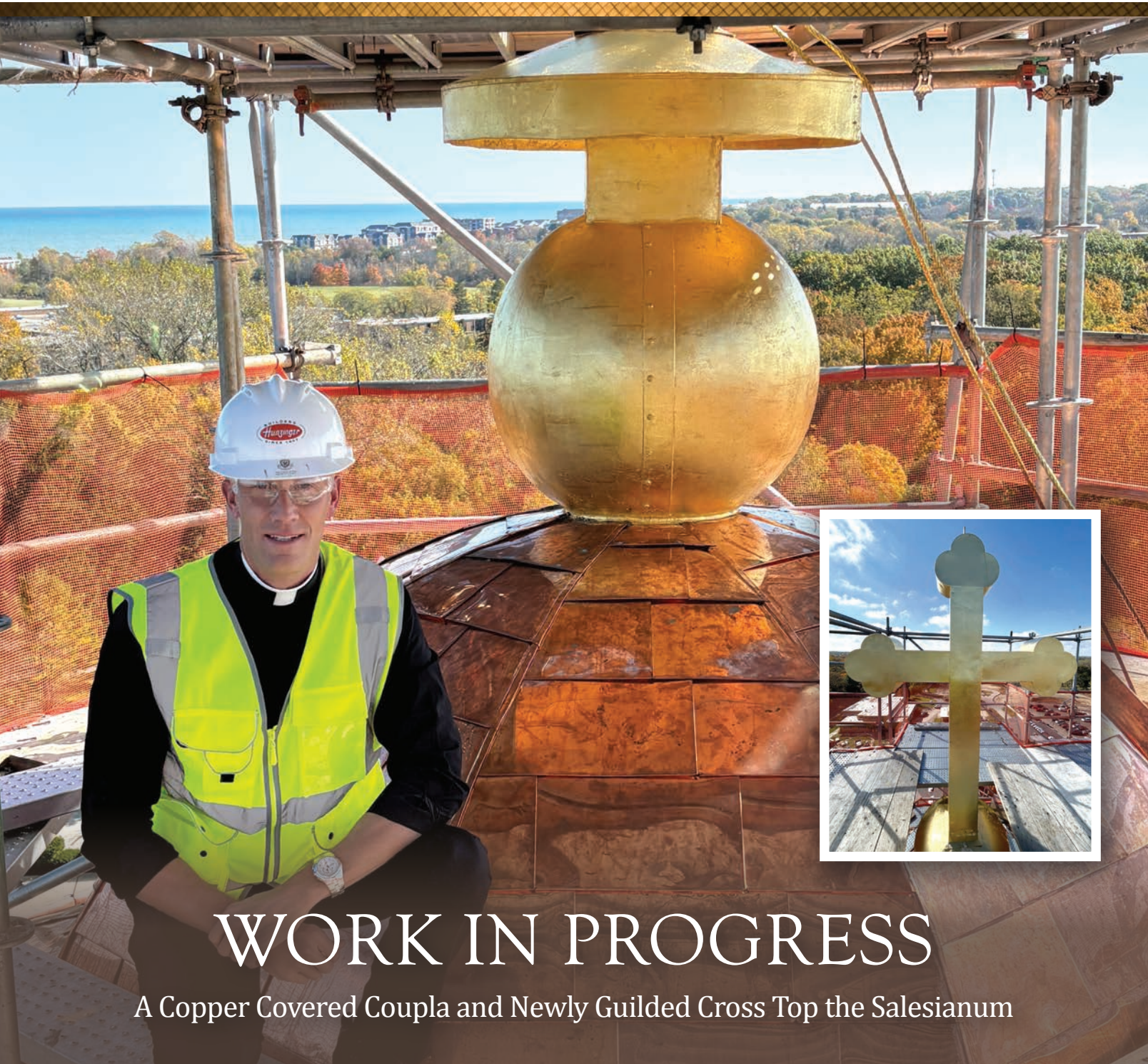


Saint Francis de Sales  
SEMINARY



# Salt *of* *the* Earth

A Saint Francis de Sales Seminary Communication  
Fall 2025



## WORK IN PROGRESS

A Copper Covered Coupla and Newly Gilded Cross Top the Salesianum

*Fr. Luke Strand admires the copper and gilt finishes that shine brightly atop the Seminary's iconic dome.*



