

SPRING 2020

# the Herald

A Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Publication



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RESPONDING TO  
God's Love with Freedom

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-RECTOR

### Dear Friends,

During the Christmas season, I love receiving photos and notes from family and friends, getting updates on all that transpired in the past year. The updates are usually penned by the wife/mother, who's often more adept at noticing what's been going on with each family member.

Ed and Jen Hogan have six children. Ed is our Academic Dean. In their Christmas letter this year, Jen writes:

*Ed works. That's all. (But he works with a great team. Have you ever seen an 8-man rowing team working in perfect harmony? They call it 'the swing.' That's what it feels like to work at the seminary.)*

Jen is not saying Ed is a workaholic. She thinks the world of him as a husband and father. And she's not scheming to score points with Ed's boss and co-workers (although, it didn't hurt!). She was just sharing an insight on her husband's past year that family and friends would be interested in hearing.

"The swing" came into our vocabulary through a wonderful book called *The Boys in the Boat*, the story of the gold medal-winning, 1936 Olympic rowing team. Along with the story of the boys, the book features the wisdom of their boat builder: legendary craftsman George Yeoman Pocock, who became the best shell builder in the world and the philosopher of the sport. Pocock describes "the swing" this way:

*Sixteen arms must begin to pull, sixteen knees must begin to fold and unfold, eight bodies must begin to slide forward and backward, eight backs must bend and straighten all at once. Each minute action—each subtle turning of wrists—must be mirrored exactly by each oarsman, from one end of the boat to the other... Rowing then becomes a kind of perfect language. Poetry, that's what a good swing feels like.*

Here at the seminary, being in "the swing" means working together in harmony with a common goal: forming healthy, holy, joy-filled parish priests. In the seminary, as in the boat, individual excellence is crucial. But so is the humility that says: we all have important roles to play here.

Our men need to witness this communion in Christ among the priests, faculty, and staff. Here at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, I think they do. It's the music of heaven, being in "the swing." And it gives them a taste of what parish life could be like.

I thank God for this work of the Holy Spirit that is going on here. And I thank you, because without your support this would be impossible.

*"It's a great art, is rowing. It's the finest art there is. It's a symphony of motion. And when you're rowing well, why it's nearing perfection. And when you near perfection, you're touching the Divine. It touches 'the you of yous.' Which is your soul." (George Yeoman Pocock)*

In Christ,

Father James Mason  
President-Rector



### Contents

- 04 | My First Year in Seminary:  
Open Heart Surgery
- 07 | Spiritual Formation
- 08 | Reflections on Our First Year
- 09 | Alumni News
- 10 | Biblical Archaeology in the  
Holy Land
- 12 | Science in Seminary:  
The Harmony of Faith and Reason
- 14 | Fostering My Vocation  
in High School
- 15 | Pharmacist and Future Priest
- 16 | Community Notes
- 18 | Fruitful Discernment
- 19 | Relational Prayer

**Cover:** Seminarians in College and Pre-Theology played against the Theologians in the annual Lavabo Bowl flag football game.

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## LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

The excellence of human formation at KGS is rooted in many things, but one of its special features is a deep collaboration between priests and lay people.



### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm pretty sure I was one of the last seminary classes to go through the ceremony known as "tonsure." Back then it marked the transition to the clerical state. And yes, they did actually clip a piece of our hair as part of the ceremony.

A lot has changed since my days in the seminary!

On a global level, one of the most significant changes was the 1992 publication of *Pastores Dabo Vobis* by Pope St. John Paul II. In *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, with his characteristic depth, Pope St. John Paul II renewed the vision of priestly formation for the worldwide Church.

On a national level, one of the most significant changes has been the establishment of solid orthodoxy. We have to admit, unfortunately, that there was a lot of unorthodox teaching in seminaries across the country for several decades after the Second Vatican Council. But, under Pope St. John Paul II, professors who abandoned tradition to pursue the latest fashion – misunderstanding the Council's intention – were replaced by professors who were deeply rooted in the tradition and could speak to the contemporary context from that depth.

On a practical level, one of the most significant changes in recent years – and one in which Kenrick-Glennon Seminary (KGS) has become a national leader – has been the development of human formation. A man may be perfectly orthodox, but if he's not relatable as a human being he won't make a very good parish priest! Pope St. John Paul II put it this way in *Pastores Dabo Vobis*:

*[I]t is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity. It is necessary that, following the example of Jesus who "knew what was in*

*humanity" (Jn. 2:25; cf. 8:3-11), the priest should be able to know the depths of the human heart, to perceive difficulties and problems, to make meeting and dialogue easy, to create trust and cooperation, to express serene and objective judgments. (#43)*

The excellence of human formation at KGS is rooted in many things, but one of its special features is a deep collaboration between priests and lay people. As a result of that collaboration, the culture at KGS has born especially good fruit in forming men who are "a bridge, not an obstacle" to others in their meeting with Christ.

