

From the Seminarians of St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach, FL

ISSUE XXV | ORDINATION / SPRING 2021

SEEDS OF HOPE

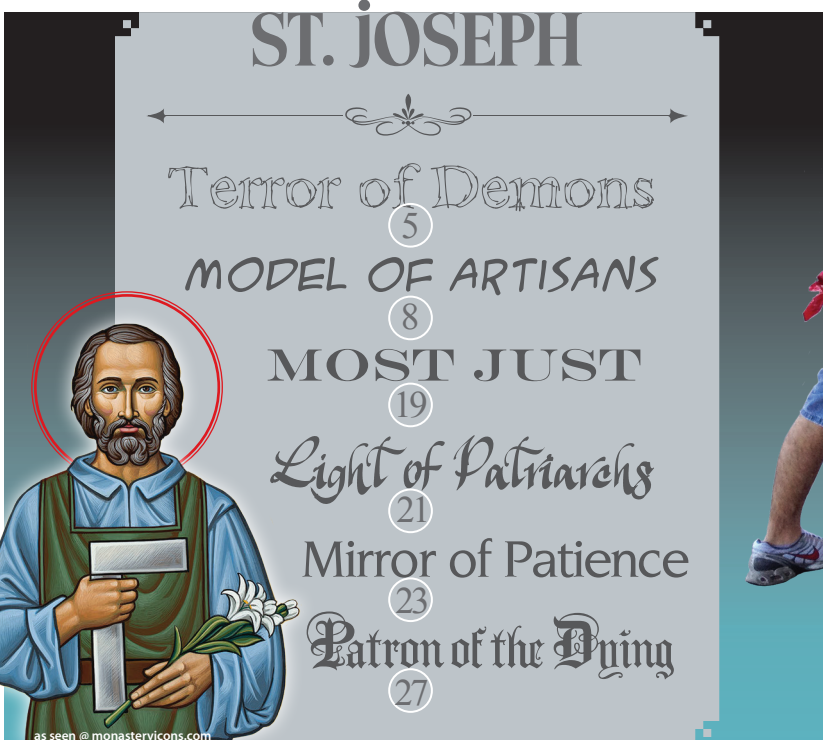
HEART OF THE FATHER

ST. JOSEPH
pray for us!

San José, El Más Fiel
Throughout the Years
Farewell & Welcome

2021 *Ordination* ISSUE





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& Farewell
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REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR

Spring 2021

Dear Friends of SVDP,

We entered lockdown last year on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, March 19, 2020. We entered into a time of special prayer for the world and of focus on our reason for being here with a solemn Mass and Eucharistic Procession and Forty Hours Devotion. We have been aware since that moment that St. Joseph has been accompanying us and protecting our community, just as he protected Mary and the Child Jesus, to ensure that we can fulfill our mission.

What a joy it was, then, when Pope Francis announced on December 8, 2020, the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Joseph as Patron and Protector of the Universal Church, that 2021 would be the Year of St. Joseph. In this issue of *Seeds of Hope*, we will look at different aspects of the life of the Foster Father of Jesus and Husband of Mary, as they relate to our life in seminary and the life of priests and of the lay faithful.

Directly related to this theme, you will find articles on humility and service, on a deacon's relationship to St. Joseph as carpenter, on fatherhood, and an interview with Bishop Felipe Estévez of St. Augustine (who with Bishop Frank Dewane of Venice in Florida had already declared a Year of St. Joseph before St. Francis). You will also find the vocation story of one seminarian and a graduating deacon's reflections on his years at SVDP. There are pieces on



two deceased priests with strong connections to our seminary, Fr. Urban Voll, OP (Rector 1973–1980), and Fr. Seamus Murtagh. And we will say goodbye to some faculty members who have contributed greatly to our mission and whom the Lord is calling to new fields of mission, even if only for a time.

My first year as Rector has been a challenging one by any measure, but I can assure you that the seminarians in formation here truly seek to be, like St. Joseph, good spiritual husbands and fathers. I ask you to continue to contribute to our mission, yes by your material generosity, but above all by your prayers. We plan on all of us being together again in the fall semester, but in the meantime, you can see some of our recent major events and those upcoming at <https://www.svdp.edu/live>. Know that we are praying for you, above all for any who have been sick or have lost loved ones during this year which has been marked by much sorrow but also great hope.

In Christ, the Divine Physician,

Very Rev. Alfredo I. Hernández, PhD, STL
Rector/President

ST. JOSEPH

TERROR OF DEMONS

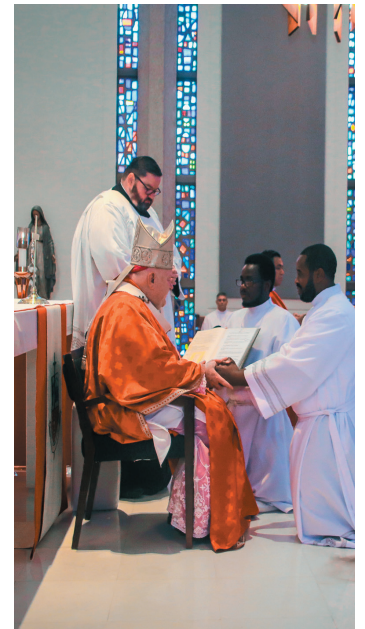
One of the titles that we invoke in the Litany of St. Joseph is Joseph as “Terror of Demons.” It has always struck me that we use this title to refer to St. Joseph. It is easy to see why St. Michael the Archangel would have such a title: He battles against the Devil, the prince of demons, and totally defeats him. Clearly, the archangel who defeats the leader of demons also instills fear in all other demons. However, how is it that St. Joseph can instill terror in demons as St. Michael does? I propose that St. Joseph terrifies demons because of his exercise of the virtue of humility.

Whenever I reflect upon the Holy Family, I can’t help but think of the huge responsibility that St. Joseph was burdened with. This simple carpenter was charged with the duty of protecting, providing for and nurturing the two holiest people to ever exist, Jesus and Mary. Homilists point out that St. Joseph was neither miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit like Jesus, nor was he immaculately conceived like Mary. He most likely struggled with sins and his faults. He most likely failed at certain projects. He might have experienced frustration if the day’s work did not bring in enough money. Such experiences of failure might have been dejecting and even humiliating. Yet, rather than allowing such an awesome duty and responsibility to negatively affect him, St. Joseph made an act of humility. By being humble, St. Joseph acknowledged his weakness and his inability to fulfill the responsibility of leading and protecting the Holy Family on his own. And it was in this humble acknowledgement of a simple carpenter that God continues to achieve great things through St. Joseph today.

