

Saint John's Seminary

Currents

Happenings in this Holy House

Fall 2018

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135 • 617.254.2610



Some of our new men pose with Interim Rector, Fr. Stephen Salocks, during Orientation

A New Beginning

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?". They said to him, "Rabbi (which means Teacher), where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. (John 1:38–39)

And so another year has begun here at Saint John's Seminary. It is clouded in part by current events, but through this fog of uncertainties, one thing remains unchanged: our mission to form worthy and holy men for the Roman Catholic Priesthood. And this we shall do!

The 2018–2019 year brings with it the largest class of Deacons — 19 men in their final year of formation — in over a decade. Hailing from Boston, Providence, RI, Fall River, Manchester, NH, Rochester, NY, Springfield, Worcester, Burlington, VT, Oakland, CA, and even Southern Arabia, these men represent a springtime for the Church — a rejuvenation of good and holy men who will become the next generation of priests in parishes just like yours.

Additionally and by God's grace, through the front doors at the end of August walked another 14 new men, ready to begin their journeys to Priesthood. Their Orientation days were spent in classrooms, learning the ropes; in the chapel, getting comfortable with the daily prayer schedule (called the *horarium*); and around Boston, getting acquainted with their new surroundings.

And let us not forget the men "in the middle"! We have a total of 88 men in house this year, plus another 37 from our religious communities who come for classwork during the day. God is good, and we look forward to emerging from this time stronger than ever and renewed in faith, with the future of the Church sanctified and secure. We are so grateful to each of them for listening to the call, and so grateful to you, our benefactors, for your prayerful support of each and every one of them. ■



Class of 2019 L-R: Rev. Mr. Matthew Walter, Rev. Mr. Mac Lingo, Rev. Mr. David Wong, Rev. Mr. William Robinson, Rev. Mr. Robert Little, Rev. Mr. J. Paul Wargovich, Rev. Mr. Daniel White, Rev. Mr. Marcos Enrique, Rev. Mr. Duy Anh Le, Rev. Mr. Eric Silva, Rev. Mr. Abishai Vase, Rev. Mr. Brian O'Hanlon, Rev. Mr. Ryan Healy, Rev. Mr. Timothy Hynes, Rev. Mr. Brendan Rowley, and Rev. Mr. Mark Olejnik. *Not pictured:* Rev. Mr. Corey Rouse, Mr. Sagar Gudinga, and Br. John Koelle, O.F.M., Cap.



Official 2018–2019 Saint John's Seminary portrait



Note from the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

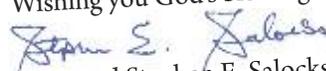
The new year at Saint John's Seminary is well underway, and, in the minds of many here, we have had the best and most positive opening in the past ten years. Fourteen new seminarians, two new faculty (Father Ryan Connors, in Moral Theology, and Father James Sullivan OP in Spiritual Direction), and a new operations officer (Patricia Frasier in Administration and Finance) have joined with returning veterans from the ranks of seminarians, faculty and staff. As Interim Rector filling in for Monsignor Moroney, who is on sabbatical, I am immensely grateful to all who have not only contributed to the positive spirit in the house, but also made every effort in the past month and half to bring me up to speed on many of the most important matters with regard to the seminary.

"Simplicity of Life" is one of our guiding principles this year. Seminarians and faculty are fully aware that this is a time of fiscal tightening and a time of working closely with Trustees and seminary personnel in matters of finance and development. One manifestation of this can be seen in the changes that have been made in the food service — especially the leaner offerings at breakfast and lunch and a different approach to snacks and drinks. So far, the changes have been readily accepted and seem to be working out fine.

The last few months have also brought good news in the form of two grants which have been awarded to Saint John's Seminary and the Theological Institute. With great appreciation, we thank the **In Trust Center for Theological Schools** for a \$10,000 resource grant to audit and improve our Development program, and the **Catholic Health Foundation** for \$10,500 towards the establishment of an annual Bioethics education series, slated to begin in Summer 2019.

So please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers — especially during these trying times in the Church and this period of review for the seminary. Your support means everything to everyone here at Saint John's. And know that we will continue to pray for you as well.