In light of recent scandals, some people have been proposing that seminaries spend more time and energy on human formation, and that there be a deeper collaboration between priests and laity in the process. Those may be new ideas in some places. But they're long-standing and deeply ingrained features of life at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

As I prepare to celebrate my 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, I'm amazed at how much has changed since my time in the seminary. Thank you for all you have done to support the great work that's being done at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary today.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis

# My First Year in Seminary: Open Heart Surgery

By Robert Williams, Pre-Theology I — Tulsa



**What have I been learning so far in seminary?** Besides some of the obvious things like philosophy, Latin, catechism, and how to get up early in the morning, the main thing that Jesus is doing is breaking my heart. He is breaking my heart open to my need for Him, breaking and chipping away at my heart's proclivity for self and the pride in my heart that values what others think of me over how I can love them. Jesus is breaking my heart from the "potential" and "talent" and "arrogance" that I have lived with for so much of my life. He is also gracing me with a heart that breaks more often, more easily, more entirely for a broken world. He is showing me His own Sacred Heart for the world and how it breaks and pains for all to know the Love of the Father.



## LIFE AS A MISSIONARY

Before I came to seminary, I was a missionary with Saint Paul's Outreach (SPO) on college campuses. For four years, I saw first-hand what a lonely generation of Fatherless children looks like. My heart broke many times for them to know the Love of their Heavenly Father, to see the purpose, delight, and joy that God had made them for and the way He held them in His heart. I tried to communicate that to them. Sometimes they heard the cry of the Father's love for them through my efforts, words, talks, and praise and worship, but sometimes I think they received a lot more of me than they did of God's love.

I, like any young man, want to be known and loved, affirmed, respected. I want to know that I have a place to belong, where I could give my life away and it would be "worth it." I realize now how those desires affected the way I ministered to others, and that I was not much further along in my trust and love for God than the very students I sought to "lead" and "serve." I see now how a lot of my work was self-centered. Thankfully, my brokenness and ego were no match for the Lord and did not ruin all my efforts. To the contrary, *"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."* (Romans 8:28). God called me to be on a mission, and I responded. In being faithful to that call, despite my failings, God worked a lot of good in my life and in the lives of the students I served.

## ALONE WITH THE LORD

As a missionary, I started in little baby steps to give my life away to others. Inch by inch, bit by bit, God started to configure my heart with His. It was from this place that my thoughts of priesthood began to blossom. I craved time to be

alone with the Lord, to seek Him, study, pray, and learn the way of the Father's heart for the world. Like a young sailor who has never left the bay, I longed to learn the way of the waves, to become a sailor of the deepest waters.

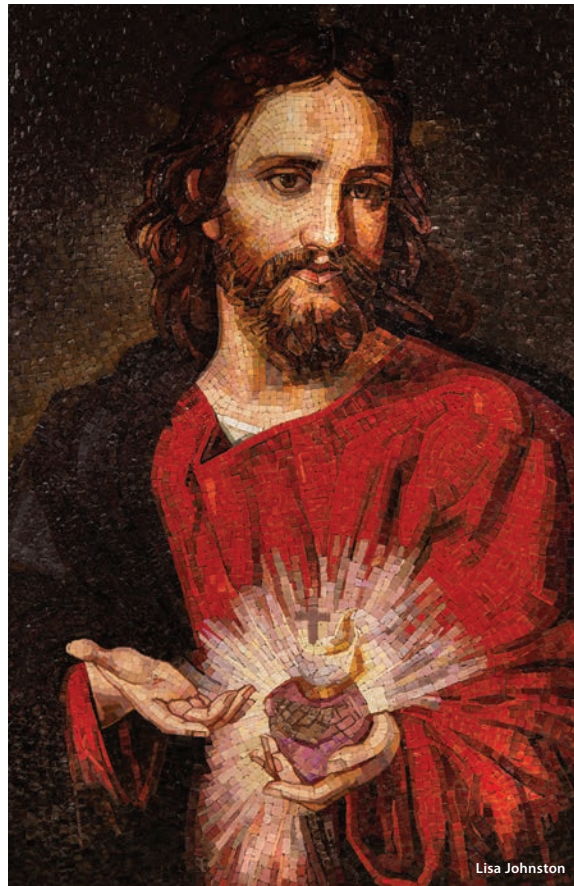
To learn the way of the waves requires going out into them. That was what seminary seemed to offer: a space to learn

more deeply the way of God the Father's heart. So, I applied and was accepted. Leaving SPO was hard. I had a lot of friends in the ministry and had witnessed God do a lot of miraculous things. At the same time, I was excited to follow the Lord into seminary, to make space to be formed — a free space that allows Jesus to deepen my interior life with Him — a desert of sorts. In the desert, I can be sure from where I receive nourishment. In the desert, there is no worldly success, no crowds to lead in praise and worship, no big talks to give, or meetings to run.

## REVEALING HIS SACRED HEART

So now that I am here, what am I learning in seminary? I am learning that I can't impress Christ with my potential to be a great priest. He simply wants me to be a great son and receive His love. As I look to Him and see His eyes for the world, I begin to

ask Him what He is doing and who it is that He wants me to tell of His love. He pulls back His garment to reveal His own pierced Sacred Heart — a heart for me, the church, the lost, the lonely, the abused, the broken, and the persecuted. He asks me to love the world with His love, not to sell His love to the world by my talents. He asks me to simply and boldly share Who He is. The Lord holds His heart out to me freely. But this gift will cost me something, nothing I had a right to anyhow. He asks for only that which I have already been given - everything!