Demons are full of pride. Thus, they leave no space inside themselves in which God can work great things. In their self-sufficiency, demons reject God. However, St. Joseph does the exact opposite. He totally surrenders to and relies on God, which becomes a source of incredible power that terrifies all demons. Because St. Joseph is humble, he receives the power to be a true father to the Son of God. Because St. Joseph is humble, he is able to have an intimate yet



Rev. Jeremy R. Lully
(Archdiocese of Miami, IV Theology)





►► chaste marriage with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Such humility renders St. Joseph invincible in the face of demons, and it is why we refer to him as the “Terror of Demons.” It is precisely this virtue of humility that I’ve been invited to imitate as I prepare to be ordained a priest during this year dedicated especially to St. Joseph.

As time passes, the months are becoming weeks, and the weeks are becoming mere days leading up to my ordination to the priesthood. As this day approaches, I cannot help but feel burdened and even terrified at times about the duty and responsibility that priestly ministry will entail. My homilies will have to touch the hearts of parishioners. In hearing confessions, I will have to relieve people from the burden of their sins and inspire them to live a more virtuous life. For Catholics who have gone wayward, I’ll have to be the shepherd who tirelessly seeks the lost sheep. In the midst of the collateral damage this pandemic has caused, I will need to be a beacon of hope. This shortlist of just a few of the responsibilities that await me as a priest could easily lead me to become crestfallen and throw in the towel. I could easily think that I have to do all of this on my own. Such a false claim would only allow the demons to get the best of me.

Yet, with the Guardian of the Holy Family and the Catholic Church as my patron and model, I am reminded that I don’t take on the duties and responsibilities of the priesthood on my own. Like St. Joseph, I’m invited to surrender any sense of self-sufficiency and rely completely on God. By imitating St. Joseph and his virtue of humility, I’ll be given the Heart of a Father who will be able to protect, provide for and nurture the children of God. I’ll be able to chastely live a life in which I’m totally dedicated to loving my Spouse, the Church. If I’m humble like St. Joseph, then I too will exercise a priestly ministry that is a terror of demons. ◀◀

San José, el Más Fiel

En mi hogar me enseñaron los principios básicos de la educación religiosa. Mi llamado vocacional fue promovido por una congregación religiosa sacerdotal, cuanto estaba en 6^{to} grado de primaria, en mi colegio católico. Recuerdo que estos sacerdotes llegaron un día a mi salón de clases y nos mostraron de dónde venían, donde se formaban, y las actividades apostólicas que realizaban. Teniendo, continúe con mi formación académica en el colegio católico.

Con el pasar del tiempo, empecé a prestar servicio litúrgico como monaguillo en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Chiquinquirá y San Juan de Dios, bajo la guía pastoral del Pbro. Eleuterio Cuevas. Algo que ha marcado positivamente mi proceso vocacional ha sido el testimonio y las enseñanzas del Pbro. Eleuterio Cuevas; con él comprendí que el sacerdote está para servir y ayudar a los más necesitados. Me enseñó a servir a la Iglesia como merece ser servida. También, el Pbro. Ovidio Duarte, párroco de la Iglesia San Antonio María Claret de Maracaibo, con su iniciativa pastoral de prestar ayuda a los más necesitados y colocar a los marginados como primera opción pastoral a través de la “Mesa de la Misericordia”.

Tempranamente comencé a tener en mi proceso vocacional la asistencia espiritual de la Obra, mucho antes de entrar al seminario diocesano de mi ciudad, lo cual me ayudó en mi discernimiento vocacional enfocado al sacerdocio. Seguidamente, ingresé al curso propedéutico, continuando con la formación académica de tres años de filosofía y un año de teología en el mismo seminario. Durante mi tiempo en el seminario tuve la gracia de mantener mi dirección espiritual con quien me ha guiado desde el comienzo, el Pbro. Javier Rodríguez Arjona.

Providencialmente, se me dio la oportunidad de venir a los Estados Unidos bajo una visa de estudiante para continuar con mi formación sacerdotal. Hubo temores e incertidumbres, todas llevadas dirección espiritual, a la oración y al frente al Santísimo Sacramento, para poder tomar una decisión acorde al plan de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Realicé una experiencia



Diego A. Vazquez
(Diocese of St. Augustine, II Theology)

pastoral, formativa y de inmersión cultural en el norte de los Estados Unidos,

Decidí tomarme un tiempo para reflexionar y discernir mi vocación al sacerdocio, todo esto bajo la guía de la oración y la dirección espiritual. Volví a mi ciudad, Maracaibo, Venezuela, y presté servicio como voluntario en un hospital católico, asistido por los Hermanos de San Juan de Dios, conservando la dirección espiritual y abierto a la voluntad del Señor.

Luego de un tiempo, providencialmente volví a los Estados Unidos para continuar con mi formación sacerdotal, esta vez con la venia y bendición de Mons. Felipe Estévez, Obispo de San Agustín, quien me recibió como un hijo más en su grey y me animó a seguir el camino del sacerdocio y a

continuar trabajando pastoralmente por la Iglesia del norte de Florida. Inicié mi formación sacerdotal en St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary. Para mí ha sido una bendición poder formar parte de la Diócesis de San Agustín, y confío en que Dios llevará todo a un feliz término.

Doy gracias a Dios por tantas oportunidades, a mi familia y a muchas personas notables tanto de mi país como de éste, que me han dado el apoyo incondicional para continuar en mi proceso formativo con miras al sacerdocio, desde el seminario de mi ciudad hasta aquí en el Seminario Regional de San Vicente de Paúl.



