

Vianney

Saint John Vianney
College Seminary
St. Paul, Minnesota

news

Spring 2018



All in the Family

Rector's Update

Establishing Patterns

Once when I was flying on a plane with Fr. Bill Baer, then rector of Saint John Vianney College Seminary, I observed a small act of charity that was his habit. With strength of intention, Fr. Baer responded to the steward, "Thank you, sir," emphasizing the last word. The steward's chest and chin rose up with a small dose of healthy pride. In this moment, Fr. Baer recognized this man's inherent dignity. Already I was learning from Fr. Baer's leadership.

Fr. Baer's comment was an act of charity, an impulse of the Christian spirit. He often built people up through expressions of gratitude. In a more recent example, despite the gravity of his sickness prior to death, I watched him hobble around the perimeter of Transfiguration Church during a Lenten penance service. He wanted to thank each priest individually for making the effort to hear confessions at his parish.

Above all characteristics and qualities of Christian virtue, the predominant charisms that Fr. Baer infused into the SJV community were courtesy, respect, honor and service. They continue to permeate the atmosphere here and serve as a tribute to Fr. Baer's enduring influence and the establishment of patterns.

Every man in the house is quick to greet a visitor in the lobby and to give up his seat in the chapel when a guest arrives. During Monday evening floor meetings, at least one or two seminarians are honored by others for acts of virtue and admirable qualities. When speaking up in the classroom, the seminarians greet every professor with their formal titles, such as "Dr. Johnson" or "Professor Smith." Every seminarian has weekly in-house chores, but it is common for another seminarian to spontaneously assist or complete a task for a brother in need. They dress appropriately in the classroom and, most importantly, at Mass as a way of honoring the Lord. I am proud of the seminarians and their hunger to grow in excellence.

Much of this vision began with Fr. Baer's creative leadership. Establishing patterns of prayer, positive speech, mercy, kindness, service and generosity in our homes, families, parishes, schools and seminaries is a mark of a Christian ethos.

Thank you, Fr. Baer, for your witness and the outpouring of your life here at Saint John Vianney College Seminary. You left a legacy of generosity. Rest now in peace, enjoying the reward of your goodness and faith.



Fr. Michael Becker
Rector

Rev. Michael C. Becker Jr.

on the cover

These current seminarians have strong family ties to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. See pages 6-10.

Mother Olga Inspires During Visit

On February 6, the SJV seminarians and priests had the privilege to meet Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, founder and mother servant of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth, a religious community of sisters in the Archdiocese of Boston.

A native of Iraq, Mother Olga shared her inspirational story of faith and journey from her war-torn homeland to the United States. Her joy and love for the Lord and His mother are contagious.

Below is her “thank you” that followed her visit.

Dear Reverend Fathers and Saint John Vianney College Seminarians,

I want to share my deep gratitude to the Lord, who allowed me to visit you at your seminary. During my time with you, I felt that, though I am unworthy, the Blessed Virgin Mary gave me a share in her heart to see you all through her motherly heart.

I felt the Virgin Mary’s motherly care for each one of you, as she did for Jesus and the first priests, the apostles, by her prayer and her presence. Through her availability, Jesus first grew as a human in her womb. Then we read in the Scripture that Jesus grew in age and grace at the home of His holy family in Nazareth. For Jesus, Nazareth was the “seminary,” where His vocation was formed under the eyes of Mary, His mother. She never left Him for almost thirty years before he started His public ministry.

Blessed Pope Paul VI wrote about Nazareth as a school of formation: “Oh, how I would like to become a child once again and start my studies over in this humble and sublime school of Nazareth.” Just like for Jesus and for every priest, Nazareth is a home, the safe place where the priestly heart experiences the intimacy with the will of the Father.

The Blessed Virgin Mary remained instrumental to the mission of her son, especially in difficult times. She was with the first apostles as she prayed for the Holy Spirit to comfort them and bless them with the grace needed to build the foundation of the early Church.

