

Saint John's Seminary

Currents

Happenings in this Holy House

Summer 2017

127 Lake Street, Brighton, MA 02135 • 617.254.2610



Saint John's Seminary

Class of 2017 L-R:

Rev. Pablo Gomis, Rev. David Harris, Rev. Godfrey Musabe, Rev. Joseph Sanderson, Rev. Joel Americo Santos, Rev. Wellington Oliveira, Rev. William Sexton, Rev. Jason Giombetti, Msgr. James Moroney, Rector, Rev. Matthew Schultz, Rev. Brian Morris, Rev. Stephen Battey, Rev. Joseph Brice, Rev. Barrent Pease, Rev. Glen Dmytryszyn, Mr. Patrick Finn.
Not pictured: Rev. Kevin Leaver and Rev. Michael Zimmerman.

Greetings, friends! I hope this finds you enjoying a peaceful and prosperous summer. Ours at Saint John's Seminary is off to a great start. Ordination season has just come to an end, during which we've seen the ordinations of 12 men to the Holy Priesthood and 10 more to the Transitional Diaconate. Additionally, 17 lay ministers graduated from our Theological Institute in May.

It is the stories of our newest priests I share with you today in this newsletter. Take a look, learn their stories, and see if anyone is coming to a parish near you! These men need our prayers now more than ever, as they begin these next chapters in their faith-filled lives. Pray for them, and for their brothers before and after them, as we continue to pray for you, each day. Without our benefactors and friends, none of this good work would be possible. I thank you for your financial support, your wisdom and guidance, and most of all for your prayers.



In the Lord,

Msgr. J. P. Moroney



Reverend Stephen Battey, Diocese of Providence

Assignment: Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Bristol, RI

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

Certainly I have to throw in our Blessed Lord, but at my home parish [Saint Francis of Assisi, Wakefield, RI], we were known to be a parish where newly ordained priests would be sent. So there was a string of young priests, right out of seminary, with all of this fervor and enthusiasm, ready for ministry. They were incredible role models for me.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

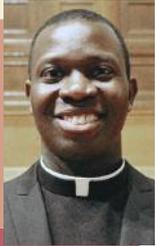
The Sacramental Ministry of the Church. But also the promotion of it — teaching about the need to receive the sacraments. Because it's not only for those coming to the Church, it's also for those who are away. I look forward to helping them to rediscover the sacraments as well.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I have a statue on my desk of Saint John Vianney. It's so encouraging to see his witness as a diocesan priest. It's also encouraging to know this one priest was able to transform an entire section of France! That has always been very encouraging and gives me reason to hope.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

Living in community and praying in community — the reality is that with the decline in priests, a great number of priests find themselves living alone. My goal, and hope, is that this is a temporary problem: that more men will answer the call so that there can once again be three or four priests in a rectory.



Reverend Jean Joseph Brice, Diocese of Providence

Assignment: Saint Augustine Parish, Providence, RI

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I would have to say the Salesians. I grew up in Haiti in a parish run by the Salesians. We always had priests and seminarians around and I always liked them.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

I'm looking forward to getting to know each of my parishioners — their fears, their hopes, their frustrations — so that I can lead them to Christ, to the living water.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

There are so many! First, Saint Therese of Lisieux, whose way is always the little way, the small way. Just like God — He always appears in a small way. Then Saint John Vianney — every time I look at him, or even think of him, I want to be a priest. And, of course, Pope Saint John Paul II — he's my hero.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

I think I will most miss the people — the friendships I have made over the years. But I will also miss the Liturgies here — which are so beautiful and well done.



Reverend Glen Dmytryszyn, Archdiocese of Hartford

Assignment: Saint Mary Parish, Branford, CT

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I would have to say I was inspired by Saint Pope John Paul II. I was 15 when he passed away, and watching the funeral, seeing the true universality of the Church, left a very deep impression on me.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Celebrating Mass and hearing Confession. These are the sacraments reserved for the priesthood and I am looking forward to extending the transformative love.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

My motto really is, "To Jesus through Mary." The Blessed Mother has shaped my prayer life. She is Our Mother, and I have been able to get more close to her over the years. When, at the wedding at Cana she says, "Do whatever he tells you," I have complete trust in her intercession.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The fraternity. The camaraderie. And actually, I'm going to miss Boston. I've grown very fond of this city.

