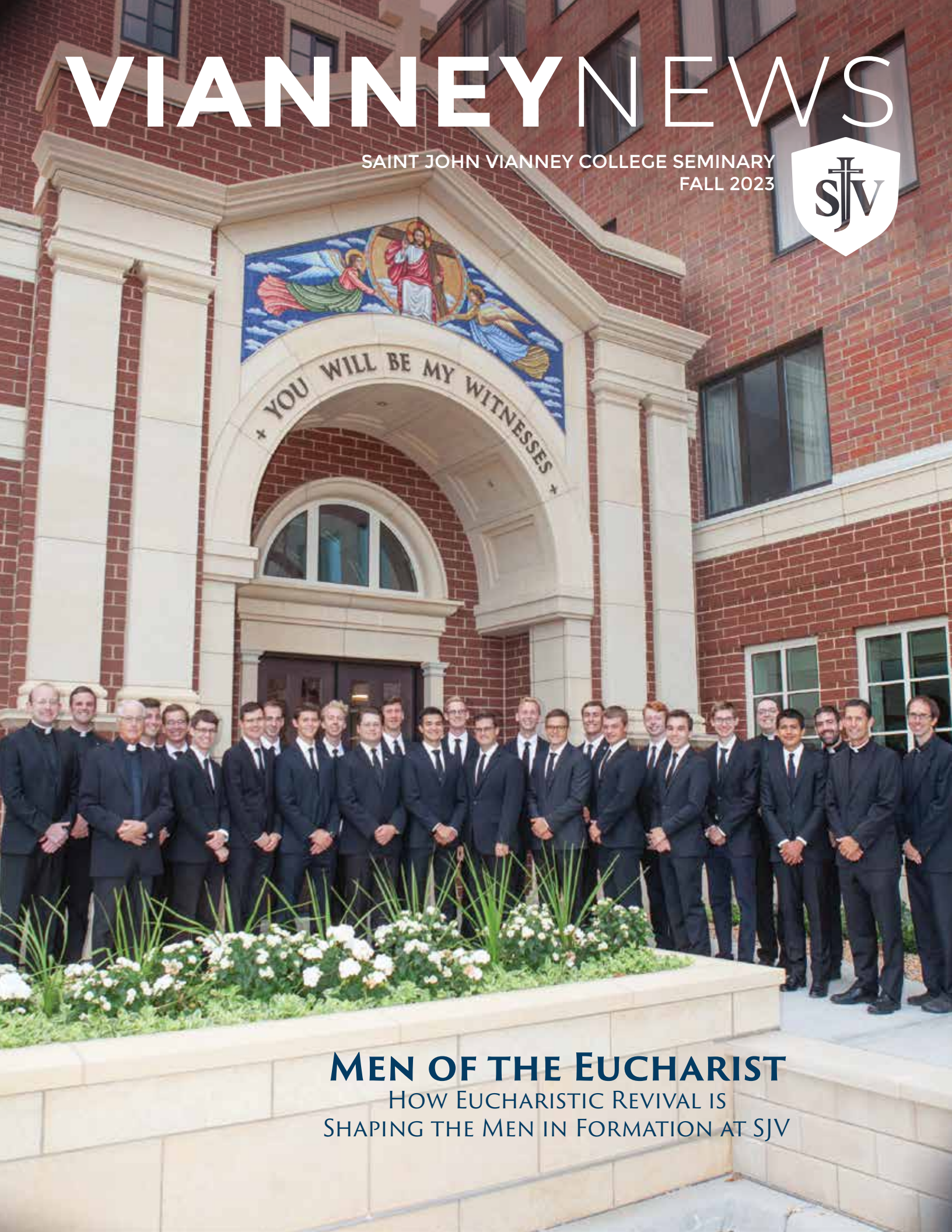


# VIANNEY NEWS

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY COLLEGE SEMINARY  
FALL 2023

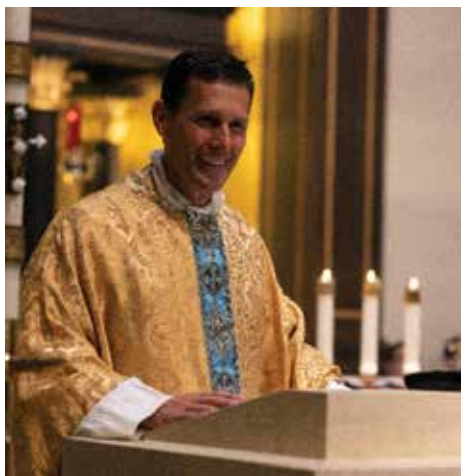


**MEN OF THE EUCHARIST**  
HOW EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL IS  
SHAPING THE MEN IN FORMATION AT SJV

# LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

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## *And It Has Been a Beautiful Day*



“Arise and eat, else the journey will be too long for you,” said the angel under the broom tree to Elijah, who was fearful for his life and discouraged by the demands of being God’s prophet and disciple.