“The Lord holds His heart out to me freely.”



## HIS PRIESTHOOD

In return for His heart, He asks for my plans, my self-concern and self-consumption, my self-centeredness and my over-romanticized fantasy of the priesthood. He will take everything - the good and the bad. The good he will multiply a hundred-fold and the bad he will take upon Himself. He asks everything but what He promises in return is beyond compare. Reality! Truth! Mercy! Love! Perfect Love, Himself on a cross, His heart for the world – all of this he would share with me as a priest of His church, as a priest after his own heart, and as a man that humbly would receive the gift of His priesthood. Not my priesthood, but ***His Priesthood!*** My priesthood holds no power, only empty words, puffed up pride, things the world knows already too well, such that it has grown sick on the very thing I would offer them - the efforts of man.

What am I learning in seminary? Something I will likely keep learning the rest of my life: God is God, and I am not. I am learning the joy and freedom that comes with living in that Truth. I am learning how to live with a broken heart, which the Divine Physician replaces with His. I am learning to feast upon the presence of the Father's Love for me, a love seen in the gaze of the Son and received in the power of the Holy Spirit. I am learning that it can no longer be I who lives, but Christ who must live in me. There was, is, and only will be One Savior and His Name is Jesus Christ, not Robert Williams. ✚

## INTRODUCTION TO SEMINARY LIFE

While seminary can be a place of grace and transformation, the transition for new seminarians can often be challenging. To assist men in this challenge, the seminary offered for the first time a Propaedeutic Seminar for college freshmen and Pre-Theology I seminarians in the 2019-2020 Academic Year. This seminar is designed to help seminarians learn the basics of seminary life as they step into a new world of formation. Examples of topics include:

- Time Management
- Liturgical Prayer
- How to Chant
- Intro to Liturgy of the Hours
- Boundaries & Breaks
- How to Make a Holy Hour
- Constructive Leisure
- Salvation History
- Spiritual Reading
- Discernment & Examen
- How to Make a Good Confession
- Leadership
- Fraternal Affirmation & Correction
- Study Skills

Aside from a half hour tour the summer before entering seminary, I had honestly no idea what to expect. The reality is that it is a tremendous place where men are truly being crafted into Christ, through Him alone, and every day is spent trying to fall in love with Him more and more.

Bobby McCoy, College II — Kansas City-St. Joseph

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SPIRITUAL FORMATION IS CENTERED ON LIVING IN INTIMATE UNION WITH GOD WITH THE UNDERLYING IDEA THAT, "YOU CANNOT GIVE WHAT YOU DO NOT HAVE."

All aspects of formation come together in the spiritual heart of a priest. There are five spiritual directors in the spiritual formation program at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary who provide for the spiritual needs of the seminarians, including regular direction.

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## SPIRITUAL FORMATION

# Receiving God's Love

By Fr. Kristian Teater, Director of Spiritual Formation, CGC Class of 1996



All are invited to the waters of Baptism that changes us to live a life "according to the Holy Spirit" (Rom 8:4). This new life invites us to greater union with the Lord, especially through one's personal vocation—our mission within the mission of the Church to spread the Kingdom of God.

### CAPACITY TO RECEIVE LOVE

The seminary follows the guidance of the Holy Spirit to draw a man further into this communion of love in light of the ministerial priesthood, whose reception in the sacrament of Holy Orders conforms him to Christ such that he can act in His person and continue His mission to teach, sanctify and lead all according to the Gospel. For spiritual formation, in particular, we desire to increase the man's capacity to receive the love of the Lord so that he may be a living conduit of God's Love and mercy to all whom Providence puts in his path.



### RESPONDING WITH FREEDOM

Along with encountering the Lord through the sacraments, daily prayer, the annual five day silent retreat and regular Days of Recollection, each seminarian receives a spiritual director, with whom he meets twice a month to discern how the Lord is acting within his life and where He is leading him. This relationship offers a privileged forum for the seminarian to be completely open, while the director guides the seminarian towards a greater maturity, so that he can respond with the "freedom of the children of God" (Rom 8:21) and embrace the demands of the fatherhood to which God is calling him. While we trust that this fatherhood is aimed towards the priesthood, we do not take it for granted, as some will discern the family life.

In the end, spiritual formation all comes back to increasing the capacity of the man to receive the love of the Lord that he may be formed according to the Heart of Christ and be a living conduit of God's Love and mercy to all whom the Lord puts in his path. ✚



# Reflections on Our First Year

We asked some of our new seminarians to share their experiences from their first semester and this is what they had to say!



**Kyle Doud, PRE-THEOLOGY I – TULSA**



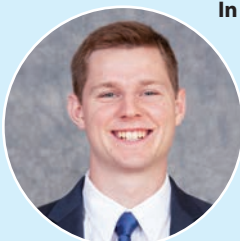
**The philosophy courses at KGS** have enriched my appreciation of the world God created. This has helped me to grow in gratitude, trusting more deeply in God's mercy. In the upcoming months I hope to develop the gifts God's given me to greater fruition for His Kingdom.