**Mr. Patrick Finn, Diocese of Portland**

Patrick has completed his studies at SJS and is now working full-time in the Hancock County Catholic Community in Hancock County, ME. God willing, he will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in October 2017, to be followed by his ordination to the Holy Priesthood in the summer of 2018 in Maine.

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I've been very blessed to know all kinds of good priests throughout my years in Maine, with the Franciscans, and in D.C. It was the ones who had an evident desire to help rebuild the Church who got me thinking that I wanted to be a priest and do the same.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

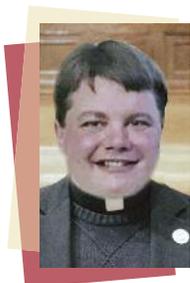
Being able to put down roots once again in Maine and work full-time for the spread of the Gospel, for sure! God has given me so much in the things He's called me to do: first as a college student at Franciscan University of Steubenville, then as a Franciscan friar for six years (which was my first time in seminary!), and two years in parish faith formation and youth ministry in Maine. I'm excited to be able to "make a return to the Lord" for all the good He's done for me, and — God willing, sometime next year — "raise the cup of salvation" as His priest (Psalm 116:12–13).

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

Saints John Paul II and Francis of Assisi would be at the top of the list for sure.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

Having so many good supportive brothers just down the hall. SJS is blessed to have many really excellent seminarians, which gives me a great deal of hope for the future of the Church in New England and beyond.

**Reverend Jason Giombetti, Archdiocese of Boston**

Assignment: Saint Thomas Aquinas Parish, Bridgewater, MA

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

It has always been in my mind. My mother tells the story that in first grade I looked at a priest, and then at my mother and said, "I want to be a priest when I grow up."

My parents also inspired me in that from a very early age they showed me unconditional love, which made it easier for me to accept God's unconditional love.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Working with the people to help them connect deeper with God, primarily through the sacraments, but in other ways too.

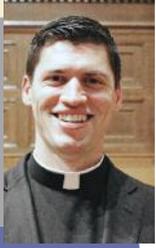


Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I must say I have two. First, I have a great devotion to the Holy Family. But also to Saint Cecilia — she is fascinating and a wonderful saint to get to know.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

I think, ironically, I am going to miss the academics the most — to take concepts, learn them and then integrate them into my life — I really am going to miss that.



Reverend David Harris, Diocese of Manchester

Assignment: Saint Elizabeth Seton Parish, Bedford, NH

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I think I heard the call from God himself. I found myself wanting to serve God and the Church with my life. But if there is one person specifically who has inspired me throughout my years here, I would have to say it is Father Paul Gousse from Our Lady of the Rosary parish in Rochester.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

All of it! Specifically celebrating the Holy Mass and hearing confessions, being a conduit for people to receive healing from God. There's something very personal about confession — it's an intimate experience of God's love.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I have a great devotion to our Blessed Mother. I believe my vocation came through her intercession. Her prayers, and her guidance have gotten me through every moment of my priestly formation.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The people: my classmates, other seminarians, the faculty and staff. I didn't know before coming here that these past six years would be the happiest years of my life. And I would like to encourage other men to this about the priesthood — Jesus will not let down any man who is called to this life.



Reverend Godfrey Musabe, Archdiocese of Boston

Assignment: Holy Family Parish, Lynn, MA

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

When I was still young, I witnessed the ordination of a young priest in my home parish in Uganda.

By attending that ordination, which had to be held outdoors because our church was too small to hold everyone who wanted to be a part of it, I realized I wanted to be a priest.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Working, or rather journeying, with people. Accompanying them in their life — being edified by those who are strong, and supporting those who are weak.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions — I see in Charles Lwanga a newly baptised Catholic, and how he challenged his colleagues and even the royals at the time. That's my inspiration — to defend the faith and not be afraid even to lose my life for it.