As you continue your priestly formation, may you experience ever more the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Good Shepherd and Mother of the Eternal High Priest. May you witness the power of her prayer and intercession and rejoice in the abundant harvest of the Lord in your pastoral vineyard.

Your sister in Christ,

*Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart
Mother Servant of the Daughters of Mary of Nazareth*



Mother Olga and Fr. Becker



A Tribute to a Beloved Rector

Rev. William Joseph Baer, 1957 – 2018

“Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”

Matthew 10:8 – Scripture printed on Fr. Baer’s ordination card in 1996.

The SJV community mourns the loss of former rector Fr. William Baer after his unexpected death on January 14. A beloved priest and friend to many, Fr. Baer leaves a legacy of faith, evangelistic zeal and joy.

Nowhere was that more evident than at his funeral Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Paul on January 23. Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, dozens of brother priests, former seminarians, family, friends and parishioners gathered to celebrate this servant of God. Dozens more would have attended if not for a major snowstorm the night before that cancelled flights and closed highways. Surely, this witty priest would have had something to say about Mother Nature having the last laugh on the day of his funeral.

At the Mass, on social media and at impromptu gatherings of SJV alumni and friends, he was remembered as a natural leader, a shepherd, an incredible teacher, a wonderful homilist, a prankster, and a “priest’s priest.” Just ask the men who were in formation at SJV between 1999 and 2010, and they will tell you how Fr. Baer changed their lives.

Fr. Mike Pratt arrived at SJV in 2005 and remembers his first encounter with his rector: “He told us that, as young men, we were going to make mistakes and he would forgive us. However, if we were ever unkind to a guest at SJV, we would be asked to leave the seminary. He set the bar high right away and we never forgot it.” Fr. Pratt was ordained for the Diocese of Tulsa in 2011 and calls upon this lesson of hospitality in his priesthood every day.

Shortly before Fr. Baer's death, Fr. Nick Nelson, ordained for the Diocese of Duluth in 2013, received an email from someone who had recently heard one of Fr. Baer's homilies at daily Mass. In it, Fr. Baer recounted a recent visit with Fr. Nick and shared how proud he was of this former seminarian who was now pastor of three small parishes in the arrowhead of Northern Minnesota. "It meant so much to receive that affirmation," Fr. Nick said. "I will never forget it."

After graduation, brothers Dan and Nick Schonhardt started their own home improvement and cabinet businesses, respectively. Both clearly recall the impact this happy, holy priest made on their lives as well.

Dan, who teaches a discipleship group for young men at St. Michael's Catholic Church in St. Michael, often references his notebook from Sunday night meetings with Fr. Baer in 2004-2005, always finding new things to share with his youth group.

Nick puts Fr. Baer's wisdom into action in his personal life, too. "He taught us that no matter where the Lord calls us, we need to be a pillar that the Church can build upon," he said. "I've carried that with me as I build a family and a business."

Formator and Spiritual Director Fr. Jonathan Kelly remembers calling Fr. Baer after his first weeks on the job in 2014: "His influence on the current formation program was so evident. I thanked him for the years he spent laboring tirelessly at SJV, which were critical in making it the healthy and positive environment it is today."

More than 580 "Fr. Baer alumni," lay and ordained, are now serving the Church as ordained priests, permanent deacons, and lay leaders in dioceses across the country.



Fr. William Baer Scholarship Fund

Fr. Baer recognized that higher education and authentic formation require significant financial resources. In fact, he knew that many seminarians would not be able to continue their formation and education at SJV without assistance. In 2010, a scholarship fund was created in his honor to help seminarians take their first steps in priestly discernment and formation.

Please prayerfully consider making a gift of any amount to ensure that the cost of education does not become a barrier to a young man's vocational discernment.

For more information about how you can support our seminarians, please contact Tizoc Rosales: tizoc.rosales@stthomas.edu or (651) 962-6843.

All in the Family

There are several SJV seminarians whose immediate and extended families include ordained priests, deacons, seminarians and religious. When asked to share their family connections, multiple responses came back: "My uncle is a priest." "My cousin is in the seminary." "My sister has taken her first vows." "I have two brothers and an uncle who are priests." And so on.

