

VIANNEY NEWS

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY
SPRING 2022



'NO SMALL PLANS'
SJV's addition reinforces
Eucharist, discipleship at
center of seminary life

VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY

BELOVED SONS

Dear friends and patrons,

By now, you've likely heard about our new chapel. The centerpiece of our current renovation project will be completed by next spring, and we couldn't be more excited about the plans God has for us in this new, beautiful, reverent house that will again place the Eucharist at the center of our seminary life.



One feature of the new space I'm particularly looking forward to is the "rood beam", a beam located at the threshold of the sanctuary. The crucifix will be supported by this beam, which will feature the inscription, "You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" in Latin from the Gospel of Mark. When you look up from a pew during Mass, you'll be reminded of the Father's tender words to His Son during the Baptism and the Transfiguration, and your identity in Jesus Christ.

That experience of being a beloved son is the hallmark of the discipleship stage of priestly formation. At Saint John Vianney College Seminary, it's our mission to carry out the Church's crucial work of forming missionary disciples, whether that ends up being to the priesthood, consecrated life or marriage.

As we take the next steps in making that happen, I'm often reminded of a line from one of my predecessors, Fr. William Baer; may he rest in peace. He used to quote an architect who said "make no small plans, they have no magic to stir man's blood."

At SJV, we have made no small plans, and Fr. Baer would be proud!

The future of our Church is here, and the work we're doing to reimagine our facilities will create an environment that matches our healthy and vibrant formation program. Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is the center of our life; it has been for the thousands of alumni who have prayed and discerned here, and it will continue to be in a new chapel that highlights the majesty and mystery of the Son hidden in the form of bread and wine.

You will notice, though, that we never held a groundbreaking ceremony for our new facility. That's intentional, because we're building on the foundation of our predecessors and the great work they have done. And while it was sad to say goodbye to a place where so many men have encountered Christ, I think we can safely say we have no small plans for the future of our building and of SJV.

None of this is possible without you, of course. Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support – both for our renovation project and for the young men from more than 15 different dioceses growing in knowledge and love of God and in discipleship here.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Jonathan Kelly
Rector, Saint John Vianney College Seminary



More than a building

Construction of SJV addition begins with gratitude, excitement

The site of a crater where a Catholic chapel once stood can be unsettling.

But as construction of Saint John Vianney College Seminary's brand-new place of worship begins this spring, it's important to remember that physical structures derive their worth from what and who are inside them, said Rector Fr. Jonathan Kelly.

"Anyone who's attended SJV can tell you it's so much more than a building," Kelly said. "It's a home. The seminary is a home where men come to grow in knowledge and love of God and become his disciples to make a sincere gift of themselves to others."

It's why SJV embarked four years ago on a mission to reimagine its facilities. The capstone of the comprehensive, \$18.5 million renovations: a completely new chapel meant to invoke a deep sense of the sacred for college-age men seeking to grow closer to Christ.

The environment in which that process takes place is a lot different than it was in 1982. That's when former Rector Fr. Richard Pates – who went on to become Auxiliary Bishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and later Bishop of Des Moines – oversaw construction of the seminary's first chapel on the University of St. Thomas campus.

Forty years later, amid a cultural backdrop that's moving further and further away from Christendom, seminary leadership has doubled down on the need for an intimate place of encounter with God through liturgy, prayer and worship.

"God is the center of our life, and His presence in the Eucharist is the heart of our formation program in discipleship," Kelly said. "That fundamental truth will be reflected in the very architecture of our building."

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When completed, the 20,000-square-foot addition will include:

- An expanded chapel
- Priest residence rooms
- Guest rooms for visiting bishops and vocation directors
- Meeting space for spiritual direction
- Multipurpose room with kitchen for community meals
- Classroom for spiritual and human formation conferences
- Staff offices
- Music and production room

Some features from the old chapel will be retained, including the “loaves and fishes” mosaic that used to be behind the altar. The image will be placed on the floor in front of the sanctuary, where seminarians will receive Holy Communion every day. The exterior crucifix that used to be on the north side of the seminary now faces south toward the University of St. Thomas campus.

“Houses need to be updated,” said alum Ben Barron, who’s now married with five children and works in the financial services industry. “It’s very clear when you come into a house and it hasn’t been updated [since the 1980s]. In order to stay relevant and effective, updating the entire building is what we need to do to make good priests.

