

Saint Francis de Sales  
SEMINARY



# Salt *of* *the* Earth

A Saint Francis de Sales Seminary Communication  
Spring 2023



## A HISTORIC PILGRIMAGE

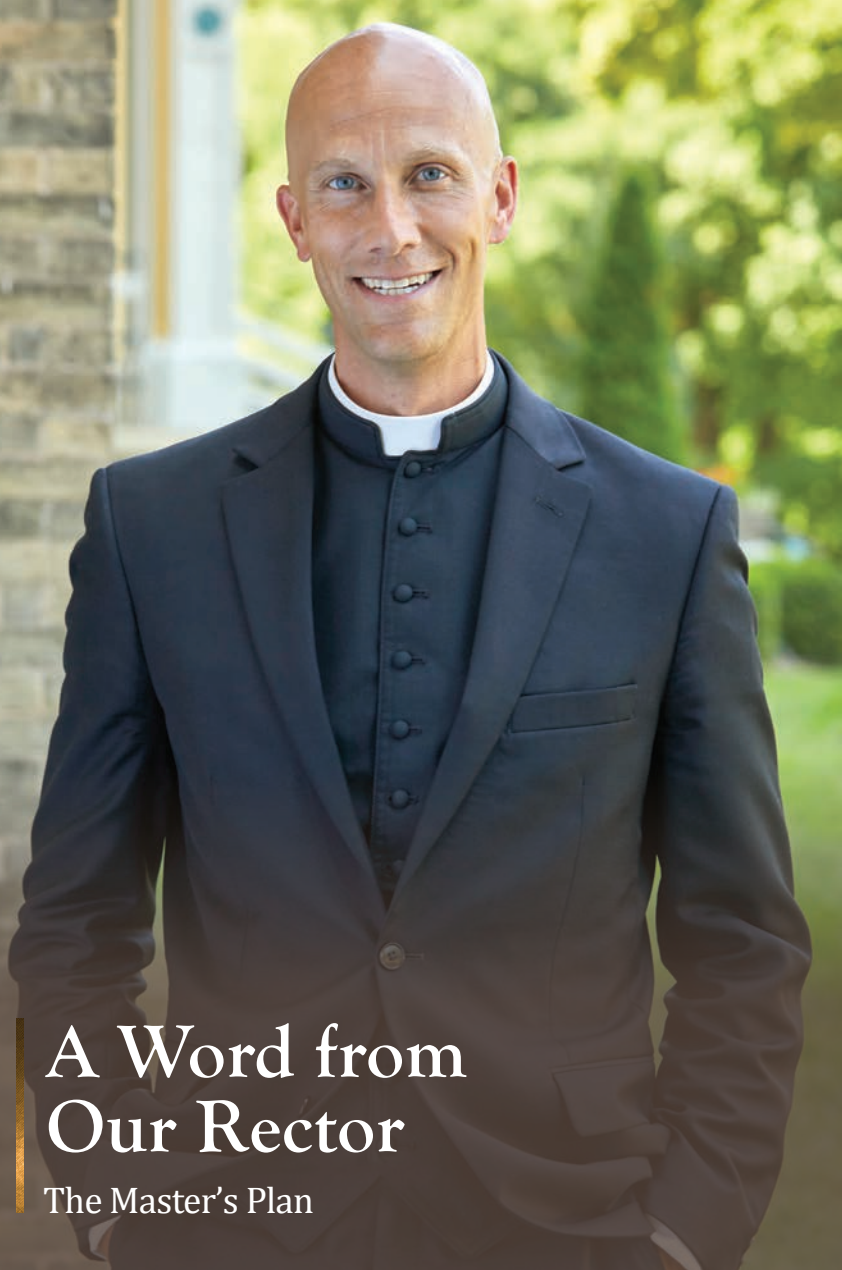
Honoring Benedict XVI While in Rome at His Passing

*The Seminary community gathers with His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan after he offered a Requiem Mass for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica at the Altar of the Chair.*

4 Images from Rome

8 Scenes from the Salesianum

10 Propaedeutic Stage



## A Word from Our Rector

### The Master's Plan

Dear Friends,

**P**raised be Jesus Christ! As you will see from this edition of SALT, it has been an exciting few months at the Salesianum! The celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord is nearing and some of our men are looking forward to ordination this spring, while others are preparing for summer ministries.

Firmly rooted in what God is doing in the present, we are also looking ahead as an institution. While we have been able to complete important, incremental projects to keep up with our growing enrollment, these have not addressed our aging facilities. The last major renovation of Henni Hall was completed in 1989, almost 35 years ago! There is much to be done!