# A Word from Our Rector

## To the Heights

Fr. Strand and seminarians await the start of the Annual Dinner.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the golden hues of autumn animate the historic grounds of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary, a gleaming copper dome and freshly gilded cross brighten the face of Henni Hall. I stand in awe—not of changing leaves or shiny metal, but of the profound generosity that is transforming our sacred home. At our Annual Seminary Dinner, with immense gratitude and joy, I announced that the *Zeal for the Lord's House* capital campaign has exceeded \$75 million. Realized through the fervent support and prayers of over 4,500 friends, this is nothing short of a miracle. “Zeal for your house will consume me” (Jn 2:17). Today, that zeal burns brightly, thanks to your unwavering commitment.

Reflecting on what the Lord has accomplished in the past sixteen months, I cannot help but think of a young man whose life embodied the zeal we celebrate. He has been a faithful intercessor since my ordination in 2009 and was solemnly declared a saint by Pope Leo XIV. Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati lived by the motto *Verso l'alto*—“To the Heights.” For Pier Giorgio, those heights were not just Alpine peaks in Italy, but the summits of charity, prayer, and self-gift. He climbed them with a rosary in one hand and a helping hand extended to the poor in the other. In the same spirit, you, our faithful benefactors, have scaled extraordinary heights of generosity. From major benefactors whose transformative pledges ignited the campaign's flame, to families who sacrificed quietly yet profoundly—each contribution was a step upward, a *verso l'alto*, toward accomplishing the Lord's mission here on earth.

As rector, I am humbled to witness how your zeal mirrors Pier Giorgio's—unassuming, joyful, and utterly transformative. You



St. Pier Giorgio Frassati

“  
You have shown our seminarians that true greatness lies not in worldly acclaim, but in the quiet heroism of giving back to the Lord what is already His.

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As we give thanks and celebrate, let us remember that the climb continues. With \$75 million secured, opportunities abound to prepare a formative house for our seminarians. If Saint Pier Giorgio has taught us anything, it's that the heights are never fully conquered; they call us onward, higher still, toward the eternal summit of heaven.

From the depths of my heart, thank you. May Saint Pier Giorgio intercede for you and your families. Let us keep climbing together, eyes fixed on the Cross, hearts ablaze with zeal for the Lord's house.

*Verso l'alto*  
Sincerely in Christ,

Very Rev. Luke N. Strand, Rector

# Outward Appearance

Breathtaking Exterior Improvements  
Create Excitement

Construction is underway! Six months in, the most noticeable work on Henni Hall so far is the exterior's transformation. The Cream City brick is astonishingly beautiful after removing 170 years' worth of grime. The previously leaking dome is now covered in bright polished copper, and the 16' cross atop it gleams once again with 18 karat gold leaf.



*Scaffolding envelops the iconic dome.*



*H-piles are in place to shore up the foundation before the expansion begins.*



*Cleaning the Cream City brick offers dramatic results.*



*Henni Hall's new roof in the foreground looks over the adjacent expansion excavation and the sports field being built in the background. Work on Kiley Hall is just beginning.*



*The south end of Henni Hall gives a hint of what's to come for the front façade.*

# Inner Beauty

## Weathering the Storm and Moving On

Construction on the inside is no less busy than outside! The interior demolition, excavation, and asbestos abatement are now complete. The work was hindered in August when the historic flooding in Milwaukee caused the roof to collapse into the former Inner Commons. Praise the Lord we had already moved out of the building!