Five years ago, I was leading our second-year men on retreat with Monsignor Esseff at Broom Tree Retreat Center in South Dakota. In addition to leading the SJV men, he would take calls early in the morning and late into the evening to offer direction and counsel to his spiritual children living throughout the world.

At 90 years old, Monsignor seemed to be spryer and more youthful every time I saw him. His radical availability inspired and amazed me. Feeling more like Elijah than Monsignor, I wondered how I could ever carry such a burden.

One day I asked him, “How do you do it Monsignor? How do you keep your schedule with such joy?” His reply did not give me practical advice but a priceless insight into his relationship with God. With tears in his eyes and emotion in his voice, he simply said, “All I know is that I woke up with my Father, my Abba, and it has been a beautiful day.”

Friends, life is demanding. Priesthood is demanding. At one time or another, we will all be brought to our knees. May we arise every morning and eat the Bread of Life, living in the security, goodness, and sovereign providence of our Abba Father.

Coraggio,

Fr. Jonathan Kelly

*COVER: The 20 seniors comprising SJV's Class of 2024 are pictured in front of the new building entrance with their seven priest formators.*



## New Brand and Logo

On Friday, September 8 - the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary - SJV launched its new branding and logo to convey our unique mission and identity. This fresh look complements the typography and design elements of our recent building project. The two colors of the sanctuary barrel vault representing the heavens are **Marian yet masculine**.

Simple, memorable, and uniquely SJV, we are:

**Men in Christ** | The cross at the heart of the shield.

**Men of the Church** | The steeple shape of the shield's peak.

**Men for Others** | The sword of the 'J'.

This is our pledge and our promise. SJV continues forming Men in Christ, Men of the Church, and Men for Others because God still calls. And that's a story we look forward to telling for many decades to come.

## Enrollment Boost for 2023-2024

A trend of strong enrollment continues! SJV is pleased to welcome **97 seminarians (including 29 new men)** from 18 dioceses to SJV this fall! We are pleased to welcome the Archdiocese of **Oklahoma City** as a new sending diocese and to welcome back seminarians from the Dioceses of **Saginaw** and **Rockford**.

## Two New Priests Join Formation Team

Two new formation advisors join us this year at SJV. **Father Jim Olofson (SJV '14)** from the Diocese of Joliet spent the last year in Rome with SJV seminarians while finishing his Licentiate in Spiritual Theology. **Father Mark Pavlak** from the Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis joins us after five years serving as chaplain at St. Thomas Academy (Mendota Heights, MN). Our strong formation team - consisting of **seven priests** and **Dr. Chris Burke** - continues offering seminarians the unique formation each man needs to foster his vocation to fatherhood.



*continued on next page...*



## Rector on Relevant Radio

Father Jonathan Kelly was on Relevant Radio's Morning Air with John Morales on Friday, August 4. They discussed SJV's patron and the alumni event celebrating 100 years of college seminary formation in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Use the QR code or find his interview on our website at [sjvseminary.org](http://sjvseminary.org).



## Meet Our New Development Services Specialist

Joseph Recznik joined the SJV team in July 2023 after teaching at Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School in Belize as an SOLT (Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity) missionary volunteer. A recent graduate of **Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio**, Joseph obtained an undergraduate degree in Business Finance and graduate degree in Business Administration.



## Building Project Update

Pews, stained glass windows, and mosaics were installed in the chapel and on the exterior of SJV's facilities this summer. The mosaic facing Selby Avenue features Revelation 21:5: "Behold, I make all things new." An organ will be installed as our Christmas present!



## SJV Claims XXIII Rectors' Bowl

Saint John Vianney took the Saint Paul Seminary into a thrilling **triple overtime** battle at the twenty-third annual Rectors' Bowl. **Brian Johnson** (Archdiocese of Omaha) and **Kyle Rohan** (Diocese of Green Bay) paved the way for SJV's victorious **21-20 win**. Pressure from **Elias Budke** (Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis) and **Jeff Davlin** (Diocese of Grand Rapids) forced SPS' quarterback to throw off his back foot while **Luke Gunderson** (Archdiocese of Omaha) snagged an interception and returned it the full length of the field to secure SJV's triumph. SJV has held the trophy since 2019.



Use QR code to watch the final two plays.



## Four Alumni Ordained Transitional Deacons in Rome

Zachary Galante (Archdiocese of Milwaukee), Michael Maloney (brother of SJV New Man Gregory Maloney; Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis), Matthew Pohlman (Archdiocese of Omaha), and Joseph Wappes (Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis) were among **18 seminarians** of the **Pontifical North American College** ordained to the transitional diaconate. **Archbishop Paul Coakley of Oklahoma City** presided at the ordination which took place in the **Papal Basilica of St. Peter** in the Vatican on Thursday, September 28.



