

ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

# PATRICIAN

SPRING 2020

MAGAZINE



## SCHOOL OF PASTORS

*See page 5*



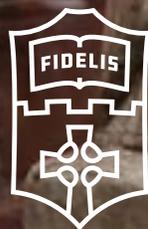
ST. PATRICK'S  
SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY



# SPRING ISSUE CONTENTS

President - Rector.....	4
School of Pastors .....	5
Spiritual Vision .....	7
Academic Dean .....	8
Student Body President.....	10
Faculty Accomplishments .....	11
Online Instruction.....	12
Library Update .....	13
New Faculty.....	14
Gala 2019 .....	16
Community News .....	20
Advancement.....	26
Alumni Corner .....	28
In Memoriam.....	30
Announcements .....	31

Cover Photo by Seminarian Dereck Delgado; Seminarian Alan Mauricio Acevedo Cabello of the Diocese of Santa Rosa during the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders in February 2020.



## ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

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# ST. PATRICK'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY

## A Prayer for Those Affected By the COVID-19 Virus

***For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.***

***For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.***

***For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.***

***For affected families who are facing difficult decisions  
between food on the table or public safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.***

***For those who do not have adequate health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.***

***For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration  
status,***

***We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.***

***For our brothers and sisters around the world,***

***We pray for shared solidarity.***

***For public officials and decision-makers,***

***We pray for wisdom and guidance.***

***Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope,  
comfort and love to all.***

***Grant peace.***

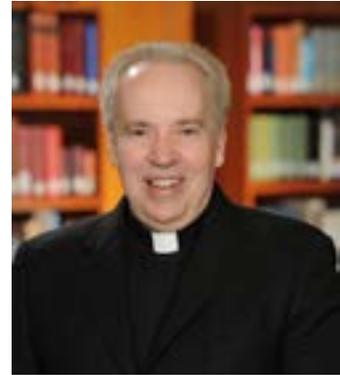
***Grant comfort.***

***Grant healing.***

***Be with us, Lord.***

***Amen.***

Before being appointed President-Rector, Fr. Donohoo served the seminary with dedication for more than six years, most recently as Vice-Rector and Dean of Men. He has a keen understanding of the challenges of diocesan priesthood and the spiritual and human formation required for a successful vocation. He also served as pastor of a number of parishes in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. He is an alumnus of St. Patrick's Seminary.



Following the untimely death of Bishop Robert Christian, in August Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone named Fr. Daniel Donohoo as President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary & University and Fr. Anthony Stoeppel as Vice Rector. Previously, Father Dan served the seminary with dedication for more than six years, most recently as Vice rector and Dean of Men. The following is an interview with Fr. Dan about the challenges facing the seminary at this time and his vision for the future:

**Patrician: What attracted you to pursue and accept the role of President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary?**

*Father Dan:* St. Patrick's Seminary has been an important part of my life over the past six years and my beloved alma mater. Priestly formation is linked to the very mission of the Church, to "make disciples of all nations." At St. Patrick's Seminary, we have a great responsibility to form these young men into the future leaders of our Church. I find it exciting to provide them with the truths of our beautiful faith and a deep understanding of the mission of the priesthood. St. Patrick's has a long history of forming leaders that have made a significant impact on our Church.

**Patrician: How do you think your life experience as a priest has prepared you for this role?**

*Father Dan:* In addition to my various previous roles at the seminary, I served in many diocesan positions in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. I was a judge in the metropolitan tribunal and led a successful program for continuing education for clergy. I also pastored a number of parishes in the Indianapolis Archdiocese, including the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. These formative experiences helped me to understand the challenges of diocesan priesthood and the spiritual and human formation required for a successful vocation.

**Patrician: We are currently facing some perilous times. How well has the seminary responded to the COVID-19 crisis?**

*Father Dan:* I am extremely pleased with our response to the COVID-19 crisis. In mid-March, we made the key call to send the seminarians to their home dioceses and move all academic instruction and spiritual direction to remote learning. Despite limited previous experience with an online modality of learning, we were able to transfer almost all of the formation process to online distance learning in under two weeks. This included setting up the necessary technology, training the faculty, staff, and seminarians, and modifying our curriculum as needed. Working primarily remotely, our business staff has adapted our operations to keep the seminary running during this time. We continue to monitor the situation and will make whatever changes are needed for the remainder of 2020.

**Patrician: You often talk about bringing a pastoral focus to the formation of priests. What do you mean by that and why is it important?**

*Father Dan:* To be pastoral is to be a shepherd of his flock. The priest's primary duty is to lead the believers entrusted to him to a full Christian life with the final goal of attaining eternal salvation. I want to form our seminarians into priests that are focused on making disciples by teaching, sanctifying, and leading the flock. Our graduates must be able to adapt their approach to teaching the faith to today's time and place, while maintaining the immutable substance of the message. We need to form these young men into priests comfortable in their deep spiritual relationship with Christ to live the Gospel every day of their lives.

**Patrician: St. Patrick's recently hired Dr. Anthony Lilles to be its new Academic Dean. He has put a big emphasis on spiritual theology. How will that influence the seminary's plans for academic formation?**

*Father Dan:* Dr. Lilles is a big advocate for a "kneeling theology" that supports a dynamic ministry, spiritual fatherhood, priestly fraternity, and the New Evangelization. Through contemplative encounters, the seminarian can be exposed to the wonders of God revealed. This intimate relationship forms their heart to be filled with a generous and sacrificial love, so critical as the basis for pastoral charity. Our future plans are to re-examine our various stages of formation envisioned in *Gift of Priestly Vocation* and build personalized formation plans to enrich the seminarian's ongoing encounter with Christ.

# SCHOOL OF PASTORS

***Patrician:*** Another area of change for the formation process is to make it integrated and personal. What plans do you have in place for this? What is meant by a “personal” priestly formation plan?

***Father Dan:*** We want to form the hearts of priestly disciples of Jesus Christ to become spiritual fathers. Our young men come from different backgrounds and different levels of maturity. We plan to create an integrated and personal plan of formation that is specific to each seminarian’s needs. We will build integrated formation objectives in a manner that meets the developing psycho-social and educational needs of the next generation of seminarians. Through these efforts, hopefully our graduate priests will have a better understanding of priestly celibacy, masculinity, self-care, and healthy practices that support life-long faithfulness and human thriving in their entire lives as a priest.

***Patrician:*** How can the greater St. Patrick’s community – alumni, donors, friends, etc. – help with the seminary’s plans?

***Father Dan:*** In these difficult times, I find it gratifying to know that we have such widespread support in our greater St. Patrick’s community. We are always praying for God’s blessing for each and every one of you. Likewise, we need your prayers and support throughout this time. Our generous donors have allowed St Patrick’s to thrive for more than 120 years. Let us pray that the COVID-19 crisis will pass swiftly and God will embody us with a spirituality of stewardship to fulfill His mission planned for each of us.



“I am a pastor,” said Fr. Dan Donohoo in his first speech as Rector of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University to emphasize his priority of a greater focus on the pastoral dimension of seminary formation. Fr. Dan envisions St. Patrick’s graduates being renowned for their pastoral approach to priestly ministry. “My vision is that we form the hearts of priestly disciples of Jesus Christ to become spiritual fathers. We are a school of future pastors.” The term “pastoral” comes from the Latin, *pastor*, which means “shepherd.” Consequently, to be pastoral is to be concerned with for the flock as a shepherd is for his sheep. In the Bible, Jesus referred to himself as “the Good Shepherd,” so the reference has its origins with Christ himself.

