

SPRING 2022

# the Herald

A Kenrick-Glennon Seminary Publication



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KENRICK-GLENNON SEMINARY  
ANNOUNCES

Next President-Rector

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT-RECTOR

### Dear Friends,

As I write my last letter for the *Herald Magazine* as President-Rector, I am filled with a sense of profound gratitude for my time here the last eight years. I told the seminarians that I think one of the hardest things that a diocesan priest has to do is leave a parish assignment, given the love he has for the ministry and for the people he has served.



Relationships are at the core of our ministry as priests. We seek to grow deeper in the knowledge and intimacy of God's love for us and then we share that love with others. I most certainly have experienced this here at the Seminary and in St. Louis. I will miss this community.

Considering my successor, I also have a profound sense of peace and confidence as I depart. Fr. Paul Hoelsing is one of my closest friends, but more importantly, he is a man who desires to live the priesthood of Jesus Christ fully and pass that fullness on to our future priests.

Our new Vice-Rector, Fr. Shane Deman, was number one on our "dream team" list of possible candidates for the role. I want to thank Archbishop George Lucas and Bishop Walker Nickless for sacrificially and generously offering these priests for service at our Seminary. I would like to thank Archbishop Robert Carlson and Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski for allowing me to serve in the Archdiocese in St. Louis. I thank my own home Diocese of Sioux Falls and bishops, Bishop Paul Swain and Bishop Donald DeGrood, for releasing me for this service.

Finally, thank you for your constant and generous support. Let us continue to pray for healthy, holy, joy-filled priests to bring Jesus to a world through His word and sacraments.

In Christ,

Father James Mason  
President-Rector

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**Cover:** Jake Braun, Theology III – St. Louis, prays with patrons at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen in St. Louis. Jake and other seminarians regularly assist with the sisters' ministry.

**Cover photography by Kiera Petrick,**  
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## LETTER FROM THE ARCHBISHOP

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*"I give thanks to my God always, remembering you in my prayers ... so that your partnership in the faith may become effective in recognizing every good there is in us that leads to Christ." Philemon 1:1-4*

These words of St. Paul ring true as I consider with gratitude the place we find ourselves today in our Seminary. It is partnership in the faith that helps lead all to Christ. I have found this partnership in many places in St. Louis and especially in the formation of our future priests under the direction of Fr. James Mason, our current President-Rector.

Fr. Mason's leadership, vision, and dedication to forming priests for the Church today has greatly enhanced the mission of the Seminary in service to many dioceses in our country and around the world. He assembled an excellent team, and they have accomplished much. It was my joy to appoint Fr. Mason's successor, Fr. Paul Hoelsing, as the next President-Rector. Fr. Hoelsing has been a part of that team for seven years.

Together with the Seminary's faculty and staff and the newly appointed Vice-Rector, Fr. Shane Deman from the Diocese of Sioux City, Fr. Hoelsing and his team will be able to continue the top-quality education and formation of our future priests.

It is a sacrifice for any bishop to allow one of his priests to serve the wider Church. I am grateful to God for my brother bishops for sharing such talented priests for the formation of men who are called to serve our Church. I pray that our partnership in the faith leads the Church to a deep encounter with Christ in the hearts of every seminarian and all they will serve as parish priests.

Leadership is not lost. It is alive, well, and thriving in our Seminary. May the Holy Spirit guide us as we seek Christ and work together toward His greater glory.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski  
Archbishop of St. Louis



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# An Interview with Fr. Paul Hoelsing, President-Rector Elect



Left to right: Fr. Jason Schumer, Vice-Rector of Cardinal Glennon College, Fr. Paul Hoelsing, President-Rector Elect, Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, Fr. Shane Deman, Vice-Rector Elect, and Fr. Fadi Auro, Director of Pre-Theology and Assistant for Formation.

*On January 19, 2022, Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis, appointed Fr. Paul Hoelsing as the next President-Rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, effective July 1, 2022. In this interview, Fr. Hoelsing shares insights about himself, his new role, and the future of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.*



## **What are some of the unique challenges of seminary formation today?**

Our culture continues to challenge a faithful vision for human life. We no longer live in an age of Christendom, and many do not know what that means. Our men are also wrestling with their own wounds, exacerbated by the

ongoing decline of family life, an exponential rise in anxiety, and various enslavements to technology. Maturation gets delayed much more in our current climate of instantaneous self-gratification. Learning to make a mature gift of oneself in celibate priesthood requires the untangling of seemingly much more aggressive and antagonistic elements today.

## **How have your previous roles at the Seminary prepared you to be President-Rector?**

In these past seven years at Kenrick, I have had the privilege of working with a stupendous formation faculty and staff. Gifts and insights into priestly formation have surfaced through this community's prayerful experience together. As the Dean of Seminarians, my principle work was becoming deeply involved in the life of the house and learning the stories of the men in formation. If there is no real relationship, trust, or genuine interest with the men, there is no authentic formation. As the Vice-Rector, some administrative duties increased, so I became more and more of a clearinghouse for communication. If the dioceses we serve do not have a clear sense of their men in formation, then both the seminarians they entrust and the dioceses are missing what happens here, which is nothing less than the transformation of a man in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

### Who has been one of your greatest influences as a priest?

My spiritual directors, confessors, and friends have continually offered the guidance and challenge of the Holy Spirit to conform my life ever more fully to that of Jesus Christ. All of that grace is built upon nature, which I largely receive from my family. My family continues to be that great influencer, especially as I have watched my brothers be transformed into husbands and fathers by their family life. My brothers, especially with their amazing wives, show me what seminary formation is meant to accomplish – raise up men who have the capacity to be great husbands and fathers for the Church.