“It’s where the real battle is fought. That’s where the real battle of making Christ the center of your life happens for the men. That is the first thing that has to happen. Academics are important, fraternity is important, but all of those things are there to support a young man who’s willing to devote his life to the Lord and say ‘He must increase and I must decrease.’”

Said current seminarian Alex Thiel, from the Archdiocese of Chicago: “We spend two hours a day in the chapel [one in adoration of the Eucharist, another in Mass]. So we want it to be a place where we can pray well ... it



should be a place where we prioritize beauty and to help us encounter the Lord. If that's truly what's most important, the place surrounding it should reflect that."

Demolition began in late February, with the new addition set for completion in April of 2023. The addition also includes new meeting rooms and residences for the priests who live and work at the seminary.

As part of the larger renovation project that began two years ago, updated residence halls, floor lounges, kitchen and dining areas and restrooms have already been completed.

SJV has partnered with Zeman Construction, Finn Daniels Architects and Studio io Designs on the project. All work is funded by the generosity of SJV's benefactors and sponsoring dioceses.

"We like to say 'unless the Lord builds the house, in vain do we labor,'" Kelly said, quoting Psalm 127.

The rector and his staff of priests have consecrated the entire project to St. Joseph. Work began during the Year of St. Joseph promulgated by Pope Francis.

Senior Dan Obendorf participated in the final Mass inside the old chapel as an altar server. This special "Last Mass" included the reading of a decree of relegation by Archbishop Bernard



The rood beam above the new chapel's sanctuary will feature "You are my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased" in Latin.

Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, formally recognizing the building is no longer set apart for worship. It was attended by over 120 priests, alumni, donors and members of the SJV community on Feb. 20.

"It was awesome just to be able to serve the last Mass and ... put the old chapel to rest, then we're looking forward to bigger and better things," said Obendorf, who will begin major seminary next year as a member of the Diocese of Joliet. "I'm looking forward to going back as an alum and seeing how things have changed, how things are different, and how it's changed the culture."

The floor plans and more pictures will soon be available on our website, including time-lapse video of the construction progress.

'I AM HERE
TO WALK
WITH YOU'



SJV SEMINARIANS BEFRIEND THE POOR WITH CHRIST IN THE CITY

One typical, cold, mid-January afternoon in 2022 was anything but typical for first-year Saint John Vianney College Seminary seminarian Jack Massmann from the Diocese of St. Cloud, Minnesota. Sitting on the damp pavement of downtown Minneapolis, he conversed with a woman holding a cardboard sign. As she shared openly about struggles with her past, family life and homelessness, she casually mentioned her daughter's birthdate.

Upon hearing the month, day, and year, Massmann responded in astonishment, "That's *my* birthday."

Within minutes, a spiritual bond formed between two strangers — one, a mother experiencing homelessness, and the other, a young man discerning priesthood.

Christ in the City, Twin Cities Edition

Christ in the City, a young adult apostolate in Denver, helped make this providential encounter — and several others — possible for eight SJV seminarians in January. According to its website, the organization seeks to "create a culture of encounter, where each person is seen, known, and loved," particularly the homeless.

Young men and women from all over the country commit to serve every year, walking the streets of Denver on assigned routes almost daily to befriend and support the poor. Along with ministry, the missionaries take theology and formation classes and live together on the same campus.

In 2019, Christ in the City began extending its work to cities outside Denver.

First-year missionaries Reed Carlson and Chas Canfield and Director of Homeless Outreach Samuel Schultz (a 2016 SJV alum) joined up with the eight seminarians and priest formation advisors Fr. Michael Kearney and Fr. Colin Jones on the campus of Holy Cross parish in Minneapolis. The three Christ in the City staffers — two of whom are former seminarians — led the mission, giving participants a taste of the organization's ministry and formation.

Each day included a presentation; topics covered were non-violent communication and vulnerability. During these sessions, the seminarians participated in communication exercises with one another; the goal was to learn how to identify one's emotions and needs, and convey them in a way that is not presumptive or judgmental of others.

Lunch naturally became a time for community. Then, it was time to hit the streets.

