



St. Mary's Seminary

Bridge Notes

Spring Semester Dates

- February 5, Day of Recollection
- February 9, Asian New Year Mass & Celebration
- February 21, Ministry of Lector Installation
- February 22, Region X Mass & Dinner
- February 25, Founder's Day Dinner & Presentation
- February 28-March 4, 4th Year Men Canonical Retreat
- March 1, Board of Advisors Meeting
- March 4, Day of Recollection
- March 16, Diocesan Lenten Day of Prayer for Priests
- March 19-27, Easter Break
- April 1, Day of Recollection
- April 9, Diocese of Fort Worth Diaconate Ordination
- April 16, Diocese of Dallas Diaconate Ordination
- April 23, Rector Appreciation Mass & Dinner
- April 28, Last Day of Classes
- May 2-5, Final Exams
- May 5, Closing Mass & Academic Recognition
- May 14, Gal-Houston Diaconate Ordination
- May 21, Dioceses of Fort Worth & Dallas Presbyteral Ordinations
- May 21, Diocese of Austin Diaconate Ordination
- May 18-20, New Candidate Interview Dates
- May 31, Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter Diaconate Ordination

Spring Semester News

Martin Luther King Day

The Seminarians and faculty of St. Mary's Seminary participated in the annual Memorial Mass in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Cardinal DiNardo presided at the Liturgy and Fr. Jude Ezuma (UST, 2011), Priest-Secretary to the Cardinal, preached a dynamic homily reflecting on the readings of the day and how they illuminated elements of Dr. King's life and legacy. A large congregation, including members of the Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, gathered at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and were welcomed by Dcn. Leonard Lockett, Vicar for Catholics of African Descent. The seminarians were warmly greeted by the congregation.

Chicago Basketball Tournament

Mundelein Seminary hosted the Fr. Ken O'Malley Invitational Tournament January 29-31. Sixteen teams from 11 states, including IL, MI, OH, WI, MN, LA, NE, IN, FL, MO and TX competed. It wasn't March Madness but the level of competition was spectacular with some former college athletes putting on a show. Our team, the Texans, had two players from Holy Trinity, Dallas, one from Assumption,

San Antonio, and 10 from SMS, but our men played united, ONE TEAM FIRST.

The team opened the tournament taking Conception into overtime thanks to a clutch three-pointer by Dcn. Preston Quintela, the instigator and organizer of this trip. They lost that game and, also, our second one to a talented team



from OLG, Nebraska. However, they ended with a win against St. Paul's, Wisconsin. Our men enjoyed meeting men from other seminaries, the beautiful Mundelein Campus and even some sightseeing in Chicago. And, of course, our men are determined to bring the trophy back to Texas in coming years!

Ordinations

Two seminarians from St. Mary's were ordained recently. Dcn. Everardo Cazares-Acosta was ordained a priest by Bishop Joe Vasquez on January 16 at St. John Vianney Parish in Cedar Park, the parish of his pastoral year and

deacon assignment. Fr. Everardo, a native of Mexico,



completed his studies and worked on English at St. Mary's in preparation to serve in the Diocese of Austin.

Mr. Tony Franco, of the Diocese of San Angelo, was ordained a deacon by Bishop Michael Sis in his home parish, St. Ann in Colorado City. The small church was full of Dcn. Tony's family members and the faithful of the Diocese. In



typical West Texas hospitality various groups of the parish served a delicious BBQ lunch to all present.

So Long, Farewell, Goodbye

On Thursday, February 21, 2016, the Seminary said “so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye” to Charlene O’Shea, Director of Development. In the short time Mrs. O’Shea was with us, she introduced several new celebrations, helping us to keep in contact with our benefactors and friends. The introduction to our 60th anniversary and the closing of our 60th year were very special occasions. St. Joseph’s Feast was delightful and thoroughly enjoyed by Friends of the Seminary providing a generous St. Joseph’s Altar. The most recent innovation established a renewed Alumni Association that is genuinely reviving relationships. Charlene promises to maintain contact with us in various volunteer opportunities.



History Made and Attended

On Feb. 2, the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter took a significant step forward with the ordination of its first bishop, Rev. Msgr. Steven J. Lopes. This historical occasion was witnessed by the Seminary community with seminarians serving in various liturgical positions. An Ordinariate is a structure equivalent to a diocese for members who are fully Roman Catholic yet retain elements of Anglican heritage and liturgical practice. Bishop Lopes was ordained a bishop by Gerhard Cardinal Muller, Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston, Texas.



Evan Simington, the Ordinariate’s first seminarian began studies at St. Mary’s Seminary in August 2015.

CMAA Workshop

During the week of January 11-16, St. Mary’s Seminary hosted the CMAA (Church Music Association of America) Winter Sacred Music Workshop. With more than 70 attendees from across the country and around the world, the participants spent a week of intense study in chant and polyphony. The week’s clinicians were world-renowned experts in choral music and chant: Scott Turkington, organist and choirmaster at Holy Family in St. Louis Park, Minnesota, and Wilko Brouwers, a conductor of several choirs who also teaches choral conducting at the Utrecht Art Center in the Netherlands. Additionally, Dr. William Mahrt, president of the CMAA and professor at Stanford University, presented breakout sessions on the different styles of Gregorian chant and beauty in the Sacred Liturgy. The children’s choir from St. Theresa Catholic School in Sugar Land, TX, provided the music for the Thursday Mass, and the

conference participants served as the schola and polyphonic choir for the other liturgical celebrations. The sung Masses in the beautiful seminary chapel were the highlight of the conference.

Seminarian Retreats

Retreats for our Seminarians were held January 10-15. The Pre-Theology, 1st and 2nd year seminarians retreat was led by Rev. Richard Fineo, Seminary Spiritual Director, and held at Christian Renewal Center, in Dickerson, Texas. It was a time to reconnect after their academic break and to spend time reflecting on their formation. The days centered on presentations, the celebration of Mass, Liturgy of the hours and silent time with the Lord.

Our 3rd year seminarians retreat was held at the Cenacle Retreat House in Houston for their Canonical Diaconate retreat. The retreat included time for reflection and sharing on the Ordination Rite to the Diaconate, times for silence and celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours. The retreat gave our seminarians time to pray and reflect on this significant and important step on the journey towards priesthood. Rev. John Rooney, Director of Spiritual Formation, led this retreat.

Our pastoral year seminarians retreat was also held at the Cenacle Retreat House in Houston. The retreat included time for reflection, time for silence and celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours. The retreat gave our seminarians time to pray and reflect on this significant and important step on the journey towards priesthood. Rev. Bernard Mulcahy, OP, Seminary Spiritual Director led the retreat.

From February 28–March 4 our 4th year seminarians will make their Canonical Retreat in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. The retreat will primarily focus on the Rite of Ordination to Priesthood. There will be time to reflect on the Rite along with daily celebrations of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours. This retreat will be held at Holy Name Retreat House in Houston. In addition to time of silence, individual spiritual directors will be available. Rev. Italo Dell’Oro, CRS, Vicar for Clergy, will lead this retreat.

Rally for Life

A group of approximately 10 SMS seminarians, along with Fr. Brian Eilers, attended the Mass, march and rally for life in Austin on January 23. Organized by the pro-life chair, Kyle Nestrta, seminarian of Austin, the men served the Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, which Bishop Joe Vasquez celebrated. Then they joined a crowd of about 5,000 for the march from a parking lot north of the Capital around it to the south steps. There Bishop Vasquez opened the rally in prayer. A testimony by Melissa Ohden, a saline abortion survivor, was particularly moving. The seminarians returned with the desire to bring more of their brothers next year.