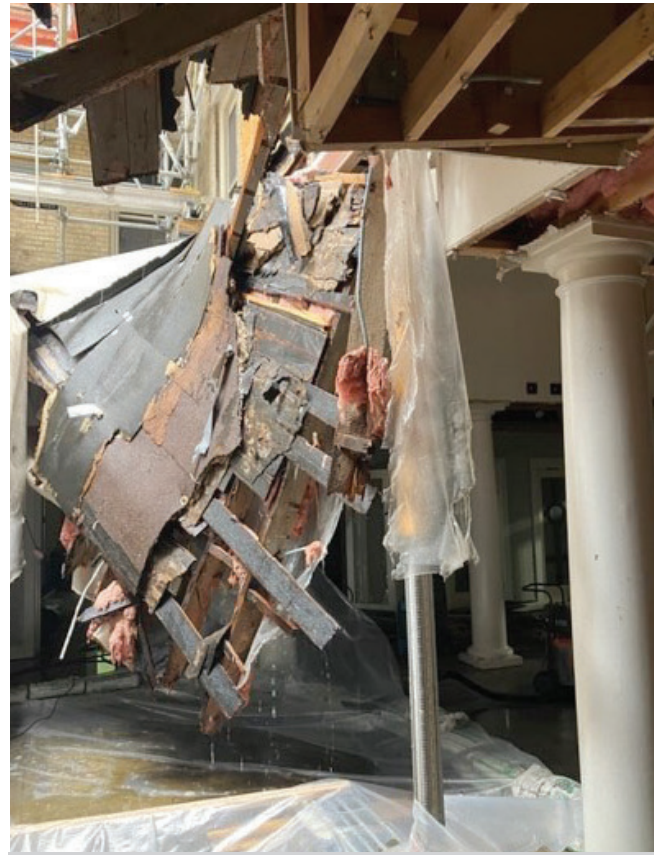
We are on pace to move back to our restored, renovated, and expanded Seminary in the fall of 2026. All of this is possible because of your faithful support for our *Zeal for the Lord's House* campaign!



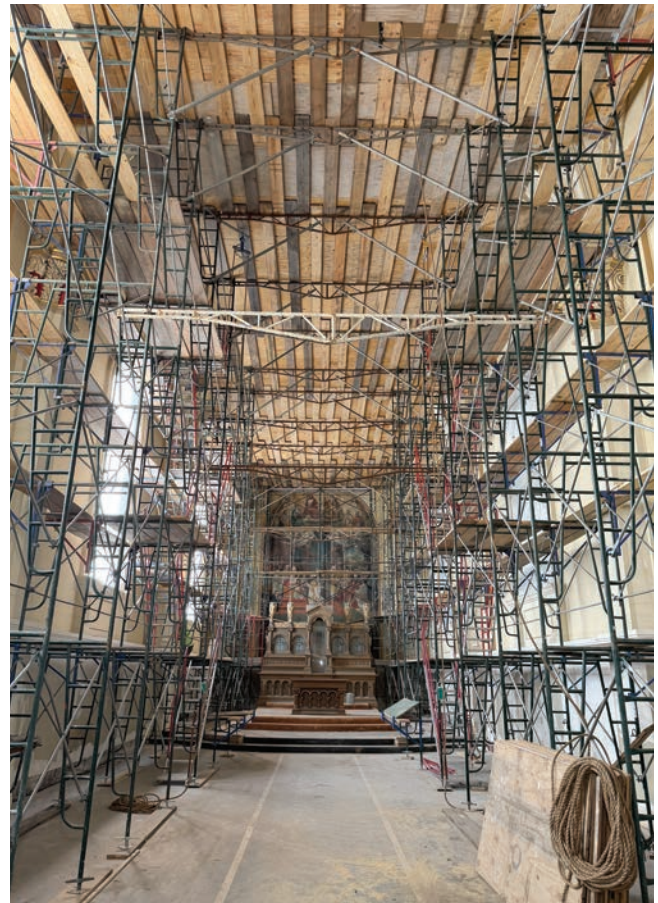
Dcn Peter Danner (Milw), Dcn Joel Kolb (Milw), and Fr. Luke Strand visit Conrad Schmitt Studios to check on the restoration of Christ King Chapel's stained-glass windows.



Conrad Schmitt Studios begin work on restoring the 1860 Bernard Durward crucifixion painting.



The roof in the Inner Commons crashes down during the severe August storm.

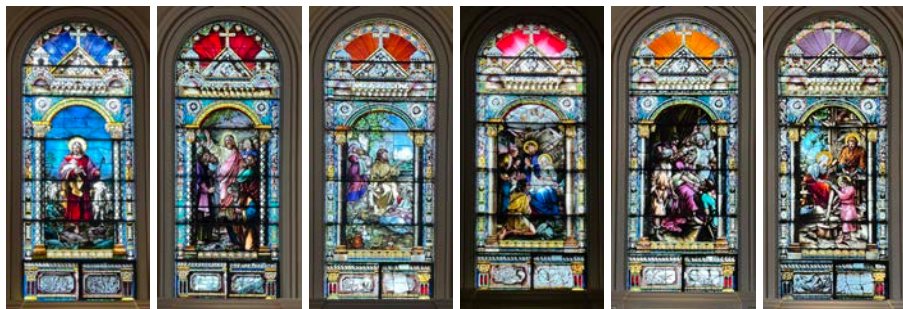


Scaffolding covers Christ King Chapel. The planks at the top are a platform for artists painting the ceiling.