Wishing you God's blessing and peace,


Reverend Stephen E. Salocks '80
Interim Rector



Theological Institute Graduates Largest Class in History

On May 22, 2018, a beautiful cool afternoon, the Theological Institute of Saint John's Seminary graduated the largest class in its eighteen year history! Cardinal Seán O'Malley and Msgr. James Moroney conferred diplomas on 21 graduates: 13 from the Master of Arts in Ministry program and 8 from the Master of Theological Studies. These two degrees are for laity and for religious and deacons. Among the graduates, who came from the Boston, Worcester, Manchester, NH and Providence, RI (arch)dioceses, were Sister Regina Dick, FSP and two Boston Deacons: Fran Burke and Joseph Flocco. The President of Emmanuel College, Sister Janet Eisner, SND, gave the commencement address in which she remarked how impressed she was by the strong sense of community she encountered when talking with the graduates. Ronna Petrilli, pictured below with her brother-in-law Steve Cadigan, spoke on behalf of the graduating class. ■



Rector's Wish List

As you've already learned, with our largest class of 4th Theologians in decades entering their final year of formation here, things are looking bright for the future of the Church. In light of all we've heard lately in the news, **it is plain to see that these men, as well as all of their brothers in formation, need your support more now than ever.** The SJS Annual Fund is the true foundation of our giving program, and the thing that directly benefits and reaches each and every seminarian in formation.

The Annual Fund provides tuition assistance*, food costs, health care expenses...even the heating of the building. Donations of any size are always welcome to

help us continue to form these men into the fine priests who will serve your families for generations to come.



Gifts may be made by mailing checks to **Saint John's Seminary, attn: Rector's Wish List; 127 Lake St; Brighton, MA 02135**, or by visiting www.sjs.edu. Questions? Email rector@sjs.edu or call 617.746.5413.

***Did you know?** The annual cost of educating one seminarian is over \$75,000 — and the room, board, and tuition paid by their dioceses covers **less than 50%** of this.

MEET OUR SEMINARIANS

Did you know?

Seminarians come to Saint John's from fourteen different dioceses from around the globe, five Institutes of Religious Life, 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.

Valanarasu Newton Williamraj '21

Class: 2nd Theology (that means I'm in my 4th out of 6 years!)

Studying for: Diocese of Kumbakonam, India
Home Parish and Town: Lalgudi St. Joseph's; Trichy, TN, India

Undergraduate College Attended: B.Sc. Visual Communication, AVASC, Bharadhidasn University, India

Favorite Class at SJS: Scripture (Old Testament)

Primary task you enjoyed in your most recent summer assignment:

Writing about stained glass windows of the parish church which are well appreciated by the people.

If you could spend one day with any Saint, who would it be and why?

St. Francis of Assisi, because I like his simplicity and love for nature.

When did you first sense a call to the ministry?

After high school



Valanarasu with his parents, Newton Williamraj and Catherine Tamil Selvi, and his brother, Vinu.

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

My parents' faith helped me to discern my vocation to the priesthood. In their workplaces (my father as a Tamil teacher and mother as a Nurse), both lead exemplary Catholic lives. They raised me and my brother in this good faith. After many years in seminary, my parents are still part of my daily spiritual life, and through their prayer help me to move ahead. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Souls Concert

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17 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 Most Rev. John A. Dooher, Auxiliary Bishop of Boston.

NEW THIS YEAR

The silent auction will remain open at the Pastoral Center (66 Brooks Drive, Braintree) through Thursday, 12/6. It will conclude at 7:30 that evening, with a Live Auction immediately following. A light buffet dinner is available for \$20. For more information, to RSVP, or to purchase tickets (by 11/29, please!), email Ellen.Oesterle@sjs.edu.

Lessons and Carols

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 7:30 PM
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9 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, all events are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise noted, all events take place on the SJS main campus at 127 Lake St, Brighton, where there is free and plentiful parking. For more information on these events and more, please visit sjs.edu or email contact@sjs.edu. ■

SJS 18th Annual Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019, 11:00 AM
 WOLLASTON GOLF CLUB
 999 Randolph Ave, Milton



MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019

Please save the date for this year's golf event, now in its 4th year at Wollaston Golf Club. Featuring a great day on the links, raffles, prizes, an auction, and more! \$250pp; sponsorships and dinner-only tickets are also available. Registration will open in April 2019 at www.sjs.edu/golf. In the meantime, for more information, please email golf@sjs.edu.

Please visit www.sjs.edu for more!



Saint John's Seminary
127 Lake Street
Brighton, MA 02135

WHAT'S INSIDE?

A New Beginning	1
Note from the Rector	2
Theological Institute Graduation	2
Meet A Seminarian.....	3
Upcoming Events	3

All Souls Month is coming!



Submit prayer intentions for your beloved dead at www.sjs.edu/November through October 31. They will be inscribed into our Book of the Dead by a seminarian, then displayed and remembered daily by the SJS community.



Currents Fall 2018

www.sjs.edu

SCENES FROM THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



All images courtesy of George Martell and Gregory Quenneville '22.