Fortunately, a group of dedicated and talented individuals, laity and priests, have come forward to create a master plan for the entire campus. The committee has scoured the grounds and each building on it. They have discovered what needs to be accomplished in short order — reroofing Henni Hall and its dome, a new HVAC system

“

Firmly rooted in what God is doing in the present, we are also looking ahead as an institution.



*Henni Hall's iconic dome needs extensive repair work, and the entire building needs a new roof.*

for the chapel, demolishing Clare Hall, campus security — as well as other important projects for the coming years to maintain our antebellum campus and prepare for the future of priestly formation. There are a few “wish list” items on there too!

This will require significant time and effort.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that Mr. Edward Mooney has joined the Seminary staff as the Chief Operating Officer to lead the way. Ed has served on the Seminary's Board of Trustees, and he understands our mission well.



*Edward P. Mooney, Jr. is the Seminary's new Chief Operating Officer.*

Thank you for being part of the Saint Francis de Sales Seminary Community! Your generosity and prayers make priestly formation in the Province of Wisconsin possible. God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Luke N. Strand  
Rector





# Celebrating the Wisdom of St. Francis de Sales

Everything pertains to love

*The seminarians sing the Alma Mater at the conclusion of the priests' luncheon.*

Recently, in honor of the 400th anniversary of St. Francis de Sales' death, Pope Francis released an apostolic letter on our patron saint entitled *Totum amoris est*, which means "Everything Pertains to Love." We completely agree!

Thus, it was with great love and joy that we welcomed benefactors and priests to the Salesianum to celebrate the Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales. The Sunday event for donors and the Tuesday event for priests gave our men the opportunity to thank those who support their vocation so generously.



*Archbishop Jerome E. ListECKI presides at the Mass for priests.*



*Fr. Luke Strand offers words of encouragement and thanks at the Mass for benefactors.*



*Priests gather on the Solemnity of St. Francis de Sales.*



*Seminarians are grateful for the opportunity to serve our faithful benefactors.*





*The men revel in a historical pilgrimage.*

# Witnessing History

Our seminarians' time in Rome coincides with the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI.

The Seminary was delighted to resume its Christmas break pilgrimages after a two-year hiatus. Most of the formation faculty and the seminarians in Theology I through IV set off for the Eternal City on Dec. 28. Their flight from Frankfurt to Rome was canceled, leaving the large group stranded in Germany for hours. After celebrating Mass at the airport, they took a train into the city and explored the churches of Frankfurt! They also enjoyed weinerschnitzel and sauerkraut at a classic Gasthaus. It was an unexpected but memorable embrace of the Seminary's German heritage.

Upon finally arriving in Italy, the pilgrims set off for Assisi and Norcia. They were on a bus when news was received that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI had died. The men immediately prayed a rosary for the repose of the late pontiff's soul. Providentially, they were on their way to a Benedictine abbey in Norcia, the birthplace of Pope Benedict's namesake, St. Benedict. The group prayed midday prayer with the monks at the abbey and shared a meal at which they were regaled with stories of the monks' close friendship with Pope Benedict. It was a unique moment for our men.

Returning to Rome, they attended Mass with Pope Francis on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. They also prayed the Angelus with him in St. Peter's Square. Our men were among the first to view Pope Benedict's body lying in state in the Basilica of St. Peter. The following day, they were invited to participate in a Requiem Mass with Timothy Cardinal



*Seminarians explore churches in Frankfurt.*

Dolan on the opposite side of the basilica while mourners filed past the late pontiff's bier. Our priests concelebrated and seminarians served as deacons, lector and schola for the Mass.

The unique moments continued when His Eminence James Cardinal Harvey welcomed the men to dinner at St. Paul Outside the Walls. Cardinal Harvey also invited noted Catholic author George Weigel and George Cardinal Pell to join them. The amazing evening was made all the more poignant when Cardinal Pell, a towering figure in the Church, died suddenly just a week later.



Speaking of the dinner, Mr. Weigel wrote in an article for First Things, "The previous evening, Cardinal Pell and I had enjoyed dinner with some fifty Milwaukee province seminarians at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, hosted by its archpriest (and Milwaukee native), Cardinal James Harvey. They were an impressive group of men and hung on every word the cardinal, in cracking good form, said in his brief after-dinner remarks. Pell gently but firmly stressed the importance of courage in the priesthood: the courage to evangelize, the

courage to face cultural headwinds, the courage to put one's faith totally in the Lord."

Cardinal Pell's words that night will not be forgotten by our priests and seminarians.

One final highlight, among so many other sights and sounds, was a private tour of the Vatican Museums. Our men prayed in the Sistine Chapel with only their group present in the beautiful, sacred space. It was truly a remarkable pilgrimage.