*Photo from the Pontifical North American College*



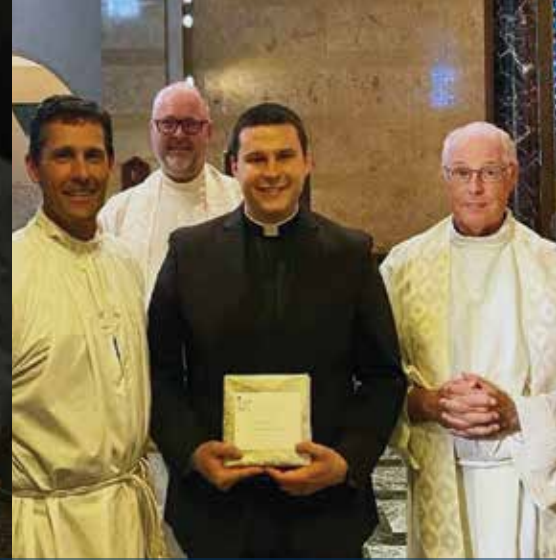




*Father Alexander Lorang  
with Father Jonathan Kelly  
and Mr. Andrew Lorang*



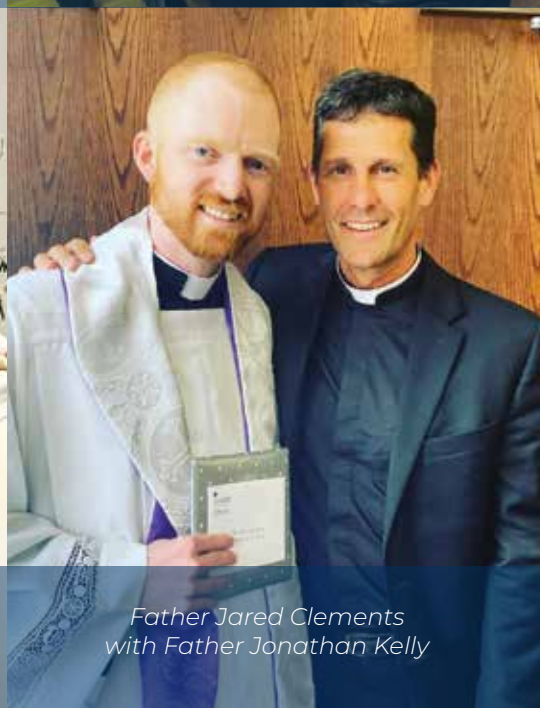
*Father Connor Orabutt with  
Father Joseph Kuharski and  
Father Jonathan Kelly*



*Father Jacob Toma with  
Father Jonathan Kelly and  
Father Paul Gitter*



*Father Jacob Zemaitis  
with Father Paul Gitter*



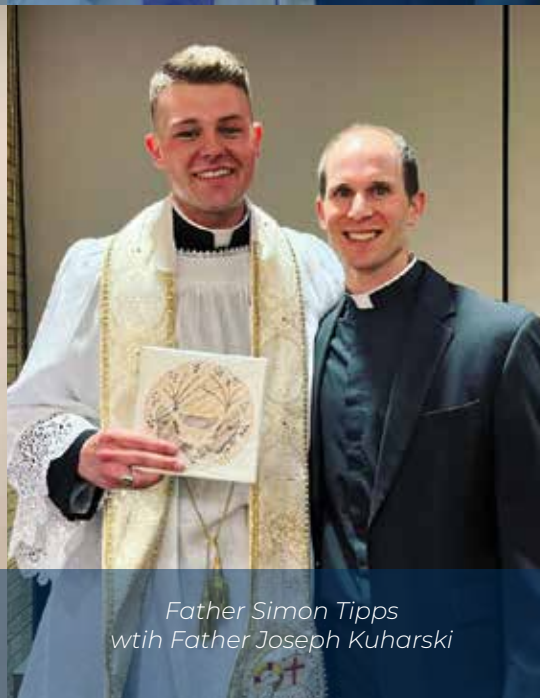
*Father Jared Clements  
with Father Jonathan Kelly*



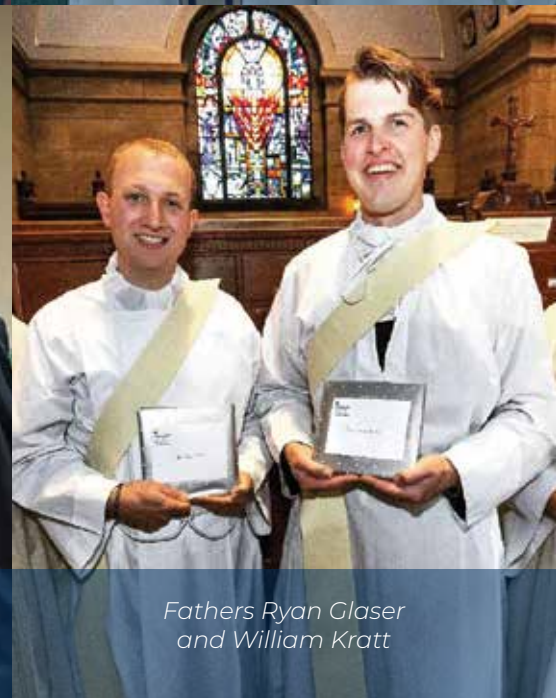
*Father Jason Lee with  
Father Matthew Alexander*



*Father Matthew Gembrowski  
with Father Joseph Kuharski*



*Father Simon Tipps  
with Father Joseph Kuharski*



*Fathers Ryan Glaser  
and William Kratt*

# PRIESTS FOREVER: CLASS OF 2023 ORDINATIONS

Congratulations to the **13 SJV Alumni** ordained to the Priesthood of Our Lord Jesus this year! Members of our priest staff were honored to present each newly-ordained alumnus with a pall featuring the loaves and fishes mosaic from our chapel at SJV. Thank you, alumni, for being witnesses of Our Lord as His priests forever!