With plastic bags of socks, bottled water, and granola bars, the men went out in small groups to St. Paul and Minneapolis, each led by a Christ in the City team member. The goal was very simple: to acknowledge the humanity of the homeless through conversation and learning their stories; the "blessing bags" were only secondary. Carlson, in his first presentation of the week, said, "One of the most important parts of what

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we do is focusing our conversations on the person, not on how to fix the problem, so we shift from task-oriented to people-oriented."

He was clear to make the difference between a social worker and a Christ in the City missionary: "A social worker solves problems ... our goal is to accompany toward the good."

Which is why the mission trip was a perfect opportunity for men discerning the priesthood.

The priesthood and poverty

Throughout the week, the Christ in the City leaders often tied learning topics to seminary life and the potential vocation as a priest.

Kearney commented on the universal importance of encountering the poor, whether men come from rural or urban dioceses.

"You have the freedom to prepare a gift that can be used in any diocese," said Kearney, a priest from the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. "We'll always have the poor, the sick, the suffering. As a priest, you'll have to be able to go into a hospital room,

and engage not only the sick, but their family members. Or you'll have to enter into a funeral home. And so the gifts that you use in street ministry, being able to engage people in basic conversation, is important to learn."

First-year seminarian John Paul Narog (Diocese of Duluth) signed up for the mission trip to have more opportunities to connect with those outside of seminary, but also attested to the impact of the ministry to the poor on his discernment.

"It helps me to see, what does the life of a religious that works more on the streets and community-based things look like," Narog said, "and then also as a parish priest, [asking] are there programs that I can create, be part of, that further ministries like this?"

Christ in the City missionaries Reed Carlson (far left) and Chas Canfield (far right) joined SJV seminarians (left to right) Caleb Kosch, Brady Martinez, Jack Massmann, Matthew Sell and Dominic Schoenle in ministering to the Twin Cities poor during J-term.





“One of the most important parts of what we do is focusing our conversations on the person,” said Christ in the City missionary Reed Carlson, “not on how to fix the problem, so we shift from task-oriented to people-oriented.”

General people skills are not the only benefits to be gleaned in formation and ministry, as evidenced in Canfield’s presentation. The former seminarian spoke on the importance of vulnerability while discerning priesthood, sharing his experience of it before, during and after seminary. He encouraged the men to share their hearts with their brothers, which in turn will pave the way for being open with others. At the heart of this is sincere connection and relationship, he said, which includes bringing to light the shame one so often tries to hide.

Drawing from Canfield’s experience, those experiencing homelessness have nowhere to hide their shame, and many in society do not acknowledge them because of it, perhaps because of a subconscious revulsion to acknowledging their own interior wounds.

But Christianity is founded on the Incarnation, that Jesus is fully God and fully man. And the Catholic Church teaches the very life of the priest is to be a tangible presence of Christ, willing to dive into the dregs of humanity’s fallen condition in order to heal. And in order to be an effective channel of grace to others, he must first be vulnerable.

“Meeting people in that [brokenness], and seeing that in myself ... and saying, ‘I am here to walk with you,’” Massmann reflected. “That’s something a priest is called to, walking with his sheep along the journey ... and being willing to stay in that place of discomfort.”



Spotlight on Alumni

**“You will be
my witnesses.”**
- Acts 1:8

Meet the former seminarian who became a leader in homeless ministry

One of the final blessings at a Catholic wedding goes like this:

“May you be witnesses in the world to God’s charity, so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.”

2016 St. John Vianney College Seminary alum Sam Schultz and his wife Anna have lived this out quite literally. Based in Denver, the former is currently working as Christ in the City’s director of homeless outreach, and the latter as outreach and apostolate coordinator at Holy Name Parish.

Their journey together began at a park in Denver. Some time after discerning out of seminary, Sam came to visit Christ in the City — a young adult apostolate serving the homeless — during their weekly “Lunch in the Park” for people on the streets. There he met his future bride, who was then a missionary for the organization, and they kept in touch.

Fast forward to October of 2021, and the two were married.

Their journeys began long before they even met, though. Sam was a seminarian at SJV, then studied at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois before discerning he was not called to the priesthood. This period of formation, though ultimately not ending in ordination, still provided a crucial and solid foundation for their marriage, he said.

“Marriage is about self-gift,” Sam reflected, “and I can’t give myself unless I know myself. And when I was at SJV, that was the first real step towards self-knowledge and self-mastery. ... I would never be able to give myself like I am now without having gone through that, and so the formation was very good in that way.”