“Con Dios, todo es posible. Con Dios haremos grandes cosas.” (Santa Francisca Cabrini)



MODEL OF ARTISANS

In the summer of 2019, I had the privilege to attend a 30-Day Ignatian silent retreat in Jerusalem. I also had a chance to visit the Holy Family's house and St. Joseph's workshop in Nazareth. As a carpenter/woodworker myself, seeing St. Joseph's workshop was an overwhelming experience. During the 30-Day retreat, I had many encounters with St. Joseph, and we became very close to each other. In the Gospels, St. Joseph never spoke a word. But during the retreat, in his quietness and gentleness, he profoundly spoke into my heart.

During the retreat, Saint Joseph mainly spoke to me about beauty. The job of an artist is to convey beauty. If the job of the artist is to convey beauty, then what is the essence of being an artist? What does it mean to be an artist? Saint Francis of Assisi's answer to this question is astonishing: "He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head [mind] and his heart is an artist." In the life of an artist, these three aspects (hands, head, and heart) are not disintegrated and do not exclude one another, but they enter inseparably into the very life of the artist. An artist is a lover of beauty. Beauty is indeed the *telos*, namely, the ultimate object or aim of an artist.



Rev.
Leandro F. "Leo" Siquiera
(Archdiocese of Miami, IV Theology)

The carpenter needs a place, where these three integrated aspects of the artists will not be deterred but find the freedom to exercise the singular movement of love to bring these various artifacts into existence. This place is the bench (worktable); it is on the bench that all action takes place. It is indeed the heart of the woodshop. The bench is the place where the artist transforms ordinary material into art. In most of the encounters I had with St. Joseph, during the retreat, the bench was present. For St. Joseph, working with one's hands, mind, and heart goes beyond shaping material things into art; it is about shaping relationships. And it is around the table/bench that relationships are shaped. Think about the amount of time Jesus spent with St. Joseph as his apprentice around the bench. Unfortunately, this relationship between master and pupil is rare or inexistent. This fatherly and masculine presence is necessary to form men. For this reason, God entrusted St. Joseph the task of being the foster father of Jesus, to teach and educate him on being a good man.

This experience with St. Joseph around the bench/table led me to recognize, on a deeper level, the beauty of my vocation. I clearly remember one day during the retreat when this phrase came to my heart: "At the end of the day, it is all about



the table.” From the very beginning, the table was always present in my life. As a child, I remembered when we all sat around the table and my dad sitting at the head of the table as the man of the house. It was around the table that we shared our joys and sorrows.

I also realized that the Lord brought me from one table to another: from the bench to the seminary desk, and, eventually, to the altar of Christ. God allowed me to become a woodworker, to work with my hands and mind. However, I only began to learn to work with my hands, mind, and heart after accepting God’s invitation to work on a distinct bench, namely, the seminary desk. The seminary desk is the cross yoked upon my mind. On this desk, I learned to labor not for grades but for glimpses into the beauty of the divine majesty. Ultimately, this cross is preparing me to receive the ultimate and real gift of calvary, where I am crucified to the Carpenter and He to me. My philosophical and theological training has helped me to better understand the purpose and the gift carpentry has been to me. Through my studies, the Lord has enlarged the capacity of my heart to more profoundly and distinctly receive the gift of beauty, to which Saint Joseph has an essential part in. As I mentioned earlier, it is around the table that we share our joys and sorrows. Around the table, the father of the family looks at his beloved wife and children and knows if they are feeling anxious, sad, or joyful. It is precisely around the table of the altar that the Lord will fulfill one of the greatest desires of my heart, namely, to be a husband and father. Through the altar, Jesus Christ will give me the grace to be a provider, protector, and teacher. From this Eucharistic table, the food of eternal life will feed all of my future sons and daughters. From this table love and forgiveness will perpetually and intentionally flow into the hearts of my children.

Working with my hands gives me a great sense of accomplishment. I am proud of the work I accomplished before seminary and during seminary. Now if we look closely in the heart of Christ’s redemptive work, we will notice that it was accomplished with nothing but wood and nails.



DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH
MAY 1, 2021 / CATHEDRAL OF
ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA



REV.
Alain Waterman

2021

ORDINATION CLASS



DIOCESE OF
PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
JUNE 5, 2021 / CATHEDRAL OF THE SACRED HEART

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE
MAY 15, 2021 / CATHEDRAL BASILICA
OF ST. AUGUSTINE



REV.
Mackenzie J. "Mac" Hill



REV. MR.
Richard D. Graham II



REV. MR.
Raymond G. Herard III

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO
MAY 29, 2021 / ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL



REV. MR.
Roberto J. Marquez

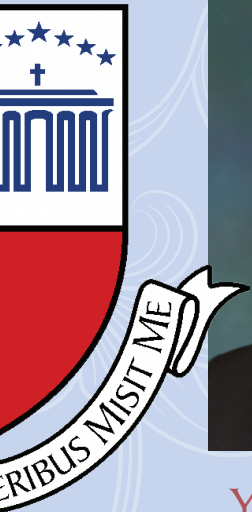


REV. MR.
Francisco J. Ojeda



REV. MR.
Nathanael S. Soliven

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
MAY 8, 2021 / CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY



REV.
Yosbany Alfonso



REV.
Franklin I. Ekezie



REV.
Hans P. Chamorro



REV.
Nicholas R. Toledo



REV.
Jeremy R. Lully



REV.
Leandro F. "Leo" Siqueira

DIOCESE OF
ST. PETERSBURG
MAY 15, 2021 / CATHEDRAL OF
ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE



REV.
Israel A. "Izzie" Hernández

DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH
JUNE 12, 2021 / CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



REV. MR.
Emmanuel K. Antwi



REV. MR.
Christopher Awiliba



throughout



REV. Yosbany Alfonso
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

In my preparation for priestly life, Saint Joseph has always been my guide. His obedience, his love for Jesus and Mary, and his cooperation with God's plan have served as an example for me to imitate.



REV. Franklin E. Ekezie
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

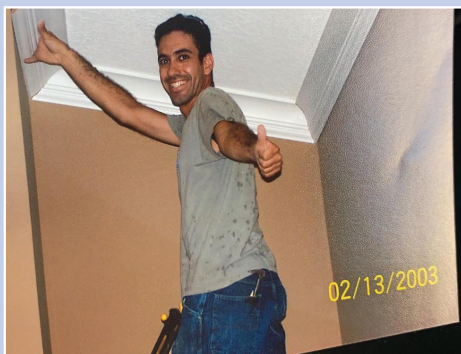
Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

- JOSHUA 1:9



REV. Nicholas R. Toledo
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

"The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons." - ST. JOHN PAUL II



REV. Leandro F "Leo" Siqueira
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

He who works with his hands is a laborer. He works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hands and his head and his heart is an artist.

- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI





REV. Jeremy R. Lully
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

But you, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, and love, patience, and gentleness. - 1 TIMOTHY 6:11



REV. MR. Raymond G. Herard III
DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE

We do not get to know God by looking at him, but by letting him look at us, and by enduring in his sight... it is God's gaze that makes us what we are. God is always first. - FR. WILFRID STINISSEN



REV. Hans P. Chamoro
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
"We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us."
- 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7



REV. MR. Richard D. Graham II
DIOCESE OF PENSACOLA-TALLAHASSEE
Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. - FR. PEDRO ARRUEPE, SJ.



the years



throughout



REV. MR.
Roberto J. Marquez
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

Spiritual formation has been an area of significant growth during my time in seminary; not only have I been able to better appreciate my relationship with Jesus Christ, but I have also been able to build up confidence and allow myself to be more dependent on the grace of God with the help of Christ. Prayer life has been essential in this maturity, and for this, I take my inspiration from St. Teresa of Avila who said: "Prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends; it means taking time frequently to be alone with him who we know loves us."



REV. MR.
Nathanael S. Soliven
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you, all things are passing away: God never changes. Patience obtains all things, Whoever has God lacks nothing; God alone is enough. - ST. TERESA DE AVILA



REV. MR.

Francisco J. Ojeda

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

We have been called to heal wounds, to unite what has fallen apart, and to bring home those who have lost their way.

- ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

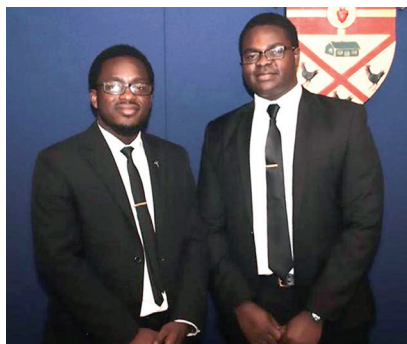


REV.

Alain Waterman

DIOCESE
OF PALM BEACH
You seduced me, O Lord,
and I let myself be seduced.
- JEREMIAH 20:7





REV. MR.
Emmanuel K. Antwi
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH
Strong is God's love for us. He is faithful forever. - PSALMS 117:2



REV. MR.
Mackenzie J. "Mac" Hill
DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

"If we understood the priests, we would die not of fright, but of love. The priest is the love of the heart of Jesus."
- ST. JOHN VIANNEY



REV. MR.
Israel A. "Izzie" Hernández
DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG

Avoid idleness and idle people; carry out your duties. Whenever you are idle you are in serious danger of falling into sin, because idleness teaches us all kinds of vice.
- ST. JOHN BOSCO

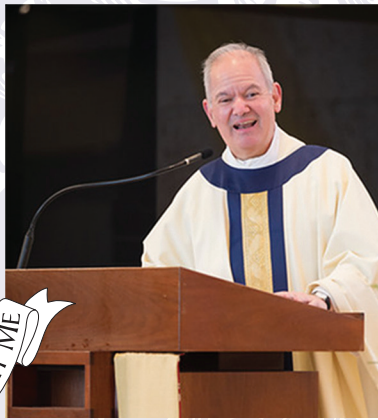


REV. MR.
Christopher Awiliba
DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.
- LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23



2021 Diaconate



Ordination



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2021 DIACONATE ORDINATION CLASS



REV. MR.
Zackary B. Gray



REV. MR.
Kyle J. McClure
.....
DIOCESE OF ORLANDO



REV. MR.
Joseph T. M. Tran



REV. MR.
Donald J. Amodeo



REV. MR.
Zachary E. Brasseur

.....
DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG



REV. MR.
Daniel B. Donohue



REV. MR.
Armando León

.....
DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH



REV. MR.
Sebastián Grisales
.....
ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI



REV. MR.
José A. Grullón

.....
DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA



REV. MR.
David A. Portorreal



ST. JOSEPH

MOST JUST

AN INTERVIEW WITH BISHOP ESTÉVEZ

FR. MAC: Bishop Estévez, as you approach retirement, we would be honored to hear your wisdom regarding the priesthood and St. Joseph. Since the Holy Father declared the Year of St. Joseph, you have been an ardent promoter of devotion to him. Could you describe his role in your life?



BISHOP: Previously my devotion to St Joseph had been rather dormant. True, I like how the Gospel of St. Matthew presents him. I always admired the unique role he played in the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God. I have always prepared with great care his two liturgical feasts of March 19 and May 1. But now, the Year of St Joseph has enkindled in me new graces in prayer and insights in catechesis and preaching. Pope Francis' apostolic letter, *Patris Corde*, touched me deeply.

FR. MAC: Which of the titles from the Litany to St. Joseph most resonates with you and your view of priesthood?

BISHOP: It is quite significant that the Gospels do not say even one word coming from Joseph's lips, but when one ponders on his mission, he was a uniquely blessed man. He was the "spouse of the Mother of God", for God to choose him to be the most intimate companion of the Virgin Mother he had to be most pure. In his preparation to celebrate Mass the priest needs purity of intention.

"Chaste guardian of the Virgin", the



Rev. Mackenzie J. "Mac" Hill
(Diocese of St. Augustine, IV Theology)

Gospel openly shares the immense challenges that the utterly unusual pregnancy of Mary and the birth of the Child-God caused him, such as becoming an immigrant family. St. Joseph showed his commitment to let God's plan happen most probably in a real darkness of faith, trusting beyond trust. The more the priest sees the Church as his bride, the greater will it be his participation in the Cross.

"Joseph most just", I like this title a lot because it is literally what St. Matthew tells us about Joseph's personality, a man of integrity. In the current culture of accountability and transparency in the Church today, the priest is called to witness integrity for the credibility of his ministry. It is obvious the Church has developed its appreciation of St. Joseph, "protector of Holy Church" states well the greater recognition of the universal Church on how significant is Joseph's intercession within the communion of saints. ►►



►► **FR. MAC:** Reflecting on the diverse ministry you have exercised over the years as retirement approaches, what have been some of the ways God has surprised you?