### Why do we have cause to hope in the future of the Church?

We have cause for hope because Jesus Christ promised, “*to be with us always, until the end of the age... Heaven and earth may pass away, but his words do not*” (MT 28 and MT 24). The greatest movements in the world begin with a person becoming newly receptive to God’s love. That’s the most fruitful human activity – to receive love, to receive God. The Church is the privileged assembly of persons who seek that relational life with God. As Walker Percy put it in his essay, *If I Had Five Minutes with the Pope* (1987): “*Don’t worry about the present dearth of vocations among our young people. The Western World, both capitalist and communist, is so corrupt and boring that sooner or later young people will get sick of it and look for something better. All it takes is a couple of high livers, like Francis of Assisi, a real dude, and Clare, a rich teenage groupie, to turn it around, to actually put into practice the living truth of the Church’s teachings, of the Gospel.*”

### What is your favorite memory from your time at the Seminary thus far?

I remember hosting my dad and brothers during the week I moved into the Seminary. We attended a Cardinals game, the first time we attended a professional baseball game together. Bob Gibson had pitched in our area of rural Nebraska. We all played baseball well into our teens and twenties. We were all pitchers and Cardinals fans.

### What is one area of growth you’ve observed in your time at the Seminary and one you look forward to in the time to come?

I’ve watched Fr. Mason move this Seminary from one school of theology among others into a privileged experience of discipleship and formation for parish priesthood, which has drawn other institutions and dioceses into our work with seminarians. From admissions processes to integrated counseling, we are gathering with other seminaries and religious communities to navigate a renewal of priestly formation. With the new Program for Priestly Formation emerging from our bishops, I see us continuing that growth with current and new dioceses as well. ✚



Fr. Paul Hoelsing prepares to concelebrate Mass in the Seminary’s chapel.

### From Archbishop George Lucas

*I am happy to support Archbishop Rozanski’s appointment of Fr. Paul Hoelsing as President-Rector of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, and I am grateful to Fr. Hoelsing for taking on this new responsibility. Many dioceses, including the Archdiocese of Omaha, depend on Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for the formation of our future priests. Since Fr. Hoelsing is one of our Omaha priests, I know that we will be well served by his leadership, as will every seminarian, faculty member, and diocese. The seminary mission statement expresses the desire to form seminarians who can “shepherd wholeheartedly with Christ’s pastoral charity.” We can all look forward to Fr. Hoelsing leading by example, shepherding the seminary community energetically, animated by charity from the heart of Christ.*

– MOST REVEREND GEORGE LUCAS  
Archbishop of Omaha, Class of 1975  
and former President-Rector (1995-1999)

### FR. HOESING’S CREDENTIALS

- Bachelor of Arts in Biology from the University of Saint Thomas in St. Paul in 1998.
- Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology and a Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 2001 and 2003.
- Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood in 2002.
- Named Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Omaha in 2008.
- Named President of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors in 2013.
- Served as Dean of Seminarians & Director of Human Formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 2015-2019.
- Appointed Vice-Rector for Formation in 2019.



# Thank you, Fr. James Mason:

## PRESIDENT-RECTOR, 2015-2022

By Fr. Mitchell Baer, Class of 2021 – Archdiocese of St. Louis



If you want to know the heart of a priest, pay close attention to his preaching. Having recently been ordained from Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, I heard a lot of Fr. James Mason's preaching. Every Monday, Fr. Mason offered Mass. There was always something special about coming together around the altar with our spiritual father to begin the week. He came to the chapel to pray before most of the men, listening to God speak in the silence, focusing his heart on God's voice. He passed on to us what he heard from Jesus with his characteristic tenacity.

There were some consistent messages we heard over and over again, such as, "live in reality," "if it's not slow, it's not human," and "unrealistic expectations are premeditated resentment." He called us to holy boldness and magnanimous generosity with the Lord. He pushed us beyond our comfort zones, inviting us to get concrete about evangelization and mission. He, along with the other priests in the community, witnessed to us the joy of Christian friendship. Their example challenged us to ground our own friendships in Christ.

One of the most notable differences about Kenrick-Glennon from when I entered in 2013 until my ordination in 2021 was the conversation among the men. When I entered, talking about personal prayer or spiritual things was awkward and, sad to say, even unwelcome by many men. By the end of my time there, Jesus was spoken of freely and joyfully, as if He walked the halls with us. It was not that Jesus wasn't there before; we just began to notice Him among us. The culture of the Seminary underwent a radical change under Fr. Mason, and I am grateful to his vision for bringing about that change.

Over time, I got the sense that Fr. Mason's motivation was not only out of love for us, but out of love for the people we would minister to someday. It is a joy to experience that same love myself as I minister as a priest now. I am eager to see how Fr. Mason's passion for the people of God and the renewal of the Church is called forth in the next step of his priestly journey. The Kenrick-Glennon Seminary community is grateful for your leadership, Fr. Mason, and wishes you well in your next assignment! ✚





# THE SHAPE OF THE CROSS

By Jacob Braun, Theology III – St. Louis



Left to right: Jesse Willis, Theology I - Rapid City, Jacob Braun, and Josh Deters, Theology III - St. Louis prepare a meal at the Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen.