*The first stop in Italy — finally! — is beautiful Assisi.*



*Seminarians pray in front of the crucifix which spoke to St. Francis of Assisi to rebuild the Church.*



*Fr. Cassian Folsom, O.S.B., greets the men at the abbey in Norcia.*



*Our group arrives three hours early to get good seats for the Jan. 1 Mass with Pope Francis.*



*The men pray midday prayers in the Benedictine abbey after learning of Pope Benedict's death.*





*Cardinal Harvey (in the red zucchetto) happens to be praying for Pope Benedict at the same time our group passes by the bier.*



*A Catholic news outlet interviews Deacon Simon Tipps (Madison) about the late pontiff.*



*Deacon Alex Kren (La Crosse) assists Cardinal Dolan at the Requiem Mass for Pope Benedict.*



*Seminarians climb the Scala Sancta on their knees. These are the stairs that Jesus climbed on his way to Pontius Pilate.*



*Praying at the tomb of the apostle St. Paul is deeply moving.*



*Cardinal Harvey preaches to the seminarians during vespers at St. Paul Outside the Walls.*





*The beautiful Basilica of St. Clement is an inspiring site for Holy Mass.*



*Famed art historian Elizabeth Lev shares her incomparable expertise with our men in a private tour of the Vatican Museums.*



*The Colosseum looms large during a tour of historical sites.*



*Seminarians enjoy the Eternal City.*



*St. Peter's Basilica provides a stunning backdrop at night.*





## Scenes from the Salesianum

Nine men are instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte by Bishop James Schuerman on Nov. 12. Front row: John Duranso (La Crosse), Ryan Ruhle (Madison), Joseph Glatczak (La Crosse), Bradley Grobbel (Madison), Brady Gagne (Milw). Back row: Matthew Szymanski (La Crosse), David Jaramillo (Madison), Fr. Luke Strand, Bishop Schuerman, Aaron Siehr (Milw), William Murray (Milw).



Jason Diebolt (Lafayette-in-Indiana) is instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte by Bishop Timothy Doherty on Dec. 22.



Women fill Christ King Chapel to pray for vocations to the priesthood at a de Chantal gathering.





*The Seminary's annual Marian procession takes place on a glorious October day.*



*Our men pray by candlelight during an all-night vigil for the Solemnity of All Saints.*



*Seminarians make final checks of the new brick patio they installed north of Henmi Hall, with generous help from the Vande Hey Company and Bret Achtenhagen's Seasonal Services.*



*Seminarians pray for the dead in the cemetery in our woods on All Souls' Day.*



*The Schola Cantorum sings hymns of praise during the Festival of Lessons and Carols.*



*Kevin Durand (Milw) scores during the championship game of Mundelein Seminary's basketball tournament. The Shoremen came up just short of victory, falling to St. Joseph Abbey 75-67.*



*The Shoremen hoist the 2nd place trophy — our best finish in the tourney's 21 years.*





# A New Beginning

The first year of Seminary formation will now be uniquely set apart.

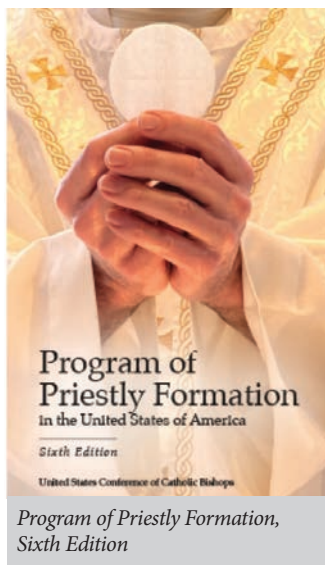
*Fr. John Paul Mitchell is excited about the spiritual classics new men will read during the propaedeutic stage.*

**By Fr. John Baumgardner, S.T.L.**

*Vice Rector & Director of Human Formation*

“Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.” - Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ.

Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. How might your life be shaped if you had a year dedicated to this single purpose — to fall in love with the Lord? What would your heart and mind look like after a year spent in daily Mass, holy hours, studying the Bible and the “Spiritual Classics,” along with encountering the poor and doing manual labor? As a seminarian, how might the rest of your philosophy and theology studies be informed by a year first spent falling in love with Jesus? Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything — perhaps even how you enter into the privileged years of seminary formation. And how a man falls in love with Christ and His Church in seminary will shape the offering he makes of his life back to the people of God as a priest.



“

Most of all, it will be a year marked by the love of Jesus Christ, who never fails to call holy men to serve generously as His priests.

This year at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, all new seminarians will participate in an initial year of seminary formation known as the “Propaedeutic Stage,” with this primary aim: to fall in love with the Lord. Seminaries

around the country have been tasked with implementing this new propaedeutic stage, which is part of changes to seminary formation coming from the USCCB’s recently approved sixth edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation*. Latin for “preparatory,” the propaedeutic stage will now be the first year of a man’s time in seminary on the way to priestly ordination.