BISHOP: As Isaiah states, “My thoughts and my ways are not like yours” (55:8). The first big surprise was the call in the form of an invitation to become a priest. And later the call to become rector of the seminary and bishop both were totally out of my radar. But St. Ignatius calls God the “ever greater” (*semper maior*), in multiple ways the Lord makes our lives a *Magnificat*. Pope St. John the XXIII had the motto, “obedience-peace” a true understanding of obedience con-

forms our lives to His will (the mind of Christ) and it brings peace and freedom. When our young people seek “the best version of themselves” I tell them to pursue rather “the best version of what God intends for you” because that version will be far greater than what you imagine for yourself.

FR. MAC: Do you have any words of wisdom for the seminarians at SVDP as we prepare for priesthood?

BISHOP: Go to St. Joseph. A priest lives like Joseph a rich paternity, for he embraces a mission that is enkindled by the Holy Spirit. This priestly fatherhood does not seek control, does not seek to

enhance one’s self- image but rather the emergence of the Kingdom of God poco a poco sowing patiently, shepherding a parish family in the spirit of Nazareth.

Thank you, bishop, we deeply appreciate your years of service as a priest, rector, and bishop. The SVDP community will keep you in our prayers. As God has blessed us through your ministry, may He continue to pour out His blessings upon you in the years ahead. ◀◀



Light of Patriarchs

The problem of fatherhood is one of the greatest challenges affecting our world today. I have met many people in my life who, because of their experiences with their own fathers, have trouble being Christian because they can't believe in a loving Father. It breaks my heart whenever I hear someone say this. It also causes me to reflect on the abundance of blessings that God has given me, especially in the area of Fatherhood. Not only has the love of fathers made me into the man I am today, it has allowed me to be open and receive the outpouring of love from my Heavenly Father. In this short reflection, I am going to share about the two men who have shaped me the most in my life, my father and his brother, my Uncle Mike.

My dad was a man of a different generation. He passed away in 2011 and sometimes it is difficult for me to remember him, both because it has been many years since his passing and since this world seems so different to how I remember him. He was a dad. He was the person who taught me the value of hard work. I remember him waking up in the very wee hours of the morning to work out in the basement and then run seven miles to work. Seven miles! Each way! I don't even like driving seven miles without



Mr. Louis Padavano
(Diocese of Palm Beach,
II Pre-Theology)

taking a break. He worked at the same job from when he returned from Vietnam to when he had to retire because he was sick, the sickness that seven months later would take his life. He was a man of commitment and of love. He showed his love in a way many Italian fathers do, through their hard work and care for his family. He didn't always say the words, though sometimes he did, but he demonstrated his love for my family and left us all an example of what a father looks like and how a father acts.

As I write this, I realize how much my dad emulated St. Joseph in the way he lived. He was a man of few words, but many actions. He, like St. Joseph, didn't need to be on the center stage, he was content with doing what God called him to do.

To me, that is the definition of integrity, the things we do when no one is watching. One of the most amazing things about him was what he sacrificed. He loved art, and he was one of the most talented artists I have ever met. Had he been born in this generation, he would probably be a professional artist, but he was born into a generation that sacrificed personal wants in order to work hard and provide for their families. I'm not going to blame Staten Island for my distorted view of what a man should be, but I ►►





►► certainly had one when I was younger. As I have gotten a bit older, I realize what a real man is, and it turns out it was right in front of my face all along. A real man is someone who lives their life by faith, love, and duty. One of my biggest regrets in life is that I didn't really get to be an adult around my dad. I was an immature 22 year old when he passed away. I wish I could have told him how much I admired him, I wish I could have spent time asking him about his life and about the decisions that he made. I wish I would have spent more time trying to be like him while he was alive. I like to think that I try to be like him today, and I like to think that he is proud of me for the man that I am becoming.

My dad dying left a big whole in my family, but luckily my grandparents raised another son who has been like a father to my whole family, my Uncle Mike. My Uncle Mike never had kids of his own, and yet he is a father to many; my 4 siblings, my 2 brothers-in-law, my sister in law, my 7 nieces and nephews and even my mom sometimes. Everyone in my family knows that if you need something to go to Uncle Mike because he rarely ever says no. Not saying no to requests for help is a dangerous quality in the Padavano family, but he does it with a smile. He is the one who shows up for my family, from the football games to the dance recitals, he is there. When I was a kid, Saturdays were my favorite day because I got to go out all day on a trip with my grandfather and my uncle Mike. It was so much fun, and when I am back in Staten Island, we continue to take those trips, and the spirit of my grandfather is still with us on those days. He used to drag me to bookstores for hours, and now

I am the one who drags him there for hours. Like St. Joseph, and my dad, he is a man of few words, and occasionally you can catch him resting his eyes (but not sleeping!), like that famous statue of St. Joseph sleeping. He is a man who lets his actions do the talking. In a world full of noise, it is a rare quality that one can be so quiet and yet say so much.

Fatherhood is in crisis. I think the truth of that is on full display. The world tells us that fatherhood is the problem, God tells us that fatherhood is the solution. Where do we go from here? I think the only way to respond is to live like St. Joseph and to lead by our actions more so than our words. We have all been influenced by great fathers in one way or another. This could be our dads, uncles, brothers, priests, neighbors, etc. Those men that have helped us along the way are going to be the ones who spur my generation towards taking fatherhood more seriously. I can say that we are moving in the right direction. The men that I see here everyday at the seminary will one day be great fathers who will help to influence future generations to be great biological and spiritual fathers. Whenever I look at the news and become saddened by the state of things, I look around, and become hopeful once more as I see the love of the Father at work in each man walking around this campus. As we come to the end of the year of St. Joseph, let us thank God for the fruits, both seen and unseen, that this year has brought. God bless you all. Know that you are in my prayers and I ask that you continue to pray for us and for the resurgence of true fatherhood in the world. St. Joseph the Worker. Pray for Us. ◀◀



Rev. Mr. Nathanael S. Soliven
(Diocese of Orlando, IV Theology)

ST. JOSEPH



Mirror of Patience

Beautiful, challenging, and grace-filled; these are the adjectives I use to describe my fourteen years in seminary formation. In all these years, I owe a lot of my steadfastness and perseverance in my vocation to patience – God’s patience with me and my own patience with myself. God has been very patient with me as I gradually discovered His call. But at the same time, I have to be patient with myself as I slowly learn to respond to God’s call.

