August 18, 2015 marked a day of remembrance and celebration for a man revered by the Brighton community—Bishop John Michael D’Arcy. On the day that would have been his 83rd birthday, nearly 200 friends, family members, and former parishioners gathered at the Our Lady of the Presentation Lecture Hall for a dedication of Saint John’s Seminary’s new conference room in his name. During a ceremony planned in part by his sisters, Joan D’Arcy Sheridan and Sr. Anne D’Arcy of the Sisters of St. Joseph, remarks were given by Sr. Anne, as well as Monsignor Moroney. Following the short dedication and a ribbon cutting by the youngest members of the D’Arcy family, everyone moved outdoors for a picnic and regaled one another with stories of their experiences with and memories of their beloved Bishop John.

John Michael D’Arcy was born in Brighton, studied at Saint John’s Seminary and was ordained a priest in 1957. He served as a parish priest at Saint Mary’s Star of the Sea in Beverly, MA, before going on to study in Rome, where he earned an S.T.D. in Spirituality in 1968. After this he was appointed Spiritual Director and Professor of Spirituality here at Saint John’s Seminary, and in 1975 was also ordained an Auxiliary Bishop in Boston. During this appointment he founded the office of Spiritual Development for the Archdiocese, known today as the Office of Spiritual Life. In 1981 he was appointed Regional Bishop for the Lowell Region of the Archdiocese of Boston, and four years later was named the Bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese by Pope John Paul II. He remained there in Indiana beyond his retirement in 2010, until his passing in 2013. Bishop D’Arcy will forever be remembered as a man who spoke the truth, even when it was difficult to do so, a lifelong Red Sox fan, and above all else, a loving shepherd of the Church.
Note from the Rector

Dear Friends,

As we走到 business in these days of return and new beginnings, I want to remind you that you are prayed for in this Holy House. By the thirty-two “new men” (the most in fifteen assignments!) and all the “old men” who come back to the seminary from their summer assignments and train with family and friends renewed and ready to take up the important work of discernment and formation that God has given them.

All sorts of changes prepare us for the new year, from new classroom space to the dedication of the Bishop D’Arcy Conference Room to joining the Holy Father in Washington D.C. for the canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra. Speaking of which, as I mention below, shipping all the seminarians to Washington D.C. for this event has been a big and unanticipated expense. Your help, whatever is possible, is and continues to be deeply appreciated.

As your support is always deeply appreciated. So often, when I pray for you and those who you love, I am reminded of Saint Paul’s letter to the Philippians: “I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now.”

Remembrance and thanksgiving are at the heart of our faith and the heart of our theology of the Eucharist. Please know you are fondly remembering at the Altar each morning at Saint John’s Seminary as we remember the ways you help us to lead these men close to Christ and closer to that day when they will fulfill their will for him.

In the Lord,

Monsignor’s Wish List

Are you looking to direct your funds to a special need or project? This issue’s “wish list” has just one item. Late this summer, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) asked that all seminarians be present to greet the Holy Father before the Mass of Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra in Washington, D.C. As you can imagine, this enormous unplanned expense of travel arrangements and lodging for 100+ seminarians was and continues to be a burden that weighs heavily on my heart and our operating budget.

We sent out a postcard last month asking you to join us in spirit and in prayer on this journey, and we can’t begin to thank you enough for both the spiritual and financial support that came in as a result. We may actually be down in Washington as you read these words — praying for you in this very moment. So thank you, to all those who have already donated, and if you haven’t, it’s not too late! Any and all donations will continue to be an immense help to us in offsetting the cost of this trip to see his Holiness. We are so proud to witness this extraordinary visit on behalf of all of our generous donors.

Questions? Email me at rector@sjs.edu or call 617.746.5413.

SeminarianSPOTLIGHT

Did you know?

Seminarians come to Saint John’s from fifteen different dioceses from around the globe, six Institutes of Religious Life, and one Ecclesial Movement. In each issue of Currents and the SJS Magazine, we shine a spotlight on one man to give you an “insider’s perspective” on the life and calling of a future priest.

Alexander R. Boucher

Class: Pre-Theology II (that means I’m in my 2nd out of 6 years)
Home Parish and Town: St. Joseph Church of Good Shepherd, Biddeford, ME
HS/College Attended: Cheverus Jesuit High School, Portland ME; The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

If I could spend ten minutes with His Holiness Pope Francis, I would:

a) Snap a photo and post it on Facebook
b) Engage him in deep theological discussion
c) Hand him my resume
d) Ask for words of advice and his blessing, then take a picture for social media

When did you first sense a call to the ministry?

I was first attracted to the priesthood as a young child. This was strengthened and affirmed in high school and, in a particular way, in college through discernment groups, campus ministry, and working for a few Catholic nonprofit organizations in our nation’s capital.

Who or what have been the most formative influences on your faith identity and development?

My family has been very influential and supportive of me, along with friends and priests who have encouraged me and journeyed with me in my discernment.

Do you have a particular focus or perspective that you hope to bring to your ministry?

As a future parish priest, I hope to journey with those entrusted to my pastoral care and assist in leading them to heaven.

What is the most surprising thing you’ve learned about yourself or your faith at SJS?

My faith has been strengthened by the example and witness of the members of the SJS community — academic and formation faculty, staff, and my brother seminarians.

Email us at contact@sjs.edu if you wish to be notified of future concerts, lectures, and other public events.