In general, what does the propaedeutic stage look like? The sixth edition of the *Program of Priestly Formation* (PPF6) states: “The propaedeutic stage seeks to provide seminarians with the basic groundwork they need to engage in priestly formation [...] This stage allows the seminarian to lay a foundation for a new way of life by developing

a life of prayer, study, fraternity, and appropriate docility to formation.” (PPF6, nn. 119-120) There is a particular



focus on the human and spiritual dimensions of formation: “Conferences that teach a man how to pray [...] Time for silence, mental prayer, and spiritual reading will help lay a solid foundation for future stages of formation.” (PPF6, n. 123) Finally, the propaedeutic stage also calls for the man to encounter the poor, engage in several retreats, learn about the local Church and profoundly deepen his vocational discernment.

So how will these general goals become concrete in the propaedeutic stage at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary? We are blessed that Fr. John Paul Mitchell, formator and professor of Scripture Studies, will be directing this new stage at the Salesianum. Fr. Mitchell, himself having done a similar spirituality year while in seminary, will reside in the newly renovated Meyer Hall, along with the men. The propaedeutic stage participants will pray the Liturgy of the Hours and Mass together in Meyer Hall’s beautiful new chapel. Meals will be taken “family style” in its newly renovated kitchen area. To

maintain a contemplative spirit, the men will generally remain on campus and be unplugged from computers, phones and social media. Mornings will be filled with classes taught by Saint Francis de Sales faculty, with topics on Sacred Scripture, the Catechism and the history of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, among others. Daily manual labor, exercise and time for holy leisure make up the afternoons. In this first year of formation, the men will make three different retreats, culminating with a 10-day silent retreat.

What awaits a man entering into the propaedeutic stage this May? A beautiful gift, that perhaps will never be repeated again. It will be a year marked by contemplation, asceticism and community. It will be a year marked by reading, culture and healing. Most of all, it will be a year marked by the love of Jesus Christ, who never fails to call holy men to serve generously as His priests. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

## Milwaukee Vocation Office Events

Please invite young men who may be called to the priesthood to these events.



*Fr. John LoCoco speaks to young men during the St. Andrew Dinner in December.*

### **Cor Jesu**

Every Wednesday at St. Robert Parish, Shorewood  
Adoration and Confession, 7 p.m. | Mass 8 p.m.

### **Come and See – Spring 2023**

Friday, March 24 – Sunday, March 26

Young adult men discerning the priesthood for Archdiocese of Milwaukee and the other sending dioceses are invited to spend a weekend encountering the life of the Seminary.

### **Camp De Sales – Summer 2023**

#### **High School Camp**

Sunday, June 18 – Wednesday, June 21

#### **Middle School Camps**

Saturday, June 17

Thursday, July 20

Tuesday, Aug. 8

### **St. Andrew Dinner 2023 – Save the Date!**

Thursday, Dec. 21

This significant event is for young men who are invited by their parish priest to learn more about priestly vocations.

Visit [www.thinkpriest.org](http://www.thinkpriest.org) for more information and to register.

Contact the Vocation Office at [vocationoffice@sfs.edu](mailto:vocationoffice@sfs.edu) or 414-747-6437 with any questions.



# 2023 Events



Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, Inc.  
3257 South Lake Drive  
St. Francis, WI 53235

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
Permit No. 338



## Pallium Scholarship Benefit

Monday, June 12

Wisconsin Country Club

**G**ather your friends, grab your clubs, and meet us at the Wisconsin Country Club on Monday, June 12! Our annual golf outing promises to be another day of fun on the links at one of Milwaukee's premier courses. Most importantly, it raises critical funds for priestly formation. This event has sold out the last two years, so plan to register your foursome early. If golf is not your game, join us for the cocktail reception afterwards. It is your chance to kick off the summer with fellow Seminary supporters! Visit [www.sfs.edu/Golf](http://www.sfs.edu/Golf) for more information.



## Annual Seminary Dinner

Friday, Oct. 6 • Wisconsin Center

**I**nvariably, after every Annual Seminary Dinner, we receive notes and emails saying, "It is my favorite event of the year." What sets our dinner apart? It's simple: our seminarians. At the Annual Dinner, you will meet the men who are making a declaration with their lives that they stand for Jesus Christ and His Church. Zeal for His House consumes them.



This zeal will be on full display at the Wisconsin Center on Friday, October 6. Whether it is your first Annual Dinner or your 21<sup>st</sup>, we promise it will be a unique evening filled with hope and inspiration. Please join us! Invitations will be mailed in early August. Visit [www.sfs.edu/AnnualDinner](http://www.sfs.edu/AnnualDinner) for more information.

For more information or to support the mission of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, visit our website at [www.sfs.edu](http://www.sfs.edu).  
Like us on Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news and photos.

414- 747-6400