**Michael Elsner, THEOLOGY I – SAN ANGELO, TX**



**When I first arrived**, I wondered how in the world we would be able to get everything done. I have been pleasantly surprised that seemingly miraculously, everything seems to fall into place. I thought I would be spending every waking hour studying. While we do have to study, there amazingly seems to be time for everything else, as well.

**Bobby McCoy, COLLEGE II – KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH**



**In my first semester at seminary** it became obvious that I could no longer attempt to simply "push through" and rely on my own work ethic, but only receive Jesus's love in order to grow in holiness. I have learned the utmost importance and practicality that Christ's love alone has brought and continues to bring into my life.

**Lee Volmer, PRE-THEOLOGY I – KANSAS CITY-ST. JOSEPH**



**In just a short time, I feel that I have grown** in self-knowledge, discipline, and identity as a beloved son of the Father. While I've made many joy-filled friendships, I've also been led out of my comfort zone. I thank God for that. I hope that as time goes on, Christ will continue to draw me deeper into His Heart, forge me into the man He has called me to be and, God-willing, eventually lead me to share in His holy priesthood.

**John Windsor, THEOLOGY I – BISMARCK**



**The seminary is full** of bright, talented, and prayerful men. A man among such men, it can be easy to fall into the traps of comparison and competition. I have learned that the primary motive for every action is meant to flow from a disposition of love. This means that, even in my weaknesses, the Lord loves me and that I am called to love my brothers in their weakness. When this occurs, there is a deep sense of camaraderie, freedom, and joy which I have experienced and desire to experience throughout formation. ✚



# LOOKING BACK:

## Fr. Thomas Grafsgaard's Holy Land Experience

By Benjamin Wanner, Theology II — Bismarck

Fr. Thomas Grafsgaard was a deacon on the seminary's first pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2013.



Then-Deacon Grafsgaard (center) in the Sea of Galilee with classmates and Fr. James Mason – Holy Land, 2013.

Now, Fr. Grafsgaard is the shepherd of a small-town parish in North Dakota. Recently, he shared with me the continuing impact of that trip on his priesthood today. He especially remembers his retreat on the Mount of Beatitudes. With the sunrise glazed over the Sea of Galilee, he imagined living with Jesus as one of the original disciples. God moved him with a strong sense of gratitude and awe for receiving that same call to be His priest.

The trip to the Holy Land in 2013 continues to affect his prayer as a priest today because he can enter into the mysteries of Christ's life in a more intimate way. God acted concretely in history and continues to act today in Fr. Grafsgaard's parish. Fr. Grafsgaard has also been able to share his experiences by teaching others with greater geographical insights and personal pictures from the Holy Land. He has preached with countless personal stories and reflections, drawing on memories from his trip. Little did he know that Fr. James Mason, who happened to be on that very same trip as a spiritual director, would one day become Kenrick-Glennon Seminary's beloved Rector! May the Holy Land continue to bless our next generation of priests as it has Fr. Grafsgaard! ✝

## *In Memoriam*

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our priest-alumni who have passed away in recent months:

**Fr. Colin J. Boor**  
Class of 1950 – Wichita

**Fr. Eugene P. Brennan**  
Class of 1970 – St. Louis

**Fr. Charles E. Burgoon**  
Class of 1964 – St. Louis

**Fr. Evan Harkins**  
Class of 2010 –  
Kansas City-St. Joseph

**Msgr. Robert L. McCarthy**  
Class of 1958 – St. Louis

**Fr. Thomas J. Nelson**  
Class of 1975 – St. Louis



# Biblical Archaeology in the Holy Land

This year, seminarians in Theology IV experienced the Holy Land in a new way. Rather than going on the usual two-week pilgrimage, 13 deacons traveled to the Holy Land for a three-week theology and archaeology course taught by Fr. Charlie Samson, Associate Professor of New Testament. Below are a few snapshots and updates from their travels.

## THE SEA OF GALILEE

Greetings from the Holy Land! Yesterday we celebrated Mass on a hill overlooking the Sea of Galilee in the very place where Jesus taught the Our Father to His disciples. Just down the hill was the place where Jesus called St. James and St. John to follow Him.

## PETER'S PRIMACY

Day two started with free time and Mass at the shore of the Sea of Galilee - the spot where Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" (Jn 21:15). We traveled an hour north to Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus told Peter, "You are Peter. . ." (Mt.16-18).







## SAMARIA

Today, we visited two areas. First, Samaria, where Abraham lived and where Jesus met with the woman at the well (Jn 4). Next, we went to Herodion, Herod the Great's man-made mountain. There Herod built an impressive palace. The Magi would have likely met with him here on their way to Bethlehem. We also explored ruins of King David's city and Hezekiah's Tunnel.



## NAZARETH

We finally got to go to Nazareth! It's currently the third most populated city in Israel, so it's far from what it was originally. Deacon Dane Westhoff (left on the altar), a carpenter/handyman, got to assist at Mass and preach in the church above St. Joseph's Workshop. We also got to spend time near the cave where the Annunciation took place.