## As she unpacked meat from the basement freezer

of the Chicago Missionaries of Charity soup kitchen, Sr. M. Jose said something that has reverberated in my prayers about my vocation: “Do you think that I want to be here, right now, doing this? I don’t want to be doing this. I want to be somewhere praying, or reading a book. But I love Jesus, and this is how he wants me to love him. So today, I will do this.”

If you have ever had the privilege of assisting the Missionaries of Charity (M.C.), you will likely notice some of the same things I do. They are tough as nails, often full of spiritual wisdom, and they radiate joy. But in a Disney-saturated culture that values the happily-ever-after ending as life’s primary attainable goal, it is easy to misinterpret the joy of others. A true observation, “*They look so happy*,” can

suddenly become, “*They must love and enjoy everything they are doing!*” But on this side of eternity, “*happily ever after*” is better left in fairy tales.

This bare truth was laid before my eyes on that cold and rainy day in Chicago: love for Jesus takes on a particular shape in the midst of our dark and fallen world. When that shape is closely examined, with its contours illumined by the light of faith, we find that love for Christ takes, at times, the shape of a cross. For Sr. M. Jose, loving Jesus in that moment looked like taking meat out of the freezer for those who she would serve. Out of love for Christ, she was willing to devote her life to serving the poorest of the poor all over the world, praying in the hours that remained. A cross, yes, but also the concrete expression of love that Jesus desired from her. The sisters smile before them, not because they are always having fun — a lesson that has changed my view of seminary.

In the past, it was easy for me to fall into that trap of fairy tale endings, even with regard to my vocation. While I have experienced tremendous joy in seminary through teaching, youth ministry, and adult faith formation, I have not attained unyielding consolation. There is hard work to be done. But now, when I experience that temptation to look askance at my responsibilities, I recall Sr. M. Jose’s words: “I love Jesus, and this is how he wants me to love him. So today, I will do this.” While none of what Sr. M. Jose said to me was totally new information — the formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is very honest and realistic about the priesthood — a motherly voice can sometimes break through deaf ears. I have begun to see even my small discomforts and daily tasks as opportunities to love Christ more. ✚

Every year, the Annual Catholic Appeal invites the people of the Archdiocese of St. Louis to come together in Christ as one Church and one family and to carry out His work and serve the Lord with gladness. Kenrick-Glennon Seminary receives an annual grant from the Appeal, so your support directly impacts each seminarian as he embraces the joys and challenges of priestly formation and seeks to love Jesus in the mundane and extraordinary. [For more information, visit \[aca.archstl.org\]\(http://aca.archstl.org\).](http://aca.archstl.org)



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS



# From Servicemen to

## U.S. ARMY

By James Fitzsimmons, Pre-Theology I – Sioux City

**M**y military career started when I joined Army ROTC as a freshman at Creighton University in 2013. ROTC was a fantastic experience where I learned a lot about leadership. I had some once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, like traveling to Thailand to teach English to children and attending airborne school (Army parachuting training), and I made some lifelong friends. I was later commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division. I had several different jobs of varying responsibility, but in each role, I had several soldiers that I was directly responsible for, and I grew extremely close to these young men. These relationships were my favorite part about being in the military, as I got to know the soldiers on an individual and personal level, tried to understand their needs, and provide for them in any way that I could.

Looking back, I can see how God was showing me my path to the priesthood through this desire to care for my soldiers. I was able to do many other exciting things while in the military, like jumping out of airplanes,



The priesthood was so far off my radar at this point that I almost needed to have everything I had ever hoped for in order to see that He was calling me elsewhere.

shooting a variety of exhilarating weapons, attending schools, and participating in various competitions. Still, the relationships with leaders, peers, and subordinates made me really enjoy the Army. A year into my time at Fort Bragg, I first felt God start to call me to the priesthood. It came through an emptiness in my heart that I could not understand. It made no sense to me; I had a great job that revolved around serving others, I had an incredible group of friends and I was dating my college sweetheart, with the intent to propose to her in the coming months.

However, God calls in mysterious ways. The priesthood was so far off my radar at this point that I almost needed to have everything I had ever hoped for in order to see that He was calling me elsewhere. After months of praying and trying to change God's mind about where He was calling me, I finally started to take steps toward seminary, ending my relationship and preparing to say goodbye to my career. Since I began saying "yes" to God's plan in my life, He has showered me with countless blessings that led me to the Seminary.



# Seminarians



Now, not only can I see many of the great things the Lord wanted me to learn from being in the military, I can also see places where I was wounded and needed Jesus' healing. While at Kenrick, I have still been able to experience those relationships that I loved in the military, but now on an even deeper level that is Christ-centered. Through this focus, I have been able to experience brotherhood unlike I ever have before. It's clear that God sent me down this path for a reason, and that He is using — and will continue to use — these experiences to bring me to Him and enable me to follow His will more closely. ✚



Jimmy Fitzsimmons helps stabilize a fellow Paratrooper in preparation for an airborne operation (during which 50-75 soldiers jump out the aircraft consecutively).

## U.S. AIR FORCE

By Dustin Johns, Theology III – Bismarck



Left: Airman Dustin Johns' official portrait from Basic Training.

### I SERVED THE AIR FORCE BOTH IN THE ACTIVE DUTY AND CIVIL SERVICE

capacities for almost twenty years. I gained valuable skills that have helped me in my formation in the Seminary. In basic training, the military strips you of who you are and forms you into an airman. I was no longer *Dustin Johns*, but *Airman Dustin Johns*. I was part of something that was greater than myself.