Sam also added that seminary helped him develop solid prayer, which is now the core of the Schultzes’ day-to-day life.

Sam’s road came full circle this January when he helped lead a team of SJV seminarians ministering to the poor in Minneapolis.

As for Anna, being a missionary with Christ in the City also prepared her well to be a spouse.

“That was the beginning of everything for me, I think,” she said of her time at the organization. “Living in community, in particular, was just incredibly healing in a lot of ways. It was the first time that I was truly seen in the good and the bad, and still loved after being seen ... when you live with 30 plus people, you can’t hide, so all of the tendencies to want to be seen at your best fall away.”

According to Anna, receiving the love of God through prayer and then transmitting that love to the homeless, enables her to be that same vessel to Sam as well. Her husband echoed a similar sentiment.

“Learning to be more attentive to the poverty in others and to be willing to serve, pick up my cross daily, and provide for that poverty in another ... is like a skill and a love that you learn more radically when you’re [loving] the homeless,” Sam reflected. “To see Anna in her poverty, whatever that looks like, and be willing to stay in the poverty with her, is normally something we want to run away from ... but learning to love the poor helps me love my wife better.”

Getting to Know the SJV Seminarians



Brady Martinez

Home Diocese: Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Favorite part of seminary life: The brotherhood here at SJV along with the reverence that each man shows toward the Eucharist.

Favorite Bible verse: "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." -- John 15:9

Favorite saint: St. John Paul II

Fun fact: I went skydiving for my 18th birthday.



Jack Massmann

Home Diocese: St. Cloud, Minnesota

Favorite part of seminary life: I am living in the same building as the Blessed Sacrament.

Favorite Bible verse "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." -- Luke 23:46

Favorite saint: St. Thomas Aquinas

Fun fact: I attended Minnesota State University for two years before coming to SJV and was studying for social studies teaching.



John Paul Narog

Home Diocese:
Duluth, Minnesota

Favorite part of seminary life: The brotherhood and fraternity. It is an amazing environment to build up this faith and love for Jesus!

Favorite Bible verse: Hosea 11:3-4 (see below)

Favorite saint: St. Michael. As the leader of God’s armies, he provides an example of leadership; but he is also an excellent example of humility, as it is only through “the power of God” that St. Michael defeats the evil one.

Fun fact: I enjoy writing music in my free time and am a member of the SJV Schola that sings at Mass on Saturdays.



Greg Wasinski

Home Diocese:
Grand Rapids,
Michigan

Favorite part of seminary life: The fraternity.

Favorite Bible verse: “For I will take you from the nations, and gather you from all the countries, and bring you into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.” – Ezekiel 36: 24-26

Fun fact: I can make really good crêpes.



Matthew Wilson

Home Diocese:
Lansing, Michigan

Favorite part of seminary life: The ability to spend so much time with Jesus (Mass, Holy Hour, time in the chapel, etc.).

Favorite Bible verse: “Yet it was I who taught E’phraim to walk, I took them up in my arms; but they did not know that I healed them. I led them with cords of compassion, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who raises an infant to his cheeks, and I bent down to them and fed them.” - Hosea 11:3-4

Favorite saint: St. Anthony the Abbot

Fun fact: I ran a half marathon when I was in eighth grade.



SJV seminarian Toby Ellis (Diocese of St. Cloud) had a joyful encounter with Pope Francis at his Wednesday audience in February of 2022.



'THE SAINTS ARE EVERYWHERE'

SJV seminarians encounter Christ in new ways via Rome semester

A few weeks in Rome may be considered the trip of a lifetime for the average Catholic. How, then, would one characterize living in the Eternal City for three months, taking classes and becoming immersed in everyday life and culture?

The study-abroad semester in Rome has long been a staple of formation at Saint John Vianney College Seminary. Over 90 percent of SJV seminarians study at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, better known as the Angelicum, while living at the Pontifical Irish College under the care of an SJV priest.

“What I hope to gain out of this semester is a spiritual renewal in my connection to God, especially through the intercession of the saints,” said junior Marty Longsdorf of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. “It has been incredible to pray at the tombs and churches of so many amazing saints and martyrs of Rome.”