What is the common denominator among these families? How did they nurture multiple vocations? Where does this desire to serve the Lord come from?

The following stories illustrate how members of these families have said "yes" to the Lord.



Luke Mulderink is pictured with his older brother Rob, Class of 2015. "When Luke told me he was entering college seminary, I remember asking if he was doing this because of me," Rob said. "Luke confidently answered that he was on the same path because this is where Jesus is calling him."

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

Luke Mulderink

Luke Mulderink lights up a room with his smile. This happy freshman from the Diocese of Grand Rapids is following in older brother Rob's and cousin Alex's footsteps at SJV.

"I remember dropping Rob off at SJV when I was 12-years-old," Luke recalls. "I had thought about becoming a priest too, and I was inspired to be virtuous as I watched him grow in the seminary."

Luke is one of seven Mulderink children who was actively involved in parish life. "Mom was a pastoral associate and dad is the station manager for Holy Family Catholic Radio," he said. "We helped with everything from set up to take down for parish events, we always knew our pastor well, and we went on a lot of retreats. There was never a time in my life when the Church wasn't important to me."

When Luke told his parents he wanted to go to SJV like Rob, they were very supportive. "And not surprised," he says with that contagious smile.

Because he is six years younger, Luke had always considered Rob the master and he the student. However, a recent postcard from Rob, now in his third year of formation at Mundelein Seminary, included a message that changed that paradigm: "Now that we are both in seminary, we are peers."

"That means a lot," Luke said, with his smile growing even wider. "We're in this together."



Left and center: Ryan Glaser with sisters Abby and Katie then and now. After hearing about Ryan's decision to transfer to SJV, Abby told Ryan, "I think you would make a phenomenal priest."

Right: Ryan's uncle, Fr. Ken Glaser, serves the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

HE IS HUMAN

Ryan Glaser

When Ryan Glaser started getting serious about the priesthood, the first person he contacted was his uncle, Fr. Ken Glaser, a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque, Iowa. Ryan wasn't afraid to tell his parents; he just thought Uncle Ken would know what to do next.

Growing up, Fr. Ken was always a part of Ryan's family life. "Some people think that priests are 'superhuman,'" Ryan said. "Uncle Ken is just like all of us, always joking around with his nieces and nephews. He made the priesthood human to me."

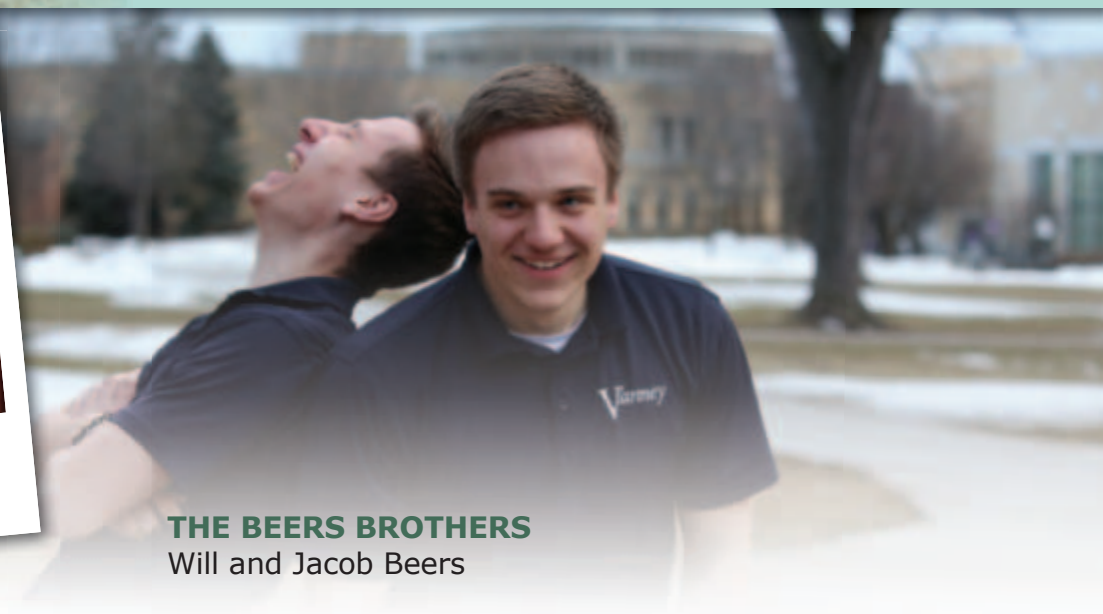
Perhaps that is why it was so easy for Ryan to send a text to his ordained uncle: "Wondering if you have a minute to talk about discernment." Of course, Fr. Ken called right back.

