Ordinations to the Diaconate, Priesthood in 2020

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Military Chaplain Leaves Legacy to Josephinum


Si Deus pro nobis quis contra nos – Romans 8:31
From the Rector

Dear alumni and friends,

A few weeks ago, we held a faculty in-service with Bishop Robert Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus and the Vice-Chancellor of the Pontifical College Josephinum. As part of the discussion, the question was asked, “What are bishops looking for in the men they will ordain as priests?” One of the priests on the faculty summarized the discussion by stating, “The word I think we may be looking for is resiliency.”

The 133-year history of the Pontifical College Josephinum has been characterized by strength and resiliency. While many things have changed over time – and this year can certainly make a claim of uniqueness – our mission has remained the same: To form men to be good and holy priests; men who want to be saints and who want to help others to become saints.

A reflection of the Josephinum’s historic strength and resiliency may be seen throughout this publication. Many of the articles touch on the vision and legacy of our founder, Monsignor Joseph Jessing, as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Other stories show how we are persevering in our mission amid a global pandemic. We share the exciting addition of new priest-faculty and trustees; remember our oldest ordained alumnus and the 78 years of his priesthood; and celebrate the ordinations of nearly thirty alumni to the priesthood and diaconate this past year. Indeed, there is much to honor in our past and much to give us confident hope for our future.

It is an honor to support and guide the seminarians here in the “House of Joseph” as they persevere in their discernment, and to watch the Holy Spirit – who put the desire for the priesthood into their hearts – continue to inspire them on their path to holiness. As you peruse the contents of this Josephinum Times, please offer a prayer for the men entrusted to our care and for everyone at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Know that you are remembered daily in our prayers, as you are part of both our history and our future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau
Rector/President

New Seminarians Presented with the Pontifical Cassock

It has long been custom, dating at least from the establishment of the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1551, for seminarians in pontifical seminaries to wear specific house cassocks, identifying their college and fostering their identity as men formed in such institutions.

Each cassock is unique. For example, those at the Propaganda Fide – the congregation’s seminary for overseas students atop Rome’s Janiculum Hill – wear a black double-breasted cassock with red piping, buttons, sash and strings; seminarians at the Ruthenian College wear a light blue cassock and yellow sash reflecting the colors of their national flag of Ukraine. In all, more than twenty variants might easily be spotted at any major pontifical liturgical celebration in the Eternal City.

In 1892, when the Josephinum was honored by Pope Leo XIII with the designation Pontifical College, seminarians began wearing the black cassock with red accents identical to that at the Propaganda Fide. The practice fell away for a time in the mid-1970s then was reintroduced in 2009. Currently, seminarians don the pontifical cassock for Sunday Mass, other solemnities, and special events as designated by the rector. In doing so, they express and give witness to their unique relationship to the Church as well as to the history they belong to at the Josephinum.
Reflections on Candidacy for Holy Orders

by Kevin Girardi
Diocese of Columbus

On November 1, my brother seminarians and I were accepted as candidates for the Holy Priesthood of Jesus Christ. In this rite, the Church officially acknowledged and blessed our resolve to complete our preparation for priestly ministry and to prepare both our mind and spirit for service to Jesus Christ and His Church.

The grace of every sacrament builds upon the nature which is already present, so as we enter this time of candidacy, my classmates and I are called to more seriously allow God and the Church to form and dispose us by our prayer and study to receive the grace of Orders. In response to our resolve, the Church promises prayers and support, so that we might be conformed into the image of Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

During the rite, Bishop Robert Brennan spoke to us about the intrinsic connection between the cross of Jesus Christ and the priesthood. Jesus has called each of us to share in His Cross and to unite our sufferings with His. He made it clear that there is no avoiding the cross in the Christian life. Without death, there is no resurrection.

It was fitting that the Church held up Blessed Michael McGivney, a parish priest, as an example of holiness the day before our acceptance to candidacy. Bishop Brennan called on us to see and to imitate Blessed Michael McGivney, a priest who walked with and bore the crosses of those entrusted to his care. His love was simple and pure; through this continual self-sacrificial love, he was able to bring many to Jesus Christ. We have faith that he will be interceding for us throughout these next few years as we prepare for ordination.

One of the more tangible changes that comes with our acceptance to candidacy and our public resolve to progress toward Holy Orders is that each of us will begin to wear clerics or “priest clothes” each day. This brings to mind Saint Paul’s encouragement to the Ephesians to “put off the old man” and be “renewed in the spirit of our minds.” This new attire is a continuous reminder of the end-goal of our formation — self-sacrificial love for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Church.
Ordinations to the Diaconate, Priesthood in 2020

The pandemic certainly brought about an ordination season different from any other – many ordinations were rescheduled and most were livestreamed online. Nonetheless, by September, nearly thirty of our seminarians and graduates were ordained to the diaconate or priesthood! Please continue to pray for vocations and for all our alumni who were ordained this year.

Ordained to the Holy Priesthood

**Diocese of Arlington**
Father James Waalkes PT’15
June 6

**Diocese of Brownsville**
Father Joe Luis Hernandez C’15
June 20

**Diocese of Charlotte**
Father Jonathan Torres T’20
Father Jacob Mlakar PT’16
July 24

**Diocese of Columbus**
Father Frank Brown T’20
Father Michael Fulton T’20
Father Seth Keller T’20
June 13

**Diocese of Covington**
Father Jordan Hainsey PT’17
May 16

**Diocese of Gaylord**
Father Alex Kowalkowski C’16
June 20

**Diocese of Joliet**
Father Andrew Buchanan PT’16
June 20

**Diocese of Phoenix**
Father Estevan Wetzel C’15
Father Nathaniel Glenn C’15
Father Gabriel Terrill C’16
Father Kevin Penkalski C’15
June 6

**Diocese of Steubenville**
Father Nicholas Ward T’20
May 29

**Diocese of Toledo**
Father Zachary Brown C’15
June 27

**Diocese of Victoria**
Father Dalton Ervin T’20
Father Chase Goodman T’20
May 30

**Ordained to the Order of Deacon**

**Diocese of Charlotte**
Deacon Joseph Wasswa T4
July 17

**Archdiocese of Cincinnati**
Deacon Louis Jacquemin C’16
Deacon Scott Morgan C’16
Deacon Elijah Puthoff C’16
April 25

**Diocese of Columbus**
Deacon Jacob Stinnett T4
June 12

**Diocese of Gikongoro**
Deacon Emmanuel Ingabire T4
June 12

**Diocese of Ogdensburg**
Deacon Matt Congar
August 1

**Order of Brothers of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel**
Brother Pier Giorgio (Alex Pacelli PT’13)
July 4

**Diocese of Phoenix**
Deacon Ian Wintering C’16
May 31

**Diocese of Toledo**
Deacon Joseph Mominee C’16
June 19

**Diocese of Youngstown**
Deacon Brian Smith T4
September 12

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Theology seminarian Emmanuel Ingabire (Gikongoro) is ordained to the diaconate in Saint Turibius Chapel by Bishop Robert Brennan.
Father Dalton Ervin T’20 and Father Chase Goodman T’20 are called forth during their priesthood ordination for the Diocese of Victoria on May 30. Photo by JW Harrison.

On June 20, Father Alex Kowalkowski C’16 was ordained by Bishop Steven Raica, then Bishop of Gaylord. Bishop Raica has since been installed as Bishop of Birmingham.

With Father Nicholas Ward T’20 (fourth from left) after his priestly ordination for the Diocese of Steubenville are: Peter Stetson C’20; then-Deacon Michael Fulton T’20; Deacon Daniel Koehl C’16; Father Steven Beseau, Rector; Father Nicholas Ginnetti C’15; and seminarians Michael Haemmerle and Christopher Crum, both of Columbus.

Bishop Richard E. Pates, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Joliet, presents the chalice and paten to the newly ordained Father Andrew Buchanan PT’16.
Apostolic Works Persevere in Pandemic

In a typical academic year, Josephinum seminarians contribute hundreds of hours of ministerial service in parishes, schools, hospitals, prisons, and nursing homes in Central Ohio. These pastoral assignments give them opportunities to experience in real time a life of ministry and service.

This year is anything but typical and pandemic safety regulations have paused many of these pastoral opportunities. Nevertheless, creativity on the part of our staff and faculty – and special guests – have enabled us to expose seminarians to various aspects of Church ministry.

Earlier in the fall, a call for assistance came from Saint Joseph Cathedral in Columbus; staff there were in urgent need of contributions for their “back door ministry” of serving the poor and homeless in the downtown area. Under the leadership of Father Michael Lumpe, Vice-Rector, Collegians quickly responded to the call, whipped together 600 sandwiches, and had them delivered to the cathedral. Recognizing an opportunity to offer further support for the ministry, a more formal effort was arranged for early November. Twenty-nine seminarians headed to the cathedral’s undercroft to make 1800 sandwiches in a single hour. Their teamwork, supported by many donated food items, fully stocked the ministry’s supply of food for the homeless and needy.

In other efforts, the seminarians’ apostolic works includes regular volunteering at the Mid-Ohio Food Bank. Most of the work involves opening boxes of donated food, checking expiration dates, cleaning the items with sanitizer, and repacking the food for shipment to food pantries and soup kitchens served by the Food Bank. “It’s a huge operation and a great way for seminarians to do a corporal work of mercy to help get food to those most in need,” said Father Lumpe.

Since seminarians are not able to visit parishes and other placement sites, presentations on varying aspects of parish ministry are being given to seminarians by invited guest speakers. On October 8, alumnus Father Michael Hartge T’15, Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese of Columbus, spoke about “How the Chancery Serves the Parish.” In November, Mr. Dan DeMatte of Damascus Catholic Mission Campus in Centerburg, OH, offered his thoughts on “Youth Ministry - Today and Tomorrow! What a Priest Should Know.”

“Their teamwork, supported by many donated food items, fully stocked the ministry’s supply of food for the homeless and needy.”
In the basement of the cathedral in downtown Columbus, seminarians assembled to make sandwiches for those in need. Below, they receive direction from Deacon Joseph Knapke, Pastoral Assignment Coordinator.

Private Philanthropy Funds Historic Change to Saint Turibius Chapel

A long-awaited historic change to the iconic structure of the Pontifical College Josephinum has been made possible by private philanthropy. For the first time since 1931, those entering Saint Turibius Chapel in the warmer months of the year will be greeted by the comfortable climate and virtually inaudible hum of air-conditioning.

“The generosity of this gift is astounding,” said Father Steven Beseau, Rector. “We are deeply grateful for and extremely humbled by the family’s commitment to the Church and the Josephinum.”

The chapel, located on the second floor of the administration building, has always been subject to the heat and humidity of Central Ohio, limiting its availability for events during many months of the year. The extensive use of strategically placed fans provided some relief but never succeeded in opening the chapel for worship year-round.

Father Beseau noted that air conditioning the chapel will have a profound effect on seminary life. “Many of our alumni have shared with me their memories of sweating through liturgies, fanning themselves with Mass programs and straining to hear the scripture readings over the whirl of electric fans,” he said. “Making the chapel a more comfortable, quiet environment will enable our seminarians to focus more on what is taking place in the sanctuary as well as in their hearts, and to give prayer their full attention.”