## TSIPORI

Today we took a boat ride on to the Sea of Galilee and read MK 4:35-41 and JN 21:1-4. We went to Tzipori (a town near Nazareth) where Jesus and Joseph would definitely have sold their handmade goods... These places are indescribably wonderful.



## GAMLA

Today, our itinerary was more focused on newer archeological sites that are part of national parks. We also visited Bethsaida, which is most likely where James and John grew up and was actually built in 700 BC!

**Visit the seminary's website and social media pages to view more photos and videos of the deacons' travels in the Holy Land.**



# SCIENCE IN SEMINARY: The Harmony of Faith and Reason

By Jacob Braun, Theology II — St. Louis

**A**s a young engineering student, long before joining the seminary, I often engaged the truths offered by my science classes with both a healthy dose of excitement and a nervous sense of trepidation. I was constantly amazed by scientists like Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein, who pierced the veil of secrecy which once shrouded the mechanics of our material universe with a bit of beautiful math. I was even impressed by Charles Darwin's apparent ability to lay bare the mystery of man's origins with his work *On the Origin of Species*.

And yet, as a cradle Catholic, my amazement was mingled with conflict, a feeling that my religious beliefs were somehow incompatible with, or under

attack by, what science had to offer. Without ever seriously engaging in these difficulties, I even began to wonder whether there was room for God in a universe where physics, biology, quantum mechanics, and chemistry can provide so many important answers. While I was not able to resolve this inner conflict immediately, my seminary education has helped me to see that the depth and splendor of truth are more fully understood when faith and reason subsist in harmony.

In November 2019, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary hosted a number of renowned scientists, philosophers, and theologians for the *Science Enhances Faith Symposium*, made possible by a grant from the American Association for the

Advancement of Science. Dr. Stephen Barr, a Princeton-educated particle physicist, gave the keynote address for this symposium, immediately taking aim at erroneous ideas that undergirded my own struggle with reconciling faith and reason. While there are many issues to explore and resolve, one of the most important points of contention can be expressed in a single question: is the universe governed by God or by natural causes?

## SHAKESPEARE'S HAMLET

To explain why this is a false dichotomy, Dr. Barr used an example from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*. In the play, Hamlet stabs and kills Polonius through a curtain. Dr. Barr explained that there

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As a man who has always been charmed by the sciences and captivated by the Catholic faith, my time in seminary education has been a wonderful experience of intellectual integration.

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are two causes for Polonius' death. Hamlet, of course, is responsible for killing Polonius within the context of the play. This is a kind of horizontal, secondary causation. However, it is also true that Shakespeare is responsible for the death of Polonius, even though he does not appear in the play himself. The reason for this is simply that Shakespeare, as the playwright, crafted the characters, shaped their narrative arcs, decided whether Hamlet would stab Polonius, and even determined that Polonius would die from the wound. This makes William Shakespeare the primary cause, or vertical cause, of everything that occurs within the context of the play. The same kinds of causation need to be analogously applied to God's activity with regard to the created order: the world isn't governed by God or natural causes, it's governed by both, as primary and secondary causes.

## THE GLORY OF GOD

In modernity, the hard sciences have mined the chain of secondary causation in the physical universe to great effect. However, in delving so deeply into the causes that unfold within the great play that we call physical reality, modern man has forgotten the notion of primary causality. In the analogy, God Himself is the playwright. He causes the universe and its inhabitants in a way that is analogous to Shakespeare causing the play *Hamlet*. Thus, the theory of evolution does not show that animals came into being without any help from God. Rather, it is an explanation of the secondary causality for which God Himself wrote the script. Similarly, when astrophysicists and cosmologists look into the cosmos to unveil the laws that govern space and time, they reveal an order and structure that was put in place by a God who transcends His creation. This clearer notion of causation is only one tiny piece of what helped me resolve the questions I struggled with in college, but it goes a long way toward showing how the complex laws which govern the universe ultimately return to the glory of God.

As a man who has always been charmed by the sciences and captivated by the Catholic faith, my time in seminary education has been a wonderful experience of intellectual integration. I no longer feel forced to choose between faith and reason because I know that man, in reality, needs both. Pope St. John Paul II puts it best in his encyclical *Fides et Ratio*, when he says, "*Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.*"

The truths I have received from faith and science no longer appear to be opposing forces, but complimentary lenses which help me to glimpse different aspects of God's glory. As I continue to approach ordination, I hope that I can one day help the people of God to see and revel in the glory of God's loving action both in nature and beyond it, by sharing what I've learned about the harmony of faith and reason. ✚

## SCIENCE ENHANCES FAITH SYMPOSIUM

**KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY** hosted the Science Enhances Faith Symposium for seminarians and members of the scientific community.