In the famous Psalm 23, we read, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters.” The verse illustrates one of the main roles of the shepherd: to lead the sheep to food and drink so that they can grow and mature. Similarly, the role of the priest is to *bring the people to Christian maturity*. The priest must instruct and help his flock to lead a full Christian life with the goal of attaining eternal salvation.

Jesus is the supreme shepherd of the flock (Church); he is the prophet (teacher), priest (sanctifier), and king (ruler). In the Preface of the Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests – *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, it states:

Priests by sacred ordination and mission which they receive from the bishops are promoted to the service of Christ the Teacher, Priest and King. They share in his ministry, a ministry whereby the Church here on earth is unceasingly built up into the People of God, the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 1).

As such, the pastoral priest instructs the faithful in the truths of the faith, sanctifies the faithful by administering the sacraments, and leads them in all things pertaining to faith and the Church.

This mission comes from Jesus Christ himself in the final verse of the final chapter of Matthew, known as the Great Commission: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matthew 28:19).” Jesus commissioned the Apostles to four tasks: go, make, baptize, and teach. However, of these four imperatives, only one is the main verb in the original Greek; the others serve to simply modify the sentence. One verb is the theological center of the verse. Which one? The key verb is “make” – literally, “make disciples” (*matheteusate*).

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A pastoral priest must orient everything he does towards “making disciples.” That is why he teaches, sanctifies, and leads the flock. All is done “for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (*Ephesians 4:12-13*).” The pastoral priest is focused on equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry of the Church. He recognizes that there are limits on what he can accomplish and only through a motivated team of disciples can the Church truly make its impact on today’s world.

“The call to be pastors of the People of God requires a formation that makes future priests experts in the art of pastoral discernment, that is to say, able to listen deeply to real situations and capable of good judgment in making choices and decisions” (*Ratio Fundamentalis*, 120). The pastoral priest must walk a fine line between being too rigid and clerical and being too flexible and timid. He must not present the Gospel and Church teachings as something that is subjective and easily changed to suit an individual’s desires, but rather as something transformative in Christ. In the Letter to the Romans, St. Paul exhorted, “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God’s Will, what is good, pleasing and perfect” (*Romans 12:2*).

Yet, the pastoral priest cannot be tone-deaf to the unique situations in front of him. He must adapt in his approach

to teaching the Gospel for the variety of times and places in which he ministers without changing the immutable substance of the message. He must proclaim a universal Gospel of salvation for all peoples in all places. This requires a mature, affirming authority that recognizes the strengths and limitations in himself and in others.

St. Patrick’s Seminary champions a “kneeling theology” that supports dynamic ministry, spiritual fatherhood, priestly fraternity, and the New Evangelization. These contemplative encounters expose the wonders that God has revealed and entrusted to the Church – how we live and love, how we worship and adore, how we are tested and rise again. “This intimate relationship forms the heart of the seminarian in that generous and sacrificial love that marks the beginning of pastoral charity” (*Ratio Fundamentalis*, 101).

While the pastoral priest promotes the Gospel, more importantly he lives the Gospel. “Indeed, it is expected of him that, day after day, he will internalize the spirit of the Gospel, thanks to a constant and personal friendship with Christ” (*Ratio Fundamentalis*, 41). He must approach his life as a priest from love. “Love is the fulfillment of the law” (*Romans 13:10*). The pastoral priest is patient and kind towards every person and seeks out the marginalized Catholics. Above all, the pastoral priest gives of himself, laboring to feed the sheep and bringing them to strength and maturity as disciples of Christ.

Fr. Lawrence Herrera, SJ studied for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for six years and then entered the Society of Jesus. He served at St. John's Seminary College for 8 years and was the Director of Spiritual Formation, Senate President and Chair of the Social Sciences Department. He was Director of Spiritual Formation and Psychological Services at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He served seven years as a Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.



At such a difficult time for all of us in the middle of a pandemic that has caused a great deal of suffering, we are given a moment to count our blessings, too. Spiritual formation at St. Patrick's was able to celebrate many activities before our students were sent home. Days of recollection and our annual retreats were joyful and successful experiences for our seminarians. In January, retreats led by Fr. Greg Heidenblut, OSA and Most Reverend Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu provided spiritual experiences in beautiful pastoral and silent settings, a special opportunity for the development of fraternity, and a sharing of pastoral needs and experiences as expressed by the retreat masters. This year, we have collected their feedback in order to continually improve these offerings. This revealed the importance of the retreats as an opportunity to understand the burdens that priests and Bishops carry in their mission of serving Christ and the Church. Seminarians were inspired to be a part of the ministry and to share not only the burdens but also the joys of watching the Holy Spirit always active, always blessing their ministry as companions to their own Bishops. We will continue to solicit input from the seminarians to aid us in organizing the retreat program in the future.

Students also participated in two very important weekend-long symposia. The first, wonderfully organized by our own Dr. Margaret Turek, was dedicated to the ideas of Hans Urs Von Balthasar and dedicated specifically to the needs of seminary formation in all of its aspects, especially human and spiritual formation. This was a real shot in the arm for our faculty and students and still contributes to a vibrant conversation on campus. Also, they attended

a biomedical conference organized by Dr. Cynthia Hunt, our staff psychiatrist, who also included her own reflections on spiritual experiences in healing. A number of priest faculty helped with the exercises and provided the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This conference pointed out the pressing need for students to be aware of the complex biomedical and scientific issues that they will undoubtedly face in their future ministry.

Although the practicalities of the future can be a bit murky, the seminary has procured the services of Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ., an esteemed astrophysicist with a wealth of knowledge about everything from the Shroud of Turin to the intricacies of cosmology in a world given by a loving Creator. He has promised to help us in the future with our program, so please stay tuned for information as our exciting plans are finalized!

As you know, our seminarians, with their families and friends, as well as the entire St. Patrick's community, have faced many challenges because of the COVID-19 crisis. However, this experience will also help in their spiritual direction by allowing our men to develop a keener sense of compassion and empathy and a deep abandonment to the Mercy and Wisdom of God. Our spiritual formation plans will support that reflection and growth this coming year. Please pray for all of us as we approach a new seminary year in the Fall!



Anthony Lilles, S.T.D. has served the Church and assisted in the formation of clergy since 1994. Previously, he served as Academic Dean of St. John's Seminary. He holds both the ecclesiastical licentiate and doctorate in spiritual theology from the Angelicum. He was a founding faculty member of Saint John Vianney Seminary. He has recently published *Hidden Mountain Secret Garden, Omaha: Discerning Hearts*.

The Board of Trustees approved a new strategic plan for St. Patrick's Seminary entitled "Crossing the Threshold of Hope." At the time, the possibility of a major disruption to our academic year was not foreseen. Yet now, looking back, this was a moment of grace preparing St. Patrick's for the new work that God has begun in the midst of this difficult crisis. In particular, the plan envisions promoting a "kneeling theology" or a contemplative approach to theology that strives for an intelligence of the heart. The basis of such an approach is that the truths of the faith not only are true in themselves, but they are truth-bearing. That is, the truths we believe by faith bear the First Truth who is God revealed by the Word made flesh. The reason why we believe our sacred doctrine is because it communicates the very reality of the Holy Trinity into our lives in a transformative way. Our study is meant to assist in this transformation by helping us make the difficult connections between those truths and our lives. This means that the exploration of theology entails the most profound personal encounter of creature and Creator. In priestly formation, this encounter gives birth to pastoral charity - for to fully meet Christ means to be implicated in the merciful love that has compelled the Church for over two thousand years.