# Special Opportunities

## Additional Investments to Enhance the Salesianum

To complete the full scope of the *Zeal for the Lord's House* project, special opportunities are available to ensure that truth, goodness, and beauty animate the Salesianum. A few of the opportunities are below.



Restoration of 1901 stained-glass windows  
6 windows -- \$145,000 each

Chapel Stations of the Cross  
14 stations -- \$8,000 each

Outdoor campus signage  
10 signs - \$1,800 each

Maintenance of historic tree-lined drive  
\$45,000

Outdoor statue of Saint Joseph  
\$14,000



Restoration of stained-glass windows from Archbishop's chapel in Pabst Mansion for Seminary sacellum  
4 windows -- \$40,000 each

Construction of sports field  
\$500,000

New tabernacle  
\$45,000

Restoration of donated confessionals  
\$16,000

Millwork for Christ King Chapel sacristy  
\$90,000



Restoration, 1860 Bernard Durward crucifixion painting  
\$35,000



Restoration of King Ludwig ceremonial doors  
\$18,000

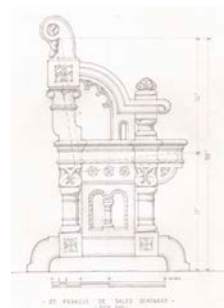
Built-in bookshelves for priest residences  
12 rooms -- \$5,000 each

Liturgical vestments  
(chasubles, copes, dalmatics)  
\$175,000

Schoolhouse light fixtures throughout the building  
50 fixtures -- \$600 each

New maple trees, 8-inch diameter  
20 trees -- \$1,400 each

Bells for Kiley Hall tower  
3 bells -- \$42,00 each



Re-creation of original pews  
40 pews -- \$9,200 each



Grand staircase carpet runner  
\$72,000



Scan the QR code or visit [sfs.edu/zeal](https://sfs.edu/zeal) to donate.

Please consider your item gift as a donation to the *Zeal for the Lord's House* campaign. As with all campaign donations, donors will be acknowledged on a recognition wall, not on individual items.



# Golden Jubilee

The Salesianum Celebrates Beloved Alumnus  
James Michael Cardinal Harvey

*Cardinal Harvey rejoices with the attending bishops, faculty, and seminarian servers outside the Pastoral Center which was originally De Sales Preparatory Seminary.*

**O**n Sunday, August 24, the Seminary welcomed hundreds of priests and seminarians to solemn vespers and benediction followed by a reception in honor of Cardinal Harvey's 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. The joyful events were held at the Mary Mother of the Church Pastoral Center where the Seminary resides during construction. Providentially, it is the same building and chapel where the Cardinal lived and prayed as a student in the then-minor seminary's first year of operation.



*Cardinal Harvey's homily offers a reflection on the priesthood.*



*Five bishops join Cardinal Harvey in the sanctuary.*



Sunlight streams into Mater Christi Chapel while the priests and seminarians pray.



Fr. Luke Stand presides during solemn vespers and benediction.



Priests from all over the state gather to acknowledge the blessing of Cardinal Harvey's priesthood.



The always humble cardinal is genuinely loved and respected by clergy and seminarians.



The Cardinal delights in talking with Fr. Richard Breitbach who was a teacher at the minor seminary during Cardinal Harvey's time there.



A delicious buffet is spread out for the guests.



The men enjoy dinner in "Cervus Commons" which was formerly used by the Milwaukee Bucks. "Cervus" is Latin for "deer."



# Salt of the Earth

The Annual Seminary Dinner Celebrates the Mission of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary.

*Guests, including Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Bishop James Powers of Superior, and Bishop Thomas Daly of Spokane, appreciate being outside on the warm October evening.*

The 23rd Annual Seminary Dinner was a spectacular night focused on the theme Salt of the Earth, which is the Seminary's motto. Two thousand faithful Catholics filled the Baird Center with enthusiasm and hope for the future. Beautiful weather allowed guests to enjoy the scenic outdoor terrace during the cocktail reception before dinner was served in the grand ballroom.