In my management positions in the military, I learned how to effectively lead people and to work with many different sections to accomplish the bigger mission. I acquired many different skills, such as budgeting, human resources, and being a “shepherd” to many, that will be beneficial in running a parish. While deployed, I worked with people from many different nations. I learned to trust my wingman with my life and about self-sacrifice — the willingness to lay down my life, so that others may live. Simple things in life are also learned in the military, such as attention to detail, the importance of being on time and keeping a schedule, and respect and trust in leadership. These skills are paramount for the greater mission and can save lives.

Converting to the faith and entering seminary has transformed my life. My whole identity was being an airman — I bled red, white, and blue, yet I never felt fulfilled. Now, my identity is as a beloved son, and I was made not for this world. I've been called to give my life to the Church. I'm no longer Dustin Johns, USAF, but God-willing, the future Fr. Dustin Johns. I was once ready to lay down my life for the United States all for my glory. Now I'm ready to lay my life down for God, not for my glory, but for His. ✚

# To Equip the Holy Ones for The Work of Ministry

By Dr. Stephen Fahrig, Associate Professor of Biblical Theology

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In his letter to the Ephesians, St. Paul includes “teachers” among those whom God has given to the Church to *“equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ”* (Eph 4:12).

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**St. Paul’s words could easily serve** as a job description for a Catholic seminary professor. Indeed, I have them framed on my office wall as a daily reminder of what God has called me to do: to contribute, to the best of my ability, to the preparation of men for the work of ministry as priests of Jesus Christ.

Being a professor of Sacred Scripture at the Seminary is a both a profound joy and a tremendous responsibility. It is a joy because I am blessed to be able to talk to my students about the Bible in the context of faith, ministry, and prayer. In the classroom, I can engage the men in discussions about how their biblical studies will impact their approach to preaching on the Scriptures at Mass and praying with them in their *Lectio Divina* and their daily recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours. This is something a Scripture professor in the religious studies department of a secular university cannot do!

At the same time, serving on the Seminary faculty is a great responsibility. I am aware that what I convey in the classroom will influence the thinking of our future priests, and, through them, of the entire People of God. For this reason, I strive to take the intellectual formation of my students seriously, while remaining

aware that this formation is intended to serve a pastoral end. I like to remind the men that, when ordained to the priesthood, they will be religious professionals, expected to “know their stuff” in the realm of Scripture and theology just as doctors and lawyers are expected to be experts in medicine and the law.

It was here, as a seminarian twenty years ago, that I first developed the love for theology that led me to pursue advanced biblical studies. Although God was not calling me to the priesthood, I can now see that the Lord used my time in formation to prepare me for my present work. Having been a seminarian myself (and now being in formation for the permanent diaconate), I can easily relate to the balance that my students need to maintain between the intellectual, human, spiritual, and pastoral dimensions of their preparation for Holy Orders.

I am honored to be a part of the great work that is being done here to *“equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.”* ✚

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# A Father Returns

By Deacon Jonathan Tolberd, Theology IV – Wichita

*“He’s coming home. Fr. Kapaun is coming home.”*

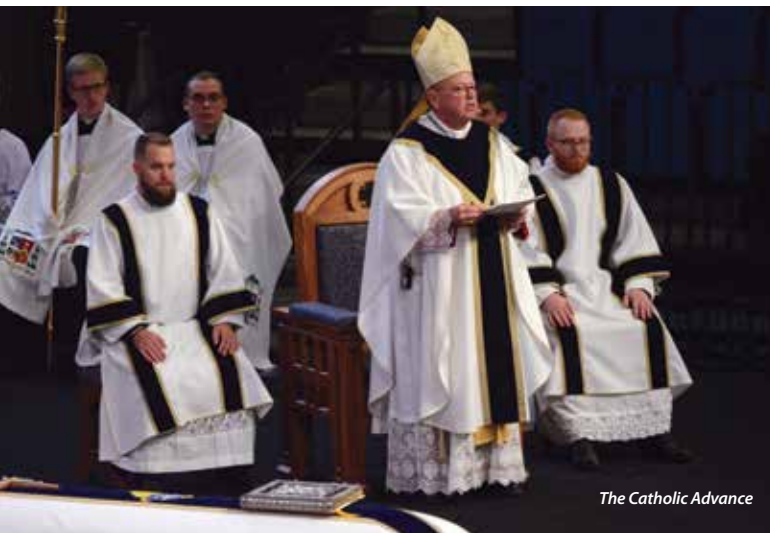
Those words meant more to me and to the Diocese of Wichita than can truly be described. Fr. Kapaun was a Kansas boy who offered his life to God by becoming a priest, and eventually, a military chaplain. He served in World War II and the Korean War. When the Korean War began, Fr. Kapaun was pastor of the church in his hometown of Pilsen, Kansas. He kept asking the bishop for permission until he was finally allowed to return to military service. Fr. Kapaun would say, “I have got to go be with my boys.” Little did Fr. Kapaun know that he would one day die for his boys.

Fr. Kapaun stayed behind to take care of the wounded when the enemy broke through the frontlines in Korea. He was captured and made a prisoner of war. During the forced march to the prison camp, Fr. Kapaun carried the wounded and encouraged his fellow soldiers. When they made it to the camp, Fr. Kapaun took care of his boys in any way he could. Eventually, the Chinese Communists singled him out and looked for an opportunity to get rid of him. In May 1951, they had their opportunity. Fr. Kapaun had pneumonia. His captors discovered where the prisoners were hiding him, and they took him to the death house. Fr. Kapaun discouraged his

fellow prisoners from resisting, as he said, “Don’t worry about me. I am going where I have always wanted to go.” He was killed and his body was presumably thrown into a mass grave, with little chance of ever locating him. Fr. Kapaun was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in April 2013 by President Barack Obama, in recognition for his heroic acts in that prison camp.