As with many churches, the age and architectural structure of the chapel presented some obstacles for the HVAC project. “The goal was to utilize innovative technology to preserve the beauty of the traditional architecture,” said Mr. Gary Shotts, Director of Plant Operations. “The system selected eliminates the need for conventional ductwork. All of the mechanicals are hidden; the only visible elements are the discharge air supply diffusers in the ceiling, which blend in with the current lighting system.”

The new system is whisper quiet, preventing any disruption to events taking place and having no adverse effect on the chapel’s acoustics. “The diffusers are a low decibel configuration that will keep air volume noise at a minimum while the system is running,” said Mr. Shotts.

Father Michael Lumpe T’04, Vice Rector of the College of Liberal Arts, agrees that air-conditioning is a long-overdue improvement to Saint Turibius Chapel. “I remember my days as a seminarian, praying in the excessive heat and humidity of that chapel with temperatures that, at times, were in the mid-to-upper 90s,” he said. “Since our major liturgies and similar gatherings take place in Saint Turibius Chapel, this most-welcome improvement is truly a blessing. We give abundant thanks to those who made it possible.”

A section of the balcony midway up the Josephinum’s landmark tower was removed temporarily to allow equipment and cooling system components to be passed into the building. Six small air handlers and two 15-ton condensing units were hoisted by crane and lifted into the tower.
Historical Marker Rededicated
Honoring the 150th Anniversary of Jessing’s Ordination

The Monsignor John Joseph Jessing Historical Marker was commissioned in 2003, the year of Ohio’s bicentennial, and was erected amidst the evergreen trees along High Street. The marker was awarded by the Ohio Historical Society in recognition of contributions to the state made, since 1875, by the Josephinum and Monsignor Jessing.

In 2016, the marker was damaged during the road construction trench project on Route US-23 and was moved to a safe location on campus until refurbishment and relocation were feasible. As this year marks the 150th priesthood ordination anniversary of Monsignor Jessing, it seemed a fitting time to rededicate the marker bearing his name.

Erected in a new location on the north end of our 75-acre campus, the Monsignor John Joseph Jessing Historical Marker was blessed by The Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan, Bishop of Columbus and Vice Chancellor of the Josephinum, on Sunday, November 1, the Solemnity of All Saints. Gusting winds and dropping temperatures made for a chilly event but weather did not deter many faculty and seminarians from witnessing the blessing.

Historical marker enthusiasts might like to know that the new GPS coordinates for our marker are: Latitude: 40.1211020, Longitude: -83.0183470. A special word of gratitude to the Ohio History Connection for assisting with the new coordinates and updating our listing on remarkableohio.org.
Pope Saint John Paul II survived the Nazi occupation of Poland and helped to bring down Communism. Josemaría Escrivá began Opus Dei during the Spanish Civil War, a time of great persecution of the Church. Sister Thea Bowman, the granddaughter of slaves, converted to Catholicism and tirelessly advocated for African Americans. Saint Catherine of Siena encouraged reform of the clergy and for moving the papacy from Avignon to Rome. Monsignor Joseph Jessing spent his priesthood educating orphans, helping German immigrants, and establishing our beloved alma mater.

Our Church and history books are filled with good people and canonized saints who rose to great heights amid trial and adversity. In times of uncertainty, they relied not on themselves but on God to bring forth fruit. Each of them simply lived their vocation in their own time and place.

Last spring, we entered into an unexpected trial during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have all heard repeatedly how this crisis is unprecedented. It is a time when so many people have had to rise up and meet challenges, not unlike those who came before us.

So, during Columbus’ stay-at-home order, what did Father Chris Yakkel T’19 and I do to meet the challenge? We made Facebook videos. (I’ll wait for the applause and cheers to die down.) Yes, we made videos reflecting on the Sunday readings, about the saints, and even about a mouse in the rectory clinging to Father Yakkel’s pant leg. You guessed it; the mouse video was the most popular.

Making videos – and their popularity – was not what either of us expected as we responded to the demands in front of us. Years from now no one is going to write about our heroic response to this pandemic. But that isn’t important. What is important is that we – and so many other priests who found creative ways to reach their parishioners – did our best to fulfill our vocation in our time and place with the resources at our disposal.

Remaining connected to parishioners when we are apart has been critical. Those videos are planting seeds – people tell us about showing them to their non-Catholic friends and lapsed family members. People comment that they loved seeing priests acting “normal” in our videos. I think they liked the authenticity. The faithful and the culture at large are crying out for authenticity. Through those posts we were able to connect with people in a way that resonated with them on a basic human level. If this pandemic produces the fruit of authenticity and integrity from the clergy and faithful that will be good fruit indeed.

As priests we greatly miss celebrating Mass with a full church. After the pandemic, it will take a great effort to encourage people to come back to Mass. It will be an opportunity for a sincerely heroic effort to evangelize and encourage the faithful to return to the sacraments. Even then, we will inspire them most by our authentic living and preaching of the Gospel in our own time and place. And Father Yakkel and I will still be just as scared of mice in the rectory.
The Pontifical College Josephinum gratefully announces a gift of unprecedented generosity from the estate of alumnus Reverend Canon John J. Flattery, a priest of the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois, and a member of the Ordination Class of 1955. Father Flattery’s gift is one of the largest bequests in the Josephinum’s history.

“Father Flattery’s bequest is an astounding gift to the Josephinum,” said Very Reverend Steven P. Bescau, Rector/President. “It is a testament to his devotion to the priesthood, his loyalty to the Josephinum, and his belief in the importance of education. His bequest will impact the lives of seminarians for generations to come, further securing our mission of forming generous, holy priests.”

Canon John J. Flattery Library Endowment Fund

Father Flattery’s generous support of the Josephinum began during his lifetime in 2011 with the establishment of the Canon John J. Flattery Library Endowment Fund. The investment earnings of the fund support the A.T. Wehrle Memorial Library’s acquisition of books and other printed materials, subscriptions to scholarly full-text databases, collections of eBooks, electronic journals, and media to support the formation program of the seminary.

Upon Father Flattery’s death in 2019, the Josephinum received the news that it would receive multiple distributions from his estate. The first distribution brought the library endowment to $1 million and included an additional unrestricted gift. Subsequent distributions of unrestricted funds have since been received.

“Father Flattery’s generosity strengthens the Josephinum’s outstanding library and ensures that the quality and depth of library resources required by today’s seminarians and faculty will be funded on an annual basis in perpetuity,” said Mr. Peter Veracka, long-time Director of Library Services.

Soon after his ordination, Father Flattery responded to a call to the military chaplaincy. He entered the U.S. Air Force in 1960 with the rank of captain and — after 28 years of service in Morocco, Taiwan, Turkey, the Philippines, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, South Carolina, and Rantoul — retired with the rank of colonel. He was a member of the USAF chaplain board, served in the Office of the Command Chaplain, and was awarded both the Air Force’s Meritorious Service Medal and its Commendation Medal.

An avid scholar and believer in life-long learning, Father Flattery earned a master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Illinois in 1970 and a Master of Divinity from the Josephinum in 1974. In 1975, he received a doctorate in education from Boston University. After completion of
his doctoral studies he was assigned to the USAF Chaplain Board at Air University.

After two years of teaching in Florida, Canon Flattery returned to parish ministry in Danville. He retired from active ministry in 1995 but continued to assist at parishes and remain active in the community.

**Dedication to the Josephinum**

From the day of his ordination, Canon Flattery never lost touch with his alma mater. In addition to serving as President of the Josephinum Alumni Association in the 1990s, he was a welcome and frequent visitor, especially for Quinquennial reunions.

Mr. Veracka met Canon Flattery soon after arriving at the Josephinum as college librarian in the 1970s. "He visited us every few years and would drop by the library to see Msgr. Anthony Kleinschmidt and chat about his time at the Josephinum and his work as an Air Force chaplain," he said. "In between these visits, he would stay in touch with many faculty and staff through email and written correspondence."

Father Flattery was “eternally grateful” for the education he received as a seminarian. “I was blessed with great priest professors and a carefully planned curriculum,” he said. “I have a great love for scripture study in its historical context and was privileged to have had Monsignor Maurice Hofer, whom I consider one of the best and most gifted professors the Josephinum has ever had.”

Monsignor Hofer, a Josephinum alumnus of the Class of 1929, taught at the seminary from 1933-1973. His interest in Old Testament, archeology and philological study instilled in Father Flattery a life-long interest in these subjects, which was heightened by his Air Force service in Turkey. “The location and the availability of easy travel to nearby historic cities and regions of the ancient and Christian world allowed him to deepen his study of history and its importance to biblical studies, Christianity and contemporary culture,” said Mr. Veracka.

“Canon Flattery’s personal motto *Vae mihi si non historiavero* (woe to me if I do not know the truth of history) defines and expresses the purpose of his gift to the Josephinum – to encourage the study of history through books and other educational materials.”

Reverend Canon John Flattery died on January 17, 2019, at the age of 88. Sixty-five of those years were lived in service to the Church around the world, through “the glory of grace” that he called the priesthood.

“Canon Flattery’s life of priesthood and military service witnesses the reality that alumni go forth from the Josephinum to touch the lives of thousands of people in the United States and around the world,” said Father Beseau. “The legacy Father Flattery has left the Josephinum will impact every generation of future seminarians, enriching their formation for ministry to the countless people they will serve. That is the extraordinary difference one gift – one person – can make.”
From the Josephinum’s inception in 1888, founder Monsignor Joseph Jessing dedicated his life’s work to a plan for a “completely free” institution where students would “receive their education, maintenance and all they need, free of charge; all for the glory of God.” This premise was composed by Monsignor Jessing in 1893, in the wake of the Josephinum’s new-found pontifical status granted late the previous year.

By Jessing’s design, the primary means of financing each student was profits from newspaper subscriptions and charitable gifts generated through the Ohio Waisenfreund, the German-language weekly newspaper founded 20 years earlier by Jessing in Pomeroy, Ohio. In the early 1890s the circulation of the paper exceeded 40,000 and contributions in support of the seminary were given visible recognition on a weekly basis.

Monsignor Jessing knew intuitively, however, that a permanent funding solution was needed to carry the seminary through economic ups and downs. He created a development plan to pool gifts and, when $5,000 was raised (equal to $145,000 today), to invest that founding principal in an endowment for tuition assistance.

The plan came together during the 1892-93 academic year when the Josephinum took part in the national and local observances of the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the New World. A consummate strategic planner, Monsignor Jessing arranged two prominent tributes to commemorate this historic observance – one at The World’s Columbian Exhibit of 1892-93 (also known as the Chicago World’s Fair) and the other in Columbus, Ohio.

The first tribute was Monsignor Jessing’s commissioning of a 9-foot copper statue of Christopher Columbus created by artist Alfonso Pelzer and, for $500, commissioned through the W.H. Mullins Studio Co., of Salem, Ohio. The 150-pound statue was placed on a horse-drawn cart and, with the Josephinum Band playing, the fanfare made its way through the streets of downtown Columbus to the statue’s destination of the seminary’s main courtyard at 18th and Main. When the Josephinum moved its campus north of Worthington in 1932, the statue was gifted to the people of Ohio and found its new home at the Ohio Statehouse. Photographs of the Columbus statue were placed on display at the Josephinum’s World’s Fair exhibit.