During the program, Fr. Luke Strand announced that the *Zeal for the Lord's House* campaign had raised \$75 million. Thunderous applause filled the room as supporters acknowledged the magnitude of this accomplishment.

Scan the QR code or visit [sfs.edu/events/annual-dinner](https://sfs.edu/events/annual-dinner) to see the video shown at the dinner, the seminarian speech, and more photos from the night.



*The cocktail reception fills the huge inside foyer as well.*



*Archbishop Jeffrey Grob thoroughly enjoys his first Annual Dinner.*



*Co-chairs Fr. Jacob Strand and Moira Moede lead the program with grace, humor, and passion.*



*Closing the evening with the singing of "Salve Regina" is a beloved tradition at the dinner.*



*The schola cantorum sings for the delighted crowd.*



*Seminarian Matthew Olson (Milw) thanks guests for their support. Every table is greeted by a seminarian and a priest.*



*The dinner sold out in record time this year, reaching 2,000 registrations more than six weeks before the event.*



*Charles Pomroy (Milw) gives a rousing speech explaining how the Seminary helps men to answer the Lord's call.*



*Eight (arch)bishops join the seminarians at the end of the evening to celebrate the work of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary.*



*It is an impressive sight – and one of great hope – to see so many seminarians onstage!*

# Meet the Priest Formators



**Very Rev. Luke N. Strand**  
Rector

**Home parish:** St. Bruno, Dousman  
**Ordination:** 2009 by Bishop William Callahan, OFM Conv.

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Vice

Rector of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

**Hobbies when not praying:** Running, boating, manual labor, and cribbage

**Favorite part of being a formator:** Spending time in prayer with the remarkable men the Lord is inviting to follow Him as priests

**What the seminarians say about you:** He's intense and all about fun.



**Rev. John J. Baumgardner**

Vice Rector and  
Director of Human  
Formation

**Home parish:** St. John the Evangelist, Greenfield

**Ordination:** 2017 by Archbishop Jerome Listecky

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Associate Pastor and Temporary Administrator of Old St. Mary, Three Holy Women, Saints Peter and Paul, Our Lady of Divine Providence parishes in Milwaukee

**Hobbies when not praying:** Reading, sports & exercise, and time with my family (especially being an uncle!)

**Favorite part of being a formator:** The great privilege of accompanying in some way the work of God in a man's life

**What the seminarians say about you:** "The Gentle Hammer." Quietly very athletic. Present and steadfast in prayer.



**Rev. Justin J. Kizewski**  
Director of Intellectual  
Formation

**Home parish:** Sacred Heart of Jesus, Nekoosa

**Ordination:** 2008 by then-Bishop Jerome Listecky

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Pastor of Holy Ghost, Chippewa Falls and St. Bridget, Springfield

**Hobbies when not praying:** Reading, watching sports, movies, tv shows, traveling, eating good food, playing pickleball

**Favorite part of being a formator:** Having a front row seat to what the Lord is doing in the lives of men He is calling to the priesthood

**What the seminarians say about you:** Probably that I preach too long.



**Rev. Brad A. Krawczyk**

Director of Worship  
and Director  
of Liturgical  
Formation

**Home parish:** St. Adalbert, Milwaukee

**Ordination:** 2012 by Archbishop Jerome Listecky

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Director of Liturgy and Worship and Liturgical Formation, and Associate Director of Human Formation at Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

**Hobbies when not praying:** Reading, spending time with family and friends, cooking, and traveling

**Favorite part of being a formator:** Seeing men know that they are loved by God as beloved sons

**What the seminarians say about you:** I'm an energetic and sometimes intense person who is intentional. I would suggest they see me as a priest that cares about them and manifests spiritual fatherhood.





## Rev. Robert J. Kroll, S.J.

Director of Spiritual  
Formation

**Home parish:** St. Eugene, Fox Point

**Ordination:** 1999 by Archbishop  
Rembert Weakland

**Previous assignment before**

**Seminary:** Jesuit superior, teacher, tennis coach, and pastoral  
ministry at Creighton Prep High School, Omaha

**Hobbies when not praying:** pickleball, walks along the lake,  
movies, reading

**Favorite part of being a formator:** Acquiring a deep  
knowledge of many seminarians over a period of years;  
supporting them in their desire to grow in holiness and  
discover God's will for their lives

**What the seminarians say about you:** They seem to  
appreciate my availability and gentleness as a confessor and  
spiritual guide.



