

# Saint John's Seminary

# Currents

## Happenings in this Holy House

Fall 2016

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135 • 617.254.2610

## Celebrating Bishops O'Connell and Reed!

**A**ugust 24, 2016 marked the episcopal ordination of Boston's two newest auxiliary bishops: Bishop Mark O'Connell '90, JCD, and Bishop Robert Reed '85. Taking place in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston's South End, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. served as principal celebrant and homilist during the ordination ceremony.

Bishop O'Connell will now assume the role of Regional Bishop for the North Region of the Archdiocese of Boston, and Bishop Reed for the West Region.

Additionally, as of September 1, Bishop O'Connell has become Pastor of St. Therese Parish in North Reading, and, effective September 21, Bishop Reed has become Pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Wayland.

The good news was first announced by the Vatican and a subsequent press conference at Saint John's Seminary on June 3. In advance of the August 24 Episcopal Ordination, Bishops O'Connell and Reed made their Oath of Fidelity and Profession of Faith on a live CatholicTV broadcast with Cardinal O'Malley. Both former faculty members and alumni of Saint John's Seminary, we all wish the best for our two new Regional Bishops. *Ad Multos Annos!* ■



PHOTO: GEORGE MARTELL

Newly-ordained Bishops O'Connell and Reed process from the altar after their Mass of Ordination

## Reflections on World Youth Day

By Colin McNabb '21

**R**eflecting upon the World Youth Day pilgrimage that four of my brother seminarians and I undertook to Krakow, Poland, I left full of one defining emotion. Hope.

With little rest and much haste, we arrived in Warsaw, and began traveling to where the Polish sought Mary's intercession, and where saints lived and laid down their lives in the midst of darkness. The monastery of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Shrine to Our Lady of Czestochowa, and

Auschwitz Concentration Camp were a few of the stops which began our pilgrimage.

Once in Kraków, I was overwhelmed by the pilgrims, priests and religious, who gathered for the events of World Youth Day; the Church Universal had taken over the whole

city. The vibrant faith of the young pilgrims who had arrived to bear witness to Christ in public gave me an overwhelming hope for the future of Christ's Church. The celebration of Our Lord began early, ended late, and sometimes didn't stop, such as the perpetual adoration at St. Mary's Basilica where several of us concluded each day.

The apex of the week was the Papal Mass, where 1.6 million faithful gathered to partake in the sacrifice of the Eucharist together. It was like nothing I had ever seen. The fatigue brought about by the hundred miles we journeyed in Poland was eclipsed by the joy of the Blessed Sacrament and of all those present to celebrate together for the greater glory of God.



PHOTO: FR. JONATHAN CASPAR

SJS seminarians with Cardinal Seán at World Youth Day 2016



PHOTO: BR. ANDRZEJ SKONIECZNY, OFM CAP.

Seminarians Colin McNabb '21 and David Campo '21 in Poland, August 2016



## Note from the Rector

Dear Friends,

**A**midst all the 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-three “new men” (a record!) and all the “old men” who come back to the seminary from their summer assignments and time with family and friends renewed and ready to take up the important work of discernment and formation that God has given them. We begin this year with 98 resident seminarians and 36 non-residents, for a total of 134 men in formation. God is good!



All sorts of changes prepare us for this academic year, from newly-renovated resident rooms and faculty suites to a whole new house across the street for some of our Deacons, and a bit of new plumbing in this old building (an inevitable issue!). We are looking forward to an exciting semester, enhanced by the wisdom of our faculty, new and returning, and sprinkled with a bevy of musical delights coordinated by our intrepid Music Director, Dr. Janet Hunt. Speaking of which, as I mention below, we will be hosting another extraordinary organ showcase on October 23. Your help in underwriting this event, however 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.” (Philippians 1:3–5)

Remembrance and thanksgiving are at the heart of our faith and the heart of our theology of the Eucharist. Please know you are fondly remembered 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,

*Msgr. D. P. Murray*

## Monsignor's Wish List

**A**re you looking to direct your funds to a special need or project? This issue's “wish list” has just one item. On Sunday, October 23, we will once again be hosting special guest conductors David Woodcock and Jan Coxwell of the UK's Early Music Academy ([www.earlymusicacademy.com](http://www.earlymusicacademy.com)) to join us in presenting a choir and organ concert in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

David and Jan will be traveling here from England for several days' worth of rehearsals and preparation with the SJS schola for the big event. Last year this concert, the public debut of our newly-renovated Hook & Hastings organ, was a smashing success, and we look forward to the talents of all involved being even more impressive this year. As this



David Woodcock and Jan Coxwell

PHOTO: EARLY MUSIC ACADEMY

concert is free and open to the public (**please also consider this your invitation!**), donations of any size will make a difference in defraying the costs of hosting this spectacular event. I thank you in advance for your consideration!