Longsdorf and eight other men are currently in Rome for the spring term. Aside from the rich spiritual and intellectual experience, the seminarians acquaint themselves with the vibrant culture and Catholic faith lived out so tangibly there and in the surrounding cities.

For Longsdorf, speaking Italian has come with a learning curve since arriving.

“It has been a great opportunity to learn how to have confidence and the humility to learn when I am in situations that are not familiar or normal to my usual everyday life,” he said. “The people here are super patient with us when we practice the Italian we know, and they get excited that we are trying to learn.”

And even after being in Italy for only a short while, Longsdorf has already visited many holy sites.

“My favorite church so far has been the Basilica of St. Paul,” he said. “My favorite town outside of Rome that we have visited has been Assisi. It was incredible to pray at the tombs of [Saints] Francis and Clare, in front of the original San Damiano crucifix, and Francis’ cave hermitage.”

This past fall semester, senior Patrick Glanville (Diocese of Rockford, Illinois) was able to visit the city of Lanciano, the site of a famous eighth-century Eucharistic miracle, and the cathedral where St. Thomas the Apostle was buried, all in one trip.

Glanville prayed regularly at the tomb of St. Philip Neri in Rome, saying that the saint’s joyful character was particularly striking.

“The saints are everywhere in Italy,” said Glanville, who spent the fall of 2021 in Rome with seven other seminarians. “It’s so grounding to recognize that these saints are real people. These are their bodies, and seeing their examples and love of the Lord ... and making it feel so palpable is just so inspiring for me.”

Both fall and spring groups also experienced the meeting of a lifetime: seeing the successor of St. Peter, Pope Francis, at a Papal Audience.

But aside from the grandiose and palpable sights, Glanville spoke of the subtler, intimate ways in which he was spiritually impacted by his time abroad.

“There was a lot of time of silence and prayer, and being alone with the Lord,” he said, “which was so beautiful, definitely hard, but learning to just be with Him and walking through these streets where His Church is built ... just these moments of intimacy with God and being very vulnerable and real in my heart were really good.”

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Full circle for current SJV rector, former SPS rector

During their time in Rome, the seminarians have a presence of “home” — Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan, former rector of The Saint Paul Seminary, is leading the study-abroad program this year.

Callaghan is no stranger to the Eternal City.

“I was ordained in [St. Peter’s] Basilica on December 17, 1971,” he said. “I have an absolute wonderful memory of everything about this place, because it gave me a sense of what the Church is. It showed me how universal the Church can be.”

After serving as Saint Paul Seminary rector from 2005-18, Callaghan said it’s edifying to still be around seminarians in his latest formation role. The jovial Irishman also sees some humor in it, as he now reports to SJV Rector Fr. Jonathan Kelly.

Callaghan was rector at The Saint Paul Seminary when Kelly studied there to become a priest.

“[Kelly] is my boss now; can you imagine that?” Callaghan joked. “The Lord has a way of working things out.”

On a more serious note, Callaghan added, “It’s a blessing to be with [these] young men. They keep you running, but they make you proud ... they’re in love with the seminary, and that comes through.”

Nine SJV seminarians are studying abroad in Rome this spring.

Back row left to right: Connor Lynch, Nolan Meyer, Tobias Ellis, Martin Longsdorf, Caleb Kosch

Front row left to right: Joseph Seidel, Jonathan Arriola, Luke O’Reilly, Isaac Ostdiek



NEWS BITES

STORIES AND UPDATES FROM AROUND THE SJV COMMUNITY

The final Mass at Saint John Vianney College Seminary's old chapel was held Sunday, Feb. 20. Archbishop Bernard Hebda of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis presided and read the official decree of relegation for the chapel. "It's always the encounter with Jesus Christ that was centered here in this chapel that [seminarians] found the strength to say yes to whatever it is that God was asking from them," Hebda said during his homily.

During construction of SJV's new chapel, the seminary's 9 p.m. Sunday Last Chance Mass will be held in the University of St. Thomas' St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel. Visit semssp.org/lastchancemass for details.

With the conflict in Ukraine ongoing, seminarians held a Marian procession through a snowy St. Thomas campus in honor of Our Lady of Miracles on Saturday, March 12.

SJV seminarians have a cumulative GPA of 3.46 this year. Fifty of them made the University of St. Thomas Dean's List for the fall 2021 semester.