### Peter Richard Kenrick Lecture: Science and Religion — The Myth of Conflict

Dr. Steve Barr

*President and Co-Founder, Society of Catholic Scientists*

### The Human Genome Declares the Glory of God

Dr. Georgia Dunston

*Professor of Microbiology and Founding Director  
National Human Genome Center-Howard University*

### Scientific Method and Spiritual Direction

Fr. John Kartje

*Rector/President, Mundelein Seminary*

### Galileo and the Church

Dr. Cory Hayes

*Professor of Philosophy and Theology, St. Joseph Seminary*

### Gold Mass — Honoring the Role of Science and Scientists in the Church

*Celebrant: Fr. David Brown, S.J., Vatican Observatory*



Fr. David Brown celebrated the Gold Mass to conclude the symposium.

# Fostering My Vocation in High School

By Michael Laugeman, College III — St. Louis

**MY TIME AT ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL** created an environment for me to answer the call to discern the priesthood and to be attentive to the ways the Lord was inviting me to follow Him. It became more evident through my time in prayer, interactions with classmates and teachers, and my desire to share with others the joy of relationship with Jesus.

One particular person who played a significant role in my formation was former St. Dominic Theology teacher, Mr. Nathan Doerr. I was very edified by his desire to share the faith with those he encountered. Mr. Doerr started a club at St. Dominic called, *Viri Dei* which means, "Men of God." This was an opportunity for the men in the senior class to gather to pray, talk about the faith, and become leaders of faith for the whole school. I am grateful for the opportunity *Viri Dei* provided to me, specifically by leading prayer for the school community at the end of every school day.

Though the call to discern the priesthood had been on my heart for a couple years, I was still unsure where the Lord was asking me to go when I graduated. Having spent time at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary discerning his own vocation, I felt confident that Mr. Doerr would be a good person for me to consult. By the grace of God, my study hall and his free period coincided, which gave me the opportunity to visit his classroom and share with him the fruit of my prayer and struggles with discernment. I was always assured of his prayers and his strong desire for me to do what the Lord was calling me to do.

As I look back on my four years at St. Dominic, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the ways in which the community helped foster my vocation. The greatest gift St. Dominic gives its students is a chapel where they can go in their free time to spend time with Jesus. There, each student is able to cultivate a greater love and desire for the Lord. In that chapel, I was able to spend time contemplating all of the abundant blessings that the Lord had given me during my time at St. Dominic and to hear His call to discern the priesthood. ✚



**ST. DOMINIC HIGH SCHOOL** is currently the seminary's #1 feeder school, with seven current alumni enrolled as seminarians. The Annual Catholic Appeal sustains ministries and services that help countless people of all faiths in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, including tuition assistance and teacher training at schools like St. Dominic. Each year, the Annual Catholic Appeal invites you to help reach thousands with a gift of love that is offered, not because those receiving our charity are Catholic, but rather because we are Catholic.

**For more information, visit [Archstl.org/aca](http://Archstl.org/aca) or call 314-792-7680.**



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



# Pharmacist and Future Priest: Training in Medical Ethics

By Deacon Christopher Smith, Theology IV — St. Louis

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When I graduated from St. Louis College of Pharmacy in 2008, nearly a year after my conversion to the Catholic Church, I had no idea that when I would later attend my 10 year class reunion, I would be in school again, wearing a Roman collar and studying to become a priest.

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**Standing with former classmates**, catching up on people's lives, and reminiscing about my time in college was an opportunity to reflect on how I got to be where I find myself, truly an unexpected journey.

During my career as a pharmacist, I first began to consider the priesthood. Through a series of grace-filled experiences, it became clear that I needed to follow that call. Concurrently, as I became more and more knowledgeable about my faith, I was less and less comfortable with some of the things I was asked to do on a daily basis at work from a moral ethics standpoint. Indeed, it came as a relief to no longer feel pressure to compromise myself and my beliefs when I finally left my job for seminary.

As a seminarian, I have been given the great gift and opportunity to study and grow in deeper knowledge and appreciation of the teaching of the Church and the natural law behind those teachings. With the encouragement of my formation team, I enrolled in the yearlong Catholic Bioethics Certification course through the National Catholic Bioethics Center (NCBC), and successfully completed the program a few weeks after my ordination to the diaconate in 2019.

The mission of the NCBC, founded in St. Louis, is to promote and safeguard the dignity of the human person through education. The certification program involved a two-day seminar, weekly distance learning modules, and an in-person evaluation equivalent to 12 graduate credit hours. This certification will help me serve as a resource for the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and beyond, in whatever capacity I am called upon: to help find answers to difficult questions, to educate, and to proclaim the beauty of the Church's teaching about the sanctity of human life. Now, I will be called to do these things as a priest with the added credibility of a pharmacist with in-depth training in medical ethics. ✚

# Seminary Blood Drive

By Charles Peirano, Theology II — Springfield-Cape Girardeau

**TWICE A YEAR AT KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY**, we partner with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center to collect blood donations for the St. Louis area. The first drive was held in the fall of 2015, with 17 units of blood collected. Since then, we have increased donations each year. In the spring of 2020, we collected 63 units of blood from the seminary community. This brought our total donations for 2019-2020 academic year to 129 units! One seminarian even donated plasma for a patient in St. Louis with a rare blood type who is in critical need of new plasma everyday.