Gifts may be made by mailing checks to **Saint John's Seminary, attn: Msgr.'s Wish List; 127 Lake St; Brighton, MA 02135**, or by visiting **[www.sjs.edu](http://www.sjs.edu)**. Questions? Email me at **[rector@sjs.edu](mailto:rector@sjs.edu)** or call 617.746.5413.



PHOTO: PETER KRASINSKI

Dr. Hunt performs at last year's concert

## MEET OUR SEMINARIANS

### Did you know?

Seminarians come to Saint John's from fifteen different (Arch)dioceses from around the globe, six religious orders, and one Ecclesial Movement. In each issue of *Currents* and the SJS Magazine, we feature one student to give you an "insider's perspective" on the life and calling of a future priest.

## Robert A. LeBlanc, Jr.

**Class:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Theology (that means I'm in my 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 6 years!)

**Home Parish and Town:** Parish of the Ascension of the Lord, York, ME

**HS/College Attended:** Libertyville High School, Boston University

**Hobbies:** Broadway musicals, Dunkin Donuts runs, watching baseball and English Premier League soccer, travel, photography  
(fun fact: Bobby is our house photographer this year!)

**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) Pray with him**

**When did you first sense a call to the priesthood?**

I was a junior in college when I first began to discern the priesthood. I knew deep down what the Lord was asking of me that year. Three years later and by His grace I entered Saint John's Seminary. I am completely at peace and filled with joy to be following the Lord's will for my life.



Bobby and his mom, Joyce LeBlanc.

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

My Mom has made the biggest impact on me when it comes to my faith identity. She has passed onto me the greatest gift that a mother can give her kids, and that is the gift of faith.

**What is the #1 thing you've learned about yourself or your faith at SJS?**

I've become more aware of my identity as a beloved son of God, knowing that I'm loved by the Father regardless of my faults or failures, even regardless of my good deeds. There's nothing that anyone has to do to earn God's love. It is given freely to us.

**People might be surprised to learn this about me:**

I absolutely love being a seminarian and life at Saint John's. I don't want to rush through seminary at all. I have so much to learn and know that God wants to do so much with me in my remaining five years here. I pray that I'm open and prepared for everything the Lord wants me to receive here at Saint John's. ■



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Dr. Janet Hunt Organ Recital

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 3:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

The seminary's director of Sacred Music performs a program including works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Marcello, and Pinkham. Assisted by Jennifer Hunt, flute.

### Choir & Organ Concert in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 3:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

Special guests David Woodcock and Jan Coxwell, conductors, join organist Janet Hunt and a festival choir in a concert of Marian music including works by Poulenc and Fauré.

### Scout and Student Sunday

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 2:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CAMPUS

Youth from across the Archdiocese visit SJS. For information on bringing a group, please contact MaryJo.Kriz@sjs.edu.

### 2016 Alumni Dinner

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 AT 5:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CAMPUS

Priest alumni gather for Holy Hour and dinner with classmates and Cardinal Sean O'Malley. Invitations will be mailed in October.

### All Souls Concert

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 7:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

The Theological Institute for the New Evangelization's annual concert and silent auction, hosted by Bishop John Dooher.

### Rosalind Mohnsen Organ Recital

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20 AT 3:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

Nationally-renowned Boston organist celebrates the close of the liturgical year with music commemorating All Saints and the Feast of Christ the King.

### Lessons and Carols

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 7:30 PM  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 AT 3:00 PM  
SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

Our annual Christmas concert featuring the Saint John's Seminary Schola and special guests!

Thanks to generous donors like you, unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. The Our Lady of the Presentation Lecture Hall is closed for construction this semester, so all events will take place on the SJS main campus at 127 Lake St, Brighton. **For more information on exact locations, please contact sandy.barry@sjs.edu.** For more information on these events and more, please visit sjs.edu. ■

Please visit [www.sjs.edu](http://www.sjs.edu) for more!



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## WHAT'S INSIDE?

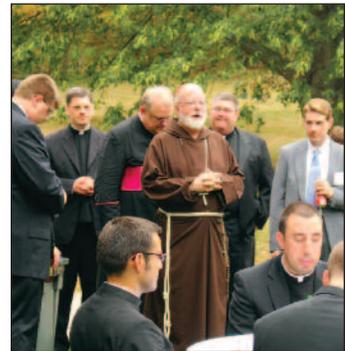
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[www.sjs.edu](http://www.sjs.edu)

## SCENES FROM THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



Images from our Opening Mass & BBQ courtesy of George Martell and Bobby LeBlanc '21



Email us at [contact@sjs.edu](mailto:contact@sjs.edu) if you wish to be notified of future concerts, lectures, and other public events.