In 2021, the military identified Fr. Kapaun’s remains, a nearly impossible task. With his remains returning home for burial, an unspeakable joy spread through the diocese. Fr. Kapaun was an ordinary man who chose to love God and his neighbor, wherever he found himself. He didn’t care about the cost. His earthly example of holiness leads us all to examine our own souls. This took hold of my own heart during the funeral Mass on September 29, 2021. As a soon-to-be-ordained priest for the Diocese of Wichita, I too want to live my life for the people of God so that, like Fr. Kapaun, I can say “Don’t worry about me. I am going where I have always wanted to go.” ✚

*Editor’s Note: Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun is a 1940 alumnus. His cause for Beatification is currently underway.*



Left: Deacon Jonathan Tolberd, far right, served as a deacon for Fr. Emil Kapaun’s funeral Mass on September 29, 2021 in the Catholic Diocese of Wichita. Also pictured are students Kyle Demel, Nick Samsel, and Deacon Ty Taylor and Bishop Carl Kemme, Class of 1986. Right: The Class of 2012 commissioned this painting of Fr. Emil Kapaun, Class of 1940, by artist Cynthia Hitschler and presented it to the seminary as a gift upon their graduation. The original resides in the Student Center, named in his honor.



# “Can you Lean on My Faith?”

By John Grim, Theology I – Oklahoma City, in collaboration with Ethan Osborn, Theology I – Kansas City – St. Joseph



Left: Msgr. Michael Butler offers Mass at St. Clement of Rome parish where three seminarians are assigned for pastoral ministry (left to right) Alexander Schmitt, John Grim, and Ethan Osborn. Right: Little ones are among Msgr. Butler's parish family and wait eagerly to show him their favorite toy action figures.

## Monsignor Michael Butler

was a military chaplain for the Air Force, serving at home and abroad for over 32 years. He was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of St. Louis in 1989 and served as a chaplain in the National Guard through the '90s; then 9/11 hit, and ten days later, he was called to active service. Msgr. Butler has numerous experiences of military life, all characterized by a deep sense of his vocation as a priest of Jesus Christ.

As a young seminarian, Msgr. Butler had no interest in military chaplaincy, but with an openness to the Word of God and

discernment, a desire was awakened in him to serve those in the dark places of war. Msgr. Butler experienced the terror of war for the first time when he and his team made a combat landing in the middle of the Saudi Arabian desert. He recalled the vivid scene in the plane, the darkness with nothing more than red lights, soldiers preparing their weapons, and the imminent possibility of death. As his terror increased and the plane got closer to its target, Msgr. Butler recalled the words of the famous song, “Be Not Afraid,” which immediately gave him a profound sense of hope. In that moment,

he realized that his purpose as a chaplain was to be the sense of calm for others.

When ministering to a Catholic man who had witnessed the death of his friends but who knew little of the faith, Msgr. Butler asked him, “Can you lean on my faith?” Without show or pomp, Msgr. Butler was simply a man of faith, hope, and love in the dark places of war. After getting to know Msgr. Butler in my parish assignment and listening to him recount story after story, it is striking for me to see the affect of a man who still lives with hope, willing to serve Jesus wherever he is called. ✚

## In Memoriam

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

### Fr. Robert L. Banken

Class of 1968 – St. Louis

### Fr. Charles M. Coleman

Class of 1967 – Kansas City – St. Joseph

### Fr. Robert E. Lampert

Class of 1965 – St. Louis

### Fr. Robert A. Landewe

Class of 1959 – Springfield-Cape Girardeau

### Fr. Roger K. Meitl

Class of 1959 – Salina

### Fr. Patrick J. O’Kane

Class of 1977 – Sioux City

### Fr. Peter G. O’Sullivan

Class of 1983 – Kansas City in Kansas

# Welcome Back to Convivium!

By Joseph Lux, College III – St. Louis

**THIS PAST YEAR, I WAS PRIVILEGED** to be one of the seminarian representatives for the Convivium Dinner Auction. Throughout the year, I met with a few other seminarians and the Development Office to plan the event.

Going into the night, I was nervous. I felt a lot of pressure to put on a good appearance and impress all of the guests. My experience, however, was not quite what I expected. I was surprised at how genuinely interested many of the guests were in getting to know the seminarians. Moreover, the generosity of the guests was overwhelming. I remember standing on the edge of the room, clapping and cheering as the bidding went back and forth, and realizing that everyone in that room considered my vocation something worth supporting. This came to life for me when all of the seminarians went on stage to sing the *Salve Regina*, a Marian hymn we sing to end the night. Looking out at that sea of faces, each one a soul who shared my faith, who was backing me, supporting me, and urging me onwards in my discernment – I realized I was part of a community much broader and more beautiful than I could have imagined. I hope that everyone present could feel all of the gratitude with which we sang that *Salve Regina*! ✚



The Holy Family depicted in the seminary's baldacchino painting by artist, Will St. John.

## HOLY FAMILY FUND

Please prayerfully consider making a gift to the Holy Family Fund. Through your generous support, this Fund will help sustain both immediate and long-term needs of the Seminary.

