards a priestly and pastoral way of life. This is the goal of all priestly formation – pastoral service to God’s people. An unintegrated formation leads to a ‘silo’ approach in which seminarians can be successful in each area of formation however those areas do not become integrated leading to rigidity, clericalism, mediocrity, paternalism, and the misuse of authority.”

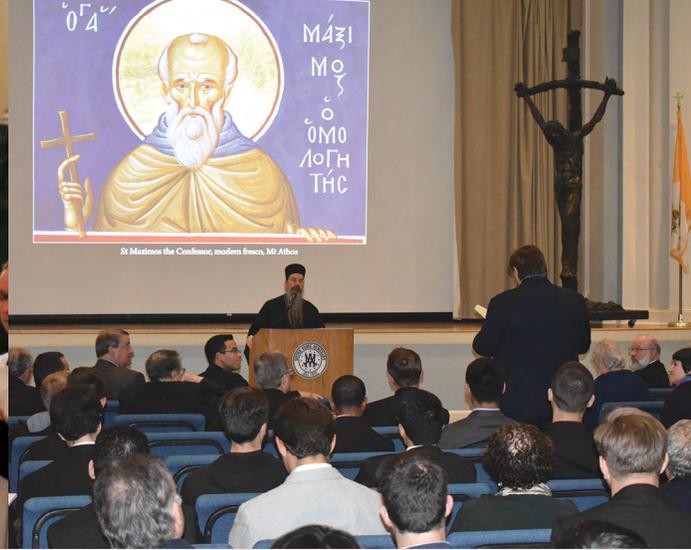
Therefore, the four elements of priestly formation work together. But how, exactly?

“Clearly human formation is the foundation for the other three dimensions,” says the PPF. “Spiritual formation informs the other three. Intellectual formation appropriates and understands the other three. Pastoral formation expresses the other three dimensions in practice.”

Intellectual formation has played a gateway role for the other dimensions in the formation of Seminarian David



Human Formation at NDS challenges seminarians to live a balanced lifestyle, which includes engagement in the fraternal community of the seminary as well as committing to good physical health. Every year, seminarians participate in the Bonfire Football game against St. Joseph Seminary.



Nick Ware and John Dugas were installed to the Ministry of Acolyte, one of the final steps before being ordained to the Diaconate. The acolyte is appointed in order to aid the deacon and to minister to the priest serving as both a spiritual and pastoral formational experience for seminarians.

Intellectual Formation at NDS centers on theology as a search for an ever-deeper knowledge of the divine mysteries and teaches the seminarian to grasp the Catholic intellectual and liturgical tradition.

ns of Priestly Formation at NDS

Keran from the Diocese of Alexandria. “What I learn in class tends to inform my spiritual and human formation, preparing me for the work of pastoral formation to tie it all together into a profoundly integrated whole,” he said.

Seminarian Francis Vu from the Diocese of Dallas also speaks of being made “whole” by formation. “I believe the four dimensions of priestly formation are important to good holistic formation for every Christian. In my time at seminary, the formation faculty and staff have shown me the person of Christ and have helped me both develop fruitful habits as well as address personal wounds so that I can mature more fully into His image. Whether or not I am called to the priesthood, formation is making me more whole -- as a man, beloved son of the Father, life-long student, and pastoral minister of the Church.”

What, finally, is the goal of human formation, the foundation of priestly formation? The PPF states that “the goal is the development not just of a well-rounded person, a prayerful person, or an experienced pastoral practitioner, but rather, one who understands his spiritual development within the context of his call to service in the Church, his human development within the greater context of his call to advance the mission of the Church, his intellectual development as the appropriation of the Church’s teaching and tradition, and his pastoral formation as participation in the active ministry of the Church.”



Pastoral Formation at NDS is for the seminarian to learn and understand how to be a shepherd imbued with the charity of Christ and filled with a missionary spirit. Seminarians participate in various pastoral ministry experiences including Prison Ministry, Mission Trips, and Clinical Pastoral Education Programs.