The second tribute was a magnificent High Altar created by the craftsmen of the Josephinum Altar Works Company and the orphan boys who were being trained as woodworkers at the Josephinum’s industrial school. This breathtaking Gothic altar was made of American oak, white mahogany, and red mahogany; it measured 23-feet high and 14-feet wide, with a 9-foot altar table.

The magnificent altar attracted the attention of German native Mr. George Kanne, a businessman from Saint Louis, who purchased the altar for his German-speaking parish of Holy Rosary. Monsignor Jessing invested Mr. Kanne’s payment of $5,000 (which arrived by check on December 6, 1893, the Feast of Saint Nicholas) as the
A Note from the Vice President

Dear alumni and friends,

When I arrived at the Pontifical College Josephinum in July, the beginning of our new fiscal year, I received a very warm and gracious welcome to the "House of Joseph." I am grateful in a special way to our Rector/President, Father Steven Besau, and to my fellow members of the administration, the faculty and staff, our alumni and friends, and the men of the Josephinum who are being prepared for the priesthood. Thank you to Allison Moore, Carolyn Dinovo, Meghan Henschen, and Michael Fry T'85, with whom I am privileged to work closely on a daily basis, and to the library staff of Peter Veracka and Beverly Lane for sharing the rich history of the Josephinum. I was given three books on Monsignor Jessing and I have learned to appreciate deeply the legacy of this phenomenal priest and visionary who added so profoundly to growth of the Church in America.

With a name like Stein, you probably guessed I am of German heritage. My parents grew up in a neighborhood not far from the original Josephinum at 18th and Main; I was born in the nearby Old Saint Ann’s Maternity Hospital. Mom and Dad made sure I received a good Catholic education, and my wife and I sent our four children to Catholic schools here in Columbus.

I began my advancement career at The Ohio State University and have devoted the second half of my career to our Catholic schools, hospitals, universities, and now a seminary. Most recently I served as a capital campaign manager at Saint Catharine of Siena Parish in Columbus where I worked closely with Father Dan Dury C'05. Together we planned and launched a capital campaign for a new parish center and the building of a new Eucharistic adoration chapel.

I come to the Josephinum asking its alumni and friends to offer five key gifts to the Josephinum:
1. Pray for your alma mater
2. Be an ambassador of goodwill and promote your Josephinum affinity, especially on social media
3. Promote vocations to the priesthood and help to recruit seminarians
4. Give to the Josephinum Fund and leave a legacy gift through your estate
5. Come back to the Josephinum for reunions and special events

I also want to share with you some great news! This past spring we received a $250,000 gift that funded a new heating and air-conditioning system in Saint Turibius Chapel. We also received two historic gifts through the estates of two ordained alumni. These gifts of $2.5 million and $1.6 million are the largest contributions in our history. We will remember Monsignor Philip J. Heslin '57 and Rev. Canon John J. Flattery '55 at our Masses throughout the academic year.

A few weeks ago we launched the 2020-2021 Josephinum Fund, our annual appeal to support seminary operations. This effort is especially important to us this year as we, like so many organizations and institutions, have had to cancel our in-person fundraising events for the foreseeable future due to the pandemic. Thank you for prayerfully considering a gift to the Josephinum Fund and, above all, thank you for keeping the Josephinum in your prayers.

In Christ,

Doug Stein
Vice President for Advancement

as a footnote to this fascinating history, the 1893 altar was too high for the sanctuary at Holy Rosary Church, so Kanne arranged for it to be sent to Sacred Heart Church in Florissant, MO, which had just been rebuilt following a devastating fire. The altar remained there until 1958 when it was dismantled due to irreparable damage caused by termites. Elements of the altar have been preserved at Sacred Heart Church: The carved plaques of the four evangelists are part of the ambo; the Lamb of God graces sacristory; one of the angel statues is displayed at the Sacred Heart History Museum; and the hand-carved statues of Saints Peter and Paul stand inside the front entrance to the church.
Now and in the Future: Why We Give
By Anna Blouir

My husband, Matt, and I learned about the Pontifical College Josephinum shortly after we moved to Columbus in 2013. Our parish often had seminarians visit from the Josephinum to assist our pastor during Mass; Seminarians who were deacons sometimes gave the homily. Of course, our kids always wanted to say hello to the seminarian after Mass, so we became acquainted with many of the men.

Getting to know the seminarians and hearing their stories gave me and my family such hope for the future of the Catholic Church. These men were strong in their faith and equally as kind and compassionate to each person with whom they interacted. Supporting the seminarians and encouraging them in prayer seemed the very least we could do.

In fall 2018, my son Charlie and I participated in the Josephinum 4-Miler. It was a great day, full of enthusiasm. People were praying as they walked, others offered words of encouragement. When Charlie crossed the finish line and received a medal, he beamed with happiness and begged me to do the race again the following year. By that time, I was due with our fourth child, so Matt participated with Charlie in 2019. After the race, a seminarian personally invited Matt and Charlie to the Josephinum’s fall tour day.

We had never been on the seminary’s campus. When we arrived, it was so beautiful and calm. Everyone welcomed us with smiles and enthusiasm. Our tour guide was ever so patient with us, as we had our four children in tow, including our newborn baby. Hearing our tour guide talk about his education and personal discernment process, as well as his classes and experience at the Josephinum, made us realize just how important it is to support not only the students but the administrators and teachers as well.

When we learned that there was a winter basketball tournament at the Josephinum, our two oldest boys asked to go so we could cheer on the home team. The seminarians embraced our little family as a part of their big family.

Last summer, I was reading about the newly ordained priests and deacons for the Diocese of Columbus. Hearing about their faith, courage, and perseverance to do God’s work sparks a deep desire in me and my family to continue to support these incredible men as they journey through their discernment and formation, and to continue to offer our prayers and encouragement today and in the future.

Top: The Blouir family during one of many visits to the Josephinum.
Bottom: Anna Blouir with her son, Charlie, after completing the Josephinum 4-Miler in 2018.
Virgil C. Dechant '56
Knights of Columbus’ Longest-Serving Supreme Knight

With great respect and esteem, the Josephinum family honors and gives gratitude to God for the life of Virgil C. Dechant, past Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, the world’s largest fraternal service organization. Mr. Dechant was an alumnus of the Class of 1956 and a past member of our Board of Trustees.

For decades, Virgil Dechant and his wife of 68 years, Ann, remained steadfast supporters of the Josephinum. Mr. Dechant’s firm belief in and dedication to the seminary’s mission led him to give nine years of service – the longest term allowed – as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2004-2013. A member of the Knights of Columbus for nearly 70 years, Mr. Dechant was the most highly decorated lay man in the Catholic Church. He served the Knights at every level, from the local council to its highest position. His term as 12th Supreme Knight from 1977 to 2000 stands as the longest of any Supreme Knight. In 2012, he was given the Knights’ Gaudium et Spes Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to both the Catholic Church and to society.

In 2014, it was an honor for the Josephinum to bestow the Pope Leo XIII Award on Mr. and Mrs. Dechant. Named for the pontiff who granted the Josephinum pontifical status in 1892, the Pope Leo XIII Award is the seminary’s highest honor. It is bestowed upon a couple or individual in recognition of their support of priestly vocations.

"Mr. and Mrs. Dechant’s loyalty and generous service to the Holy See, to the Pontifical College Josephinum and to the Catholic Church in the United States, especially in the support and promotion of priestly vocations, renders them particularly deserving of our seminary’s highest honor," noted Monsignor Christopher J. Schreck, Rector/President of the Josephinum at the time.

Mr. Dechant died February 16, 2020, at the age of 89. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Church of the Nativity in Leawood, KS; Mr. Dechant was laid to rest in the La Crosse Catholic Cemetery.

Follow Us on Social Media!

It’s no secret that news travels fast, especially in the world of social media. The Josephinum’s social media accounts are fed by the Advancement Office 4-5 days every week with a variety of historical, entertaining, spiritual, and informative posts. A group of staff, faculty and seminarians work together – with a multitude of other enthusiastic and willing seminarians and faculty – to make this a reality.

The good news? Our followers are increasing steadily and news of the Josephinum is reaching thousands of individuals with every post. The great news? You can help to spread the word about the Josephinum and its mission!

What can you do?

• Follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
• Like and share our posts
• Invite your friends and family to follow us
• Engage with our content (i.e. comment)
• Alumni – list the Josephinum as your school attended on LinkedIn

This collage of seminarians’ smiling faces was posted on World Smile Day and reached more than 5,200 people. On Count Your Buttons Day, a video created by seminarian Max Gallegos (Birmingham) featured Deacon Jacob Stinnett (Columbus) explaining the religious symbolism of the buttons on a cassock. It has been viewed nearly 8,500 times!

Support Us with Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is an easy way to support the Josephinum! When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Josephinum, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on any web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.
Jessing Society Member Leaves Historic Bequest
Honoring a Gift from Monsignor Philip J. Heslin ’57

Throughout his life of 87 years, Philip Joseph Heslin retained a deep love for the Josephinum and for his classmates of the Ordination Class of 1957. He gave generously of his time, talent, and treasure, and was actively engaged in planning and attending alumni reunions. In a monumental gesture of loyalty and affection for his alma mater, he became a member of The Jessing Society and arranged for the seminary to be gifted from his estate after his death.

Monsignor Heslin's bequest – recently received upon the settling of his estate following his passing in December 2019 – is the largest gift in the history of the Josephinum. “There is no earthly way to express the honor we feel in receiving this bequest,” said Father Beseau. “We are, quite literally, grateful beyond words. We can only pledge to honor Monsignor Heslin's generosity by being faithful stewards of his gift, in support of our mission of forming men for the priesthood at the seminary he so greatly loved.”

Undoubtedly, Monsignor Heslin made an impact on the Church and community in every way he served in the Diocese of Superior, WI – pastor, high school teacher, college professor, director of vocations, chaplain, tribunal judge, assistant chancellor, moderator of the curia, and contributor to countless committees and organizations. A tribute to his priesthood must, however, honor in a special way his work with Catholic Charities and his integral role in the growth and expansion of services and programs supporting men, women and children throughout Northwest Wisconsin.

A November 2017 story in Superior’s The Catholic Herald captures the impact Monsignor Heslin had on the organization during his 23-year tenure at its helm:

Monsignor Heslin was appointed executive director of the Catholic Charities Bureau in 1964 by Bishop George Hammes, “beginning an era of unprecedented growth and leadership in the agency.”

Above: Monsignor Heslin in 2017, and sixty years earlier at the time of his ordination in 1957.
Right: At the celebration of his 60th Jubilee of Ordination, Monsignor Heslin receives a framed papal blessing from the Most Reverend James Powers, Bishop of Superior.
An only child and Chicago native, young Heslin entered preparatory seminary at the age of 13. He sought out Superior to be his home diocese after learning it had the most Catholics per priest. The needs of this northern frontier attracted him, but it wasn't until weeks after his 1957 ordination that he physically set foot in the diocese. Then-Bishop Joseph Annabring was very surprised when, upon meeting and asking what the new priest's forte was, Heslin responded, “physics and chemistry.” He was assigned to Catholic Charities seven years later.

Not asking “why” regarding his appointment — but thinking that social work was “arranging teenage dances” — Father Heslin studied for a master's degree in social work from Loyola University. He studied further for a PhD to make the Bureau eligible for more state and federal grants; Department of Housing and Urban Development housing for the elderly was the subject of his dissertation.