The name "Holy Family Fund" represents the important and beautiful relationship between the priesthood and family life. The seed of Jesus' own priestly vocation was nurtured in the context of the Holy Family. We want to encourage all families to be the seedbed of vocations, where young men and women are taught to listen to and respond to God's call. For more information or to make a gift, please visit [Kenrick.edu/support/HolyFamilyFund](http://Kenrick.edu/support/HolyFamilyFund). ✚

# Welcome, Fr. Shane Deman!



**Fr. Shane Deman of the Diocese of Sioux City** was appointed Vice-Rector of Formation at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary by Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, effective July 1, 2022. Fr. Deman will replace Fr. Paul Hoelsing, who has been named the next President-Rector of the Seminary. Fr. Deman currently serves as the Director of Vocations and Chaplain of Bishop Heelan High School in Sioux City. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2008 and earned a Doctorate in Fundamental Theology at the Gregorian University in Rome in 2015. Fr. Deman shared, *"The invitation to serve as the new Vice Rector came as a big surprise for me, yet I am grateful to Archbishop Rozanski for the opportunity to serve in this role. As difficult as it is to step away from ministry in my own diocese, I'm looking forward to serving at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary."*

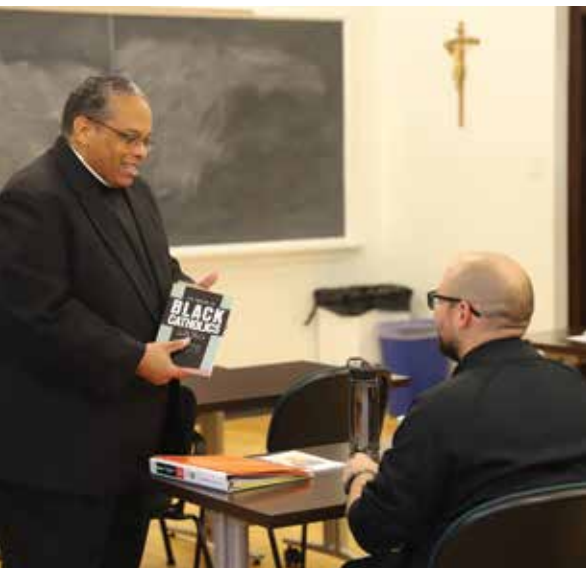
Fr. Deman's experiences as a Vocation Director from a sending diocese will help broaden the perspective of the seminary's renewal of priestly formation. He is known among many seminarians already, not only by those in his own diocese, but to others he led during the 2021 retreats. *"The seminarians have always been joyful during my visits to the seminary and I appreciate how the faculty speaks with a unified voice in their approach to formation. It will be a privilege to join the faculty and assist in the work of forming our future parish priests."* ✚

## HIGHLIGHTS



The Seminary welcomed hundreds of visitors for the **2021 Advent Novena**, both in-person and by livestream. The program for each evening included Advent hymns, led by the choir, and a brief reflection given by a priest or deacon from the Seminary community. It was a wonderful way to pray together in anticipation of Christ's birth. Videos of each evening's novena are available at [kenrick.edu/novena](http://kenrick.edu/novena).

**Kenrick School of Theology** hosted three days of workshops for seminarians at the start of the spring semester. These practical workshops were offered by current faculty and guest speakers. Topics ranged from Stewardship and Advancement to Personality Types, and Evangelization.



Fr. Fadi Auro, Class of 2012 and Director of Pre-Theology and Assistant for Formation, led the seminarians in Pre-Theology on a pilgrimage to Wichita to see and venerate the tomb of **Servant of God Fr. Emil Kapaun, Class of 1940**. They visited various religious orders and churches along the way. Visit [kenrick.edu/pilgrimage-to-wichita](http://kenrick.edu/pilgrimage-to-wichita) for a recap of the pilgrimage written by Koby Nguyen, Pre-Theology II–Wichita.

The Seminary's new elective on **Race, Faith, Mission** explores the subject of racism and racial discrimination. This course fosters critical awareness of the different voices in the discussion, both in the Church and in the wider culture. This class is offered by Dr. Ed Hogan, Academic Dean, Joyce Jones, Program Director for Racial Harmony for the Archdiocese of St. Louis, and a list of guest presenters, including Fr. Gerard Jordan, the Postulator for the Cause of the canonization of Servant of God, Father Augustus Tolton - the first African American ordained priest in the US. ✚



# Meet the Men of *Forming Men for Christ*

*The Forming Men for Christ and Fiat Women's Group initiatives are important to the life of our seminary and St. Louis Catholic community as a whole. Forming Men for Christ started in 2015 by Fr. James Mason.*

*The group meets on the second Thursday of each month at St. Joseph Parish in Clayton and will continue under Fr. Paul Hoelsing's leadership.*



"When I learned of Forming Men for Christ, I thought it would help me grow in my Faith and become a better Catholic. Attending the monthly meetings has given me a greater appreciation for and understanding of the Scriptures and the teachings of the Church. While we only meet once a month, I believe the meetings have helped me become a better Catholic... Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is critical to the mission of the Church. Quite simply, if we have no seminary we have no priests. If we have no priests, where will our Church be tomorrow? We all have a responsibility in the future of our Church and the men studying to be priests need our help through our prayers and our financial support."

— *Joe Sellinger*

"The Forming Men for Christ men's group meeting has been a blessing in my life these past few years. Father Mason's homilies and talks have always been meaty and thought provoking. I and the other men have had the privilege of a monthly mini retreat from an experienced retreat master. Also, it's great to get a

glimpse of how he and guest priests from Kenrick approach the vital task of forming young seminarians into holy priests, and then try to bring that wisdom into my own life as a lay Catholic man, husband, father, and friend. Meeting and hearing stories from many of the other men in the group has also been a source of encouragement for me."