At the start of the academic year, orientation week not only allows new seminarians to acclimate to NDS, but also gives seminarians the opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal level. The fraternal brotherhood of seminary encourages seminarians to relate to each other in a positive manner based on mutual respect, kindness, and generosity.



Archbishop Aymond celebrated Mass in honor of St. Pio in the Chapel at NDS.

Relics of St. Padre Pio Come to NDS

Over 4,000 people traveled to Notre Dame Seminary on Saturday, October 5th to venerate the relics of St. Pio of Pietrelcina—better known as Padre Pio. The day brought pilgrims from around the Gulf South for the opportunity to pray before the relics.

The morning began with a Mass in honor of St. Pio celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond. Following Mass, visitors had the opportunity to offer their intentions as well as view and touch the six relics of St. Pio that were on display. Although the wait may have been long, visitors cherished the opportunity to venerate the relics of the popular 20th century Capuchin priest and spiritual father.

St. Pio was born on May 25, 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy, and baptized Francesco Forgione. He first expressed his desire for

priesthood at age 10. The future saint entered the Capuchin order at age 15, taking the name Pio. He was ordained a priest in 1910 at the age of 23. During his lifetime, Padre Pio was known as a mystic with miraculous powers of

healing and knowledge, who bore the stigmata. His stigmata emerged during World War I, after Pope Benedict XV asked Christians to pray for an end to the conflict. Padre Pio had a vision in which Christ pierced his side. A few weeks later, on September 20, 1918, Jesus again appeared to him, and he received the full stigmata. It remained with him until his death on September 23, 1968. Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio in 2002.



Stacy Pellerin, Cindy Nolan, and Stacey Shane Schott—Thank you to our volunteers who assisted during the veneration of the relics!

The St. Pio Foundation

sponsored the tour of the relics to many dioceses around the United States and Canada. The Notre Dame Seminary community is grateful to the St. Pio Foundation for their work, which brings awareness of St. Pio and his mission. We thank all of those who were able to visit Notre Dame Seminary to venerate the relics as well as those who volunteered to make the day run so smoothly.



Pilgrims from across Louisiana and the Gulf South traveled to venerate the relics of St. Pio.



Seminarians served as ushers and greeters as NDS welcomed thousands of visitors.

Learning to Rest in My Relationship with God

by Seminarian Austin Young, Diocese of Baton Rouge

This past summer was an incredible experience that I will never forget! I spent 9 weeks at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. The summer program, The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF), offers over 140 seminarians from all over the country the opportunity to dive deeper into their priestly formation. When IPF was created 25 years ago, they chose Omaha for two reasons. Stationing the program in a centrally located city makes it easier for seminarians from different parts of the country to attend. Secondly, Omaha is a smaller, slower-paced Midwestern city. It's tranquility gave the perfect setting for growing closer to the Lord. To give an analogy, IPF in Omaha was like a harbor safe from all the waves. It gave us a chance to remember why we wanted to join the seminary in the first place. What drives all of this is the love Jesus has for us and His call. Omaha had plenty of fun things to do, but it also offered a quiet place where we could spend time with Jesus and realign our hearts with



Fr. Jim Wehner, Rector/President, and Dr. Tom Neal, Professor at NDS and IPF, gathered with sixteen men from Notre Dame Seminary at IPF.



Seminarians enjoy dinner and fellowship in Omaha.

His. Omaha resembled “Nazareth,” the place where Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph before He started His public ministry.

The program began with an 8-day silent retreat. Each day included Mass, a conference on the spiritual life, a discussion with your retreat director, and 4 different hour-long prayer periods. After the retreat, our typical day included community prayer, personal prayer, and Mass, in addition to our seminars and classes. One of

the things we discussed that stood out most was “R.I.M”-- the importance of properly ordering our relationship with God, our identity, and our mission. Our relationship with God is meant to come first. We first have to realize how God gazes upon us. He loves us, and no matter how old we are, we are truly His Children. This relationship with God gives us our identity (a baptized child of God). It is easy to get R.I.M. mixed up and reordered. How many times do we let our mission define our identity? And how many times do we think doing better in our mission will improve our relationship with God? In truth, God loves us regardless of whether we succeed or fail in our mission. Resting in our relationship with God should always come first. This relationship gives us our true identity and helps us succeed in our mission.