Under Heslin’s leadership, the diocesan children’s home became a center for treating emotionally disturbed children; four agencies were created to serve the developmentally disabled; and a resettlement program for orphaned Cuban refugees was developed.

A system of continued care for the elderly emerged in the late 1960s, as did the first of a network of affordable housing programs for the elderly and disabled. Centers opened to care for children of working parents. In the 1980s, the CCB adapted yet again to meet the needs of the diocese’s aging population. There was a shift from institutional services to provisions for the elderly and disabled to live independently, as well as sponsorship of volunteer initiatives for seniors seeking community involvement.

Monsignor Heslin retired as Catholic Charities’ director in 1987 after 23 years of service but remained heavily involved until he was physically unable. His successor, Alan Rock noted, “His are big shoes to fill. Among many, many needs, he truly made a huge impact.”

In recognition of his leadership of Catholic Charities, Monsignor Heslin was honored with Catholic Extension’s Lumen Christi Award in 2013. The award “honors the hidden heroes in our midst who demonstrate how the power of faith can transform lives and communities. They bring light and hope to the forgotten corners of our country and inspire those around them to be the Light of Christ.”

Thank you, Monsignor Heslin, for the gift of your priesthood, and for bringing the same hope and Light of Christ to the Josephinum.

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**Board Welcomes New Trustees**

The Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the addition of three new members:

**Reverend Joshua Altonji T’17** is the assistant vocations director for the Diocese of Birmingham and chaplain of Saint Stephen the Martyr Catholic University Chapel, positions he has held since July 2018. He also serves as the parochial vicar at Saint Paul Cathedral and as chaplain of John Carroll Catholic High School, both in Birmingham. Before coming to the Josephinum as a seminarian, he graduated in 2011 from Vanderbilt University where he studied computer science and psychology.

**Sister Anthony Mary Diago, RSM**, is Director of the Office of Consecrated Life in the Diocese of Phoenix. She was born in Bethesda, Maryland, and raised in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, by her parents, both of whom are refugees from Cuba. Bilingual from a young age, she is a graduate of the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, where she completed a master's degree in secondary education. Sister Diago entered the Religious Sisters of Mercy in Alma, Michigan in 2001. Since then, she has served in Rome, Boston, and Sydney, Australia, prior to moving to Phoenix.

**Reverend Earl Fernandes** is pastor of Saint Ignatius of Loyola Parish in Cincinnati, Ohio. Since his ordination in 2002, he has served at many parishes in the archdiocese. From 2016-2019, he was a staff member at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC. He spent the previous eight years at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary of the West in Cincinnati where he was dean and an associate professor of moral theology.

Father Fernandes holds a doctorate in moral theology from the Alphonsian Academy in Rome. He is a member of the Advisory Board of Pregnancy Center East in Cincinnati and of the National Catholic Bioethics Center headquartered in Philadelphia. From 2012-2016, he was a member of the executive committee of the National Association of Catholic Theological Schools.
Welcome to Our New Priest-Faculty!

Father Brett Brannen
Director of Spiritual Formation
School of Theology


After completing an undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Georgia, Father Brannen studied at Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, where he received both a Master of Divinity degree and a Master of Arts in Sacred Scripture.

Ordained in 1991, Father Brannen spent more than a decade as a parish priest in the Diocese of Savannah, pastoring churches in Albany, Macon, Augusta and Savannah, in addition to his work as Director of Vocations for the diocese. For many years he was Vice-Rector of Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary.

Father Dylan James
Assistant Professor of Moral Theology
School of Theology


An American citizen by his mother (from Waukegan, Illinois) and British by his father (from Cardigan, Wales), Father James was raised in Devon, England, but spent summers with family in the United States. For the past 14 years, he was a parish pastor in West Moors, Shaftesbury, and Dartmouth, Poole, Exeter, and Barnstaple. For many of those years, he taught at Wonersh Seminary and provided moral theology formation for the Ordinariate.

Father Victor-Antonio Moratin, CPM
Director of Pastoral and Apostolic Formation
Dean of Men, College of Liberal Arts

Ordained in 2018 for the Fathers of Mercy, Father Victor-Antonio Moratin, CPM, comes to the Josephinum from Glasgow, KY, where he served as parochial vicar at Saint Helen Catholic Church and was very active in Hispanic Ministry.

After completing an Associate in Science degree in civil engineering from Montgomery College in Rockville, MD, Father Moratin earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy from Holy Apostles College & Seminary, and a Master of Divinity degree from Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary of the West, Cincinnati, in 2018. He continues to serve as student master for the Fathers of Mercy.
Three Alumni Ordained, Installed as Bishops

The Josephinum community sends heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes to these alumni as they continue their service to the Church, shepherding the faithful in the Diocese of Taungngu, Archdiocese of Chicago, and Diocese of Cleveland.

Bishop John Saw Gawdy T’93 Ordained in Taungngu, Myanmar

The episcopal ordination of The Most Reverend John Saw Gawdy T’93, Bishop of Taungngu, Myanmar, was held on November 29. Due to pandemic safety guidelines, Bishop Isaac Danu, Taungngu’s ordinary since 1989, encouraged the faithful to watch the live-streamed ordination on the social media sites of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Myanmar.

Born in 1955, John Saw Gawdy attended elementary and high school in Alel Ahunt Chaung village in Leiktho Township. He completed a bachelor of arts degree in history at the University of Yangon and was ordained to the priesthood on April 9, 1983. Seven years later, he began studies at the Josephinum and completed a master’s degree in 1993.

Bishop Gawdy has served at the Leiktho Oukpho catechists’ institute, the Institute of Philosophy, as parish priest in Leiktho, as rector of Saint Paul’s Minor Seminary, and as a representative for the diocesan general affairs. Most recently, he was a professor in the Institute of Theology in Loikaw State from 2017 to 2020, and served the Taungngu diocese as a member of the college of consultants, presbyterial council, pastoral council, financial council, tribunal and as vicar general.

Bishop Edward Malesic T’87 Installed as 12th Bishop of Cleveland

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic T’87 was installed as the 12th Bishop of Cleveland on September 14 at Saint John the Evangelist Cathedral. Father Steven Beseau, Rector, represented the Josephinum at the Mass, which was broadcast live on EWTN and by the diocese.

Ordained for the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, in 1987, Bishop Malesic spent the early years of his priesthood serving in various parishes in the diocese. He received a graduate degree in canon law from The Catholic University of America in 1998 and was appointed to the Harrisburg tribunal. In 2015, he was named by Pope Francis as the 5th Bishop of Greensburg, PA; his episcopal ordination and installation were held on July 13 of that year.

In the homily given at his installation in Cleveland, Bishop Malesic referred to his new assignment in Ohio as a homecoming, in part because of the nearness of the Josephinum – his home for six years during his studies for the priesthood. He also responded to the “what’s your vision” question often asked of newly appointed bishops. “It’s not my vision that matters. It really doesn’t,” he said. “It’s the vision of God for us that matters.”

Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago is Most Reverend Jeffrey S. Grob C’88

In September, Pope Francis named three priests as auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Chicago, one of whom is Bishop Jeffrey S. Grob C’88.

Bishop Grob was ordained for the Chicago archdiocese in 1992. In addition to numerous parish assignments, he served the archdiocese in many positions: assistant chancellor; vicar for canonical affairs, court of appeals judge; judicial vicar; chancellor; the archbishop’s delegate to the Independent Review Board; and the archbishop’s liaison to lay ecclesial movements and new communities.

Born in 1961, Bishop Grob grew up on a dairy farm outside Cross Plains, Wisconsin. In addition to a degree in religious studies from the Josephinum, he holds a Master of Divinity degree and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology, both from the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, as well as a licentiate in canon law, doctorate in canon law, and doctorate in philosophy from Saint Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario.

The Episcopal Ordination of Bishop Grob was celebrated on November 13; he serves as the episcopal vicar of Vicariate I in the archdiocese and as titular Bishop of Abora.
Persevering amid the pandemic, our 22nd Quinquennial Reunion was held at the Josephinum on September 2-4, 2020. All measures were taken to quarantine current seminarians from reunion activities in a successful effort to protect the health and safety of all.

This reunion was especially important in the history of our institution as it coincided with the 150th anniversary of Monsignor Jessing’s ordination to the priesthood, which took place on July 16, 1870 at Saint Patrick Church in Columbus.

Reunion festivities began Wednesday evening with a reception in the papal courtyard, to which we welcomed our Vice Chancellor, Most Reverend Robert Brennan, Bishop of Columbus.

On Thursday, a business meeting featured remarks from Father Steven Beseau, Rector; Mr. John Erwin, Treasurer; and our new Vice President for Advancement, Mr. Doug Stein. A tour of the main building and library was followed by Mass, concelebrated by Bishop Robert Baker ’70, Bishop Emeritus of Birmingham; Bishop William Joensen T’89, Bishop of Des Moines; visiting ordained alumni; and current priest faculty.

A highlight of our annual reunion is always the presentation of the Jessing Alumnus of the Year Award. Recipients are selected from nominations submitted by alumni; honorees are recognized for their service to the Church and community, and their support of the Josephinum and its mission in the spirit of Msgr. Jessing. This year we were honored to present this award to Bishop Robert Baker ’70 and Mr. Jim Geiser ’57 of Evansville, IN.

Later that afternoon, we headed downtown to visit Saint Patrick Church, the site of Jessing’s ordination, and Saint Mary Church in German Village, where he offered sacramental assistance during his years as rector of the Josephinum on East Main Street.

Friday morning found us traveling scenic US-33 through Lancaster, Logan, and Athens, to Pomeroy, a town on the Ohio
River where the legendary ministry of Msgr. Jessing began. Our first stop was Sacred Heart Cemetery, the resting place of Father Theodor Igel, one of six alumni in the first Josephinum Ordination Class of 1899; he was the first to meet Father Jessing on July 15, 1888. Father Igel served as pastor at Sacred Heart Church from 1924 until his death on August 4, 1927. **Father Mark Moore T’03**, current pastor of Sacred Heart Church, led us in prayer for the repose of Father Igel’s soul. Father Moore was delighted to see his former Josephinum professor and mentor **Father Robert Gonzalez T’78** who was with us for the Quinquennial. "It was the best surprise!" he said.

At Sacred Heart Church, **Father Eric Culler T’08**, Vice President of the Alumni Association, presided at the votive Mass in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; Bishop Baker and **Fathers Richard Kramer ’66** and **Craig Steimel T’89** concelebrated. Father Moore provided a tour of the church, telling of its history and artifacts. A few of us were privileged to ring the church bells at noon – the first time that I ever got to ring the Angelus!

We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the lower level of the church, graciously prepared by the parish staff. We returned upstairs to the church for the First Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart.

Upon arrival back at the Josephinum that afternoon, we gathered at the grave of Monsignor Jessing to pray for his soul and for the grace of God upon our alma mater. Bishop Baker led us in prayer and Father Gonzalez concluded the prayer with the singing of "Sancte Joseph."