The gift of self is a primary focus in seminary formation and the blood drive is a literal practice of doing just that - giving our blood for those in need. This culture of giving has allowed the seminary to become one of the best and biggest blood drives in the St. Louis area. ✚



## HIGHLIGHTS

The **2019 Advent Novena** brought record-breaking crowds to the seminary's Chapel of St. Joseph. Each night of the novena included prayer, hymns, and a reflection presented by a seminary priest or deacon. A live stream was also available for those who could not be present. Video recordings of each event are available on the seminary's YouTube Channel.

The **KGS Lions Basketball Team** took 2nd place at the 20th Annual Father O'Malley Invitational Basketball Tournament at Mundelein Seminary in January. 16 seminaries competed from across the country. Seminarians also collaborated with men from other seminaries in a "Pep Band" that played during games throughout the weekend.

In January, Fr. Fadi Auro, Assistant for Formation and Director of Pre-Theology, led a Pre-Theology pilgrimage to Peoria, IL to visit the tomb of **Ven. Fulton Sheen**. There, seminarians were able to pray before the tomb of Ven. Sheen and spend time in the museum, learning more about his life. The men also listened to some of Ven. Sheen's talks and homilies while driving there and back.

The **Fiat Women's Group** and **Forming Men for Christ Group** continue to see a steady increase in attendance in the St. Louis community, with anywhere from 50-100 guests present each month. For more information on these regular events, please visit the websites: [kenrick.edu/fiat](http://kenrick.edu/fiat) and [kenrick.edu/fmfc](http://kenrick.edu/fmfc). We hope to see you there!

The seminary's annual **Open House** on February 23rd welcomed a few hundred people from across the St. Louis area. Seminarians gave tours through the halls, chapels, library, classrooms, and living spaces of the place they call home. ✚



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: Mr. Jim Killeen

# Finding Christ in the Vestibule

By Aaron Waldeck, Theology I — Kansas City, KS



**THIS JANUARY**, seminarians in Theology I were inspired and challenged by Mr. Jim Killeen in his all-day Communication Skills Workshop. A St. Louis native, Mr. Killeen is a longtime friend and supporter of the seminary. He remembers skating on the seminary's ponds with his friends and family as a child! Mr. Killeen is a husband, father, parishioner at St. Clement of Rome, and salesman (among many, many other titles). Mr. Killeen has selflessly given of his tremendous zeal for evangelization to help future priests carry the Gospel with enthusiasm and joy.

As an example, Mr. Killeen in his communications workshop, challenged and inspired us to go out and find “Christ in the vestibules of life.” Seminarian Joseph Martin, Theology I – St. Louis, remarked that Mr. Killeen “*made the presentation come alive*” and that he “*demonstrated [evangelization] techniques in real time.*”

Mr. Killeen’s workshop consisted in various activities directed toward becoming another Christ through relationships, vulnerability, and prayer. He also spoke of challenges along the way. One particular challenge was the “difficult, uncomfortable vestibules in life.” He encouraged us that those places are precisely where the love of Jesus is needed most. He also used his expertise in sales to share various strategies for making people feel welcomed and seen both in church vestibules and the vestibules of life. Without a doubt, it was a joy to get a firsthand look at a layman’s perspective and how we, as future priests, can be fishers of men with joyful hearts. ✚

## Save the Date: Convivium

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED** the Convivium Dinner Auction on November 2, 2019. It was the most successful auction in our history, with a sold-out crowd of 500 guests. Save the date for the 28th Annual Convivium Mass and Dinner Auction on Saturday, November 7, 2020!



## Planning For the Future

Your generosity is a blessing! Through your faithful support, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary can carry out the important work of forming and educating future priests. Please consider extending your support beyond your lifetime by making a planned gift to benefit our seminarians through our partners at the Roman Catholic Foundation of Eastern Missouri. To learn how you can sustain the seminary with a planned gift, please contact the Roman Catholic Foundation.

**314.918.2890 | [giftplanning@rcfstl.org](mailto:giftplanning@rcfstl.org)**





The seminary has fulfilled its purpose when a man learns to freely follow the voice of Jesus, wherever it leads.

# Fruitful Discernment

By Mitchell Baer, Theology III — St. Louis

**THE FIRST TIME I REMEMBER CONSIDERING THE PRIESTHOOD** was in seventh grade. I was drawn to the way priests are looked to for guidance and comfort. Now—as I stand a few months before my ordination as a transitional deacon—I look back on this journey and see how God transformed me to long for the priesthood for one simple reason: Jesus Christ desires me to be a priest.

Upon entering seminary my power to choose to remain in God's love was tiny. I desired it greatly, but my prideful ego was pretty obstinate. I praise God that in my time at seminary, my heart has widened to Jesus' love through daily prayer, silence, formation, and the power of Christian friendship. As this happened, not only did the horizons of my relationship with Jesus widen, but the way I understood my call to the priesthood came alive.

While Jesus continues to call me to the priesthood, he also calls some of my former seminarian brothers to marriage. It is such a joy to see some of the men I entered college seminary with experience the same joy of following Jesus as they get married and begin families.