With so much at stake, it has been a challenging time for our student body and our professors. After March 17, 2020, Fr. Anthony Stoepel and Stephen Terlizzi worked overtime to introduce an online teaching modality that would carry us through to the end of the semester. Professors quickly adjusted their syllabi, and seminarians worked with their home schedules so that most classes could end on May 1, 2020. In the meantime, ATS and WASC

## INTELLECTUAL FORMATION IN THE MIDST OF PANDEMIC

assured us that accreditation standards surrounding online learning would be adjusted for the rest of the semester to accommodate the new situation under the guidance of the U.S. Department of Education.

The faculty met a couple of times to review whether the new modality was working. Everyone agreed that student learning, under current circumstances, is proceeding as much as can be hoped. Faculty members are concerned about the stress the current crisis has placed on the seminarians, but very impressed with the ways that the men have adapted to the situation. We also determined that final comprehensive exams for the STB, M.Div. and MA programs would be postponed until the Fall 2020 semester. In the meantime, M.Div. degrees would be awarded on May 8, 2021, with the condition that the comprehensive exam requirement would be fulfilled at a date in September. Whether we might have a commencement exercise in the future is still under discussion.

In the meantime, registration for the Fall Semester has begun. We are retaining all of our full-time professors for the next academic year and there are exciting developments next year. Adjustments to the sequence of courses will spread out biblical coursework throughout the theology curriculum. Discussions are also underway to introduce a robust Spanish for Pastoral Practice program as well as develop our offerings in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. The faculty assembly is also discerning some modifications to the organization of pre-theology courses so that more courses can be available, especially for those in the BA completion program. Dr. Kristin Kearns has been assisting students with remedial needs in language and study skills, and we have discerned a growing need to accompany seminarians so that they might achieve better success in student learning. As part of our strategic plan, we have moved her office to the library and are developing the student learning resources of the library so that it can better serve the emerging needs of our seminarians.

Another program, approved two years ago, will be implemented next May. Dr. Nina Heereman and Fr. Marc Valadao are preparing to lead 2nd and 3rd Year

theologians on a study and pilgrimage journey to the Holy Land at the end of the Academic Year 2020-2021. Over the 2019 Christmas break, Dr. Heereman made all the necessary arrangements, and we are hoping to provide a schedule and registration for seminarians in the Fall. While other seminaries have similar programs, this particular program will bring together biblical studies, church history, multi-cultural investigations, ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue together with spiritual conferences, daily prayer, and rich liturgical celebrations. All of this happens as seminarians visit the most important pilgrimage sites of our faith. This is envisioned to be a regular part of our intellectual formation program.

We are very grateful to Dr. Jill Fegley who joined our staff to chair our self-study steering committee. She completed our progress report to ATS and has been working to complete our self-study for our WASC accreditation reaffirmation. After consulting with Dr. Barbara Gross, the Vice President of WASC, we decided to maintain the timeline for this accreditation cycle. Our self-study will be turned in this summer and an Offsite Review conducted in early October. All of this is in preparation for the Onsite Visit in March, 2021. The contents of the self-study report will be made available prior to its submission and we are very grateful to everyone who has participated in this process. While there are areas for continued growth, the esprit de corps of the student body, the quality of academic faculty, as well as the cohesion of the staff are quite remarkable and a testimony to the leadership of Fr. Dan Donohoo. Even under the less than ideal circumstances of the pandemic, we are positioned for a successful reaffirmation of our accredited status.

“Crossing the Threshold of Hope” is the name of a book by Pope John Paul II. He wrote the book concerned that the believer in the modern metropolis not succumb to fear or anxiety. For most of the book, he argues against all the different fears that haunt hearts today. This corresponds with the beginning of his pontificate where he proclaimed from St. Peter’s Square, “Do not be afraid to open wide the doors to Christ.” As his work draws to a close, he does raise one fear that we need if we are to have hope at all. This holy fear is a filial fear of God, and the Scriptures tell us that it is the beginning of wisdom. Many are afraid of many things today, but we should only fear the One who deserves our reverence and love. Crossing the threshold of hope is a journey towards the wisdom the world needs today more than ever — and the faculty and seminarians of St. Patrick’s are ready for this great adventure.



# STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT



Ese'ese Ace Tui, is a seminarian studying for the Diocese of Honolulu. He was born and raised in American Samoa. He grew up in a home with 4 siblings (3 brothers and 1 sister). In 2006, he moved to Hawaii, where he felt his calling to the priesthood.



## ON LEADERSHIP

**O**le ala i le pule o le tautua – This is a Samoan phrase which, when translated means, “The path to leadership is through service.” When I started as the Student Body President for the 2019-2020 school year, I focused on this phrase for not only myself but also for the entire Student Body. As a Samoan, our culture understands the meaning of leadership and service as one who represents his community and one who sacrifices himself for the sake of the people.

This school year has been a year of challenges and sacrifices. These sacrifices came in the form of service that these men/brothers/seminarians provided for the good of St. Patrick’s. In the beginning, the seminarians baked different items for events at the seminary, allowing the men to show their stewardship of talent to the community and our guests. At these events, these men showed their willingness to serve not only those who came through our doors but also each other. Any act of service requires the sacrifice of time, talent, and effort for God’s people. A stark reminder that being a leader requires sacrifices.

This year, COVID-19 challenged everyone. When the seminary had to close the campus and move to distance learning, all of us were led on a different path that we never thought could happen. We had to make a huge sacrifice in our studies from in-class to distance learning. Our Theology 4 students had to give up their traditional graduation ceremony before they departed. However, I am confident that all of these events, cancellations and sacrifices will lead these men on a path to being extraordinary leaders for our future Church.

Therefore, it has been my greatest honor to serve as the president for the seminarians at St. Patrick’s Seminary & University. I pray to God that these men will open their hearts ever wider to Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, so that, once they journey through this path of formation, they will be good and humble servants for the Church and her people.

## Student Council Members

### President

Ese'ese “Ace” Tui  
*Diocese of Honolulu*

### Vice President

Huong Dinh  
*Diocese of Oakland*

### Secretary

Jumin “Paul” Park  
*Diocese of Suwon*

### Treasurer

Rene Vargas  
*Diocese of Fresno*

### Pre-Theology Class Representative

Alvaro Santamaria  
*Diocese of Oakland*

### Theology 1 Representative

Kurt Meyer  
*Diocese of Honolulu*

### Theology 2 Representative

Preston-Jay Castro  
*Diocese of Honolulu*

### Theology 3 Representative

Beomjung “John” Hwang  
*Diocese of Suwon*

### Theology 4 Representative

Dcn. June Valencia  
*Diocese of Agaña*

### Community Life & Growth

Huong Dinh - Chairman, John Paul Rabago,  
Zachary Munoz, Jose Maria Carrillo

### Peace & Social Justice/ Spiritual Life

Dcn. June Valencia - Chairman, Nick  
Castoldi, Dereck Delgado, Ivan Franco-  
Martin

### Security and Beautification

Beomjung “John” Hwang - Chairman, Lloyd  
Rebuldela, Larry Denis, and Jerick Rea

*Not pictured is Alvaro Santamaria, Diocese of  
Oakland*

# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*In gratitude to their benefactors, the academic community, and the Church, our faculty members offer the following academic achievements in thanks:*



**ANTHONY LILLES, STB** (Academic Dean) recently published the forward to *Give Peace to My Soul: Discover Elizabeth of the Trinity's Secret of Prayer*. He gave a lecture on *St. John of the Cross and Von Balthasar* at the Renewing Formation Symposium. He also led multiple spiritual retreats.