A special note of thanks to **Father Larry Zurawski T’85** and Father Culler for their special assistance with the reunion. Quinquennial 2020 will be added to the annals of the Josephinum as a very special commemoration of our beloved founder’s 150th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood.
Dr. Cahall Authors *Living the Mystery of Marriage*

Dr. Perry Cahall, Academic Dean of the School of Theology and professor of historical theology, is author of a new book titled *Living the Mystery of Marriage: Building Your Sacramental Life Together.*

The book, a companion to Dr. Cahall’s *The Mystery of Marriage: A Theology of the Body and the Sacrament* published in 2016, is intended as a resource for engaged and married couples, as well anyone involved in marriage ministry in the parish or at the diocesan level. It also offers seminarians and permanent deacon candidates a foundation of the Church’s teaching on marriage as well as an introduction to Pope Saint John Paul II’s *Theology of the Body.*

*Living the Mystery of Marriage* is reviewed as a unique work that will “assist those called to marriage to live out the wonderful, beautiful, and challenging mystery of married love by presenting a theology, spirituality, and morality of marriage. Dr. Cahall encourages both engaged and married couples to understand the real nature and purpose of marriage as God has created it.” Included in the text are insightful self-discovery prompts and discussion questions to help couples process the information and guide them through real-world issues couples face today.

Both works by Dr. Cahall are available from Amazon and on the Liturgy Training Publications website at www.ltp.org.

Father Kasperczuk Completes Doctoral Degree

Congratulations to Father Marek Kasperczuk, Director of Sacred Liturgy, on the successful defense of his doctoral dissertation presented to the Pontifical Faculty of Theology of the University of Saint Mary of the Lake/The Liturgical Institute.

Father Kasperczuk’s dissertation, “The Eucharistic Theology of John Paul II Viewed Through the Lens of Louis-Marie Chauvet’s Hermeneutical Principle of Symbolic Exchange,” presents the Eucharistic theology of Pope Saint John Paul II through the lens of Louis-Marie Chauvet’s paradigm of symbolic exchange. The dissertation addresses John Paul II’s magisterial teaching on the Eucharist using different points of view of Chauvet’s model of Christian identity. This method unveils the action of the Trinity in the Eucharist through the mediation of the Church. It also recognizes the relationship between Scripture, the sacrament, and ethics as basic elements of Christian identity. The practical application of Christian identity to the dynamic exchange between God and man that takes place in the Eucharist reveals the dignity of this sacramental gift, the conditions for its worthy reception, and the ethics of loving service as the return-gift of human response. The mediation of Mary as the Mother of God, the Church, and the human person (in conforming the human person to the image of Christ), completes the theological vision of the pope. The comprehensive perspective of the Eucharistic theology of John Paul II proves its actuality, originality, and significance for Christian existence, the mission of the Church, and contemporary sacramental theology.

Ordained in 1999, Father Kasperczuk spent the early years of his priesthood ministering at parishes in his native country of Poland. In 2001, he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Chicago where he served as rector of Bishop Abramowicz Seminary, a program for Polish men interested in diocesan priesthood. In addition to his newly earned doctoral degree, Father Kasperczuk holds an MDiv from The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in Poland and an STL from the Liturgical Institute, where he taught prior to joining the Josephinum faculty in 2018.
1970s

Leandro “Lany” Tapay T’70

retired in June as the director of the missions office in the Diocese of Columbus. He will miss working with the pastors and meeting the many missionaries who came to the diocese to seek assistance. “I can sum up the story of my life very simply,” he said. “Everything that seemed to be happening bad to me turned out good. It’s been a life of miracles, and I attribute it to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Deacon Gene Festa ’71

is happily retired after 34 years teaching high and middle school. He lives in a senior community near his family in San Antonio. In May 2021, he will celebrate the 40th anniversary of his diaconate ordination! In addition to parish and community activities, Gene volunteers at the local food bank and as a docent at the Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio. Much of his adult life has been dedicated to Holocaust education, either as a student, teacher, and museum docent.

1980s

Msgr. James Schillinger C’80

serves as coordinator for the office of ongoing formation, with residence at the Church of the Transfiguration, Marietta (Atlanta), GA.

Father Jonathan Wight C’81

is pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, Port Clinton (Toledo), OH.

Father Craig Eilerman C’82

presented a talk to the members of the Downtown Columbus Serra Club. His reflection was based on Letter to a Suffering Church, a work by Bishop Robert Barron concerning abuse in the Church. Father Craig urged perseverance in working through this issue and recommended that Catholics find time for silence, “in which we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us on how we might fight back against this.”

Father Patrick Kibby T’84

is senior priest at Saint Henry Church in Nashville, TN. He remains Vicar for Priests for the Diocese of Nashville.

Father Randy Weber C’85

is pastor at Saint Andrew Church, Abilene (Salina), KS.

Father Ignatius Varnakulasingham T’87

serves as spiritual director and teaches classes on liturgy at the national seminary in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Father Joseph McCaffrey T’87

is the first pastor of the Holy Spirit Parish of Lawrence County in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Father Eric Groner, SVD, C’88

is pastor at Saint Peter Church, Pine Bluff (Little Rock), AR.

Father Thomas More Sikora, OSB, C’89

visited in March and met up with Msgr. John Cody T’73 and Msgr. Joseph Hendricks, former professor and honorary alumnus. Father Sikora spent time in our library preparing classes for his students and enjoyed being at Mass in Saint Turibius Chapel with our seminarians and priest faculty.

Father Craig Steimel T’89

continues to guide Queen of Saints, a cluster of four parishes in the Diocese of Dubuque, through recovery from the derecho that swept through the region in August.

1990s

Father James Meyer T’94

is pastor at Holy Family Church, Grand Forks (Fargo), ND.

Father David Poliafico T’95

is pastor of Saint Timothy Parish, Columbus, OH.

Father Jeffery Fasching T’97

is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Fredonia, and Saint Ignatius Parish, Neodesha (Wichita), KS.

Father Stephen Gideon T’97

retired from his pastorate at Saint John Vianney Church, Gallatin (Nashville), TN, and has been released for service at Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, MN.

Father Joseph Poggemeyer T’97

is pastor at Saint Wendelin Church, Fostoria (Toledo), OH.

Father Douglas Taylor T’97

is parochial administrator at Saint John the Evangelist Church, Defiance (Toledo), OH.

Father William Bond T’99

is pastor at Assumption-Guadalupe Parish, Saints Peter and Paul Church, and Saint Mary Church, II in Omaha, NE.

2000s

Father Robert Knippenberg T’00

is pastor at Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn (Victoria), TX, and Saints Peter and Paul Church in Plum, TX.

Father Terrance Wipf T’00

is pastor of the consortium of Saint Bridget Church in Parshall, Saint Elizabeth Church in Makoti, and Sacred Heart Church in Plaza (Bismarck), ND.

Father Thomas M. Feltman T’01

is parochial vicar at Nativity Church of Fargo, ND.

Father Mark Moore T’03

welcomed Michael Fry T’85 to Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, OH, during the week of Father Jessing’s 150th anniversary of priestly ordination. They visited Christ the King Church in Athens where they met up with Father Thomas Nelson T’15 who provided the wheels around town for a brief tour and lunch.

Father Brian Nelson T’03

is chancellor in the Wichita diocese and is a member of the bishop’s leadership team. He remains diocesan judicial vicar as well as pastor at Saint Mark the Evangelist Church, Colwich, KS.

Father Stash Dailey C’04

is enjoying his work as vicar for religious in the Columbus diocese. He continues as pastor at Holy Family Church, Columbus.

Father Phillip DeVous T’04

is pastor of Saint Charles Borromeo and Saint Rose of Lima Parishes in Flemingsburg and Mays Lick (Covington), KY.

Father William Hahn T’04

is vocations director for the Diocese of Columbus with residence at Saint Joseph Cathedral.

Father Damien Wee T’04

is pastor at Saint Francis Borgia Church in Blair (Omaha), NE, where he was serving as administrator.

Father Christopher Cicero C’05

is pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Warren (Youngstown), OH.

Father Mark Summers PT’06

is pastor at Saint Agatha Church, Columbus, OH.

Address Updates and News: New email address? News for Class Notes? We want to hear from you! Send us your contact information updates and news using our new online form at www.pcj.edu/alumni.
Father William Ferguson T’06 is parochial vicar at Saint Andrew Church, Columbus, OH.

Father Jacob Straub C’09 is pastor at Saint Matthew Church, Kenton (Covington), KY. He continues at Thomas More University as an assistant professor in the theology department.

2010s

Father Taylor Reynolds C’10 completed studies for a JCL and was sworn in as an ecclesiastical judge in the tribunal of the Diocese of Alexandria in September. He now works alongside judicial vicar Father Peter Faulk T’06. Father Reynolds resides at Saint Frances Cabrini Church in Alexandria; Father Faulk provides sacramental assistance at Saint Rita Church, Alexandria.

Father Austin Ammanniti C’11 is pastor of Divine Mercy Parish, Paulding (Toledo), OH.

Father Tyler Bischoff C’11 is administrator of the Catholic Parishes of the Resurrection of the Lord: Saint Catherine, Ossineke; Saint Gabriel, Black River; Saint Anne, Harrisville; and Saint Raphael, Mikado (Gaylord), MI.

Father Eric Boelscher C’11 is pastor at Saint Joseph Church, Crescent Springs (Covington), KY.

Father Fernando Camou C’11 is vice rector of Nazareth House Seminary and part-time chaplain at Seton High School, Phoenix, AZ.

Father Jeffery Smith C’11 is parochial administrator at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Bethlehem, and Saint Joseph Church, Crestline (Toledo), OH.

Father Benjamin Butler PT’11 is pastor at Saint Martha Church, Ashland (Nashville), TN.

Father Austin Gilstrap PT’11 is pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Hendersonville (Nashville), TN. He remains director of vocations and director of deacon formation.

Father Matthew Coonan T’11 is pastor at Saint Therese Church and Saint Henry Church and Community Center, both in Fort Wayne (Fort Wayne-South Bend), IN.

Father Trinity Knight T’11 is parochial vicar at The Church of Saint Agnes, Fort Wright (Covington), KY.

Father Ben Muhlenkamp T’11 is pastor at Saint Anthony de Padua Church, South Bend (Fort Wayne-South Bend), IN.

Father Joaquin Zermeno T’11 is pastor at Our Lady, Queen of Angels Church, La Jolla (Brownsville), TX, and its missions.

Father Zachary Coulter C’12 is administrator at Saint Peter of the Fields Church, Rootstown (Youngstown), OH.

Father Timothy Fahey C’12 is the campus ministry director at Wright State University, Fairborn (Cincinnati), OH.

Father Jonas Shell T’12 is pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Church, Carrollton (Steubenville), OH.

Congratulations to John Michael Simpson C’12 and his wife, Caroline, on the birth of their daughter, Ann Louise.

Father Kyle Gase C’13 is parochial administrator at Immaculate Conception Church, Bellevue (Toledo), OH.

Father Andrew Wellman C’13 is parochial administrator at Saint Patrick Church, Bryan, and Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Montpelier (Toledo), OH.

Brother Pier Giorgio (Alex) Pacelli, OCD PT’13 is studying for a master’s degree in language translation. “I’ve had to evaluate translations into English from German, Spanish, French, and Japanese. I am currently learning Swedish and re-learning Spanish. So what sort of ads do you suppose Facebook is showing me? ‘Want to learn English?’”

Father Vinhson Nguyen C’14 wrote that he is grateful to God for his two years of priestly ministry. In addition to his current assignment as chaplain at Saint John Paul II High School, he is parochial administrator of Our Lady of Fatima Parish Mission, Phoenix, AZ.