At this point, Ryan was a computer science major at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He had just completed a coveted internship with an aerospace engineering company and was confident about his career path. However, he was falling in love with his faith and seriously considering the priesthood, so he got to work on plans to begin his junior year at SJV the following fall.

Schedule a meeting with his vocations director? Check. Transfer paperwork to the University of St. Thomas? Check. Pray for an opening at SJV? Check. The only thing left on his list was to talk to his parents.

"I asked my mom if I could borrow the car for a 'meeting' over Thanksgiving break," Ryan said. She responded, "Are you going to see a priest?" A mother's intuition? Check.

Simultaneously, the Holy Spirit was at work and an opportunity to begin college seminary midway through his sophomore year became available. Ryan is now fully immersed in life at SJV and is surrounded by the prayers, love and support of his entire family, including his Uncle Ken's, as he discerns his vocation.



THE BEERS BROTHERS
Will and Jacob Beers

Bacon and eggs. Milk and cookies. Will and Jacob Beers. Some things just go together.

Now brother seminarians at SJV, Will and Jacob, junior and freshman respectively, laugh at each other's jokes and finish the other's sentences. Their vocation stories are different, but they share everything that is important: faith, family and fraternity. Will, Jacob and three other Beers' boys were raised in a home in Remus, Michigan, where the faith was alive.

"Mom led us in a daily rosary," Will said. "She loves that there is a decade for each of her five boys."

"Dad is in charge of maintenance at the parish, and we have always been really involved there," Jacob added.

Priestly vocations were encouraged in their family, but seminary was no guarantee for either Will or Jacob. Will had a serious girlfriend and Jacob was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes when he was in 7th grade. Eventually, prayers were answered times two when Will, then Jacob, headed west for college seminary.

Only one year apart in age, Will and Jacob share everything including their love for mom's home cooking, a passion for sports, and the fraternity at SJV. One day, God willing, they will share their vocations to the priesthood.

Will and Jacob Beers share a laugh on campus (above) and lots of smiles in old family photos, together and with their three brothers.

A LIVING FAITH

Stephen Linn

If you did a Google search to discover what Catholic family life is supposed to look like, you might find references to the Linn family in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

“I grew up in a family where the faith was lived every day, not just at Sunday Mass and in prayers before meals,” Stephen Linn explains. “There has always been a primacy of faith that is hidden in the heart of our family.”

And that is just in Stephen’s immediate family of six boys and two girls. He is also surrounded by an extended family that includes more than 40 cousins who grew up together in the same zip code. A strong thread of faith weaves through multiple Linn families.



Stephen Linn contemplates his next move against brother seminarian Josh Luttig.



Stephen Linn is pictured with two of his sisters on a family vacation.

One of Stephen’s cousins, Fr. Andrew Linn, was ordained for the Diocese of Milwaukee two years ago. And Stephen’s older sister, Mary, made her first vows last summer with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia, otherwise known as the Nashville Dominicans. Both Fr. Andrew and Sr. Mary inspire Stephen to discern his own vocation.

“It’s really beautiful to see that Jesus Christ will work with you wherever you are and with whatever you have to give,” he said. “If the priesthood is where God wants me to be, He will let me know.”



Right: Fr. Andrew Linn and Sr. Mary Linn

Below: Stephen and his sister Mary clown around.