**KEVIN CLARKE, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture) provided scholars with translations for an upcoming Maximus the Confessor conference on the *Opuscula*. He also will give two 45-minute lectures at the conference



*The Incarnation in the Eucharist: "The Craftsmanship of God and The Craftsmanship of God and Σοφία vs. the Evil Craft of Idolaters in the Wisdom of Solomon."*

**FRANCIS E. FEINGOLD, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) will be publishing papers titled "Jacques Maritain and the 'Wounding of God'" and "Aquinas on Angelic Knowledge of the Actual Existence of Contingent Things."



He also delivered a presentation on Personalism and the Common Good." at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the American Maritain Association.

**JEFFEREY P. FROULA, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Moral Theology) will present a talk, entitled "The Coherence of the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching as Developed by the Magisterium" for *Development of Doctrine: Revelation, Magisterium, and Human Reason* for The Sacra



Doctrina Project with Mount Mercy University.



**NINA S. HEEREMAN, SSD** (Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture) will publish a chapter entitled, *Recuperating the Song of Songs as Religious Poetry. Building a Bridge from Composition to Canon* in the upcoming book *The Song of Songs in Its Context: Word for Love, Love for Words*.



**JOHN MACIAS, PhD** (Assistant Professor of Philosophy) published an article entitled, "The State of the Seminary and Reasons for Hope." He also will publish a chapter entitled, "The Liberal Arts amid Contemporary Social Structures: The Case of Frodo Baggins," in *Leisure and Labor: Essays on the Liberal Arts in Catholic Higher Education*.

**MARGARET M. TUREK, STD** (Professor of Dogmatics and Director of MA Theology Program) will publish an



upcoming article entitled, "Forgiveness and Atonement: A 'Patrogenetic' Process" in *Communio: International Catholic Review*. She also has an upcoming book, *Atonement: Soundings in Biblical, Trinitarian, and Spiritual Theology*.

**ADRIAN WALKER, PhD** (Professor of Theology)



will publish a chapter entitled, *Nexus Indissolubilis: A Balthasarian Augustinian Mediation on the Spousal Embrace* in *The Body as Anticipatory Sign: Commemorating the Anniversaries of Humane Vitae and Veritatis Splendor*.

*Additional faculty accomplishments can be found on the St. Patrick's Seminary website:*

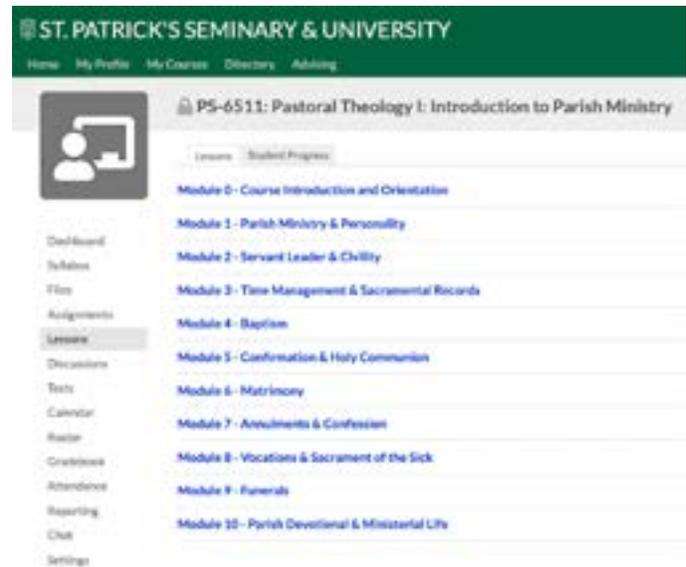
[www.stpsu.edu/faculty-accomplishments](http://www.stpsu.edu/faculty-accomplishments)

Good priests preach and teach well, but great priests shepherd the Church entrusted to their care with excellent ministry and administration. To enhance the opportunity to practice the theory learned in the Parish Ministry and Parish Administration classes, St. Patrick's Seminary has converted those two courses to an on-line format that seminarians complete during their pastoral year. These courses give direction and depth to the Pastoral Year without overburdening the seminarian with academic work so that he fully immerses himself in parish life.

The fall semester course on parish ministry guides the seminarians through a comprehensive look at Canon Law and their local church policies for the ministry of every sacrament, annulments, funerals, and various devotions. The spring semester course on parish administration covers diocesan and parish organizational structures, human resource and staff management, financial management, fundraising, accountability, transparency, and strategic planning through the lens of diocesan policies and best practices. Most seminarians may not find these topics very interesting relative to their other theological studies, but pastors know that priests need a solid grasp of these areas to function effectively in the parish.

The structure of the on-line modality allows each seminarian the flexibility he needs to experience parish life to the fullest, and all the unforeseen events that arise, while completing the course work at his own pace. Taking the courses on-line lets the seminarian tailor his study to reading, analyzing, and applying the particular policies of his diocese, not a generalized conversation with no specificity.

## ST. PATRICK'S INTRODUCES ONLINE TEACHING



Seminarians use their diocesan policies to complete case studies, discussions, and theological reflections. The case studies come from real-world examples that seminarians discuss in an effort to find the best way of handling a situation.

Because the seminarians learn the guidelines and customs of their diocese while working in a parish, the men witness the content of their classes put into action by the pastor and parochial vicar of their parish. Further, the seminarians are encouraged to have conversations about the case studies and discussions with the priests of their diocese. These “priestly” conversations help build lasting bonds between seminarians and the presbyterate.

Meanwhile, because the seminarians keep regular contact with a faculty member of St. Patrick's through weekly communication, the men continue to feel connected to the seminary, even if they live away from it for a year or more. After completing the Pastoral Year and learning about parish ministry and administration, the seminarians do not feel like they return to a place they left, because they have been digitally connected all along. They more seamlessly arrive back at St. Patrick's for the last two years of formation before being ordained a priest of Jesus Christ forever.

## LIBRARY UPDATE



Matthew Horwitz was appointed to the position of Library Director in January 2020, having worked at Gellert Memorial Library in other capacities since October 2016. He received his M.A. in Philosophy and M.A. in Theology from the Dominican School of Philosophy & Theology in Berkeley. He currently resides in Menlo Park.

Gellert Memorial Library underwent at least three significant shifts during the 2019-2020 academic year. The first was a shift in personnel; the second, a shift in the utilization of the library space; and the third, a shift in the primary means by which patrons access library resources.

After working at the library for seven years, six of them in the capacity of Library Director, Mr. David Kriegh left St. Patrick's in January for a job at St. Mary's College in Moraga, California. After learning of his decision last December, I was told to meet with Dr. Anthony Lilles, the Academic Dean of the seminary, for what I assumed would be a discussion of the likely timetable for our hiring of a new director. Instead, he asked me if I would like to step into the role myself! Ultimately, I accepted the offer, taking up the directorship of the library on January 6th. I want to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to David for his many years of service to the library and to the St. Patrick's community at large, and for the mentoring that he offered me in the more than three years of our collaboration, which helped to prepare me for what I am doing now.

My new duties at the library notwithstanding, I decided not to take over the office that formerly had been occupied by David (and his predecessors before him). This room was instead given over, at the end of February, to Dr. Kristen Kearns, Director of the English

Language Center at St. Patrick's, who now uses it not only as a personal office but also as the site of ELC workshops and tutoring sessions. The transformation of that space is the first step in an ongoing process of establishing a learning resource center in the library, which will entail, among other things, that services designed to assist student learning will be offered in the library rather than at locations scattered throughout the campus. The 2020-2021 academic year will see a good deal of additional movement on this front.