**Fr. Jordan Boone**  
Diocese of Lafayette  
Associate Pastor, St. Louis de Montfort (Fishers, IN)

**Fr. Jared Clements**  
Diocese of La Crosse  
Associate Pastor, Our Lady of Peace & Sacred Heart of Jesus (Marshfield, WI)

**Fr. Matthew Gembrowski**  
Diocese of Saginaw  
Parochial Vicar, St. Brigid (Midland, MI)

**Fr. Ryan Glaser**  
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis  
Continuing studies in Rome

**Fr. William Kratt**  
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis  
Parochial Vicar, St. Hubert (Chanhassen, MN)

**Fr. Jason Lee**  
Diocese of Des Moines  
Parochial Vicar, Our Lady's Immaculate Heart (Ankeny, IA)

**Fr. Alex Lorang**  
Diocese of Joliet  
Parochial Vicar, St. Thomas the Apostle (Naperville, IL)

**Fr. Andrew Morand**  
Diocese of Lafayette  
Associate Pastor, Our Lady of Grace (Noblesville, IN)

**Fr. Connor Orabutt**  
Diocese of Rockford  
Parochial Vicar, Holy Cross (Batavia, IL)

**Fr. Senovio Sarabia**  
Diocese of Beaumont  
Parochial Vicar, St. Anne (Beaumont, TX)

**Fr. Simon Tipps**  
Diocese of Madison  
Parochial Vicar, Blessed Trinity (Lodi, WI)

**Fr. Jacob Toma**  
Diocese of Duluth  
Parochial Vicar, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary & St. Mary Star of the Sea (Duluth, MN)

**Fr. Jacob Zemaitis**  
Diocese of Grand Rapids  
Parochial Vicar, St. Paul the Apostle (Grand Rapids, MI)



*Palls for newly-ordained SJV Alumni made and donated by Ellen Untz of My Lady's Knight.*





## MEET THE MEN

Meet some of the 24 seminarians from the New Man Class of 2023! Please continue to pray for all 97 of our SJV seminarians, the future fathers of our Church.

### **CARTER FILHART** DIOCESE OF SAGINAW

**Favorite Part of SJV:**

Daily Mass and Holy Hour at the new chapel.

**Favorite Bible Verse:**

“Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.”

-Matthew 6:34

**Fun Fact:**

I grew up on a farm.

### **CHARLES GATES** DIOCESE OF LANSING

**Favorite Part of SJV:**

Mass and Holy Hour every day.

**Favorite Saint:**

St. José Sánchez del Rio

**Fun Fact:**

I took a trip to Rome last summer with my grandparents.

### **JOSEPH JOHNSON** DIOCESE OF ROCKFORD

**Favorite Part of SJV:**

I love the structured prayer life that the seminary promotes. Holy Hour in the morning, along with the Rosary, Evening Prayer, and Mass in the evening, creates a day that is filled with prayer.

**Favorite Saint:**

St. Michael the Archangel

**Fun Fact:**

I have five nieces and nephews.

### **GREGORY MALONEY** ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Part of SJV:**

The fraternity here is incredible. Every seminarian is welcoming and fun to talk to.

**Favorite Saint:**

St. Francis of Assisi

**Fun Fact:**

I am an organ player and currently taking lessons at the University of St. Thomas.





**ANDREW NGUYEN**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

**Favorite Part of SJV:**  
Getting to go to Mass every day.  
**Favorite Saint:**  
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc  
**Fun Fact:**  
I was in a religious order called the Redemptorists in Dallas, Texas for a year before entering SJV.



**MATTHEW SCHUMACHER**  
DIOCESE OF GREEN BAY

**Favorite Part of SJV:**  
The new chapel.  
**Favorite Bible Verse:**  
“Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.” -Matthew 6:10  
**Fun Fact:**  
I was a D3 College Women’s Soccer waterboy when I was young.



**ELIJAH SHARPE**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

**Favorite Part of SJV:**  
The fraternity between the guys here. After only a few weeks, I feel like I’ve known them all my life.  
**Favorite Saint:**  
St. Thérèse of Lisieux  
**Fun Fact:**  
I enjoy rock climbing.



**PATRICK STORMS**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. PAUL & MINNEAPOLIS

**Favorite Part of SJV:**  
The fraternity. I’ve been here for a very short time, but it feels like I have known the men here for my whole life.  
**Favorite Saint:**  
St. Philip Neri  
**Fun Fact:**  
I have been on billboards around the country.