IT ALL STARTS AT HOME

The Floeder Family

For Fr. John Floeder, it comes as no surprise that two of his nephews are currently in seminary formation – Frankie at SJV and Louis at The Saint Paul Seminary.

He has watched his brother and sister-in-law raise 10 children in a home where the faith is deeply lived and loved.

“My brother and his wife have always taken formation very seriously,” Fr. Floeder said. “They are the primary educators of faith.”

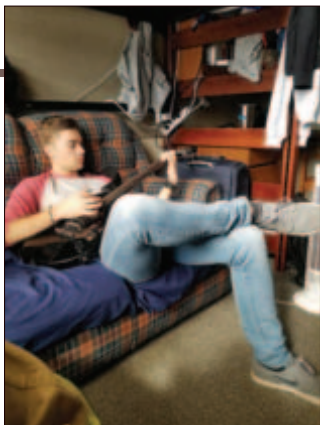
The Floeder’s are also very intentional about the details in their home which include a “giant” round kitchen table built for 12 or more by Louis and Frankie’s dad. Priests and elderly neighbors are frequent dinner guests.

According to Fr. Floeder, this layout encourages conversation at every meal: “This is where they talk about topics of faith, including holy marriages and vocations. It is an ideal environment for family members to learn how to love and how to be loved.”

Fr. Floeder knows well the journey both Louis and Frankie are on. He is an SJV alumnus, Class of 2003, and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis in 2007. As an instructor of moral theology and the dean of seminarians at The Saint Paul Seminary, he also knows that vocations start at home.



Frankie Floeder (left) and older brother Louis.



Nick Ahrens relaxes in his dorm room with his guitar. Nick’s great uncle is Archbishop Charles Chaput of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.



Fr. Paul Shovelain, Class of 2010, and younger brother Dominic, Class of 2018.



Randy Koenigs knecht (second from left) is pictured with his brothers, Fr. Todd and Fr. Gary, SJV Class of 2010, and their uncle, Fr. Bill Koenigs knecht. Randy’s brothers and uncle serve the Diocese of Lansing.

Mission Trips Uncover Hidden Graces

by Maggie Johnson

In January, two groups of seminarians went on mission trips of a lifetime. One group spent their days in the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanage in the Dominican Republic, the other in the swarming city of Kolkata.

Formator and Spiritual Director Fr. Jonathan Kelly led the eight-day trip to the Dominican Republic. He believes mission trips are an integral part of formation: “In addition to serving others and broadening our perspective, mission trips strengthen our community and fraternity.” Since the seminarians may be pastors one day, these trips provide opportunities in which they can lead others to know God and recognize human dignity.

While on mission to the Dominican Republic, 11 seminarians were able to bring Christ to and see Christ in the children at the orphanage and Casa Santa Maria, a house for mentally and physically handicapped kids. This gave seminarian Frankie Floeder a “taste of what it’s like to be a spiritual father” and an opportunity to be “a source of love, hope and joy to the children there.”



Senior Jacob Bennett has full hands and a full heart.