Truly, the mission of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is not to make priests. Only Jesus Christ can do that. Rather, formation is all about becoming a holy man. While that might sound a bit exaggerated, the truth is a priest without holiness is more harm than good. But what exactly does holiness look like? Being holy is a fruit of God the Father's immense love for me meeting my free will. This happens most especially in a living relationship with His Son, Jesus. The seminary has fulfilled its purpose when a man learns to freely follow the voice of Jesus, wherever it leads. ✚

## Called to Marriage

By Jacob Schlueter, Cardinal Glennon College Class of 2016

I think it is fair to say that those years of formation toward the priesthood remain among my most cherished memories. While the seminary did not "give" me my relationship with Jesus, it provided a fertile seedbed for it to grow. Ultimately, this relationship helped me to trust and grow as a man of faith and ultimately strengthened my resolve to take the leap of faith and discern the vocation of marriage.

For many men considering the priesthood, fear of mistaken discernment may be a great hurdle.

Such doubt begets fear, and fear deprives a man of his freedom to respond generously to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

When doubts occupy the mind, it is necessary to turn to the person of Jesus Christ. He is the only one who provides true contentment and will turn fear into an act of faith. It is in that freedom which flows from a relationship with Jesus that we are able to joyfully attend to the vocations to which God calls us to live.



Jacob and Katie were surrounded by former seminary formators, alumni, and classmates on their wedding day in 2019.

Jacob and Mitchell graduated Cardinal Glennon College together in 2016.



## RELATIONAL PRAYER: How is Christ Calling Out to Me?

By Jacob Rosenmeyer, Pre-Theology I — Sioux City

In a letter to her community, St. Teresa of Kolkata once said: *“Jesus longs for you. He misses you when you don’t come close. He thirsts for you. He loves you always, even when you don’t feel worthy. When not accepted by others, even by yourself, He is the one who always accepts you.”* Through reading St. Teresa’s letter, most importantly this quote, and through a weekly prayer class, the phrase, *“Jake, I thirst for you”* began to enter my prayer life. At first this was troubling. How could I be so important that Christ was thirsting for me? How could I put my guard down enough to accept this truth? Through continued prayer, I began to realize that Jesus Christ is calling me to Himself, inviting me to more deeply consider the love he has for me. Not only do we thirst for Christ, but Christ thirsts for us and for our love. It was Christ’s personal call that invited me to become close to Him.

### WEEKLY PRAYER STUDY

For me, this call became the overall theme of Pre-Theology I’s weekly prayer class led by Fr. James Mason, President-Rector. The class, which has been lovingly dubbed “story time with Fr. Mason,” provides many opportunities to deepen my prayer life. The curriculum is designed to introduce seminarians to a variety of ways to pray and also to St. Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment of Spirits. The class discussions, weekly readings

and reflections, and various pastoral tips from Fr. Mason, have encouraged us to deepen our prayer lives and our faith.

### THRISTING FOR CHRIST

One of the key aspects of an active prayer life is spending time in silence with God. Having always been a talkative and social person, this was a great struggle for me at first. Slowing down to listen to God’s calling out to me was one of the most impactful lessons I learned through the semester-long prayer class. Many of the reflections and questions that enter my prayer life stem from this silence. I think they are valuable questions for all people to consider, such as: What weak points in our life allow for the enemy to engage us in battle during prayer? How can we “de-junk” or refocus our prayer life? Is humility a key value in our life? And most notably, how can we more concretely “thirst” for Christ?

While these questions require prayer and consideration during the coming semesters, they provide me with great graces through prayer. I am now far more comfortable spending time in silence to listen for Christ, who calls out to me. I am also more willing to ask God directly for guidance with particular issues or struggles. Most importantly, when no other guidance comes to me in prayer, I simply repeat, *“Jesus, I thirst for you. Jesus, I thirst for you. Jesus, I thirst for you.”* ✚





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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

April 1-5: Theology IV Retreat

April 3-5: Come and See Weekend

Sunday, April 12: Easter

Wednesday, April 15: Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 22: Installation of Acolyte – Theology I

Saturday, April 25, 2020: Cardinal Glennon College Trivia Night

Monday, April 27: Deacon Oaths

### MAY

Saturday, May 2: Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – St. Louis

Tuesday, May 5: Priesthood Oaths

Saturday, May 9: Kenrick School of Theology Graduation

Friday, May 15: Cardinal Glennon College Graduation

May 19-21: Symposium on Human Formation

Saturday, May 23: Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood – St. Louis

### JUNE

May 31-June 6: Kenrick Glennon Days

June 15-21: #FathersWeek

### AUGUST

August 17-22: Orientation

Monday, August 24: Classes begin



## OUR MISSION

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is a proper ecclesial community of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis preparing men for the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father, we seek each seminarian's configuration to the Heart of Jesus Christ, High Priest and Shepherd, so that he can shepherd wholeheartedly with Christ's pastoral charity.

## STAY CONNECTED



Support your future priests with an online gift at: [kenrick.edu](http://kenrick.edu).

To subscribe to our monthly **eNewsletter**,  
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