Finally, in March, there came a development that no one could have foreseen even a few weeks prior: the temporary closing of the St. Patrick's campus on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. With all of the students having moved off-campus, and with staff and non-resident faculty spending little if any time on the seminary grounds, the library staff have been obliged to look for ways of providing our community with remote access to our resources. To this end, we have taken the step of purchasing a book scanning system, which will facilitate the rapid transferal of print material to a digital medium for academic use--and will, I suspect, also come in extremely handy in various other ways when things go back to normal. It has, in other words, been quite a year for the library, as for the St. Patrick's community in general. I look forward to the next, and to whatever challenges and opportunities it may bring!



# NEW FACULTY – 2019-2020

## REV. LAWRENCE HERRERA, SJ

Fr. Herrera studied for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for six years and then entered the Society of Jesus. After ordination, he worked as a parish priest in Hollywood, California. He served at St. John's Seminary College for 8 years and was the Director of Spiritual Formation, Senate President and Chair of the Social Sciences Department. He was Director of Spiritual Formation and Psychological Services at the Pontifical College Josephinum and was spiritual father at the Collegio Bellarmino in Rome for three years. He served seven years as a Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College in Rome.



## REV. ANTHONY STOEPPEL

Fr. Anthony Stoeppel brings significant diocesan experience to the Seminary. He was most recently Vicar General of the Diocese of Tyler and also served as Chairman of the Parish & Mission Assistance Program and President of Bishop Thomas K. Gorman Catholic Schools, as well as pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish, a largely Spanish-speaking parish in the Diocese of Tyler. Fr. Stoeppel attended Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, and holds a Doctorate of Sacred Theology in the field of bioethics from Pontifical University of Santa Croce.



## KEVIN M. CLARKE, PhD

Dr. Kevin Clarke is a scholar of Biblical Theology and Patrology (the study of the Church Fathers) whose research focuses primarily upon patristic readings of Scripture. His Ph.D. dissertation under the direction of Dr. Michael Waldstein focused on Maximus the Confessor's Biblical way of understanding Christ's humanity in the monothelite controversy. He has served on the faculties of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, Ave Maria University, and John Paul the Great Catholic University. He is currently associate editor of the Mariological journal *Ecce Mater Tua*.



## REV. GORAN JOVICIC, PhD, JCL

Father Goran Jovicic is a Roman Catholic priest from Diocese of Subotica in Serbia. He has a Doctor of Theology with a major in Canon Law and a minor in Dogmatic Theology/Ecumenism. Fr. Jovicic is current studying for his JCD at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest. He is teaching Ecclesiology for the seminary and for deacon formation.

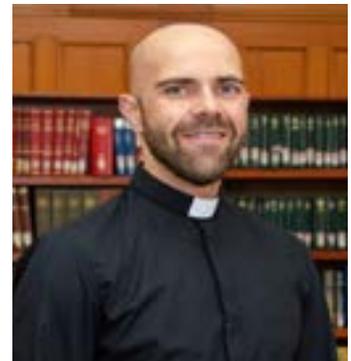




### JOHN MACIAS, PhD

Dr. John Macias, a native of Wichita, KS, earned his PhD in Philosophy in 2016 from the Center for Thomistic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX, where he received a strong background in the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas and the Catholic intellectual tradition. His doctoral dissertation focused on the political philosophy of Alasdair MacIntyre, and it was entitled, “Alasdair MacIntyre’s Flourishing Human Being and Small-Scale Political Communities.” Prior to coming to St. Patrick’s, Dr. Macias served as Residence Life Scholar at University of Mary in Bismarck, ND, where he held appointments in Philosophy, Catholic Studies, and Residence Life.

### REV. MARC P. VALADÃO, SJ



Fr. Marc Valadão, SJ has taught religious studies including Sacred Scripture, sacraments, and philosophy at a college preparatory level in California and Arizona. He also was the Catholic chaplain at San Quentin State Prison, conducting visits to inmates, teaching courses on Scripture, and serving as a transitional deacon. He served as a substitute pastor at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Turlock, CA.



### ADRIAN WALKER, PhD

Dr. Walker has taught theology and philosophy at The Catholic University of America’s School of Theology and Religious Studies, The Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family at The Catholic University of America, and the Pontificio and Istituto Giovanni Paolo II per Studi su Matrimonio e Famiglia. In addition to his own publications, Dr. Walker has translated and edited numerous philosophical and theological texts into English, German, Spanish, and Italian. He is an editor of *Communio: International Catholic Review*. He is fluent in English, Italian, German, Spanish, and French.

# *Gala* 2020



Rev. Joseph Fessio, SJ receiving  
the Patrician Award at the Gala 2019

## HONORING CATHOLIC EDUCATION

On September 14, 2019, at its 12th Annual Gala celebration, St. Patrick's Seminary honored Ignatius Press for its contribution to Catholic Education. Rev. Joseph Fessio, the founder of Ignatius Press, accepted the Patrician Award. The evening had a spirit of joy and prayerfulness among the seminarians and all in attendance. The Gala raises the operational funds necessary for St. Patrick's mission to form courageous men of reflection and action who live joyous lives as a priest.

As a leader in the publication and distribution of Catholic print, video, and audio materials, especially books and films, Ignatius Press has brought many valuable theological works to print – some of which we use at the seminary. For instance, De Lubac, Balthasar, and Ratzinger were and are among the most distinguished Catholic theologians of the 20th century. However, in the 1970s, few of their works were known in the United States and even fewer were available in English translation. Ignatius Press served the good of the Catholic Church by making these works available to English-speaking readers. Later, they added other European and American theologians and authors.

Father Dan Donohoo, the new President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary, commented in his speech, "I will strive to



make a difference by emulating Christ and bringing a pastoring perspective to the role of rector. The Lord Jesus Christ is who we are to evidence in our ministry, our pastoring of God's people." He emphasized the importance of the contribution of Ignatius Press, "Proper education is a critical component of the formation of the priest as a shepherd after the heart of Christ."

In his acceptance speech, Father Fessio stressed the importance of planting seeds and watching them grow. For more than 40 years, Ignatius Press has been planting these seeds by bringing English translations of authentically Catholic teachings to the Church. They have also provided valuable study aids, such as the Ignatius Bible, and produces various periodicals, such as Catholic World Report.

Speakers at the Gala included Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone, Archbishop of San Francisco; Rev. Daniel Donohoo, President-Rector; Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly, Bishop of Spokane; Student Body President William Mamangun from the Archdiocese of Agaña; and Gala Chairperson Mrs. Martha Sheridan. Also in attendance was Most Rev. Oscar Cantu, Bishop of San Jose. The program included tours, vespers, cocktails and dinner, a grand raffle, and silent and live auctions.







## COMMUNITY DAY 2020

For Community Day 2020, our seminarians took to the athletic fields for some friendly competition against their brothers in the “Battle of the Classes.” The events ranged from a game of pantomime telephone to a ball toss to a wheelbarrow race and other games of dexterity. It ended with a game of Seminarian Jeopardy in the refectory.

The event kicked off with the torch lighting by Student Body President Ace Tui after some brief remarks by Father Dan Donohoo. Each class then unveiled their class colors and cheers in a competition. The blue Theology 1 team’s cheer sounded awfully like a World Cup cheer and the winning class cheer went to Theology 4 for their cheer based on Queen’s “We Will Rock You.”

Afterward, the games began with Fr. Pius Pietrzyk, OP as the judge and Grace

Laxamana as the official scorekeeper. Oakland Seminarians John Paul Rabago and Huong Dinh were the organizers of the events. To bring the Pre-Theology team to a full complement of players, Fr. Larry Herrera, SJ and Dr. John Macias joined the team. The Oblate Sisters were there to root for our seminarians.