Father Estevan Wetzel C’14 is a formator at Nazareth House Seminary and chaplain at Saint Mary’s High School, Phoenix, AZ.

Father Javier Suarez Montanez PT’14 was ordained on August 15 by Bishop J. Mark Spalding for the Diocese of Nashville. He is assigned at Immaculate Conception Church, Clarksville, TN.

Father Edward Shikina PT’14 is pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Ada, and Immaculate Conception Church, Kenton (Columbus), OH.

Father Cyrus Haddad T’14 is pastor at Saint Colman of Clony Church, Washington Court House (Columbus), OH.

Father Rhodes Bolster C’15 completed his last year of study in Rome and is now associate pastor at Saint Philip Church, Franklin (Nashville), TN.

Father Zachary Brown C’15 is parochial vicar of Holy Angels Parish, Saint Mary Parish, and Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Sandusky. He also is priest leader at Sandusky Central Catholic School (Toledo), OH.

Father Nicholas Ginnetti C’15 is parochial vicar of Triumph of the Cross Parish, Steubenville, OH.

Father Nathaniel Glenn C’15 is parochial vicar at Saint Daniel the Prophet Church and part-time chaplain at Xavier High School, Scottsdale (Phoenix), AZ.

Grant Mealor C’15 is employed with the electric company in Alabama. On weekends, he enjoys helping the local friars with their corporal works of mercy.

Father Kevin Penkalski C’15 is parochial vicar at Saint Henry Church in Buckeye (Phoenix), AZ.

Father Spenser Saint Louis C’15 is parochial vicar of Saint Michael Parish, Plymouth (Fort Wayne-South Bend), IN.

Father Luke Wilgenbusch C’15 is associate pastor at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Hendersonville (Nashville), TN, and serves as associate director of vocations for the diocese.

Father James Waalkes PT’15 was ordained on June 6 and is parochial vicar at Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Falls Church (Arlington), VA.

Father Bryan Amthor T’15 is pastor at Saint George Church, Odesa and Saint Jude the Apostle Church, Oak Grove (Kansas City-Saint Joseph), MO.

Father Joshua Barlett T’15 is pastor of Saint Rose of Lima Parish, Savannah, and its Mission of Saint Patrick, Forest City (Kansas City-Saint Joseph), MO.

Father Casey Coleman T’15 is pastor at Our Lady of Grace Church in Greensboro (Charlotte), NC.

Father Kristopher Fuchs T’15 is parochial administrator at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria; He continues as pastor at Saint Mary’s Church in Victoria, TX.
Father Michael Hartge T’15 is vice-chancellor of the Columbus diocese with residence at Saint Peter Church, Columbus, OH.

Father Curt Vogel T’15 is pastor at Saint Bridget Church, Pleasant Hill, and Saint Patrick Church, Holden (Kansas City-Saint Joseph), MO.

Father Timothy Nadolski T’15 is parochial administrator of Saint Clare of Assisi Parish, Acworth (Atlanta), GA.

Cody Martin C’16 and his wife, Emily, welcomed son Titus Boniface on July 27.

Father Gabriel Terrill C’16 is parochial vicar at Queen of Peace Church and School, Mesa (Phoenix), AZ.

Father Andrew Buchanan PT’16 is parochial vicar at Saint Dominic Church in Bolingbrook (Joliet), IL.

Father Jacob Mlakar PT’16 is parochial vicar of The Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Charlotte, NC.

Father Robert Badger T’16 is parochial administrator of The Catholic Parishes of Saint Joseph, Aztec, and Holy Trinity, Flora Vista (Gallup), NM.

Father Cory Catron T’16 is pastor at Saint Francis of Assisi Church in Jefferson and Saint Frances of Rome Church in Sparta (Charlotte), NC.

Father Gerardo Coballos T’16 is priest secretary to the archbishop, master of liturgical ceremonies and assistant director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

Father Juan Jose Hernandez T’16 is studying canon law at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

Father Max Landman T’16 has begun a two-year novitiate with the Society of Jesus.

Father David Loeffler T’16 is pastor at Holy Spirit Newman Center at Grand Canyon University. He continues as director of ecumenism and interreligious affairs and chaplain at Bourgade High School, Phoenix, AZ.

Father Timothy Lynch T’16 is parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Cathedral, Columbus, OH.

Father Brian Becker T’17 is pastor at Saint Margaret Mary Church in Swannanoa (Charlotte), NC.

Father Christopher Bond T’17 is pastor at Saint Lucien Church in Spruce Pine and Saint Bernadette Mission in Linville (Charlotte), NC.

Father Richard Childress T’18 is pastor at Saint John Vianney Church, Gallatin (Nashville), TN.

Father Luke LaFleur T’18 is director of vocations and seminarians for the Diocese of Alexandria, LA. He offers sacramental assistance at Saint Rita Parish in Alexandria.

Father Todd Lehigh T’18 is pastor of the Perry County Consortium of Parishes (Saint Rose of Lima, New Lexington; Saint Patrick, Junction City; Church of the Atonement, Crooksville; Saint Bernard, Corning) in the Diocese of Columbus.

Father John Nahrgang T’18 of the Diocese of Phoenix is pursuing further studies at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute in Washington, DC. He was granted a full-tuition scholarship to the licentiate program.

Father Christopher Tuttle T’18 is pastor at Saint Peter Church, Columbus, OH.

Father Britt Taylor T’19 is parochial vicar at Saint Leo the Great Church in Winston-Salem (Charlotte), NC.

2020s

Father Frank Brown T’20 is parochial vicar at Saint Brendan the Navigator Church of Hilliard (Columbus), OH.

Father Dalton Ervin T’20 is parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria, TX.

Father Michael Fulton T’20 is parochial vicar at Christ the King Church and chaplain at Bishop Hartley High School, both in Columbus, OH.

Father Chase Goodman T’20 is parochial vicar at Saint Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo (Victoria), TX.

Father Seth Keller T’20 is parochial vicar at Saint Cecilia Church and chaplain at Bishop Ready High School, both in Columbus, OH.

Father Jonathan Torres T’20 is parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception Church in Hendersonville (Charlotte), NC.

Father Nicholas Ward T’20 is parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Wintersville (Steubenville), OH.
Many friends and alumni will remember former long-time faculty members Father Robert Bauer, SDB, and Father James Plough, who were both alumni of the Josephinum. We pay tribute to them here and ask you to remember them and all our deceased faculty and alumni in prayer.

Father Robert Bauer, SDB
Salesians of Don Bosco Eastern Province
Ordained September 11, 1971
Died March 23, 2020

Robert “Bob” Bauer was born in Chicago in 1941. He studied at Don Bosco Juniorate, Haverstraw, NY, and Saint Joseph’s Novitiate, Newton, NJ. He made his first profession of vows in 1960 and his perpetual profession in 1966.

Brother Bob graduated magna cum laude from Don Bosco College in Newton in 1964. While in college, he taught Greek to the Sons of Mary at Mt. Don Bosco in Ellenville, NY, one of whom was Father Tom Ruekert T’73, who remembers Brother Bob’s contribution to life at Don Bosco. “Brother Bob would skillfully accompany our community services by playing the organ,” he said. “He was a talented musician.” Father Bob retained a love for good music, both liturgical and classical, throughout his life.

Brother Bob undertook theological studies at the Josephinum in 1967, earned a master’s degree in religious education in 1970, and was ordained in 1971, in Hackensack, NJ. He earned a master’s degree in English from The Ohio State University that same year.

According to Father Ruekert, “as a theology student [at the Josephinum], Bob was well-respected. In his fourth year he was elected as president of the Student Senate, a group of students who would bring issues to the administrators and help with seminary life.”

Following ordination, Father Bob spent two years teaching high school in East Boston. One of his students was future Salesian Father John Nazzaro T’83, who remembers: “Father Bob quickly became one of our favorite Salesians because he was there for us. His office was in the gym building, and he would always be available to open the gym for us to play basketball at nights to keep us off the street.”

In 1973, Father Bob began studies at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, completing a licentiate in Scripture in 1976. He returned to the Josephinum that year as a professor of Old Testament, proving himself over the next 25 years one of the most popular teachers among both the Catholic seminarians and the Protestant students from the Lutheran and Methodist schools in the Columbus theological consortium.

Father Ken Shaw T’78, recalls: “Bob was an outstanding Biblical scholar of the Old Testament. He had the gift of teaching that was recognized by both Catholic and non-Catholic students. You had to arrive at his teaching sessions early in order to be guaranteed a seat.”

Father Bob also taught Hebrew and Greek.

Father John Serio T’82 recalls: “When we had Bob for Greek at the Josephinum, his first lesson was ‘Greek is easy! Greek is fun! Don’t panic!’ He was right. It was a great class, we learned a great deal, and it was painless...never boring.”

Father Bob also served for several years as director of the Josephinum’s Master of Arts program and book review editor of the Josephinum Journal of Theology.

Outside the classroom, Father Bob was dedicated to visiting juvenile offenders in local confinement, together with some of the Salesian theology students. “I don’t think many people know how dedicated Bob was to visiting and ministering to incarcerated young men in Columbus,” said Father Serio. He often said Mass, heard confessions, and counseled [them]. On my first day, he took me on a tour [of one of the facilities] and, in the middle of it, he said, ‘Well, I have to go back to the ‘Phinum for my Greek class.’ He left me at the intersection of two long corridors. That was my introduction to a ‘part-time-that-became-almost-full-time’ ministry during my Columbus days. Bob enjoyed this immensely, and he was very instrumental for me and many others in this ministry.”

Besides the Sacred Scriptures—the Psalms, especially—Father Bob had two abiding passions: aircraft and ships. “If an airplane were flying overhead, Bob could tell you precisely what make and model it was, as well as how much it cost to manufacture it,” said Father Ruekert. “He would often drive near an airport, just to watch the planes land and take off.”

Father Bob left the Josephinum in 2001 to teach at Saint Vincent de Paul Seminary in Boynton Beach, FL, until 2004. He resided in the Salesian community in Saint Petersburg for a time, then at the Institute of Salesian Studies in Berkeley, CA. In 2006, he retired to the provincial house in New Rochelle.

A friend from Bob’s time at the Josephinum, Dr. James Yeager, a liturgical musician now living in New Mexico who remained a presence in Father Bob’s life until his last days, recalls him as “a good friend, colleague—funny, at times devilishly so. Yet he always was a man of honor and good faith. He was beloved by his students and rightfully so. He was dedicated to the best things that his vocation demanded.”
Father James Plough was born in 1933 in Puyallup, Washington, and was raised in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. At an early age, he expressed his desire to become a priest; his pastor organized a scholarship for young Jim to attend the Josephinum, where he studied for 12 years and was ordained.

Father Jim spent several years at the University of Notre Dame, completed a doctorate in American Religious History, then returned to the Josephinum where he taught history and scripture for 25 years. He spent a one-year sabbatical in the Diocese of Pueblo in 1974 which led him to seek incarnation into that diocese four years later. He served there as a parish priest for six years until Josephinum asked him to return to the faculty.

After his second term at the Josephinum, Father Jim returned to Pueblo in 1989 as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, where he was known for his memorable sermons. He developed an organization of lay leadership that enabled the parish to flourish and he also mentored many young assistants.

