



Saint John's Seminary

Currents

Happenings in this Holy House

Spring 2016

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135 • 617.254.2610

3rd Annual Benefactors' Banquet



Cardinal Sean and Vice Rector Fr. Chris O'Connor pose after Mass with honorees Dr. Crotty and Nancy & Craig Gibson.

January 31, 2016, marked our third annual Benefactors' Banquet here at Saint John's Seminary. This event is a way to gather all of the members of our newly-minted Leadership Circle, which is made up of those contributing \$1,000 or more annually, to thank them for their generous contributions throughout the year. It is also an opportunity to lift up some of our exemplary benefactors by granting the Saint John the Evangelist Medal, awarded for extraordinary contributions to the spiritual support of the Seminary, and the Archbishop John J. Williams Medal, designated for extraordinary contributions to SJS temporal life. This year's recipients of the Saint John the Evangelist Medal were Craig and Nancy Gibson, and the Archbishop Williams Medal was awarded to our esteemed professor of Latin, Dr. Philip Crotty. Next year's event will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2017 — please save the date now and stay tuned for more ways to get involved!

Our Faithful Translator

If Latin is the language of the Church, Dr. Crotty has been the Seminary's faithful translator for almost a full decade. Boston historian extraordinaire, some of our favorite memories of this Latin exemplar involve his unique and insightful commentary on our trolley tours at the beginning of each school year. His love and deep knowledge of the Church, of Rome and of Boston is born of a deep spirituality and love of life. And he has served generations of seminarians purely out of that love, for he has never taken a salary, never uttered a complaint, and, indeed, contributed generously to our seminarians in many ways on top of that. As much a part of Saint John's Seminary as the other saints who adorn the walls of our Chapel, we again congratulate our dear friend and brother, Dr. Philip Crotty.



Dr. Crotty poses with seminarians at the 2016 Benefactors' Banquet.

Service with a Smile



Craig and Nancy Gibson receive their award

If you look up generosity in the dictionary, you will find a picture of Craig and Nancy Gibson. Their every waking moment, it seems, is spent in serving others. Perhaps they got it from their parents, perhaps they learned it along the way. But they have learned well that it is better to give than to receive and the last and the least will be the first in the Kingdom of God.

Through Craig's work as Trustee and Development Committee Chair, we have seen the extraordinary success of the first ever Development Committee — and program — at Saint John's Seminary. Through the wise council, unwavering support and the generous contributions of Craig and Nancy, Saint John's is on the verge of an era of unprecedented growth and stability. Even through periods of personal turmoil and difficulty, the Gibsons have remained steadfast in their service and their love for God, the Church, and our seminary. May He continue to reward them with good health and prosperity for doing this holy work!



Note from the Rector

Dear Friends,

Time. Time is flying. The clock seemingly just struck midnight and brought us 2016, and yet here we are, nearly through Lent and halfway through yet another semester in this Holy House. This semester has already seen adventure (a swirling winter storm during our trip to DC for the March for Life, stranding many pilgrims!), reward (we were so thrilled to be able to recognize Dr. Crotty and the Gibsons for all of their goodness), hard work (by the men and by our whole staff and faculty!), and great generosity from you, our benefactors. We are particularly grateful to the Flatley Foundation for again funding the majority of our trip to DC for the March for Life. They continue to be a beacon of light and steadfast support for all of the seminary's endeavors.



This spring we look forward to ordaining eight new priests for Boston and Burlington, VT, and sending another son who has finished his studies here back to Vietnam, one step closer to being ordained himself. These men are a constant reminder of why we all do what we do, and I hope you will pray for them, as we do for you.

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,

Msgr. J. P. Mowrey

Monsignor's Wish List



Are you looking to direct your funds to a special need or project? In addition to the ever-present need to keep the lights on and the seminarians fed, I do have a little "wish list", at the top of which this Spring is the renovation of our courtyard clock, pictured above. It has been out of service since the 1950s (though, as many will remind us, is still right twice a day!). This project will cost approximately \$12,000 in total, and gifts of any size towards this effort would be appreciated. It's time to get this thing going again!