The Theology 1 team emerged from the field events with a lead going into the final Seminarian Jeopardy event. The Theology 4 team made a strong showing in Seminarian Jeopardy to try to take the crown, but they fell short. Theology 1 emerged as the victor in the “2020 Battle of the Classes.”

All the participants and the entire Seminary community were treated to an excellent lunch cooked by David Mees of the Archdiocese of San Francisco and Arrion Rosales-Llantos of the Diocese of Honolulu. It was a fun day enjoyed by everyone.





## ST. PATRICK'S HOSTS MEDICAL ETHICS CONFERENCE

In February 2020, St. Patrick's hosted, with the St. John Paul II Foundation, Archdiocese of San Francisco, and Catholic Medical Association, a Converging Roads health care ethics conference on the theme of Catholic Medicine in a Secular Society. The Converging Roads conference series offers continuing education for health care professionals that equips them to practice the highest ethical and medical standards of their profession.

A broad range of topics was covered, including Stem Cell Research & Use of Cell Lines Derived from Aborted Fetuses in Research by Rev. Nicanor Pier Giorgio Austriaco, OP, PhD, STD, Spiritual Warfare & Dissociative Identity Disorder by Cynthia Hunt, MD, a panel on Post-Abortive Healing & Reversal of Chemical Abortions with George Delgado, MD, Cynthia Hunt, MD, and Rev. Vito Perrone, COSJ, and other interesting topics.

Fr. Nicanor gave an in-depth discussion on the use of stem cells including those from embryonic lines. He spoke about some of the latest research in this area and also shared the levels of moral culpability in the use of embryonic stem cells. He framed it with the analogy on whether or not a virtuous tourist can use Roman roads built by slaves. Is that a tacit approval of slavery? In short, it depends on the degree of cooperation with someone doing evil. Formal cooperation such as a boyfriend bringing a girlfriend to an abortion has a high degree of complicity – thus both are equally guilty of the immoral act.

The degree of material cooperation (i.e. does not intend for the immoral act to occur) depends upon how necessary the cooperation is for the act to occur (Immediate vs. Mediate) and the question of whether the person's contribution leads to the commission of the act (Proximate vs. Remote) affect the moral standing of the person cooperating in or benefiting from the act. If the material cooperation is immediate or proximate, then the person is guilty of the immoral act. Otherwise, the guilt may be mitigated or non-existent. For example, anyone using the discoveries from stem cell research may not be culpable of any evil done by the scientists...the virtuous tourist can

walk the Roman road.

Dr. Cynthia Hunt presented a discussion on demonic oppression, obsession, infestation and possession, in the context of medical and mental health discernment. There are 'open doors' to demonic affliction which can include occult practices, habitual mortal sin, addiction, trauma, curses, generational sin, freemasonry and New Age practices, among others. Some signs of possession include aversion to sacred objects and places, superhuman strength, knowledge of hidden things, and sudden comprehension of strange languages. Dr. Hunt emphasized that sometimes a person with demonic affliction can have spiritual, medical and/or mental health issues. One needs to trust in Jesus as the Divine Physician who is the Healer of all illness.

There was also an interesting panel on RU-486 and the potential for reversal therapy. RU-486 the 'abortion pill', (not the 'morning-after pill') consists of two doses: mifepristone (Mifeprex) and oral misoprostol (Cytotec). Mifepristone is a hormone which blocks progesterone, which keeps the placenta attached to the uterus. Without progesterone, the placenta detaches and the baby dies. Misoprostol causes uterine contractions and forces the remains out. According to industry studies, 25% of the time the abortion does not occur. If intercepted in time, reversal therapy (which replenishes progesterone) can save the baby 67% of the time. Clearly, reversal therapy can be very effective and safe if administered in time.

One of our seminarians said of the conference, "[This] is not just a religious topic but a clinical-spiritual statement. Humans have not only an organic and biological side to be cured, but also a spiritual component that only God is able to heal through the Catholic Church - prayer, grace & sacraments - and also through us - compassion, care, and love."



## CELEBRATING LUNAR NEW YEAR

In January, St. Patrick's Seminary hosted its celebration of the 2020 Lunar New Year, which included the Holy Mass and traditional Vietnamese New Year food and music. We also had some fireworks and dancing dragons to add to the festivities courtesy of the Dragon Dancing Group.

The Holy Mass was done in Vietnamese and its melodious music was provided by the Fatima Choir of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and its Choir Director, Mrs. Thanh Binh. We were blessed with Rev. John Hoang as the celebrant and Rev. Mr. Joseph Phuc Tran as deacon, both from the Diocese of San Jose. They were assisted by Rev. Mr. Ian Quito as deacon, along with the rest of St. Patrick seminarians. Mr. Hinh Vo and Mrs. Minh Tam were our lectors.

The Lunar New Year, also known as Tết or Tết Nguyên Đán, is an important festival for the Vietnamese people and several other countries in eastern Asia. It is a time for us to remember family and celebrate by eating traditional, homemade Vietnamese food, participating in the dragon dance, and enjoying traditional dancing and singing. Our celebration followed the Mass in Riordan Hall.

St. Patrick's Seminary is blessed to have such an active Asian community supporting our mission. God bless you all.

## FEAST OF SAN LORENZO

The entire St. Patrick's community celebrated the Feast Day of San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, who is the patron saint of the Philippines and the Filipino people. Ruiz was a missionary to Japan during the Tokugawa Shogunate in the mid-17th century and eventually was martyred along with his companions for his Catholic beliefs."

We had a procession around the main circle, a Holy Mass in the main chapel, and a wonderful reception in the refectory. Holy Mass was celebrated by Father Ernesto Jandonero '19 of the Archdiocese of San Francisco assisted by Deacons Ron Pangan and June Valencia of the Archdiocese of Agaña. The homily was given by Father Victor Trinidad of the Diocese of San Jose, who detailed the incredible sacrifice that San Lorenzo and his companions made for the faith.

After the Holy Mass, guests danced with the statute while processing to the refectory to the beat of drums and tambourines, a tradition which comes from the Old Testament. The night ended with the Tinikling (bamboo dance) where two people beat, tap, and slide bamboo poles on the ground and against each other while one or more dancers step over and in between the poles in a dance. Dancers tried to imitate the tikling bird's grace and speed by successfully maneuvering between large bamboo poles.



## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

In December, the Hispanic Community of St. Patrick's Seminary hosted an all day celebration of the feast of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. In the morning everyone sang mañanitas with the Oblate Sisters at their convent. The entire community honored our Blessed Mother and each other as a Church community under her protection with a Spanish Mass followed by dinner and entertainment in the evening.

The Mass was celebrated by Rev. David Lopez '18 with Rev. Mr. Ron Pangan assisting as a deacon. The music was provided by the St. Patrick's Spanish Choir and seminarian William Mamangun on the piano. Included in the program were wonderful songs, including Las Manos Abiertas, Cordero de Dios and Cábtico de María. Also, the Oblate Sisters renewed their vows during the Mass.

The evening continued with a social cocktail party and dinner with delightful Mariachi music and dancing provided by Mrs. Dolores Moreno and the Martinez family and young dancers from St. Joseph's Co-op School. Our seminarians were in very good spirits having just completed their final exams and papers. Many departed for home early the next day.





Bryan Fegley is the Director of Advancement at St. Patrick's Seminary. He spent most of his life in Maine and North Carolina. Bryan has an MA in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University and a BA in Religious Studies from North Carolina State University. He previously discerned priestly vocation, studying as a seminarian for the Diocese of Raleigh and then with the Dominican Friars. Previously, he worked at UNC Wilmington in Advancement.