Seminarians Kevin Seay, Austin Young, and David Furka fishing during leisure time.



Seminarian Jeremy Lopez takes time for prayer while enjoying the beauty of nature.

– New Orleans Legatus Hosts NDS –

Each year the New Orleans' chapter of Legatus hosts the seminarians and faculty for a banquet to express support and commitment to priestly formation. Archbishop Aymond celebrated Mass for the seminary community and members of Legatus. During Mass, Dr. Tania Tetlow, President of Loyola University New Orleans, was installed as a member of the New Orleans Chapter of Legatus. Following the Mass, seminarians and Legatus members made their way over to Rock'n'Bowl to enjoy a New Orleans' dinner provided by the Blancher Family, who are members of Legatus. Seminarians Matthew Kennedy, Frank Wood, and Vu Nguyen offered their vocation testimony about how the Lord has called them to serve the People of God. With nearly 250 people in attendance, the seminarians and Legatus members have committed to the prayer partnership initiative praying for each other throughout the year.



Newly installed Legatus member, Dr. Tania Tetlow, with Archbishop Alfred Hughes



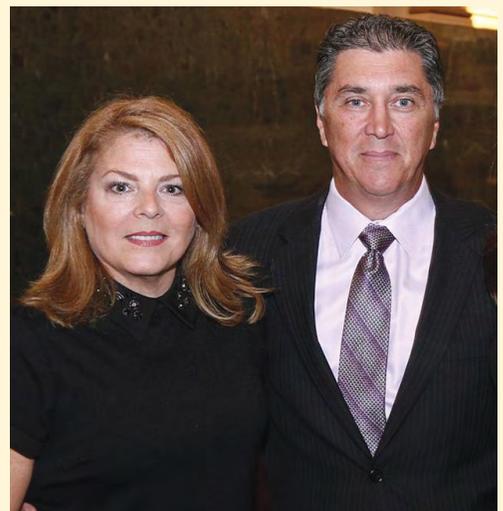
Dan and Suzanne Jacob and Jack and Anne Dardis at the annual Legatus Dinner.

Seminarian James Rians and Mary and Mark Ripple enjoy getting to know each other through their prayer partnership.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT — Luly and Steve Cali

The Notre Dame Seminary Community is incredibly grateful to our many volunteers who graciously support our mission through their countless hours of service. This fall, we recognize Luly and Steve Cali, a couple who believes in the mission of Notre Dame Seminary and is dedicated to supporting the seminary in any way they can. Always willing to go the extra mile, Luly and Steve serve as Auction Co-Chairs for our annual Gala and Auction.

Luly and Steve are married and have three children—Chris, who is married to Hannah; Stephen; and Victoria. They also have two beautiful grandchildren Caroline and Cy. In addition to the time they commit to NDS, Luly and Steve are also involved in various other organizations around the city. They are a couple truly devoted to their faith and giving back to their communities. Thank you, Luly and Steve, for your selfless and generous service to Notre Dame Seminary and your continuous support of our future priests!



"Reaching out to the 'None's' and Growing in My Faith Along the Way"

by Lauren Lagarde, Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry

Ministry to young adults is both challenging and exciting. This is where God has called me for the last five years. Even though he placed this passion in my heart, I felt a need to grow in my knowledge of theology and pastoral leadership in order to be most effective. The ILEM program at Notre Dame Seminary has given me the tools to enhance my approach in meeting the needs of young adults. The ILEM program not only gave me the theological tools, it also gave me the confidence and conviction to evangelize. For example, when I was developing my Practicum project, I saw the need for outreach to the "Nones," those who describe themselves as religiously disaffiliated, as not belonging to a particular religious tradition. Through class discussions and research, I was better able to focus on this particular need in the Church and tailor my Practicum towards them. A workshop "Finding Peace in a Noisy World" evolved through this process which addressed the real-life issues of young adults such as anxiety, depression, and the effects of social media. While addressing secular issues, the workshop also addressed the basic spiritual questions of "Why do we exist?" and "What is my purpose in life?"