— *Sam Fentress*

"Monthly topics have ranged from the process for discernment in decision-making, to reflections on the "Our Father", to the importance of resting in God and embracing the genius of the feminine, to St. Joseph's model as a worker and for a good death, to challenging intersections of social issues and the Church's teachings. Together, the monthly masses and talks meet us where we are, bringing wit and wisdom grounded in the Bible and the Church's teachings, helping us grow to become better husbands, fathers, friends, workers, employers...better men for Christ."

— *Greg Hewett*

"Whether it be an exploration of prayer and discerning spirits, or an analysis of how the formation of a man into a priest applies to the Covid pandemic, men of all ages and backgrounds sit around tables and enjoy a cup of coffee and some coffeecake, all while receiving this gift. Fittingly, we do so in the house of our patron, St. Joseph. I cannot think of a better way to not only start the day, but add to what my parish provides. Fr. Mason will often relate a topic he is discussing with us to an aspect of the seminarian's formation, and how that formation is of the whole person. These future priests will, obviously, play a huge role in the future of my faith, and their formation as a whole person requires the support and investment of non-ordained men such as me. My support for the seminarians, in prayer, in interaction with them as they serve in our parishes, and certainly financially if able, is part of being, Men for Christ."

— *Tom Hayek*

Visit [kenrick.edu/fmfc](http://kenrick.edu/fmfc) for further details.

# LOVING OTHERS with the Heart of Jesus

Apostolic Services is an integral part of the Pre-Theology Formation Program. Each week, seminarians in Pre-Theology II offer support at St. Louis Catholic Academy and the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Through God's grace, this work has become life-changing to them and to the people they serve.

## Seeing the Face of Christ

By Steven Mahoney, Pre-Theology II – Omaha



Along with the spiritual, academic, and human dimensions of formation, seminarians are actively being formed in pastoral formation. Second-year Pre-Theologians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary participate in apostolic service by tutoring at St. Louis Catholic Academy and serving with the St.

Vincent De Paul Society's outreach at St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist Parish. This part of my life as a seminarian is playing a vital role in my formation to the priesthood.

When assisting with St. Vincent De Paul's outreach, we go to the homes of parishioners who are in need of financial and material support. At one particular home, we met a family that consisted of a mom and her three children. The woman had recently lost one of her sons. There were no beds

for the children, and they had to sleep on the floor and old couches. We brought this family a voucher for three mattresses and box springs for the children.

Before we gave the gift, we simply talked to the mom and listened to the hardships that she endured in life. What struck me was her great faith. She had a total dependence on God

She had a total dependence on God and knew that He was going to take care of her and her children.

and knew that He was going to take care of her and her children. Looking into her eyes was extraordinary. I could see the face of Christ. I was moved to tears during our conversation. Before we left, we prayed together and asked for an end to the emotional and physical poverty that she was facing. Then she prayed for me. This mother, who has very little, filled my heart with her presence and witness. I desire to be a channel for God's love in the way she modeled it. I left with a renewed longing to love out of my own littleness. ✚

## St. Louis Catholic Academy

By Koby Nguyen, Pre-Theology II – Wichita



My experience tutoring at St. Louis Catholic Academy can very well be compared to my spiritual life and the constant surrendering to God's will, which ultimately brings with it the greatest amount of joy and fullness. Each time we tutor, we are assigned to different jobs with various amounts of students ranging in ages up to fifth

grade. I never know what to expect. Since this is my first time teaching, keeping students on task is extremely humbling. I found that, just like the spiritual life, concretely doing something to alleviate the anxiety caused by the lack of control is not always the answer. Instead, the situation can best be handled by calling to mind God's goodness. For instance, students frequently fall almost into complete despair when they forget how to do something very minimal, like how to spell a certain word. Their whole morale collapses quickly and



they refuse to work. In these situations, instead of pushing them to fight through their struggle or finding a clever way of getting them back to doing their work, I find that asking them what is wrong, hearing their struggle, validating their pain, and then affirming them of their strengths and skills lights a fire underneath them. By remaining present to the children and listening to them, I can live in the love of God and see Him in them.

It's ironic that while we are sent there to teach and tutor these children, it is we who learn from them! I see the children's authentic desires and needs, knowing many are neglected and come from broken homes, and know they feel loved and heard just by my simple way of being present to them and listening to them. The children see the love I have for them and they reciprocate by offering me many hugs, sharing their joys throughout their day, or telling me about the things they are excited to do in the future — like go on vacation or play video games on the weekend. My greatest joy is seeing them know they are loved and heard and watching them live joyfully out of that recognition. ✚



## A Listening Heart

Kyle Demel, Pre-Theology II - Wichita



Last fall, on the coldest day of the season, one of my seminarian brothers and I ventured out into the streets of St. Louis with a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, going to the doors of people in need and giving them vouchers for the holiday season. One particular visit, however, became something much

more. It became a true encounter with Christ.

On our first stop, we knocked on the door of a young woman. When the volunteer from St. Vincent de Paul explained to the woman who we were and why we were there, she was shy and unsure of the three strangers at her door. She only half-heartedly stepped outside and engaged us. We asked if there was anything that we could pray for her for, and then, cautiously, she began to share her story. She told us that she was currently involved in a domestic abuse case. She also shared that she had a son, who was caught in the middle of this. As she shared these struggles, her expression changed. Her eyes began to light up. At the end of this encounter, we all prayed and asked Jesus to heal the wounds that this woman shared and any other struggles she had. Then, we gave her the vouchers and left.