Also the passage in Matthew (Mt 20, 4) when Jesus says to work in vineyard. To me, I see it as very touching that I am a part of this ministry — we are not first and will not be the last. I will try to labor as best I can, knowing that I am a worker in His vineyard.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The brotherhood. I was quickly welcomed into this community — the brotherhood and genuine concern we have for one another is something I will treasure forever, and it is something I will greatly miss once I am no longer here.

**Reverend Brian Morris, Diocese of Providence**

Assignment: Saint Luke's Parish, Barrington, RI

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

It's a combination of things — Saint Pope John Paul II certainly. In the spring of 2001, our high school chaplain, Father Marcel Taillon, took us to see John Paul II and I was very moved to by that experience. I started thinking about the priesthood then, but decided against it. And then Fr. Taillon again was the one who led me to the seminary.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Celebrating the sacraments — the biggest one being confession which has provided so much grace in my life that I want to provide that service to others.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I would have to say Saint Joseph — I pray to him every morning. Even though he wasn't a priest, he was all about fatherhood and chastity.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The other seminarians — not being able to just walk down the hall and talk to people — and also the academic formation. I won't miss the papers and tests, but I hope to continue with my studies, exploring both my faith and how to share it with others.

**Reverend Barrent Pease, Diocese of Springfield**

Assignment: Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish, W. Springfield, MA

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

The only answer to this is God. If the calling does not originate for seeking God's will in your life, the seminarian is in danger of looking at a "career," something that he sees and says, "I can do that." For me it was a matter of sitting in a quiet chapel every morning before Mass in my home parish, and asking God to show me how I can give me life to Him, in how by my life He was/is calling me to love Him and serve Him. I believe it is only through patience, and in the silent presence of our Lord that we can hear His reply.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Administering the Sacraments

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

—Saint Joseph, The Holy Rosary

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

Lady Mary Jo Kriz and my brother seminarians.



Reverend Joseph Sanderson, Diocese of Burlington

Assignment: Christ the King-Saint Anthony Parish, Burlington, VT

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I guess it was a bunch of things, but mainly it was my pastor, Father Rick Danielson, a very kind man. I served every other week and the church became a place for me to go to. I would go there after school sometimes, or on my way home from somewhere. Then people in my parish began saying that maybe I was called to be a priest, and that cemented it in me.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Aside from saying Mass and hearing Confessions, I am looking forward to going into people's homes and becoming a part of their lives.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is very big for me. Also the passage in the Gospel of John (Jn 15, 5), and I am paraphrasing: "I am the vine and you are the branches, without me you can do nothing" often comes back to me, especially when I am trying to study more or to pray more. It reminds me that God is in charge and that I am to have the "blessed are the poor in spirit" attitude in front of Him.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The fellowship, the singing and the beautiful liturgies most of all. Also the sense of purpose we share — we are all looking at each other and saying, 'Wow — we are the future of the Church!'



Reverend Joel Americo Santos, Archdiocese of Boston

Assignment: Most Holy Redeemer Parish, East Boston, MA

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I was very involved in my parish life in El Salvador teaching religious education and working with the youth and I really felt I received a call from God himself to serve his Church in the priesthood — to make a difference in society and to help those most in need.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

I would like to work serving people who need to be heard: people who have been marginalized in society, those who have felt worthless or discriminated against. I like to listen to people and help them in their lives.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

He isn't a saint, but I have been very inspired by Blessed Msgr. Oscar Romero — how he dedicated his life to proclaim the Gospel. He wasn't afraid to give witness to God in his life, all the while defending the poor.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

This has been my home and I have felt so much support here. I will miss those who have been so supportive to me — the seminarians, my friends, the faculty and some of the staff who have helped me so much. I have been able to share beautiful moments with them, moments I will never forget, and those are the things I will look back on always.



Reverend Matthew Schultz, Diocese of Manchester

Assignment: Saint Michael Parish, Exeter, NH

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I would have to say my parish priest, Fr. Edmund Castronovo. I didn't realize as a kid how much he was forming and inspiring me, but now as I prepare myself for my priesthood, I keep recalling his attentiveness, devotion and generosity and see that's how I want to live my priesthood.