## Rev. Michael J. Malucha

Vocation Director

**Home parish:** St. Charles  
Borromeo, Hartland

**Ordination:** 2021 by  
Archbishop Jerome Listecky

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Associate  
pastor of Holy Family and priest-designate of St. Mary's  
Springs Academy, Fond du Lac

**Hobbies when not praying:** Spending time with family  
and friends.

**Favorite part of being a formator:** It's as encouraging  
as it is humbling to witness our seminarians fall deeper  
in love with the Lord Jesus and seek to live more freely as  
men who, please God, will be for us our priests.

**What the seminarians say about you:** Too much!



## Rev. John Paul Mitchell

Director of Propaedeutic  
Formation

**Home parish:** The Basilica of St.  
Josaphat, Milwaukee

**Ordination:** 2013 by Archbishop  
Jerome Listecky

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Doctoral studies  
in biblical theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University,  
Rome

**Hobbies when not praying:** Fiction literature, frisbee,  
skiing, running

**Favorite part of being a formator:** "Laying the table" and  
watching the Lord "provide a meal" for each man, each year

**What the seminarians say about you:** To get his Scripture  
classes off topic, just ask him about "trees in high places."



## Very Rev. Glenn E. Powers

Director of Pastoral  
Formation

**Home parish:** St. Agnes, Butler

**Ordination:** 1987 by  
Archbishop Rembert Weakland

**Previous assignment before Seminary:** Pastor of  
Immaculate Conception and Ss Cyril & Methodius,  
Sheboygan

**Hobbies when not praying:** Sudoku puzzles,  
cryptoquips, and Foldolgy

**Favorite part of being a formator:** Assisting with  
theological reflection

**What the seminarians say about you:** Poetic; sees  
things from different and deeper perspectives; and says  
the word "afford" a lot



# A Spanish Immersion Summer

## Seven Weeks in the Dominican Republic

*The men take a break after a baseball game in Sabana Yegua. Rob is the seminarian kneeling on the right.*

By Rob Reynebeau (Green Bay)

It's a humbling exercise at the end of each summer to reflect on the dichotomy between my own expectations for the summer versus the reality of what the Lord does. This past summer was no different, when six of my classmates and I spent seven weeks in the Dominican Republic for a Spanish immersion experience.

Coming from our postmodern, American culture which can be preoccupied with personal gain and planning, I discovered there is a lot for us to learn from Dominican culture: their joyful generosity and hospitality, willingness to be inconvenienced for the sake of charity, their detachment from wealth and instead taking notice of the needs of others.

One of the biggest reminders for me, though, was to not hold on so much to my own expectations, such as how us seven would get along or how much Spanish I would learn.

As the summer went on, my classmates and I found ourselves in a lot of situations we did not expect. Like when we participated in a Eucharistic procession celebrating the Feast of Corpus Christi with fifteen thousand other Catholics. Or the time we rode two hours in the bed of a 1980s Toyota Land Cruiser pickup on our way to engage in door-to-door evangelization near the border of Haiti. Or the time when a few of us went hiking and I stepped on a wasp nest and got stung twelve times! Don't worry, we finished the hike.

Also unexpected were the many times we ended up playing baseball somewhere random. Whether it was in an old parking lot after volunteering at the recycling center, or after we helped make a walking path in the woods, or during walks through the neighborhoods of Sabana Yegua: if a group of kids appeared in sight, suddenly we were playing pickup baseball!

“  
God is in every moment,  
especially the unexpected.”

To me, witnessing the spirit of these young kids is an example of what Jesus talks about when He teaches the disciples the necessity of being childlike (see Mt 18:1-4). I consider how our Father is pleased to see these kids being worry-free, having fun playing a game, and knowing that their only job is simply to be children! We often forget that God calls us to this attitude of trust, don't we? I was reminded over and over that, rather than focusing on accomplishing my will and my many expectations,

the Christian life is about living in childlike freedom, trusting that our Lord will provide us with exactly what we need if we simply go to Him (see Mt 7:9-11; Rm 8:28).