The ILEM program at Notre Dame Seminary has been an amazing, life changing experience. Not only has the aca-

democratic curriculum challenged me intellectually, but the integrated approach of human, spiritual, and pastoral formation has been a phenomenal gift as I try to serve the Church in various ministries. The program fosters a spirit of community and active evangelization in which each student is given support and encouragement to be effective "Co-Workers in the Vineyard." The professors take a personal interest in



Dr. Mario Sacasa was the speaker for one of the evenings of the workshops organized by Lauren.



Lauren Lagarde, ILEM student, organized a workshop for young adult women titled "Finding Peace in a Noisy World".

each student helping us achieve success in personal growth and ministry. The richness of our faith is explored, plumbed and applied to our lives and ministries in profound ways. I am incredibly grateful to Notre Dame Seminary and the ILEM program in helping me discover my God-given gifts and use them for his Church. I look forward to being commissioned as a lay ecclesial minister by Archbishop Aymond in January 2020, and I am excited to be God's instrument in ministry for our local Church here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.



Lay students take many of their classes right alongside our seminarians.



SPOTLIGHT

Fr. Josh Johnson ('12), Diocese of Baton Rouge

by Seminarian Albert Blount, Diocese of Baton Rouge



Fr. Josh Johnson is a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge and is currently the Pastor of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in St. Amant, La. After graduating from Notre Dame Seminary, he was ordained a priest on May 31, 2014. He is a national speaker and presenter with Ascension Press on “Altaration: The Mystery of the Mass” and many others. Fr. Josh is the author of “Broken and Blessed: An Invitation to My Generation” and a contributing author of Power & Grace: A Guide to the Catholic Sacraments. You can keep in touch with Fr. Josh through his weekly podcast, Ask Fr. Josh.

Along with his national ministry of Evangelization and Catechesis, Fr. Johnson has spent much of his time working for Justice and Charity on the Diocesan and Parish level. After the shooting of Alton Sterling in 2016, Fr. Johnson was invited by his Bishop to Co-Chair a Commission for Racial Harmony in the Diocese. This initiative has brought many people of diverse backgrounds to the Catholic Church through dialogue groups on the racial divide, prayer services before the Blessed Sacrament, and lectures on institutional racism.

In 2018, Fr. Johnson opened up a center for the poorest of the poor in his geographical boundaries called “The Full of Grace Cafe.” This Center is located on his campus right next to the Church and it provides a food pantry, soup kitchen, coffee shop, diaper bank, shower for the homeless, lawyers, counselors and Creighton Fertility Care Specialists, and a convent for visiting religious sisters. Since its opening, thousands of people have received the works of mercy and hundreds have come back to the Sacramental Life of the Catholic Church after being away for many years. Fr. Johnson’s greatest desire is to become a saint and form saints for the Kingdom of God!

ALUMNI DAY 2020

Thursday, February 20, 2020

Alumni Association Meeting 10:00 AM

Mass 11:30 AM

Reception & Luncheon Immediately Following

Gather your classmates to join us in celebrating
our alumni and anniversary classes!

*Please contact Notre Dame Seminary at (504) 866-7426 for more information.
Formal invitations will be mailed in early January.*



BIBLEMARATHON

A PUBLIC READING OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE

JANUARY 28, 2020 AT 12:30 P.M. TO
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THE FRONT LAWN OF NOTRE DAME SEMINARY

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: BIBLEMARATHON@NDS.EDU

FOLLOWED BY THE CELEBRATION OF CANDLEMAS IN
THE CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



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*For more information, contact the Development Office
at (504) 866-7426, ext. 375.*