100 Years  
Since Nazareth Hall

Photos from Archdiocese Archives

Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary is the essential prequel to the story of Saint John Vianney College Seminary. How could we celebrate 100 years of college seminary formation in this Archdiocese without acknowledging where the first 47 years quietly took place along the beautiful shores of Lake Johanna, north of St. Paul?

John Paul Sonnen (SJV '01) has written extensively on the history of St. Paul's first high school and college seminary in the article "The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

'Our Lady of the Annunciation' Chapel at Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary" published by *Liturgical Arts Journal*. Beyond the fascinating institutional memories of Nazareth Hall – marvelously detailed in his article – personal stories abound. SJV was delighted to sit down with four alumni and capture their remembrances from four years of high school and two years of college at the hallowed grounds of 3003 Snelling Avenue North.



# Q&A

**Father George Welzbacher**  
Nazareth Hall 1940-1945  
Ordained 1951

**Q: What was memorable about attending Nazareth Hall during the early 1940s?**

A: The German sisters Archbishop Dowling brought over from the Rhineland provided our cooking and laundry, though many of us in the Twin Cities just mailed ours home in big laundry bags or baskets and our parents did it.

The sisters had the groundsman from Germany who spoke very little English. We called him "Uncle" and got to know him. He had been in the German Navy in WWI and had a technique for propelling the rowboat just with one oar at the rear of the boat. After the United States dropped the bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki three days later, he shook his head, saying, "Teufel" (the devil). WWII was devilish in so many ways for so many millions of people.

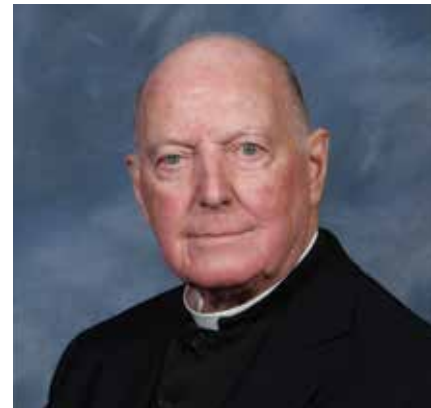
Keep our country in your prayers. I've never seen such division in our country as I see today. And the loss of religion among so many Americans is frightening because morality and patriotism disappears along with that.

**Q: Tell us how you came to study at Nazareth Hall.**

A: My mother and I were coming back one August night on the street car and got off right in front of the rectory of the Cathedral. To our surprise, we turned and saw Archbishop John Gregory Murray emerge. We greeted him, and he asked me, "What do you want to do when you grow up, sonny?" And I said, "I want to be a priest, Your Excellency." My mother explained, "Yes, we're just coming back from Cretin High School to enroll George as a freshman. My husband and I think military training would be good for George." He replied, "Oh no! If you want to be a priest, you will go to Nazareth Hall. Tomorrow morning, you call Father Connolly, the new rector, and tell him I told you that you're going to Nazareth Hall." I don't think that was an accident. It was too felicitous in its outcome for that not to have been planned by the Lord.

**Q: What adventures did Lake Johanna offer?**

A: During afternoon recreation, we could go swimming during summer school and skating in the wintertime. There was a small island just off the main campus with a chapel where a very generous donor was buried. We have the altar from that chapel and the pillar that supports the tabernacle in our chapel here [at the Leo C. Byrne Residence] from that island's mausoleum. I remember memorizing Mark Antony's speech from Shakespeare's play *Julius Caesar* on that island because I could shout and no one was around.



*interviews continued on next page...*



**Pat Shannon**  
 Nazareth Hall 1960-1966  
 Classics Major from the University of Minnesota,  
 Husband, Father of Three, Grandfather of Ten,  
 Archaeologist, NFP Practitioner, Technical Writer

**Q: What led to your enrollment at Nazareth Hall?**

A: I was an altar boy in grade school. I think that's important to be at the altar as part of the discerning process. Our associate pastor took a bunch of us out to tour, and Nazareth Hall itself had an open house for prospective students.

**Q: How did Nazareth Hall prepare you for your vocation?**

A: It's a very high-quality academic environment. Six years of Latin, two years of Greek, two years of French, two years of German; they like languages! I went to the University because I wanted to be a Classics major, so I continued with Latin and Greek and of course had more Latin and Greek than anybody. I ended up basically in graduate school! I attribute that preparation to Nazareth Hall too.

**Q: What advice would you give young men who are discerning?**

A: You don't have to figure this out on your own. It's a good idea to talk to people who are in the midst of it, ordained and students. Discussions with them would probably be a good approach.



**Jim Cahill**  
 Nazareth Hall 1959-1961  
 University of Minnesota Graduate,  
 Husband, Father of Four, Grandfather of Nine,  
 Missionary, Member of People of Praise

**Q: What were your first impressions of Nazareth Hall?**

A: There were priests everywhere, living examples of what a Catholic man should look like and how he should behave, that made it very special, powerful, and holy. Such contrast to the world for a young man of 18 or 19 to be brought up here. All that influence, the wonder of the Catholic faith, the purity of it – so much was given to us.