Also, C.J. Bevins, a guy I worked with when I was a roughneck on a drilling rig. He died suddenly at 23, with 2 kids and one on the way — his death left a mark on me and led me back into the seminary, which I had been in before but had left.

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Offering Holy Mass and hearing confessions. The role of the priest is to be a mediator between Heaven and Earth, and these places are where people most often meet the Lord.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I made a commitment to read a saint at all times. These days, Saint Maximilian Kolbe really inspires me because I see so much in him that I want to be myself. Also Saint John Vianney, with his generous heart and his devotion to the confessional. And, of course, Our Lady — I would be nowhere near the seminary if it weren't for her!

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

I think I will miss the schedule — praying in common, eating in common. Some of the best conversations happen during meals. And also Fr. Romanus's classes — he is such a tremendous teacher.



Reverend William Sexton, Archdiocese of Boston

Assignment: Immaculate Conception Parish, Stoughton, MA

Who, or what, inspired you to become a priest?

I always felt called to be a priest, I don't know what it was. Maybe that because I was adopted off the streets of Calcutta, I always felt my life was meant for a concrete purpose. But I never looked at anybody or any priest and said, 'I want what they have.'

I am most looking forward to this aspect of parish ministry:

Celebrating Mass, but outside of that, hearing confessions. People are slowly coming back to that sacrament, and I find it to be a tangible presence of mercy. It's humbling to be the one bringing that to the people.

Favorite scripture verse, saint, or devotion:

I guess I'm old-school Boston, so I have a devotion to the saints from our diocese, specifically Saint Patrick and Our Blessed Mother. Every morning I try to give my life and my vocation to her.

I'll miss this the most about SJS:

The structure — I like being busy, but it's nice to know when the Mass is going to be. Also the community — once you're ordained you go from having meals with 80–100 guys every day to having meals maybe once a week with your pastor.

Please visit www.sjs.edu for more!



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

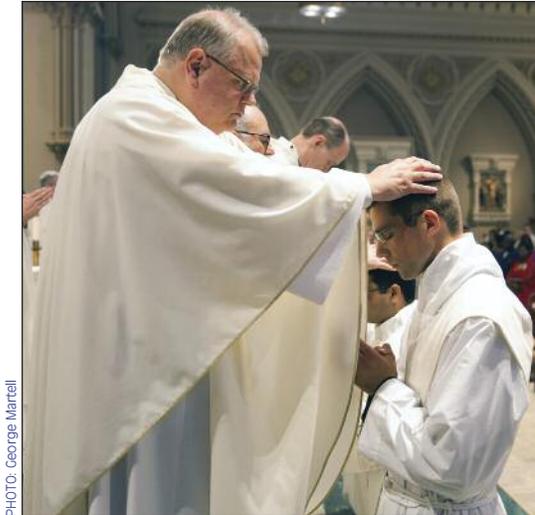


PHOTO: George Martelli

Msgr. James Moroney, Rector, lays his hands upon Fr. Michael Zimmerman at the Boston Ordination Mass on May 20, 2017.



Currents Summer 2017

Invest in your future priests today at sjs.edu/support-us

Ad Multos Annos!

Our congratulations to former seminarians Fr. Kevin Leaver and Fr. Michael Zimmerman, who have been at the Pontifical North American College in Rome for the last several years and returned in May to be ordained for the Archdiocese of Boston alongside their former classmates. Both new priests will return to Rome later this summer for an additional year of studies before receiving their permanent assignments.



Fr. Kevin Leaver



Fr. Michael Zimmerman

We also extend our prayerful best wishes to Fr. Pablo Gomis and Fr. Wellington Oliveira, who took classes here at Saint John's while in formation at Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary. They too were ordained as priests for the Archdiocese of Boston at the end of May. Fr. Gomis has been assigned to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in Boston's South End, and Fr. Oliveira has been assigned to Saint Joseph Parish in Lynn, MA.



Fr. Pablo Gomis



Fr. Wellington Oliveira