Finally, there was the unexpected influence of St. Joseph. At the parish where we stayed for half of the summer, La Sagrada Familia, the church has a simple stained-glass window that I regularly prayed in front of. It is an image of Jesus in the manger, with Our Lady looking at her Son, and St. Joseph a bit behind Our Lady, focusing his gaze on her. There is so much depicted here. What I noticed the most was the way Joseph was looking at Mary, so clearly determined to lay down his life as a loving husband for his family. Talk about a man who set aside his former expectations, who always listened to the Lord and promptly acted! The image of this stained glass teaches us to be like St. Joseph, who knew exactly what to expect: that obedience and fidelity in his vocation would bring him closer to the Son.

I'm thankful for this past summer and all its surprises. If there's one thing I've learned to expect, it's that God is in every moment, especially the unexpected.

St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church...pray for us!



*The seminarians pray during a sunrise Mass on their last day in the DR.*



*Heading out in a pickup truck to evangelize.*

# Vocation Office News

## Privileged Encounters

Dear Friends of the Salesianum,

**T**hank you for your continued prayers and sacrifices that many more young men and women might respond to God's call to the priesthood and consecrated life from our local churches.

This past summer, we welcomed our largest number of middle and high school participants to Camp de Sales. Praise God! These days, set aside each year for prayer, formation, friendship, and sports, are blessed ones indeed. Planning already is underway for next summer's camps!

In the meantime, please do pray for the upcoming events sponsored by the Vocation Office, especially the Saint Andrew Dinner, held this year at the Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist in Milwaukee amidst the continued construction as part of *Zeal for the Lord's House* campaign.

Be it Camp de Sales, the Saint Andrew Dinner, Come and See weekends, or the silent priestly discernment retreat, each of these are privileged encounters where the hearts of our sons, brothers, grandsons and friends might be opened to embrace their vocation and live the summons of the recently canonized Saint Pier Giorgio Frassati, "Verso l'alto - toward the heights!"

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Fr. Michael J. Malucha



*Fr. Michael Malucha leads our first high school expedition day on the feast of St. John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests! 14 young men joined us for Holy Mass at the beautiful St. Matthias Chapel, followed by lunch and a hike to Mauthe Lake.*

## Save the Date - Upcoming Vocation Office Events

### **Duc in Altum Silent Priestly Discernment Retreat**

Friday, December 19 - Sunday, December 21

### **St. Andrew Dinner**

Friday, December 27 - 5:00pm

### **Spring Come and See Weekend**

Friday, March 28- Sunday, March 30

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

*Our Vianney Day attendees pause lakeside.*





## Scenes from the Salesianum

*Seminarians are ready to welcome golfers to the Wisconsin Country Club on a very hot June day.*



*Fifi and Mike Stevens once again co-chair a very successful golf outing.*



*Archbishop Jeffrey Grob celebrates Mass for the Seminary and Archdiocesan communities.*



*The Stemper brothers are a faithful regulars at the Seminary Golf Outing.*



*The seminarians, faculty, and staff get to know their welcoming hosts at the Pastoral Center.*



*Newly ordained Fathers Joseph Glatczak, Matthew Szymanski, and Brian Ward savor the moment with Bishop Gerard Battersby of the Diocese of La Crosse on June 28. Photo courtesy of the Diocese of La Crosse.*



*Seminarians rest after biking 40 miles from the Seminary to Holy Hill offering intentions for mothers going through crisis pregnancies and their babies.*



*Fr. Samuel Martin of the Diocese of La Crosse leads the men in a day of spiritual renewal. His theme was "Cor ad cor loquitor: Reflections on Cultivating and Sustaining a Priestly Heart."*



*With construction on Seminary grounds, this year's Eucharistic procession heads into the woods.*



*Deacon Luis Reyes (Madison) carries the Blessed Sacrament with great reverence.*



*Sunlit glades add beauty to the Eucharistic procession.*



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## The 2025-2026 Seminarians of Saint Francis de Sales Seminary

Please Support Your Future Priests

**B**e part of our mission to form priests in the image of Jesus Christ.

Please pray for us and keep Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in mind as you plan your year-end charitable giving. Checks made payable to Saint Francis de Sales Seminary can be mailed to:

3257 South Lake Drive  
Saint Francis WI 53235

Secure online contributions can be made at **sfs.edu/support/donate/** or use the QR code.

Every gift is appreciated by the men who will serve as your priests!



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).  
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