I entered Mary Help of Christians High School Seminary in the Philippines at the young age of twelve. In order to shelter me from bad influences during my early teenage years and so that I could receive a solid Catholic education, my mother obliged me to study at a high school seminary. Having told me that it was just for high school and I could study whatever I want for college, I agreed. It was in the seminary when I first heard God’s call for me to be a priest. Edified by the priests in the seminary, I became attracted to what a priest did. As I went to mass every day and prayed more frequently, this attraction was deepened by my personal relationship with the Lord. In those conversations in prayer, I got a sense that God was indeed calling me to the priesthood. At that point, what began as mere obedience to my mother became my personal choice and decision.

After high school, I continued my collegiate formation at San Jose Major Seminary in the Philippines for the next four years. After college, I decided to take some time off from seminary. Although I had a firm sense of God’s call, I was aware that I entered seminary really young. Before I started theology, the last stage of seminary formation, I thought it would be beneficial for me to experience first normal life outside seminary. In the next four years, I worked both in education and in the corporate world. Despite enjoying that life, I still felt God’s call to the priesthood. For me, that was a sign, and so I applied back to seminary with the Diocese of Orlando, where my entire family was living at the time. Fast forward to another six years of seminary formation at St. John Vianney College Seminary and St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, here I am ordained as a transitional deacon, preparing for my priestly ordination in several weeks.

As I reflect back on those long years of discernment, both inside and outside seminary, I am grateful to God for his patience with me. ►►





►► As I just shared, it took me a while to recognize with certainty God's call. It didn't help too that I was the type of person who constantly needed to be reassured every step of the way. Every single year I asked God to confirm that He still wanted me to be a priest. Sometimes I wondered if God ever got annoyed with my nagging need for certainty. Thankfully, in his patient love, God generously provided me with what I needed.

As a fruit of formation, I also got to know myself better, both in my strengths and weaknesses. With this self-awareness, especially of my humanity, I needed to be more patient and loving with myself. An environment for nurturing vocations, the seminary is a place of growth and challenges. Often the process of growth and conversion is not one of ease and comfort. It takes a while to get rid of bad habits and to acquire virtues. Slowly and sometimes painfully, I realize that If I am not patient with myself as God is patient with me, I can be easily overcome by discouragement. In prayer, God always reveals his patient love for me, and consequently, his invitation for me to extend that patient love for myself – to patiently allow myself to grow in confidence, in affective maturity, in virtue, in holiness, and in total trust and dependence in Him.

In all those years of formation, especially now as an ordained deacon closely preparing for my priesthood ordination, I recognize more and more how this beautiful vocation is indeed a gift from God. Those long years made me realize that the fruitfulness in ministry is not at all dependent on myself. Instead, it is a gift ceaselessly sustained primarily by God's patient love for me but also my patient love for myself. ◀◀





ENS Jacob C. Gwynn, Navy
(Diocese of Venice in Florida, II Theology)

ST. JOSEPH



DILIGENT PROTECTOR

of Christ

Diocese of Venice Seminarian Jacob C. Gwynn was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy Jan. 22, 2021, at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach.

Gwynn is currently in his first year of theology studying at the seminary on a path to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Venice. He is also a co-sponsored seminarian with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The commissioning of an officer begins his career with the Navy as a Chaplain Candidate Program Officer (CCPO) as he pursues serving God and country as a Chaplain. He will continue his course of studies while devoting some time during his summers to train with the military.

The ceremony took place in the seminary chapel with a limited audience due to COVID-19 Pandemic precautions but did include members of Gwynn's family.

Gwynn spoke after his commissioning and expressed his joy and gratitude for being able to embark on this dual journey of becoming a priest while at the same time serving his country as a Navy Chaplain. ►►





►► “Growing up, from when I can recollect my first memory, I always wanted to be a priest,” he said. “Along with discerning the priesthood, I kept the military as a possibility.”

His family is well represented in the military with his grandfather serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and his father in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, while he has cousins currently enrolled in service academies.

“My greatest inspiration comes from Msgr. Joseph Ferraro who I had the privilege to know most of my life,” Gwynn explained of the priest who served more than 50 years, 30 as a U.S. Navy Chaplain before retiring to assist at Parishes in Manatee County. “Msgr. Joe is my hero and mentor who inspired me to pursue this path God has called me on.”

The commissioning ceremony included the Pledge of Allegiance, singing of the National Anthem, and afterwards the singing of the Navy Hymn. U.S. Air Force Reserve Col. Father Gregg Caggianelli, who is on the Seminary faculty and is a priest of the Diocese of Venice, offered the opening prayer. Navy Talent Acquisition Group Miami Cmdr. Sean Foster administered the Oath of Office.

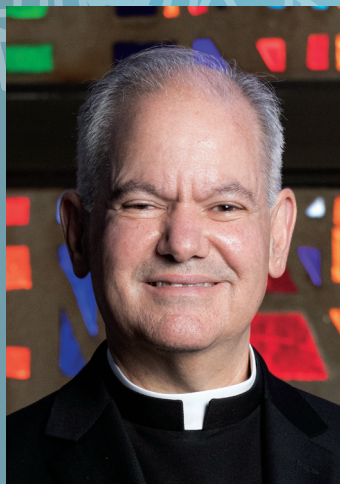
Gwynn will be attending Officer Development School (ODS) in Newport, Rhode Island, which is a program that is designed to provide newly commissioned Navy officers with the basic information of Naval culture. He will continue his usual formation and course of studies at seminary for the Diocese of Venice. He will also be working with the Chaplain Candidate Program to fulfill his training obligations for the Navy.

Foster congratulated Gwynn upon his commissioning and for choosing a path as a Navy Chaplain, which has a rich tradition of service and counsel for the sailors and soldiers of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. “It is an important and exciting job. A job the Navy relies on to make sure people maintain a relationship with God.”