**G**reetings to all of you during these trying times. Please know I have been praying for your health, safety, and wellbeing.

I am approaching the end of my first year as the Director of Advancement. It has been a privilege to get to know the community and help advance the mission of the seminary. I want to thank all of our donors for their generous support this year, especially during these difficult times.

I felt called to work at the seminary because our mission is essential for the Church, both locally and universally. Building relationships will help St. Patrick's Seminary continue to form faithful priests into the future. I am excited and humbled to have the opportunity to serve our seminarians, faculty, staff, priests, the local Catholic community, and you at St. Patrick's Seminary.

Fundraising was once described as "the gentle art of teaching the joy of giving." As many of you know, this sentiment captures the reality of what it means to be a supporter of St. Patrick's Seminary. Our men are genuine, high-quality individuals. You should find true joy in the knowledge that your gift is assisting them discern and train for the priesthood.

The seminary continues to grow and change, upholding a 123-year long march of progress. Last summer we completed a new Marian Garden in the back of the seminary property. The project was led by Fr. Patrick Driscoll and supported by several generous individuals who wish to continue the

beautification of our grounds. This past September we held our 12th Annual Gala honoring Ignatius Press. The night was a great celebration, fraternity, and was the most successful Gala to date! In regard to our next Gala, we are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation for the Fall and whether we can safely host an event.

The future for all of us remains uncertain during these times. How we overcome future challenges is unclear, but we will do it together. When we decided to send our seminarians home in mid-March, we had to switch to an online modality in one week to continue our academic and spiritual formation. I want to thank all of those that assisted us during this abrupt transition, especially those that helped fund a new state of the art book scanner for the library. This device will greatly help with remote instruction as well as academic research.

Despite the global pandemic and ensuing economic hardships, the Lord still calls worthy men to the priesthood, a reason that should bring hope about the future. All of us at St. Patrick's Seminary are passionately committed in continuing to walk with these men on their vocational journey, no matter how challenging that path is. We are able to do this because of our wonderful and dedicated community of supporters, like you.

Thank you for all that you do for St. Patrick's Seminary & University. May God Bless you and your family.



## WAYS TO GIVE

St. Patrick's Seminary & University is truly grateful for your support. When you make a gift, you join a growing number of individuals and families who value the academic, spiritual and co-curricular education being offered here. There are a number of ways to contribute:

**Online** - Make a gift or pledge via credit card using our secure online system at [stpsu.edu/online-giving-page](https://stpsu.edu/online-giving-page).

**By Mail** - Make checks payable to St. Patrick's Seminary and mail to: Advancement Office, St. Patrick's Seminary & University, 320 Middlefield Rd., Menlo Park, CA 94025.

**With Gifts of Stock/Annuities** - If you would like to make a gift of stock, all transfers are handled through the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The transfer instructions include all of the information needed to get you started. Please inform us of the company name and number of shares being donated for acknowledgment and tracking purposes. If you have any questions, please contact Bryan Fegley at [advancement@stpsu.edu](mailto:advancement@stpsu.edu) or 650-289-3355.

**With a Gift of a Charitable IRA Rollover** - If your IRA's required minimum distribution (RMD) is causing you to pay higher taxes, then a Charitable IRA Rollover may be the answer. It allows anyone aged 70½ and older to make direct transfers of up to \$100,000 per year from individual retirement accounts to qualified charities without having to count the transfers as income for federal tax purposes; yet are still eligible to be counted toward an individual's required minimum distribution. If it sounds interesting, please contact Bryan Fegley to learn more.

**With Planned Giving** - To ensure a strong future for St. Patrick's Seminary & University, the institution and its mission is reliant upon the generosity of others, today and tomorrow. There are numerous Planned Giving options by which donors may leave a legacy of support that will have a positive impact on generations of seminarians

to come. Remembering St. Patrick's in your estate plans can also assist in meeting your financial and tax-planning needs. Whether through bequests, charitable remainder trusts, or other means, gifting St. Patrick's through Planned Giving is a wonderful way to fulfill your philanthropic wishes and honor a lifetime of generosity. We encourage you to contact Bryan Fegley, who can assist in answering any questions you may have.

**With Matching Gifts** - Many corporations will match philanthropic donations made by their employees. This is a great way to maximize your gift. You could possibly double your gift with a corporate match. Simply send us the appropriate paperwork from your employer's human resources or personnel department, and your gift to St. Patrick's will be matched according to your company's guidelines.

### Jerick Rea

Archdiocese  
of San Francisco



It has been three years since I began the process of formation, a journey that would be impossible without the focused support and assistance of others. I've seen quite a lot occur in my relatively short time here. I look back at our annual Gala and am happy at the enthusiasm that I experienced from the attendees for St. Patrick's.

In spite of all of the recent challenges that we've faced as an institution, I feel very confident about our future. Your prayers and backing have led St. Patrick's to a vastly improved position and have helped in ways both big and small and on both a communal and personal level. I can speak for my fellow seminarians that your generosity has helped us to feel cherished, nurtured, and sustained. I thank you immensely for your wonderful partnership with us in our blessed mission.

Should you ever come to visit our seminary or attend the annual Gala, I'll be happy to express my gratitude with you in person.

**“TO THE SOURCE OF THE GANGES  
AND THEN HOME TO ROME”  
BY FR. KEVIN JOYCE '80**



**D**uring the summers of 2018 and 2019 I began writing my spiritual autobiography at the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur. My original intention was to write a book about the spiritual masters and mentors who have played pivotal roles in my spiritual journey, believing that exposure to these great souls could

inspire and orient others on their journeys. In particular, I wanted to reach young adults who are searching for inspiration and a spiritual home in Far Eastern traditions. However, a good Jewish friend who is widely published told me that readers interested in spirituality are looking for a personal story more than information about spiritual masters and traditions. He encouraged me to use the genre of a spiritual autobiography through which I could present the masters and mentors who have helped shape my life.

The title of this article is my proposed title for the book that I hope to complete this summer. The title reflects a long period of my life during which I investigated the spirituality of the Far East. Ironically, it was through my intense interest in the East that I discovered the great spiritual masters of Christianity, “came home to Rome,” and rediscovered my vocation to the priesthood.

In 1963 I entered St. Joseph College High School in Mountain View. I enjoyed my high school career and entered the seminary college program assuming that I would have a smooth path ahead of me. I never suspected how much turbulence would shake my Freshman year that began in 1967, just after the “summer of love” in the San Francisco Bay Area. Overnight it felt as though the Bay Area and much of the United States had entered into a cultural

revolution. For the young adult generation, “drugs, sex and rock-and-roll” seemed to reign.

The seminary was not immune from such destabilizing influences. Traditional Catholicism became widely dismissed as irrelevant, in particular, its practices of solemn liturgy, popular devotions, and silent meditation. The focus was on social transformation and work on behalf of the disadvantaged, but such good work became disconnected from its spiritual foundations. My generation was quickly forgetting the Gospel truth that the only power that can lead to liberation of the oppressed and the oppressors is divine love.

Unfortunately, the seminary did not provide adequate training in personal meditation nor were we exposed to the spiritual masters of our own tradition. I was engaged in excessive social ministry and had become frazzled and discouraged by my sophomore year. I longed for inner peace. A couple of friends had begun the practice of Transcendental Meditation through which they claimed to find peace of mind and release of stress. I decided to learn the method and I found it helpful. That was the beginning of a long personal investigation into the relationship between Christian spirituality and the practices of the Far East.