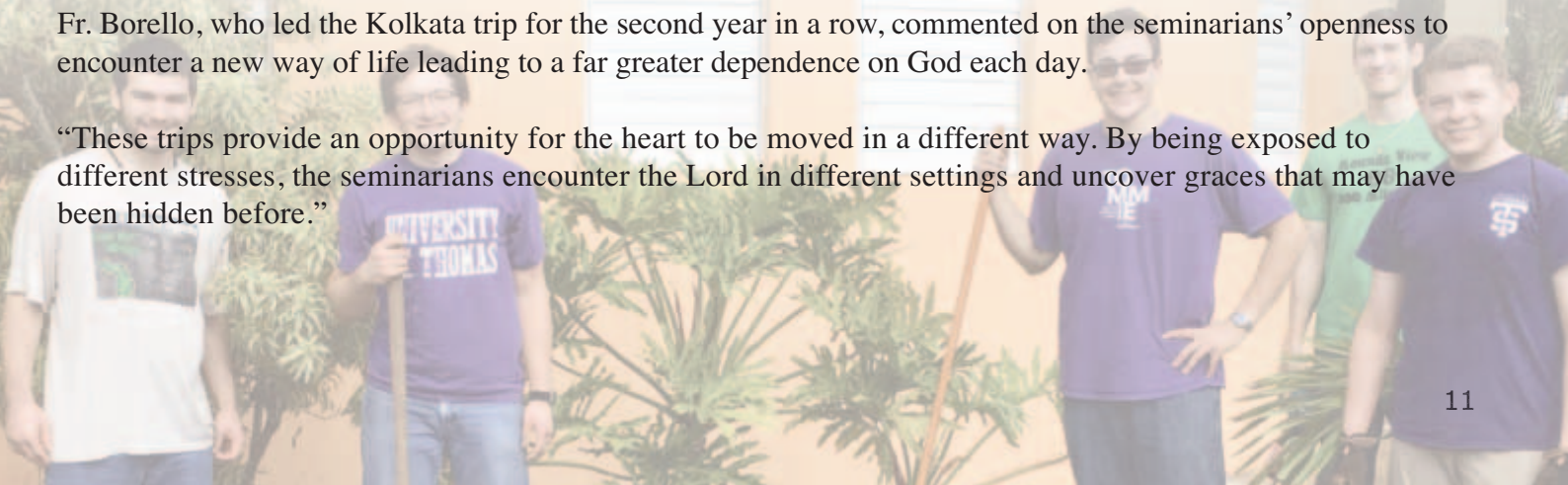
Daily activities included working in the kitchen and fields, playing with the kids, and assisting with a home construction project. They also taught religion and attended daily Mass with the students. Floeder enjoyed speaking Spanish with the kids, but added, “love is a language in itself.” He returned with the desire to improve his Spanish, fueled by the need he saw for Hispanic ministry in this region of the world.

On the other side of the globe, another group of seminarians participated in a mission trip to Kolkata in partnership with Pathways to Children, a non-profit organization that helps and empowers children in extreme poverty. Interacting with kids from the poorest neighborhoods was an opportunity to “bring Jesus to the world,” seminarian Ryan Keisling reflected.

Along with Fr. Michael Becker and Fr. Stephen Borello, Keisling and 10 brother seminarians spent their days at a home for abandoned children with mental and physical challenges, at a home for the dying, and at a leper colony run by the Missionaries of Charity. He was shocked by the different culture but was attuned to “how much we needed prayer to keep doing the daily work.”

Fr. Borello, who led the Kolkata trip for the second year in a row, commented on the seminarians’ openness to encounter a new way of life leading to a far greater dependence on God each day.

“These trips provide an opportunity for the heart to be moved in a different way. By being exposed to different stresses, the seminarians encounter the Lord in different settings and uncover graces that may have been hidden before.”



Spiritual Formation

College seminary is a place where a young man discerns his vocation. For some, the answer comes right away. For others, the answer is revealed slowly. For all, it is necessary to go on a spiritual journey within himself to confirm the answer.

While at SJV, a seminarian meets with his assigned spiritual director every other week. The ultimate goal of spiritual direction is for a man to enter freely into a relationship with God and remain there.

A spiritual director first helps a man engage in the relationship God desires to have with him through prayer. According to world-renowned spiritual director Fr. Jacques Philippe, mental prayer consists of “facing God in solitude and silence for a time in order to enter into intimate, loving communion with Him.”

As a man enters into the silence, his director helps him notice what is coming from him, from the world and from the Lord. He seeks to keep a seminarian’s attention on the things of the Lord and helps him to relate the movements that arise in his heart to God. It is here that he comes to a deep awareness of who he is, including his limitations, woundedness and sinfulness. Most importantly, he comes to understand God’s love for him in all these places.

In learning to hear God’s voice, he moves outside of himself and fixes his gaze on the Lord’s invitation to follow Him. Confident that he can do nothing without God, a man discerns with an open heart and is ready to accept his vocation with freedom.

Spiritual Director and Formator Fr. Steven Borello recognizes this as a turning point in a man’s discernment process: “Once a man learns to accept himself, with all of his limitations, and recognizes he is still God’s beloved son, he responds to that love without hesitation.”