**Q: Do you have a favorite memory from Nazareth Hall?**

A: There were about 16 priests at Nazareth Hall. One would say Mass so 15 would have to say Mass somewhere else, and we would occasionally be assigned to serve a priest's Mass in the crypt. It was really a privilege to have that one-on-one time with a priest as you were aspiring to be like him. Afterwards, the German nuns had a special breakfast for you of bacon, eggs, toast, and orange juice at a little table. That was a good part of it too.





**Q: What did your time at Nazareth Hall teach you?**

A: It taught you how to pray. Twenty-year-old guys don't normally pray four times a day! Life was busy even back in the 1960s. We would go out to the main gate on Snelling Avenue, see all the traffic going by, then disappear back into the solitude of those many acres. That separation was important to form the heart and mind of men preparing for the priesthood, to learn solitude and peace being away from the world's many distractions.

**Father Martin Siebenaler**  
**Nazareth Hall 1947-1953**  
**Ordained 1959**

**Q: How did you finance your seminary studies?**

A: Benefactors [from our parish] left an endowment for future education that paid 1/3 of our education. Dad paid a third and [my brothers, Father Leonard and Father John, and I] paid the other third after we could afford it. I think it was \$300 or 400 per year.

We were born during the Depression and didn't have anything. Our dad had to borrow \$500 from Aunt Gertie and Uncle Clint each year and trade in his life insurance to buy a 1934 Chevrolet. That's trust in God, isn't it? The older you get, the more you appreciate your parents and what they had to sacrifice.

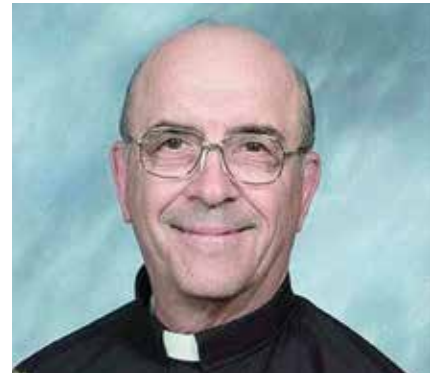
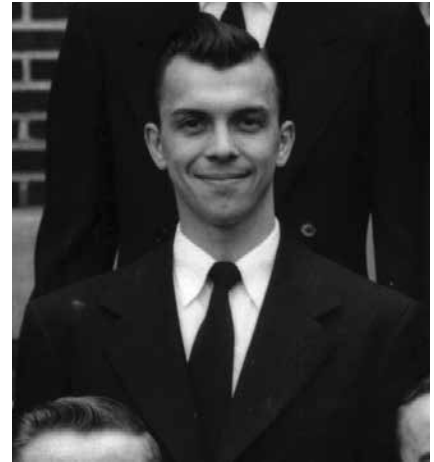
**Q: How did you spend your free time?**

A: After supper, especially in October and May, we would go down to the Marian grotto on the lakeshore and pray a Rosary. The smokehouse, attached to one of the sides of the building, was where the boys would talk over good times. We had a big field near the entrance for playing football and baseball. The sand burrs would stick to your stockings. I hit a baseball over the left fielder's head for a triple one time. The college boys would help coach and taught us the three-point stance for football.

**Q: Who influenced your discernment spiritually?**

A: We were taken care of by our good pastor. When riding to the seminary, he said "We're going to stop at the grocery, get a couple crates of apples and oranges, and ask the sisters to put them in their cooler so the boys can help themselves after class before they go out to play." He died about four years after we started seminary and didn't get to see us ordained.

The priest who took over helped nurture my vocation. I used to get bothered by tension headaches in seminary, but he told me, "You can do it." Archbishop Brady ordained me and two other boys as transitional deacons in December, and we were ordained priests in February. No problem with headaches after that!







# MEN OF THE EUCHARIST: REVIVAL AT SJV

Excerpt from Father Kelly's Fall Rector's Conference

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Jesus, we desire to be a seminary that teaches your sons to love You, to give You their hearts, to remain in Your presence, to seek Your face, and to listen to Your voice. Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us!

## Our Vision

When I first became rector, one of the seniors asked me, "What's your vision?" I recalled immediately that vision of St. John Bosco, an Italian priest who had a dream of two pillars amid a stormy sea. One pillar emerges from the waters bearing a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Another larger pillar emerges with a monstrance holding the Blessed Sacrament. A large ship, the Church bearing the Holy Father dressed in white, was leading the ship amidst the sea between these two pillars.

What is the vision of SJV? To guide SJV between the Blessed Virgin Mary and the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. St. John Bosco's vision is the stability of our formation program. How fitting since to be a priest is to be Eucharistic. That's the center of our life.

## The Beginning of Vocation

There are tremendous graces from ordination—you glow for a while after that! But after time, the applause fades and you experience the cross. This is a really important time. Beloved (+) Bishop

Sirba from Duluth, a former spiritual director of mine, once said, "Your vocation begins at the first experience of disillusionment. You might even experience that in seminary."

This might not be what I thought it was. Is this really God's plan for my life? Where you go when you have that thought is really important.