Gwynn expects to be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Venice. In his first years following ordination he will serve as a priest in the Diocese with an expectation to serve in the Navy as an active-duty Chaplain for at least five years. ◀◀

SOURCE: Florida Catholic / Diocese of Venice / Story by Bob Reddy, Director of Communications/ Photos by Navy Chief Gorby, Public Affairs Officer.

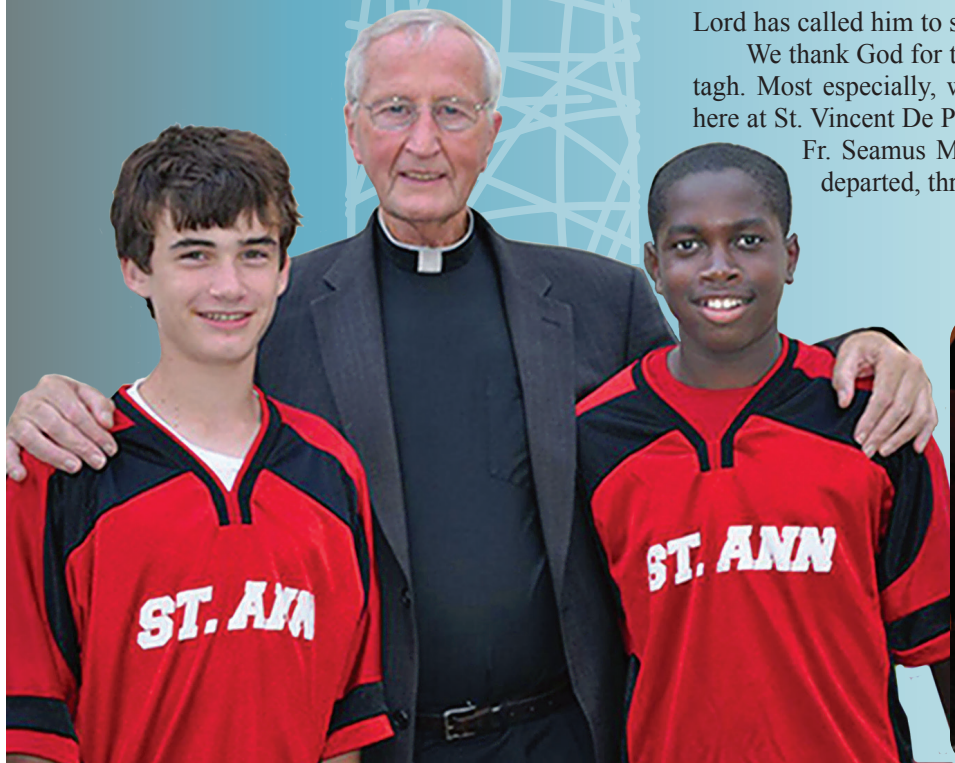
ST. JOSEPH Patron of the Dying



Very Rev. Alfredo I. Hernández, PhD, STL
(Rector/President)

Fr. Seamus Murtagh was a priest of the Diocese of Palm Beach who was ordained in Ireland as a “late vocation.” He came to the Archdiocese of Miami in the late 1960s. He was sent to Rome to get his STD in moral theology at the Gregorian, in order to come to teach here at SVDP. He eventually became Academic Dean and even after leaving when he was named a pastor, he remained on adjunct faculty into the late 1980s. He was Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish from the mid-1980s through 2000, and then he served as Pastor of St. Ann Parish in Downtown WPB until his retirement in 2012. He was the founding Chancellor of the Diocese of Palm Beach, and later served as Vicar General. He was Diocesan Administrator in 1990 and Apostolic Administrator in 2002. Since retirement he remained very active assisting at St. Ann Place (which he founded), visiting and celebrating Mass at Noreen McKeen, and helping out with the English-speaking community at Holy Cross Parish in Indiantown. In the last weeks he had moved into Noreen McKeen Residence. He was a man who loved Easter and now the Lord has called him to share in Easter Joy in his presence.

We thank God for the life and ministry of Fr. Seamus Murtagh. Most especially, we thank God for his years of ministry here at St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary. May the soul of Fr. Seamus Murtagh and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.





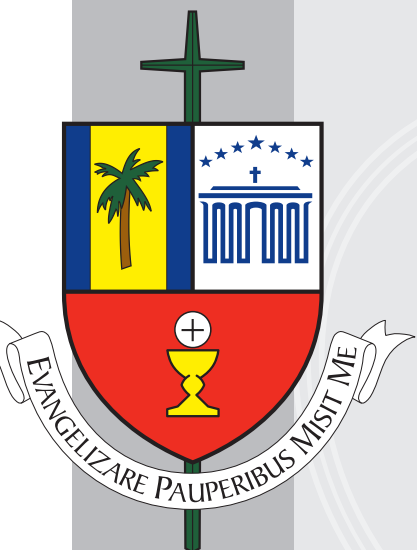
ST. JOSEPH Patron of the Dying

Ordained a priest in 1949, Father Voll was a member of the Dominican Community of the Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas. A true academic at heart, Fr. Voll earned a plethora of degrees from various universities including a doctorate in sacred and moral theology, an honorary doctorate in religious education, and the Dominican Order's highest academic honor, the degree of master of sacred theology. Sharing his love for theology, Fr. Voll taught at numerous places such as Trinity College, College of St. Mary of the Springs, Xaverian College, The Catholic University of America, the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Barry College, St. Vincent de Paul Seminary, and at the Pontifical Faculty of St. Thomas (The Angelicum) in Rome.

While serving as rector of Saint Vincent de Paul Regional seminary from 1973-1980, Very Rev. Walter Urban Voll, O.P. was responsible for building up this institution. Fr. Voll considered his time here as among the most fruitful in his life and ministry. After 71 years of priestly service, Father Voll died at the beginning of this year in January 2021. The SVDP community is eternally grateful for Fr. Voll's ministry and dedicated service to our Church and seminary community.

(Seeds of Hope Staff)





DEVELOPEMENT *Update*



Deb Lindsay
(Director of Development & Public Relations)



Engraved Bricks: For the first time, SVDP is offering engraved bricks to memorialize or honor a loved one. These will lay at the base of our St. Joseph statue. The inspiration came from Pope Francis' declaring this as the Year of St. Joseph, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the naming of St. Joseph as the Patron and Protector of the Universal of Church. The location of our treasured statue is particularly serene, and seminarians love to find peace and pray at this location.