Fr. Abraham George and Joshua Bot meet for spiritual direction.

Senior Joshua Bot remembers exactly when he moved forward in his discernment process. At the end of his junior year, he was contemplating the beauty of both marriage and priesthood. “I wasn’t trusting God that I would be fulfilled if I chose the priesthood,” Joshua recalls. “But my spiritual director helped me listen to God’s voice in prayer. I received a deep sense of peace which allowed me to move forward with confidence.”

None of this growth is possible unless a man is fully transparent with his spiritual director. “I realized I had to share everything with him without fear,” says Joshua. “He sees things that I cannot and gives me objective advice. That is a great consolation.”

SJV seminarians are blessed to have seven spiritual directors on staff and eight adjunct spiritual directors who prayerfully and expertly help them listen, notice, relate and discern.

Getting to Know the SJV Seminararians



**Jacob
Hugo**

Age: 20
Home diocese: Saginaw

Age you first considered priesthood: 10

Why you love being Catholic: Catholicism possesses the fullness of truth.

What you love best about SJV: The in-house fraternity.

What you like best about UST: Tommie Catholic.

Current apostolic outreach: Teaching religious education to 3rd-graders.

Majors: Philosophy, Catholic Studies and Psychology.

Surprising fact about you: I've performed in three Shakespearean plays.

Claim to Fame: I can do several bird calls and foreign accents.

Hobbies: Hunting, western horsemanship, camping/hiking, carpentry, leather craft, sketching, and playing classical guitar.

Favorite food: Chicken fajitas.

If you were not pursuing the priesthood: Wildlife conservation or veterinary medicine.

Favorite saint: St. John Paul II.



**Randall
Skeate**

Age: 20
Home diocese: Saint Paul and Minneapolis

Age you first considered priesthood: 16

Someone who influenced you in your faith: My grandmother, Mary, who escaped communism in Europe in the 1950s and devoted her life to trusting the Lord throughout all trials and joys.

What you love best about SJV: The attentive formation to grow in self-awareness and dependency on God and opportunities to flourish outside my comfort zone.

Majors: Philosophy and Catholic Studies.

Current apostolic outreach: Teaching religious education to 7th-grade boys.

Surprising fact about you: I have a twin brother, Brian, who is studying law enforcement.

Hobbies: Cooking and reading.

Someone you admire: My cousin Corey Manning (SJV Class of 2014) because of his profound dedication to the Lord and his example of how to live as a modern Catholic man.

Best college course: Catholic Studies 201: Paths, Expressions & Practices in Catholic Spirituality.

Favorite campus event: Spring whiffle ball on the Quad.



**Zachary
Halloran**

Age: 21
Home diocese: Mobile

Age you first considered priesthood: 13

Why you love being Catholic: The rich tradition and the beauty of the Mass.

What you love best about SJV: The emphasis on an intimate prayer life and the family-like fraternity.

Majors: Philosophy and Catholic Studies.

Current apostolic outreach: AVIVO Chemical and Mental Health Services.

Surprising fact about you: I speak three languages and am working on a fourth.

Hobbies: Reading, playing the organ, playing soccer and hanging out with friends.

Best college course: Spiritual Theology.

Favorite movie: *The King's Speech*.

Favorite campus event: The Eucharistic Procession during Borromeo Weekend.

If you were not pursuing the priesthood: Studying medicine with the goal of becoming an orthopedic surgeon.

Favorite food: Carbonara.

The Next Generation of Leaders

Dear Friends,

Thank you for supporting Saint John Vianney College Seminary! We simply could not provide the essential formation today for tomorrow's Catholic priests without you. I encourage you to read the articles in this issue of *Vianney News* which profile the many ways that SJV carries out our important mission to form the next generation of faith-filled Catholic leaders.

I am sure you will find the tribute to the late Fr. Bill Baer to be significantly touching (pages 4-5). People from all walks of life – lay and ordained SJV alumni, friends of SJV and Fr. Baer's parishioners – have sent in stories, memories and lessons that this former rector imparted to them.