Vocation begins when it's tested. We must choose where we turn to for strength and for our consolation. Where do we go with our discouragements or

*"If I were gravely ill and the greatest of all healers were freely available, why would I not go to Him? If I love a friend, do I not visit him? If I truly believe Jesus Christ is present in the Blessed Sacrament, why do I delay to be with Him?" -Derek Damasco (SJV '24)*

disappointments, our sadness or our loneliness? We can try to run from or numb them, but we all know that never works in the long run. We end up feeling a little bit worse knowing we've just avoided something.

The only way through it is with Christ on the Cross. We have the beautiful gift to remain with Him in the Blessed Sacrament and to live in friendship with Jesus in our house. He is the way to the Father and the peace the world

*continued on next page...*

does not give. This is the privileged place of the Catholic. Where do I turn? To the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament. This is relational prayer. To come before Him and say, "I trust You are with me. I'm going to act as if You only know about my life the things I tell You." And it might take 45 minutes, but then we are disposed to hear Him.

In the words of Deacon James Keating, **loneliness** moves to **solitude** moves to **communion** in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Trust that time is never wasted in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. It takes patience and fortitude to transform discouragements into solitude then communion.

In his senior words of wisdom, **Toby Ellis (Diocese of St. Cloud, SJV '23)** said "I spent 1,100 hours in prayer at SJV in front of the Blessed Sacrament in my four years here. You can't spend that many hours in the sun without feeling its effects, and you can't spend that many hours in front of our Lord without feeling his effects." It has a power that's imperceptible to our senses: *sensuum defectui*, according to St. Thomas Aquinas.

## Living Eucharistically

How do you prepare for the Liturgy of the Eucharist? Adoration. Holy Mass unfolds too quickly, and we need time to personally unpack and ponder what has come to us through God's presence in the Eucharist. The Liturgy of the Eucharist is the communal celebration of what happens privately in Adoration.

We're blessed to have been a Eucharistic community for a long time. For over 15 years, we've had a mandatory Holy Hour built into our day. It's reflected in our building project. This isn't a building with a tabernacle; this is a tabernacle with a building. This isn't just a room we put together. We designed this space for and around Him.

There's no searching for the sanctuary lamp in our chapel. We want to be Men of the Eucharist. We don't want to confuse who the leader of our House is: It's the Lord.

Our belief in the Real Presence must translate into charity and service to one another. The Eucharist is the fount of Charity, fount of love. May we love one another as He has loved us.

## EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL AT SJV:

- ✓ Continue Daily Holy Hour & Holy Mass.
- ✓ Keep Our Eucharistic Lord company on First Thursday night vigils.
- ✓ Participate in National Eucharistic Congress.
- ✓ Learn about Eucharistic Miracles.
- ✓ Share testimonies with floor communities.





*Monsignor James Shea,  
President of the  
University of Mary*

## FROM CHRISTENDOM TO APOSTOLIC MISSION

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SJV was pleased to commence the annual Virtuous Business Leaders series with keynote speaker **Monsignor James Shea, President of the University of Mary**, on Tuesday, October 17. After Holy Mass at SJV's chapel, seminarians gathered with businessmen from a plethora of industries, including the University of St. Thomas' President Rob Vischer, for dinner and discussion on Monsignor Shea's talk. Copies of his book [From Christendom to Apostolic Mission](#) were distributed to attendees.

Virtuous Business Leaders began in 2002 under the name Pastores 21 to provide opportunities for seminarians to interact with local professionals living their Catholic faith in the workplace. Large group presentations followed by small group discussions provide SJV seminarians with valuable interactions and connections to other Men in Christ, Men of the Church, and Men for Others throughout the academic year.

"My involvement with VBL over the years has been a continual source of encouragement and inspiration," Rich Chapman, VBL Committee Member, explained. **"Monsignor Shea called us on to be bold voices for Christ in this apostolic age, whether a seminarian or business leader."**



St. Odilia Church





# MISSIONARY DISCIPLES: TO THE PARISHES AND BEYOND

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SJV seminarians are powerful witnesses of the Gospel on campus and throughout the community. Trained to live the New Evangelization as “missionary disciples,” men participate in service projects, teach religious education, lead Bible studies, and are involved in campus activities. As part of their pastoral formation, SJV seminarians complete a Pastoral Ministry Practicum and a Religious Education Practicum. Second-year men who are immersed in their teaching apostolates shared fruits from their time in the classroom:



**Logan Halma**  
Diocese of Sioux Falls

“My presence as a seminarian has impacted many young men to be comfortable with the idea of a priestly vocation. As they come to know this ordinary guy trying to answer this interior call and give his life to God, they no longer hold these false ideas of how to become a priest.”



**Jonathan Jensen**  
Diocese of Grand Rapids

“It’s really helpful to see how the Lord is working in the area while really getting to know a variety of communities and people.”



**Ashton Lacko**  
Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis

“The priests of the future must be able to connect with the youth of their parishes and have well-developed dispositions of compassion and empathy, all of which can be cultured in a seminarian’s heart by his experience at a local parish.”