Retirement in 2003 brought with it a search for new ways to use his talents. He was a dedicated chaplain at Saint Mary Hospital for 16 years. He spent much of his leisure time working on compilations of his homilies, “Plough Shares,” with the sixth and last one published shortly before his death. He was an avid reader, especially of theology and spirituality, and used what he read to enhance his homilies.

Father Jim’s talent for teaching, whether in a university, in a Church or as chaplain, truly enriched his priestly service. When his advice or counsel was sought, he had a reputation for perceptive listening and questioning to reach the depths of what one was seeking.

Throughout his ministry, Father Jim had many roles: priest, pastor, confessor, friend, listener, teacher, leader, brother, and comedian. His ability to relate to everyone he met and to make them feel that they were especially important, that they had value and were lovable, was a rare talent that so many were able to experience. He always said that he was blessed, but it was the people he served who were blessed by his love for them.
Our oldest alumnus, Monsignor Gilbert R. Meyer of the Ordination Class of 1942, passed away on November 5, 2020, at the age of 105. He was a priest in the Diocese of Fresno for 78 years.

Gilbert Meyer was born on October 4, 1915, in Monroeville, OH. He entered the Josephinum at the age of 13 in response to God’s call to the priesthood. He was ordained on May 30, 1942, for the Diocese of Monterey-Fresno and spent his entire life in service to the Church as a parochial vicar, pastor, administrator, chaplain, and priestly presence to the imprisoned. He was fluent in eight language and even ministered to German prisoners during World War II.

Monsignor loved ice-skating, especially on the lakes in the High Sierra mountains. People everywhere were drawn to his charisma and outrageous sense of humor. In 1971, he was named an Honorary Prelate to His Holiness with the title of Monsignor. In his retirement, he continued substituting as needed at parishes in the eastern and western Sierras and western Nevada.

In 2012, Monsignor Meyer became a resident at New Bethany Residential Care in Los Banos, CA, where he was much loved by the sisters on staff. A November 6 story in the Los Banos Enterprise by Sister Fernanda Armas noted that “Monsignor Meyer, who served his Church with much love, dedication and enthusiasm, [was] a person of pleasant personality, always with a smile on his face. His positive attitudes contributed to his good health and long life.”

Monsignor Meyer’s 105th birthday was observed on October 10 with a Mass at New Bethany celebrated by the Most Reverend Joseph Brennan, Bishop of Fresno. “It was an occasion for all of us at New Bethany,” Sister Fernanda said, “to join Monsignor Meyer to thank and praise God for all the blessings and graces He has bestowed on him for the last 105 years.”

To celebrate his birthday and assure him of a remembrance in our prayers, dozens of birthday cards from Josephinum seminarians, faculty and staff were mailed to Monsignor Meyer at New Bethany.

Monsignor Meyer wrote to us in September, relaying that he was unable to attend our annual alumni reunion. He sent “greetings of peace and good will,” assured us of his thoughts and prayers, and encouraged everyone at the Josephinum to “keep up the good work for the greater honor and glory of God.” Rest in peace, Monsignor Meyer.
Father Leo A. Lynch  
Diocese of Altoona Johnstown  
Ordained May 15, 1993  
Died January 16, 2020

Leo A. Lynch was born in Altoona, PA. A graduate of Bishop Guilfoyle High School, he continued his education at Saint Francis University and spent time as an elementary school teacher in Altoona Catholic schools prior to entering the Josephinum.

After ordination, Father Lynch served for two years as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona. In the years following, he resided at Saint Mary Church and then at Sacred Heart Church, both in Altoona, while he was active in hospital ministry.

After two years as chaplain at Bishop Guilfoyle High School, Father Lynch served as the school’s principal from 1999-2004. He then was administrator of Our Lady of Fatima, Altoona; chaplain at SCI Smithfield; pastor at Saint Joseph Church, Williamsburg; and pastor at Saint Thomas More Church, Roaring Spring. He retired from active ministry in 2019.

Father Lynch enjoyed cooking, football, visiting Rome, March Madness basketball, and was a great supporter of athletics.

The Funeral Mass for Father Lynch was celebrated January 21 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church by Bishop Mark L. Barchak. Committal was at Calvary Cemetery.

Father John Izral  
Diocese of Natchez  
Ordained May 26, 1956  
Died January 22, 2020

Father John Izral was born in Catawba, WI, in 1926. He entered the Josephinum College in 1950 and graduated in 1956 with a Master of Divinity degree.

Following ordination, Father Izral’s first assignment was at Saint Richard Church in Jackson. Subsequent assignments were at Sacred Heart Church, Hattiesburg and Saint Michael Church, Forrest. In 1966, he was appointed founding pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Orange Grove and Saint Mary Church, Woolmarket, two of the many parishes where he oversaw construction of new church buildings.

In the late 1960s and 1970s, Father Izral was pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Greenwood; Sacred Heart Church, Rosedale; and Saint Francis Xavier Church, Wiggins. In 1980, he was appointed founding pastor of Holy Spirit Church, Vancleave where he joined his parishioners and members of neighboring churches in constructing the first church. In 1981, he served at the newly established Christ the King Mission in Latimer, where construction of the church began under his direction.

In the later years of his priesthood, Father John was pastor of Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church, Conyars, GA, and Saint Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Ford City, PA.

Throughout his priestly ministry and well into retirement, Father John was very active in the Charismatic Movement in New Orleans and along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. A compassionate, loving and patient priest, he was a spiritual director for many people whom he guided to trust in Jesus. He had a gift of explaining Scripture in a way that all could understand.

The Funeral Mass for Father Izral was held January 27 at Our Lady of the Gulf, Bay Saint Louis. Interment was in Saint Mary Cemetery.

Father Wayne Epperley, C.S.Sp.  
Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
Ordained October 1, 1983  
Died July 3, 2020

Wayne Epperley was born in 1954 in Ludwigshafen, Germany. He professed his vows as a member of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on August 1, 1978 at the Holy Ghost Novitiate in Ferndale, CT and was ordained in 1983 at Saint Marguerite’s Church in Tooele, Utah.

Father Epperley was appointed to the Spiritan mission in Mexico for 7 years and then was assigned to Saint Joseph Church in Conway, AR, until 1992. He spent a short time serving the missions in Brazil and then for health reasons returned to minister at Saint Anthony Church in Sterling, CO and Queen of Angels in Idyllwild, CA.

Subsequent assignments included Our Lady of the Valley, Hemet, CA; Saint Bridget Church, Milford, UT; Saint George Church, Saint George, UT; Saint Christopher Church, Kanab, UT; Saint Francis Xavier Church, Kearns, UT; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Salt Lake City; Old Saint Mary’s, Detroit, MI; and Holy Family Church, Detroit. His work among the poor and Hispanic community was greatly needed and appreciated.

The Funeral Mass for Father Epperley was celebrated July 9 at Old St. Mary’s in Detroit.
Monsignor Kenneth J. Schaefer  
Diocese of Belleville  
Ordained June 8, 1974  
Died July 11, 2020

Born in 1948 in Belleville, IL, Ken Schaefer began his journey to the priesthood at Saint Henry Preparatory Seminary. He received his BA in Philosophy/Sociology from Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa, and his MA in Theology from Josephinum.

For 46 years, Father Schaefer served the Church and community in many roles: associate pastor at Saint Henry and teacher at Althoff, Belleville, IL; co-pastor, administrator, and pastor of Mount Carmel and Saint Francisville; diocesan vocations director; administrator at Saint Clare, O’Fallon; and pastor at Saint Michael, Paderborn. Father Schaefer was named a Monsignor in 2000 and for the next twenty-six years served as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Herrin, Holy Spirit in Carterville, and as sacramental minister to Saint Paul in Johnston City.

Affectionately known as “Father Kenny,” Father Schaefer enjoyed traveling, bike riding, canoeing, kayaking and reading. His family is grateful to all the doctors, nurses and therapists who treated, cared for and supported him during his fight with cancer.

The Funeral Mass for Father Schaefer was celebrated July 20 at Saint James Church Center in Millstadt, IL with burial following in Saint James Cemetery.

Father Kent A. Hemberger  
Diocese of Wichita  
Ordained May 28, 1988  
Died July 22, 2020

Kent Hemberger was born in 1961 in Wichita. He attended Saint Joseph School in Conway Springs, Benedictine College in Atchison, Kanas, and the Josephinum.

Ordained in 1988, Father Hemberger served at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and Saint Anthony Church in Wichita. He then was named pastor of Saint Anne Church in Wichita, Director of the Spiritual Life Center, and pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Church in Andover. His experiences at the Catholic Worker House and training in Ignatian Spirituality guided his work and spiritual direction.

The Funeral Mass for Father Hemberger was celebrated August 1 at Church of the Magdalen.

Father Christopher G. Roberts  
Diocese of Lafayette  
Ordained June 16, 2007  
Died October 10, 2020

Christopher Roberts was born in 1979 to George and Bernadine (Steinbart) Roberts. He was 1997 graduate of Logansport High School, where he was valedictorian and excelled in extracurricular activities and athletics. In 2001, he graduated magna cum laude from Harvard University, and then pursued a priestly vocation at the Josephinum and the North American College in Rome. More recently, he completed his post graduate studies in Mariology (STL) at the University of Dayton.

Father Roberts began his priestly career as associate pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Carmel. He was then assigned to Saint Francis Newman Center at Ball State University and Saint Alphonsus Church, Zionsville. He was administrator and pastor of Saint Mary Church, Union City, and Saint Joseph Church, Winchester; resident priest at Saint Patrick Church, Kokomo; and pastor at Holy Family Church in Gas City.

Father Christopher had a deep devotion to prayer, a passion for celebrating the Mass, and was known widely as a brilliant homilist. Above all, he was a great scholar and teacher of the faith who shared his love of God by example and through his daily work with the many faith communities he served. Having gained fluency in Spanish through studies in Mexico and Spain, Father Christopher served the Hispanic community with dedication.

Father Christopher appreciated physical fitness, good cigars and great gelato. He shared his love of travel with friends and parishioners through pilgrimages to such places as Cuba, Italy, Spain, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. He is survived by his parents, siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

The Funeral Mass for Father Roberts was celebrated October 14 at Saint Paul Church by Bishop Timothy L. Doherty.

Monsignor Jeffrey Wald  
Diocese of Fargo  
Ordained June 6, 1992  
Died October 28, 2020

Jeffery Wald grew up learning the value of hard work on the family farm near Napoleon, ND. He carried that work ethic forward in serving others through all he did; he was a pillar of the communities where he was pastor and served his parents, family, friends, and anyone he met with love and kindness.

After ordination, Father Wald served for two years as parochial vicar at Saint Michael, Grand Forks. From 1994-1998, he was assigned to Saint Bernard, Oriska and Holy Trinity, Fingal and as diocesan vocations director. Following assignments included Saint Joseph, Devils Lake; Saint Benedict, Cray; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Starkweather; Holy Spirit, Fargo; Saint James Basilica, Jamestown; Saint Mathias, Windsor; Saint Margaret, Buchanan; and Saint Michael, Pingree.

Father Wald was named a monsignor in 2006 in part due to his service to Bishop James Sullivan in his aging years. He was an avid supporter of the schools attached to his parishes in Devils Lake, Fargo and Jamestown, and he felt education was essential to the Church’s mission. He led a $6 million renovation of Saint John Academy in Jamestown, which was completed just prior to his death.