Fr. Baer was the longest serving rector of SJV (1999-2010) and that was his longest assignment as a priest. His life before, during, and after SJV was a magnificent example of the impact of one priest. While his earthly life ended at age 60, Fr. Baer's wit and wisdom will carry on in the lives of those he encountered for many years to come. His spirit is alive and well, and those who knew him will certainly see that in the people and activities profiled here.

As a bishop so lovingly mentioned at Fr. Baer's funeral: "Fear not. While God certainly broke the mold with Fr. Baer, there will be others who have a similar zeal, passion and zest for life and for bringing others to Christ." It is humbling to think that we could be forming that man right now at SJV.

One of the last times Fr. Baer and I spoke, he reminded me of something he used to say to the seminarians: "You are not necessarily called to the priesthood, but every one of you is called to be a Catholic father who does three things: he protects, he provides, he establishes the next generation for life."

Not only does this resonate with me as a Catholic father, it gives me great encouragement, as I hope it does for you, too. Not all of us are called to the priesthood; however, by supporting SJV with your prayers, presence and support, you are establishing the next generation for life. For that, I thank you!



Tizoc Rosales
Director of Development

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tizoc Rosales". The signature is fluid and cursive.

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Spotlight on Alumni

Some stories about SJV alumni are legendary.

One in particular that lives on is about Fr. Andrew Liaugminas. This gifted priest, now chaplain and director of the Catholic Center at the University of Chicago, graduated in 2006 with four majors: Philosophy, Theology, Catholic Studies and Biblical Languages. In fact, he was the University of St. Thomas' first quadruple major, which required the registrar's office to write new code for their computer system so each major would be included in his file. He graduated *Summa Cum Laude* and completed the Aquinas Scholars program as well.



Fr. Andrew Liaugminas

In addition to his academic gifts, Fr. Andrew is remembered for his humility and care for others. Academic Advisor John Daniewicz recalls his work with children and the elderly: "He was spectacular in both ministries."

After graduation, Fr. Andrew continued his formation at Mundelein Seminary and was ordained for the Archdiocese of Chicago in 2010. He served a parish for three years before the late Cardinal Francis George asked him to study Christology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In January, he successfully defended his dissertation, more than 700 pages of it!

Formator and Spiritual Director Fr. Paul Gitter was privileged to witness this milestone with the Liaugminas family, friends and other SJV alumni in Rome. "The review board was extremely positive, even going so far as to say that this is some of the best work they have ever seen," said Fr. Gitter. "I am so proud that Fr. Andrew is an SJV alumnus."

Fr. Andrew is grateful for his formation at SJV under the care of Rector Fr. William Baer (see pages 4-5). "This was a great time of integration for me," he said. "Fr. Baer insisted that academics, prayer and formation are not separate entities, but rather gifts that work together for the glory of God." He also credits SJV with instilling in him a desire for apostolic outreach and fraternity, dimensions that are integral to his priesthood today.

Because of the significant impact SJV made on him, Fr. Andrew shares the following advice, whenever possible, with men discerning a vocation to the priesthood: "Give yourself to God. Give him your all. If after a year it does not work out, you will be better for having tried it."

SAVE THE DATE **Annual Alumni Event** **November 8, 2018**

If you are interested in joining the planning team, please contact
Tizoc Rosales:
tizoc.rosales@stthomas.edu
or (651) 962-6843



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14th Annual Vianney Cup

Monday, September 17, 2018
Midland Hills Country Club
Roseville, Minnesota



11:00 a.m.
Registration and Lunch – Driving Range Open

12:00 p.m.
Opening Prayer and Golf Scramble Shotgun Start

4:30 p.m.
Social Hour

5:15 p.m.
Dinner followed by awards and program, featuring
more than 120 seminarians

7:00 p.m.
Adjourn

For more information or
to register, contact:

Nancy Johnson
nhjohnson@stthomas.edu
(651) 962-5967



(651) 962-6825

www.vianney.net

Or find us on Facebook!

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