**Carlos Sepulveda**  
Archdiocese of Chicago

“This is helping me prepare for priesthood by being pastoral, meeting people where they are, and helping them get closer to the Lord.”



**Benjamin Sundlie**  
Diocese of Duluth

“We either get pushed into the deep now or later—the only difference is our duty. I would much rather be immersed in the parish culture now while my duty is less than when I’m a priest and my duty is that of a Father.”



# OUR DEVELOPING STORY

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*SJV Board Member Jon Westerhaus and Father Kelly enjoy a light-hearted moment on the 10<sup>th</sup> tee.*

## Great Day on the Green

Whether you joined us on the green or supported us from afar through donations or prayers, thank you for furthering the success of our **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Vianney Cup** Golf Tournament! It was a beautiful day at Midland Hills to give thanks for God's many blessings upon our college seminary. We **appreciate your support** of our mission at SJV. Your generosity makes it possible for us to continue forming Men in Christ, Men of the Church, and Men for Others.



*Father Scott Carl (Vice Rector of Saint Paul Seminary, SJV '96), Tim Fleming (VBL Committee Member), and Brian Bonin (Chair of the Vianney Cup Golf Tournament Committee) enjoy fellowship after the 18 holes on the green.*

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### Stay in Touch

Missing magazines or emails from SJV?

To update your information,  
please scan the QR code  
or contact:

**Joe Recznik**  
**Development Services Specialist**  
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### With Gratitude

*With gratitude for gifts given to SJV in honor of:*

Fr. Jon Kelly, I Nam Nelson, Judy Rougier, Laurie Gold,  
Reverend Zachary Greenwell, Ted and Eileen Bidrowski Family.



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord;  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace. Amen.*

*With gratitude for gifts given to SJV in  
memory of:*

- +Father William J. Baer
- +Gordon Buesgens
- +Daniel F. Dolan
- +Glen D. Greiner
- +Bryan Joseph Kuczynski
- +Jerald Olson
- +Father Leonard Siebenaler
- +Father John Siebenaler
- +Nanci Thomas
- +Father Eugene Tiffany
- +Robert Gene and Lorraine Tryon
- +Charles Anthony Untz
- +Wendoyln Willison

# DEAR FRIENDS OF SJV,

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Revival seems to be our word for this year at SJV. Reviving a beloved but tired building. Reviving connections with college seminary alumni from the past 100 years. Reviving authentic masculinity as we nurture the seeds of priestly vocations to form Men in Christ, Men of the Church, and Men for Others.

At the end of the day, our most important revival lies at the heart of all we are and do as Men of the Eucharist.

Our seminarians are taught to cherish the Blessed Sacrament as the source and summit of their faith, fostering a deep devotion to our Eucharistic Lord and adopting Eucharistic Adoration as an essential aspect of their spiritual lives. Intimate friends of Jesus who are steeped in the rich treasures of Catholicism, our men are imbued with all they need to grow in discipleship and faithfully answer the Lord's call for their lives.

We need your help to support the expenses of forming the 97 seminarians enrolled at SJV this year. Please keep an eye on your mailbox in the coming weeks for an invitation to participate in SJV's most important fundraiser of the year, our revitalized annual appeal.

Thank you for making this abundant time of new life in our college seminary possible. Through your generosity, SJV can revive hope in our world by continuing to form men prepared for a lifetime of unwavering fidelity to Our Lord and His Church.

God Bless,



Phil Roeser  
Director of Development







# CORNERSTONES: A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR TABERNACLE

by Susan Steadman, Artist and Friend of SJV

Taken from the **Hebrew word for “dwelling,”** the tabernacle is the place of reservation for the Eucharist – the Most Blessed Sacrament. It is in Our Lord’s true presence that a man discerning priesthood can most clearly hear the voice of Jesus say, “Do not be afraid. Come and follow me.”

The door of the tabernacle was carved by Paul Sirba, nephew of the late Bishop Paul Sirba, who served SJV as spiritual director and floor dean for nine years and sent seminarians to the college seminary while Bishop of Duluth.

“How is it that the God of Abraham and Isaac should ordain that I, so unworthy, should fashion the very door of His inner seminary chamber? Yet how much more the blessed hands of the priest that shall frequent it? What a complete honor to contribute to such a focal point for the cause of our future priests,” Paul said. “I am ever amazed at God’s hand in it all.”

**The pelican feeding her chicks is an ancient Christian symbol of the Eucharist.** When food is in short supply, the pelican pierces its breast with its sharp, pointed beak as the side of Jesus is pierced by a sharp, pointed lance. Blood flows from the pelican’s breast, and blood flows from Jesus’ side. The mother’s blood is drink for her chicks, and the blood of Jesus is “true drink.” The mother gives her life that her chicks might live, and Jesus lays down His life that we might live. The mother’s blood saves the lives of the chicks as the blood of Jesus is salvation and eternal life to those who receive it. Because of these striking similarities, the mother pelican and her chicks have come to represent the Eucharist as well as redemption and salvation.



Use the QR code to see more pictures of the tabernacle and how ALBL Oberammergau Wood Carving created it.



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