

# The Beholder

## NOTRE DAME SEMINARY PROGRAMS FOR LAITY SUMMER 2021

### REFLECTION //

*Written by Chelsea Thibodeaux, Student*



Around seven years ago, early on in my undergraduate program, I decided that I didn't want to continue in the same field for my graduate studies. Instead, I wanted to pursue a degree in theology

— I had no idea what my end goal was, I just knew that I loved the Church and wanted to learn more about Jesus. As I explored my options, I decided pretty early on against an online-only program, as I deeply wanted that in-person interaction with my teachers and classmates — and how the Lord delivered on that front! Once I discovered that NDS had a program for laity, my choice was made clear. From my first interview, I felt right at home and truly welcomed, even as a “commuter” from another diocese. I feel that those of us learning together were more than classmates; there is a true sense of family in this program. Getting to learn from each other's experiences, as well as being able to come together for class, prayer, and discipleship was a true complement to the incredible coursework received during this time. The gifts that I received here, I hope and pray, are spilling over to my own students now. While I enjoyed my classes so much, and am a bit sad that I'll no longer be a student — I am delighted that NDS has given me the tools to continue seeking the truth, beauty, and goodness of the Lord, no matter where His journey may take me.

## EUCHARIST LECTURE SERIES UPCOMING DATES

Please join us for the year-long Eucharist Lecture Series. All events begin at 5:30 pm with Eucharistic Adoration, followed by the lecture from 6:00-7:00 pm in Schulte Auditorium at Notre Dame Seminary.

- "The Eucharist and the Moral Life" presented by Fr. Bryce Sibley: *Wednesday, August 18th.*
- "The Eucharist in the Life of the Family" presented by Dr. Tom and Patti Neal: *Wednesday, September 15th.*
- "Eucharistic Miracles and Saints" presented by Fr. Jeffrey Montz: *Wednesday, October 20th.*
- "Eucharistic Devotions" presented by Fr. Nile Gross: *Wednesday, November 17th.*
- "The Eucharist and the Future of the Church" presented by Archbishop Alfred Hughes: *Wednesday, December 15th.*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NOTRE DAME SEMINARY PROGRAMS FOR LAITY GRADUATES OF 2021!



On Thursday, May 13, 2021, twelve lay students and one deacon graduated from Notre Dame Seminary with a Master's of Arts in Pastoral Leadership. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they continue their ministry as teachers, youth ministers, and volunteers throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans and beyond. The graduates are: *Top (Left to Right): Debra Fontenot, Gavin Matherne, Christopher Lazarine, Gina Radecker, Mary Lou McCall, Henry Hottor; Bottom (Left to Right): Christine Baglow, Mallory Wainwright, Genia Roper, Sarah Giorlando, Maureen Wright; Not Pictured: Deacon William Faustermann, Daniel Laurent.*



## ARE YOU A PRIEST? DO YOU HAVE AN OUTSTANDING LAY MINISTER AT YOUR PARISH?

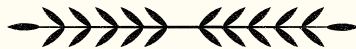
Stop by the  
Notre Dame Seminary table at the  
**LOUISIANA PRIESTS  
CONVENTION 2021**  
**September 20-22, 2021**  
for more information for parish  
staff and volunteers!



# CHECK OUT HOW OUR STUDENTS ARE SERVING THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS!



Jodi Awbrey has been hired as Director of Adult Formation at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish in Mandeville. "My role will include RCIA, Scripture studies, spirituality groups, and other adult formation opportunities. ILEM has been instrumental in preparing me for this role, both in helping me understand and navigate the discernment process as well as formation in my Catholic faith. I have already been using what I have learned in ILEM classes when teaching 7th-grade Religion to MQPCS students."



Jordan Posey is thrilled to be returning to her alma mater, Mount Carmel Academy. "I am grateful for the ILEM/MAPL program for strengthening my faith, making me ready and prepared to instruct the young women at MCA. All of my classes have been so edifying and enlivening, and the professors have such zeal and love for their Catholic faith. I feel more confident with each class to share the Good News and the beauty that is our Church. Come Holy Spirit!"



On July 1, Dylan Mitchell began a new role as the Pastoral Associate and Director of Youth Ministry at Divine Mercy Parish in Kenner. "As Pastoral Associate, I work closely with the Pastor in ensuring the mission of the church is being lived out through the various ministries and opportunities of Divine Mercy. As Youth Minister, I not only spearhead youth groups but also oversee catechesis for grades 6-12. The ILEM/MAPL program thus far has taught me a wide variety of things that have prepared me for this position. I have learned about the Church's teachings and resources on Catechesis and formation in a very practical way. I have gotten a broader view of the Catholic Church, which has helped me in seeing and understanding its mission. In addition, I have had the opportunity to learn more about specific topics like morality, Scripture, and the Catechism, which have equipped me with the information needed when speaking with teens, catechists, and parishioners. Lastly, and one of the coolest parts about the program, it has allowed me to meet so many other people working in ministry who are eager to help and share resources to make my ministry better and make our ministry, Archdiocese, and Church better."





# Year of the Eucharist Art Contest Finalist

Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry student, Rachel Moore, had her art selected as a finalist in the Archdiocese of New Orleans Year of the Eucharist Art Contest. Rachel's art, along with several other finalists, will be featured throughout the Archdiocese of New Orleans as we continue to celebrate the Year of the Eucharist.

## Welcome to NDS!

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest faculty and staff members at NDS who will be serving the Programs for Laity in various ways.

**Fr. Bryce Sibley**, who previously served as the Chaplain of Our Lady of Wisdom at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, has been hired as a Professor of Moral Theology.

**Fr. Joshua Neu**, who served as the Vocations Director for the Diocese of Tyler, TX, has been hired as the Director of Spiritual Formation at NDS.

**Matthew Keller**, a graduate of Archbishop Rummel High School who was previously a FOCUS missionary, has been hired as the Front Office Coordinator and Business Office Assistant.

**Maria Whitworth**, a recent graduate of the University of Dallas, has been hired as the Development Coordinator.

**Dr. Susie Veters**, an adjunct professor for the Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry Program, has been hired as the new Assistant Director of Human Formation.

# SAVE THE DATE

Giving Tuesday  
Tuesday, November 30, 2021



#iGIVECATHOLIC

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
ENROLLING IN ONE OF  
OUR PROGRAMS?



We are accepting applications now for our new Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry cohort! If you are a catechist, volunteer, or are just wanting to dive deeper into our Catholic faith and serve the Church, email [layprograms@nds.edu](mailto:layprograms@nds.edu) or call (504)866-7426 for more information!

 Notre Dame Seminary,  
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 @ndslayprograms



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