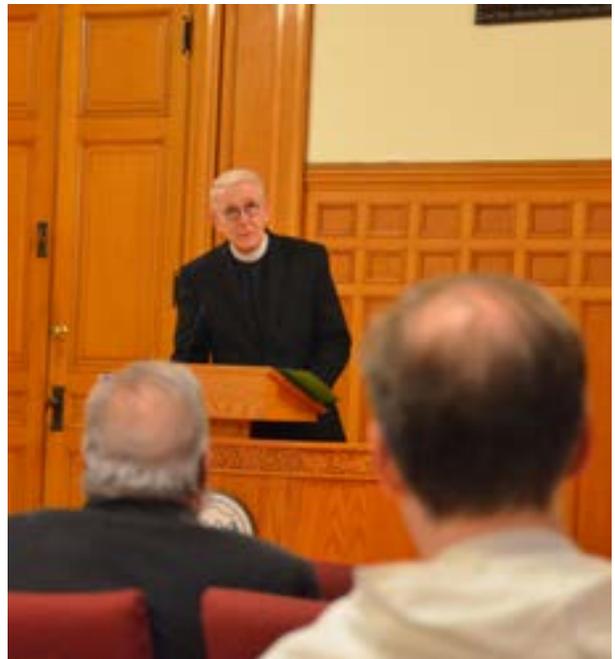
During a Junior Year Abroad program in Mexico, I fell in love and entered into a vocational crisis. I returned to the seminary for my senior year, trying to resolve my confusion. Finally, I concluded that I didn’t have a priestly vocation and I returned to Mexico to pursue a possible marriage. After much drama and heartbreak, I returned to California and decided to attend a six-month advanced Eastern meditation course in Spain. It was on that course that I met a Trappist monk who had experience of the Jesus Prayer, the ancient meditation practice that is the preferred method of the Christian East—both Orthodox and Catholic. I finally began to encounter substantial Christian teachings about contemplative prayer.

For the next five years I continued with my Far Eastern Practice while trying to deepen my connection with Christ and the Catholic tradition. Then on a long retreat, I unexpectedly had an overpowering experience of being called back to the seminary. Upon return, I undertook a Master's Thesis comparing and contrasting St. Teresa of Avila's teachings on contemplation with Far Eastern meditation teachings. Eight years after ordination, I wrote a doctoral dissertation exploring much more thoroughly the entire spiritual journey as described by both traditions.

The book that I am now writing describes my spiritual journey and presents the masters and mentors who significantly impacted that journey. The book will also explore my investigations comparing and contrasting the Far Eastern and Christian spiritual paths. I treat the Far Eastern traditions respectfully, but I do not shy away from bringing to light what I consider serious deficiencies and errors. At the same time, the book argues that Christians must do much more in providing solid theology and effective practices to support and enlighten Christians in their spiritual journeys.

## PRIESTS' DAY 2019

Our alumni encountered a full day of activities at the 2019 Priests' Day at St. Patrick's Seminary. At Nativity School's gym, their blood got moving with a hard-fought morning basketball game. In the afternoon, the minds of our alumni were exercised by an extremely thought-provoking presentation by Fr. Dennis McManus, followed by an evening Mass celebrated by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. We had an excellent homily by Msgr. John Talesfore '89. Our alumni celebrated the day with a lively social and dinner, where we awarded the Patrician Award to Father Kevin Joyce '80 for his excellent teaching and ongoing support of St. Patrick's Seminary. We also honored our 2019 Jubilarians from the Ordination Classes of 1959, 1969, 1979, and 1994.



## IN MEMORIAM



**HIS EMINENCE,  
WILLIAM CARDINAL LEVADA**

In September 2019, Cardinal Levada died peacefully in his sleep in his apartment in Italy. He was 83 years of age. Cardinal Levada was Archbishop of San Francisco from December 1995 until the spring of 2005 when Pope Benedict XVI asked him to serve as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. He served in that capacity in Rome from 2005 until 2012, and was the highest-ranking American in the Roman Curia. He was a strong advocate for St. Patrick's Seminary. He was known for his giving heart and great compassion for the priests and people of the Church.



**MOST REV. ROBERT  
CHRISTIAN, OP**

In July of 2019, the St. Patrick's community lost its Rector-President Bishop Robert Christian when he died unexpectedly in his sleep. We were greatly blessed to have his wisdom and leadership. He was a native San Franciscan, educated in the Bay Area, and entered the Dominican Order in Oakland. He taught theology, ministered to the Dominican community in Rome, held administrative offices at the Angelicum, and offered occasional assistance to various Vatican bureaus, until 2014. In June 2018, he was ordained a bishop at St. Mary's Cathedral. Shortly thereafter, he became rector of St. Patrick's Seminary & University.



**MOST REV. PIERRE  
DUMAINE, PHD**

Bishop DuMaine was the founding Bishop of the Diocese of San Jose. He passed away in June of 2019. He was an alumnus of both Saint Joseph's College Seminary, Mountain View, and Saint Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Bishop DuMaine succeeded in the largest privately funded renewal project of downtown San Jose: the restoration of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Joseph. He was a visionary who recognized the significant role of technology in social communications and the Church's mission of evangelization. Bishop DuMaine was known for his great intelligence and wit.



**KAREN C. CHAN, PHD**

Dr. Karen C. Chan, outgoing Academic Dean of St. Patrick's Seminary & University, died tragically in an automobile accident on the evening of May 31, 2019 in Texas. Dr. Chan served seven years at St. Patrick's Seminary, first as an Assistant Professor of Philosophy and then as its Academic Dean from 2016 until the end of the 2019 school year. She saw the world through the eyes of faith. Her lasting legacy to the Seminary will be the many students she taught to see with those same 'Catholic eyes.'

Mr. Bruce J. Atkinson '58  
Mr. James T. Bill '59  
Most Rev. Alexander J. Brunett  
Rev. Robert W. Charm '77  
Rev. Patrick H. Curran '01  
Rev. Richard S. Deitch '86  
Rev. Benedict S. DeLeon '80

Ms. Josephine Dunkin  
Rev. Edward J. Frazer, PSS  
Rev. Mr. Fred Iskander  
Rev. Brian T. Joyce '63  
Mr. George T. Kiesel  
Mr. William B. May  
Rev. Paul D. Minnihan '93

Rev. Mr. William Mitchell  
Rev. James E. Parkes  
Rev. Msgr. John R. Pernia '58  
Mr. John D. Piacitelli '48  
Mr. Merlin W. Porter, Jr. '54  
Rev. Mathew Vellankal  
Mr. James J. Walsh '56



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**Our only announcement in this difficult year of the COVID-19 virus is our ongoing prayers for those fighting to keep us safe and healthy in this time of need.**

**God, our healthcare workers and first responders are working long hours with a high risk of contracting the coronavirus themselves. Please bring Your protection upon them as they work with their patients.**

**Help us to develop better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines to prevent it, and identify ways to eliminate the disease's spread. Provide for us in our times of need.**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff comfort me.**

**Amen.**

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We are updating our database.

Please send any email or mailing address updates.



/stpatricksssem

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING CLASS

(L-R) Rev. Mr. Ian Quito (San Francisco); Rev. Mr. Honorio Pangan, Jr. (Agaña); Rev. Mr. Benjamin Rosado (San Francisco); Rev. Mr. Junee Valencia (Agaña); Br. Francis Joseph Mary of the Most Holy Trinity Coyne, COSJ (Contemplatives of Saint Joseph); Mr. Candelario Jimenez Rosales (Oakland); Not Pictured - Rev. John Plass (Santa Rosa)



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