The donation for each brick is \$500 and as with all donations to the seminary, 100% of the profits stay at seminary to support our mission and are fully tax-deductible. For more information please see www.svdp.edu/bricks or call us to mail a pamphlet at 561-732-4424.



Friends of the Seminary



Friends of the Seminary 2021: We are hoping you will participate with us in our first gathering of the new academic year at our Friends event on Friday, October 22, 2021.

We intend to have our traditional Mass with the Bishops followed by a reception and dinner. This year, we expect to reduce the size of the gathering to offer social distancing, which will obviously impact availability and the donation structure of the event. For those who cannot be in attendance we will offer a robust online auction and other opportunities to celebrate with us. Please look for sponsorship information in August 2021.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If your contact information is outdated, please take a moment to update. Information that you provide to us is never shared. Send info to development@svdp.edu and also let us know your preferences for communication.

TO RECEIVE SEEDS OF HOPE MAGAZINE AND OTHER UPDATES SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO development@svdp.edu

Thank you

(Seeds of Hope Staff)

Fr. Nicholas
Cachia

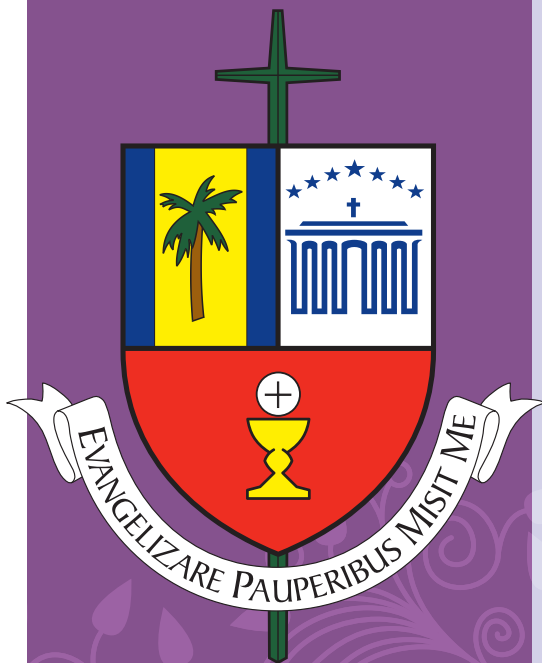


Dear SVDP family,

My coming here in 2015 was a great surprise for me from God! What a pleasant surprise it turned out to be! I found a very solid priestly formation program, a very generous faculty, vibrant seminarians and an amazing staff. My presence here quickly embarked on new adventures such as the Certificate in Seminary Formation -- housed at SVDP --, the new Pre-Theology Program, and a variety of activities related to serving the neediest in society. My ministry was also enriched through my journeying with the Serra Club and the Lay Missionaries of Charity. Now the Lord is calling me to "widen the mission" by working with the Institute for Priestly Formation in Omaha, Nebraska -- certainly much colder winters than the balmy winters of South Florida! SVDP has helped me grow as a man of God and a man of the Church and I am most grateful for the years spent here. May God bless all the work done here with great abundance.

With much gratitude! Adieu!

Fr. Nick



Msgr. Stephen Bosso



I am very happy to have been granted the Fall 2021 Marten Visiting Faculty Fellowship in Preaching by Notre Dame University, South Bend, Indiana. The Marten Program at Notre Dame promotes excellence in preaching. The fellowship entails teaching the second core course in Homiletics at the University to third year theologians. The balance of the time is to pursue research and writing agenda in the area of Catholic homiletics. I was further complimented in the invitation to apply for the fellowship when it was noted, “you did quality work for your DMin (Doctorate of Ministry degree) thesis, and some of that...deserves to be published.” Fr. Michael Connors, CSC, the Homiletics professor in the MDiv. degree program, is also interested in implementing an aspect of our preaching program and preaching programs in other Catholic seminaries that I noted in my DMin thesis project on Preaching Across the Curriculum. I look forward to being in residence at Notre Dame University for the fall semester 2021 and returning to SVDP for the spring semester 2022. The only point of consternation that I can foresee is that the Fighting Irish will play against the Seminoles on September 5 at Florida State.

In Christ,

Msgr. Bosso

Fr. Higinio Rosolen



St. Paul teaches us

to “Give thanks [to God] in all circumstances. These are the words that have resonated with me as I looked back at these past 5 years serving at SVDP. I have been blessed to be a part of a community dedicated to the Lord’s work. To all students, alumni, staff, faculty, brother priests, and many who support the seminary in its mission, many thanks and blessings. Thank you all for your support, your witness and prayers. Please know that you are all in my prayers. Please, continue to pray for me.

In Christ and Mary,

Fr. Higinio Rosolen

& Farewell

THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW!

*Can't stop thinking maybe you are being called to be a priest?
Do you feel the Lord tugging at your heart to serve the people
of God through the ministerial priesthood of Jesus Christ?*

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WANT TO KNOW WAYS THAT YOU MIGHT HELP SVDP?

Consider a donation that stays at the seminary and supports the critical mission of forming priests for the future of our parishes. Go to www.svdp.edu and look at the top for the button with the heart that says Make a Donation.

- **Send a donation via check** made out to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary and send to SVDP Attn: Development at: 10701 S. Military Trail, Boynton Beach, FL 33436 or email us at development@svdp.edu
- **Purchase an engraved brick** to be placed at the foot of our St. Joseph Statue on campus at www.svdp.edu/bricks

ALSO CONSIDER OUR GIVING SOCIETIES www.svdp.edu/giving-societies

- **Rector's Guild** members provide a source of spiritual and financial support on an annual basis for the unmet needs and future challenges of the seminary. They have committed to giving \$1,000 or more annually and attend our Rector's Guild Retreat.
- **Legacy Society** members have expressed their commitment to St. Vincent's and extended their legacy of faith beyond their lifetime by including the seminary in their estate planning. A legacy gift is the perfect means to achieve personal, philanthropic objectives. There are many creative and flexible options. These gifts include a bequest in your will, naming St. Vincent's as a beneficiary for a retirement plan, life insurance or a gift annuity.