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

MEET OUR SEMINARIANS

Did you know?

Seminarians come to Saint John's from fifteen different dioceses and five religious orders, as well as an ecclesial movement. In each issue of the SJS magazine and our *Currents* newsletter, we feature one student to give you an "insider's perspective" on the life and calling of a future priest.

John Laroche

Class: 1st Pre-Theology (that means I'm in my 1st out of 6 years!)

Home Parish and Town: St. John's, Worcester, MA

HS/College Attended: Seton Home Study School / Nichols College

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



When did you first sense a call to the priesthood?

I think the call has always been in the back of my mind, even since I was a young boy, but it didn't become an insistent call to action until about two years ago when I began formally discerning with the help of my parish priest and diocesan vocations director.

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

My parents and a couple of priests in my Diocese had a great influence on me in terms of developing and building my faith. In addition, my time with a Catholic young adult group in the Worcester area, Pure in Heart, really helped to solidify everything for me.



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

I've just begun to explore this among many other things. I think the message of Divine Mercy and God's incredible love for all of us will definitely be a part of it though!

People might be surprised to learn this about me:

When I was in college and for 4-5 years after that I competed in ballroom dance competitions as an amateur before eventually becoming a part-time instructor at a dance studio for 2 years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Sacred Triduum — Holy Week 2016

THURSDAY, MARCH 24 — SATURDAY, MARCH 26

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

The public is most welcome to join us for the Sacred Triduum in the SJS Chapel. Please email contact@sjs.edu if you are planning to attend any of the following events:

Holy Thursday (3/24):

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 PM;

Good Friday (3/25):

Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 3:00 PM;

Holy Saturday (3/26): The Easter Vigil at 8:00 PM

Concert of Organ Music for Easter Season

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 3:00 PM

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

Four Boston-area organists perform festive organ works, including Widor's *Symphonie Romane* and Tourenmire's *Victimae paschali laudes*.

Sacred Choral Music Collaboration

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 7:30 PM

SAINT JOHN'S SEMINARY MAIN CHAPEL

Sacred Choral Music performed by a collaboration of the Hebrew College Choir, Saint John's Seminary Schola, and Boston College STM Choir.

Religious Liberty: The First Right

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 7:00 PM

OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION LECTURE HALL

Rev. David Pignato, professor of Theology, will speak on the importance of religious liberty as a fundamental right, the rationales for religious freedom in a secular society, and the debate over the proper legal limits to religious liberty.

Boston Chamber Symphony: An Orchestral Debut in Presentation Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 1, 4:00 PM

OUR LADY OF THE PRESENTATION LECTURE HALL

The first orchestral concert in the newly renovated Presentation Hall features the Boston Chamber Symphony led by Music Director Avlana Eisenberg. Refreshments to follow.

Saint John's Seminary 15th Annual Golf Tournament

MONDAY, JULY 11

WOLLASTON GOLF CLUB, MILTON, MA

Please save the date for this year's golf event, now at a new time and place! Registration will be open later this spring at www.sjs.edu. For more, please email golf@sjs.edu.

Thanks to generous donors like you, unless otherwise noted, all events are free and open to the public. Saint John's Seminary Main Chapel is located at 127 Lake St, Brighton. The Our Lady of the Presentation Lecture Hall is located at 680 Washington St, Oak Square, Brighton. (Parking is available in a large lot further up the hill.) **For more information on exact locations, please contact sandy.barry@sjs.edu.** All other events take place on the main campus at 127 Lake St, Brighton. For more information on these events and more, please visit www.sjs.edu.

Please visit www.sjs.edu for more!



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127 Lake Street
Brighton, MA 02135

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www.sjs.edu

**'BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ. TEACH WHAT YOU BELIEVE.
PRACTICE WHAT YOU TEACH.'**



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

Newly-minted Transitional Deacons heard these words from the mouth of Cardinal Seán during their Mass of Ordination at Boston's Cathedral of the Holy Cross on Saturday, January 9, 2016. God-willing, these seven men, plus Deacon Curtis Miller of Burlington, VT, will be ordained to the priesthood at the end of this semester.