The whole encounter was only about twenty minutes, but it had an impact on this woman. She desired to be heard, and we simply listened. Before seminary, I thought that there was no way that I could minister to a person in this woman's situation. I have nothing to offer her. I do not have the same struggles as her. After experiencing this person's change in expression, however, I realize that shared experience is not required for a true encounter with Christ. I can simply listen as Jesus listened. ✚



# Faithful in the Little Things

By Joseph Martin, Pastoral Internship – St. Louis

Greetings from St. Clare of Assisi parish! It is a gift to be assigned here with Fr. Anthony Yates and Fr. Andrew Auer as I complete my pastoral internship. For me, this year is a time when the rubber meets the road, and God has been stretching me in many ways.

On the practical side, the internship has given me an up-close look at parish life and the daily ministry of priests and deacons. I know from my experiences what a healthy priesthood looks like. I am also more familiar with the nuts and bolts of running a parish, a school, and outreach programs. My classmates and I have found these experiences most valuable. Whenever we meet to share experiences, a common refrain is: “I would not have learned this in the classroom!”

More importantly, the internship has greatly increased my trust in God. It is tempting to try to “fix” various situations that come up, especially when encountering pain and brokenness in the lives of parishioners. I have learned, in a whole new way, that only Jesus can save souls, including my own! I do my best work at the parish not by trying to be productive or successful, but by staying aware of His presence in my life and the lives of others.

An example of this took place in my first few days living at the parish. I went out for a rosary walk in the evening and

happened upon a woman who had jumped out of the car of her abusive boyfriend. She was distraught, her face was battered, and the boyfriend had driven off with their infant child. After the police interviewed the witnesses and the paramedics took the woman to the hospital, some bystanders asked me to pray with them. They happened to be fallen-away Catholics and told me later how powerful and healing it was for them to pray with me. This taught me right away how much God can do with something simple like a rosary walk! This lesson has stayed with me ever since.

Finally, the internship has given me opportunities to receive a new identity from God, that of a spiritual father. Living and working full-time in the parish allows me to pray at daily Mass with a community, assist with the sacraments, teach children in school and PSR, visit the sick, bury the dead, and be present with families in moments of joy and pain. This immersion in parish life has given me great peace. Many parishioners have told me how important my presence is to them. “Being present” is the first role of any father. I am so grateful to God for His constant presence in my life, and for giving me the opportunity to manifest His presence to a parish family this past year. ✚



Joseph (far left) with Fr. Auer and members of the parish youth group.



Shaina Guntli



# An Ecumenical Future

By Jordan Boone, Theology III – Lafayette-in-Indiana

**Most priests can only dream** of having over two hundred young people a year come to Mass for the first time in their lives, but this was the experience at my pastoral internship parish. For several weeks, I noticed groups of young people materializing in our back pews, and then, just as mysteriously as they came, they disappeared! One weekend, I managed to talk with one of these groups. They were students at the Wesleyan University, attending Mass as a site visit for class. This began my efforts to pray with them after Masses, answer questions, and pitch ecumenism.

Ecumenism is the movement toward cooperation and unity among Christians. While ecumenism has not always been well understood or implemented, Catholic, Lutheran, and Presbyterian seminarians in St. Louis have been venturing to lay new foundations this year – not just for a school year, but for a lifetime of ministry. If you had stopped by the Seminary’s Kapaun Student Center on a Friday night during the fall semester, you might have found a mixed group of one hundred seminarians hanging out after an ecumenical soccer game. In this environment, sharing pizza was likely to give way to praying over each other, a game of pool could end with an invitation to Mass, and watching the Cardinals could be coupled with theological discussion.

These fellowship events inspired seminarians to attend one another’s Advent concerts and novenas, joining together in anticipation of the Lord’s coming anew. Over ice cream at Concordia and port at Kenrick after many of these events, seminarians shared the Lord’s movements in their lives. These experiences of fellowship and prayer revive constructive theological discussions, led by faculty and engaged by students.

This year, I was asked to be Ecumenical Liaison as my “house job” at the Seminary. As a convert, this was a work of God’s loving providence. He has constantly used my personal experiences, such as having an initially disapproving grandparent, a brother who followed me into the Church, and a cousin who went to a Southern Baptist Seminary, to help aid me and my brother seminarians in our abilities to work toward Christian unity. We wish to strengthen our Protestant brothers and sisters in the faith against a secular culture, to be inspired by them, and to exercise skills needed to evangelize. We have



hope for the ecumenical future of the communities here in St. Louis, and we know the skills we learn will help us engage more fully in the effort of Christian reunion in our home dioceses. ✚



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL

April 8-10: Come and See Weekend  
Sunday, April 17: Easter Sunday  
Thursday, April 21: Installation of Acolytes – Theology I  
Monday, April 25: Deacon Oaths

### MAY

Tuesday, May 3: Priesthood Oaths  
Saturday, May 7: Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – St. Louis  
Saturday, May 14: Pre-Theology Completion Mass & Theology  
Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation  
Friday, May 20: Cardinal Glennon College Commencement Mass  
Saturday, May 21: SLU Graduation  
Saturday, May 28: Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood – St. Louis

### JUNE

June 1-24: Behold The Man Incoming Theology I Program

### AUGUST

Monday, August 15: Orientation Begins  
Monday, August 22: Theology 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



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