As part of the previous renovations of SJV's seminarian residence halls, a new barber shop room was put in place. Seminarian Mason Abbott has quickly become the community's primary barber; "If I would have had a Mason cut in high school, I probably would have gone to prom," one fellow seminarian joked.



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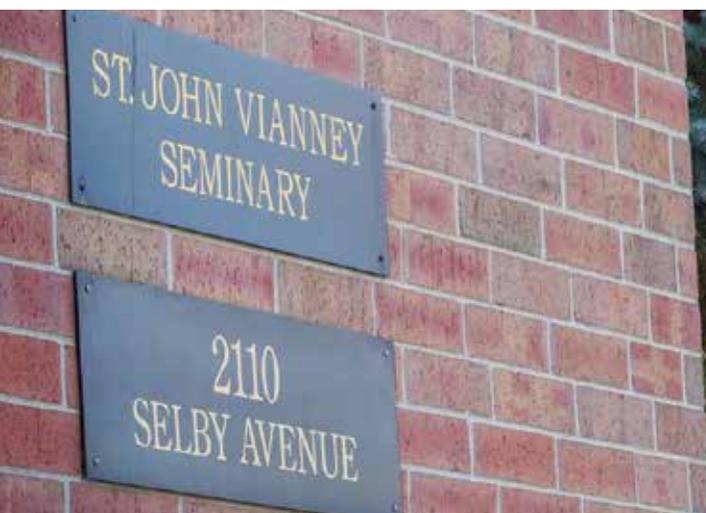


SJV's annual wiffle ball league that plays in the quad area south of the seminary began April 7. Unlike Major League Baseball, no tense labor negotiations preceded the scheduling of this year's games.

Over 160 high school-age men attended SJV'S fall and spring Vianney Visits this school year. Each semester, the seminary hosts visitors from its 15 sending dioceses who may be discerning a call to the priesthood.

2022 Spring Mass and May Crowning

All friends of SJV are invited to attend the seminary's annual Spring Mass and May Crowning on Sunday, May 1, 2022. A 9 a.m. Mass with Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Rector Fr. Jonathan Kelly and the SJV community precedes a 10 a.m. brunch and program. Visit semssp.org/maycrowning for more information or to become a sponsor.



In Memoriam

Mr. Paul F. Beggs, Class of 1983
Mr. Gregory S. Conrad, Class of 1979

SJV building campaign update



**SAINT JOHN VIANNEY
COLLEGE SEMINARY**

“No one puts
new wine into old
wineskins; if he does,
the wine will burst the
skins, and the wine
is lost, and so are the
skins; but new wine is
for fresh skins.”
— Mark 2:22

On the north end of the University of St. Thomas campus, a beloved but tired dormitory is quickly being transformed into an exemplary home for modern seminary formation.

As construction of Saint John Vianney College Seminary’s 20,000-square-foot addition, including its brand-new chapel, gets underway, there’s a sense on campus of profound gratitude for all the transformation that’s taken place in the hearts of so many young men here. There’s an equal sense of anticipation for what’s to come as we form the next generation of Men in Christ, Men of the Church and Men for Others.

Placing the Eucharist at the center of our lives and building a space that allows our men to encounter the sacred mystery of Christ’s passion, death and resurrection has begun. More meeting space for spiritual and human formation, ensuring those who pass through SJV’s doors leave ready to serve the Lord’s mission in their life — whatever it may be — is on the way. Rooms to welcome guests as Christ Himself are being prepared.

Stages of the project

Phase 1: Completed

Plumbing updates, new bathrooms and the addition of a commercial-grade kitchen

Phase 2: Completed

Renovation of seminarian dorm rooms and residential lounges

Phase 3: In progress (\$1.5 million needed to complete)

New addition including priest rooms, guest rooms, program space and chapel

Phase 4: In progress (\$1.5 million projected cost)

Furnishings, fixtures and equipment for the chapel and other spaces in the addition

Once we’ve raised the necessary funds for construction, fundraising will begin to help adorn the addition with furnishings, fixtures and equipment. This includes everything from a new tabernacle, altar and artwork to candlesticks and sacred vessels.

Thank you, as always, for your prayers and support as we continue this journey of forming Men in Christ, Men of the Church and Men for Others.