Monsignor Wald was known for his unique sense of humor and his storytelling would often rival some of the best comics. His presence will be truly missed by all who loved him.

The Funeral Mass for Monsignor Wald was celebrated by Bishop Folda on November 3 at Saint Philip Neri in Napoleon. Burial was at Napoleon Cemetery.
Reverend Monsignor Dennis F. Sheehan
September 30, 1938 – November 20, 2020
Reverend Monsignor Dennis F. Sheehan, who served as 10th Rector/President of the Pontifical College Josephinum from 1986-1989, passed away unexpectedly on November 20th. A special story in recognition of Monsignor Sheehan may be found at www.pcj.edu.

Dr. Jose L. Gallegos ’66, December 20, 2019.
Veronica Rezabek, daughter-in-law of Marvin Rezabek ’73, December 27, 2019.
Dean Jacobs, brother of Dr. Dennis Jacobs T’85, January 2.
Jan L. Beery, step-father of Father Jeffrey Coning T’97, January 3.
Rebecca Droll, mother of Father Nicholas Droll C’08, January 13.
Delfina Landeros, mother of Father Emilio Chapa C’04, January 13.
Roy Cox ’65, January 14.
John Juncewicz, retired staff member, January 24.
Dave Nicholson, brother of staff member Doug Nicholson, January 28.
Eugene Mariani, Sr., father of Gene Mariani ’66, February 10.
Anna Schemine, sister of retired staff member Pete Schemine, February 26.
Donna Gilstrap, mother of Father Austin Gilstrap PT’11, February 29.
Michael Regan C’73, brother of Timothy Regan C’73, March 3.
Sean Lill, brother of Scott Lill T’00, March 24.
Leo L. Wehrlin, father of Father Leo Wehrlin C’88, March 29.
Al Roesch, brother of Father David Roesch ’67, April 2.
Theresa Pellegrino, mother of Msgr. Joseph Pellegrino T’77, April 5.
Edward E. Klos, father of Father Michael Klos T’92, April 6.
Theodore Cielecki ’57, April 7.
Martha Davis, mother of Paul Davis PT08, April 23.
John W. Gibbons ’61, May 1.
Richard Billian, father of Msgr. Michael Billian C’80, July 13.
Herbert Richey ’78, July 21.
Mark Harmon Hellinger, father of Mark D. Hellinger C’18, July 26.
John Driscoll ’68, July 28.
Julie Geiger, sister of Father Michael Geiger T’02, August 4.
John “Jack” Marder ’49, August 13.
Lyra (Haitz) Cahall, mother of faculty member Dr. Perry Cahall, August 19.
Fredric Montaldo, step-father of Jorge Sandoval PT’09, August 20.
Alice Dick, wife of Wayne Dick ‘58 and mother of Ronald Dick T’88, August 31.
Wayne A. Timby, father of Father Bryan Timby T’83, September 8.
Alvin Gross, father of Father James Gross T’99, September 27.
Daniel E. Boroto ’69, October 20.
Miroslaw Kasperczuk, father of faculty member Father Marek Kasperczuk, October 21.
Barry Schaller, brother of Father Robert Schaller ’87, November 24.
Ways You Can Give to the Josephinum
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Dear Benefactors and Friends,

The remarkable formation program for which the Pontifical College Josephinum has long been known owes its lasting legacy and confident future to the sacrifices and prayers of you, its faithful benefactors.

Your annual gifts and legacy gifts to the Josephinum make it possible for us to give our seminarians what they need academically, spiritually, environmentally, and socially, in a life-giving and joyful home that we call the House of Joseph.

As you prayerfully contemplate a donation – and perhaps consider leaving your legacy at the Josephinum – know that I am grateful for your support of the tradition of giving that was begun by our founder, Monsignor Joseph Jessing.

I ask that you please continue to pray for the men who are here in formation. Know that you are always invited to visit the House of Joseph; we would be honored to welcome you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau
Rector/President

P.S. Please reach out to our Advancement staff or visit our website at www.pcj.edu/give for guidance as you prayerfully consider making or planning a gift.
Ways You Can Give to the Josephinum

The Josephinum’s mission – to form men to be generous, holy priests – remains as sound and steadfast as ever. Just as our mission is steadfast, so too is the support of our alumni and friends. The remarkable formation program for which the Josephinum has long been known owes its lasting legacy and confident future to the sacrifices and prayers of our faithful benefactors. Your gifts to the Josephinum make it possible for us to give our seminarians what they need academically, spiritually, environmentally, and socially, in a life-giving and joyful “House of Joseph.”

No matter what level of giving you feel called to, please prayerfully consider what you are able to share. Every gift, ultimately, enables us at the Josephinum to be instruments of His plan, His glory, and the glory of His Church.

The three areas of charitable giving through which our alumni, parents and friends can make the greatest impact are described in greater detail below. They are annual gifts to the Josephinum Fund for Seminarian Education for day-to-day operations; capital campaign gifts for physical plant improvements and establishing an endowed fund or current use funds; and gifts from your estate and last will and testament. Our website provides a safe and secure giving portal as well as planning aides to assist you with transferring appreciated securities and making decisions on remembering the Josephinum in your estate.

Annual Fund Gifts for Seminary Operations

Cash Gifts Options
- The Josephinum sends out an annual fund appeal every fall; please consider a recurring gift!
- Give a safe and secure donation (one-time or recurring) online at www.pcj.edu/give
- Give by check or credit card using the envelope in every issue of the Josephinum Times
- The Josephinum recognizes all donors in its Donor Honor Roll on the Josephinum website

Appreciated Property, Including Stock/Securities
Please check with your advisor for any changes to tax laws regarding stock gifts
- A stock gift transfer form is available online at www.pcj.edu/give
- A gift of appreciated stock (typically held for longer than one year) is an ideal and tax-wise method of supporting the Josephinum.
- As an added benefit to the donor, gifts of appreciated stock avoid any capital gains on the increased value
of the appreciated property. Donors receive a full deduction for the full market value at the time of the gift and capital gains tax is not due when the stock is transferred to the Josephinum.

- The mean market value on the date of the transfer will determine the value of the gift for tax purposes. These specific valuations will be provided by Advancement Office staff.

**Donor Advised Funds**
- Donor Advised Funds (DAF) are an excellent vehicle to support the Josephinum.
- Instruct your foundation team to direct all DAF gifts to Pontifical College Josephinum
  
  7625 North High Street
  Columbus, OH 43235

- Our Federal Tax ID is 31-4379535

**IRA/Retirement Assets**

An ideal way to give to the Josephinum!

The laws and guidelines on making charitable gifts through your IRA are known to change based on circumstances beyond our control. Please consult with your tax advisor before you start planning a gift of retirement assets.

- Under normal circumstances, if you have an IRA and are over age 70 ½, you can amplify your gift to the Josephinum.
- If you instruct a direct transfer from your IRA to the Josephinum (by a custodian) in a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), you can exclude that amount from income on your tax return and lower your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

**Corporate Matching Gifts**

Contact the human resources or benefits office of your company to see if it has a matching gift program.

- Many companies provide funds to match gifts made by their employees and retirees to certain non-profit institutions. The Josephinum is registered as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization thus making it eligible to receive matching gifts.
- Matching gifts extend the donor's gift and make a more significant impact.
- These gifts enhance the philanthropy of the company while encouraging employees and retirees to support their favorite charities.

**Bonuses**

Individuals in sales or who have their own business may experience a year that is generating extra income and causing income tax issues. There are ways to schedule a multi-year commitment to the Josephinum yet take the entire tax deduction for the current year. Again, it is important to conduct due diligence up front with a tax advisory team.
**Investment Real Estate / Agriculture/ Other Income-Producing Assets**

A truly diverse portfolio of assets comes with special goals and unique challenges. The income from these assets can be directed toward the Josephinum for a period of years, while keeping the assets intact and returned to you or your heirs at a later date. If you have these kinds of unique assets, we can help to work out a plan that makes the most sense for you and your charitable goals.

**Collectibles**

Do you have antiques, art, vintage automobiles or other types of high-end collectibles? Often these assets were acquired for enjoyment but have since become a burden in terms of insurance costs, maintenance, and storage. By gifting them to the Josephinum, items that are not producing income and are likely costing you money can be put to good use for the House of Joseph. Reach out to us to find ways to work with our partners to convert these assets both to help the Josephinum and maximize your benefit.

**Family Gifts**

If you are part of a wonderfully-supportive family that gives together, the popular concept of family giving might be an ideal way for parents and siblings to combine pledges and make a larger statement of support.

**In-Kind Gifts**

- Gifts of building materials, goods, or services are accepted by the Josephinum with prior approval from our treasurer’s office
- The Josephinum will provide a letter of receipt; note that, per IRS statute, the seminary does not provide a fair market value on gift-in-kind goods and services
- Donors may pursue valuation through a qualified appraisal service or other appropriate valuation techniques

**Other Ways to Give**

- Brokerage Accounts
- Certificates of Deposit (CD’s)
- Checking Accounts with POD provisions (payable upon death)
- Personal Property, i.e., collections, royalty, and mineral rights
- Saving Accounts

**Property That Has Lost Value**

- Donor sells the property, takes a loss for tax purposes, and then contributes the sale proceeds
- A tax deduction is given for both the loss and the charitable gift
Real Estate
• A donor may gift a residence, farm, or vacation home, reserving a right of occupancy as long as donor and spouse are living
• Irrevocable gift qualifies for immediate tax deduction based on present value of remainder interest
• Assign directly to the organization or, preferably, transfer through a broker.
Amount of contribution is fair market value on the date of transfer.

Closely Held Stock
• Produces a current tax deduction equal to fair market value of the stock.
• Could reduce liability for accumulated earnings tax

Capital Campaigns for Physical Plant Improvements
From time to time, the Josephinum embarks on a major fundraising initiative, such as a capital campaign or focused fundraising effort, to: improve buildings and grounds; renovate and restore, our chapels; support campus technology improvements to meet the demands of the current times and enhance our ability to recruit and retain pre-eminent faculty.
Some individuals have been especially blessed by the Lord with material means. Setting up a permanent endowment or an annual current-use fund allows donors to focus their charity on a specific area at the Josephinum.
• Capital campaigns are structured to align with the institution’s strategic plans
• Campaigns require a generous response from a smaller percentage of longtime donors
• Campaigns focus on tuition assistance for seminarians; recruitment and retention of preeminent faculty; technology upgrades; and brick and mortar expansion or renovations to our buildings and grounds
• Improvements and renovations to our four chapels and sacred places

Establishing a Named Endowed Fund or Current-Use Fund
• Your endowment will exist at the Pontifical College Josephinum in perpetuum and can be funded with cash, appreciated stock, or proceeds from a sale of personal property during a donor’s lifetime (sometimes known as Living Endowment)
• Endowed funds are also established through a bequest in a donor’s estate (known as a Testamentary Endowment) and are funded as part of the settlement of the decedent’s estate
• Current-use funds serve the same purpose as
endowed funds but are not set up on a permanent basis. Rather they are funded annually and on a recurring basis with cash gifts that provide funding to a specific area of need at the Josephinum.

• Current-use funds exist as long as the donor provides the cash funding annually.

Remembering the Josephinum in Your Last Will and Testament

• Leaving a gift to the Josephinum in a will is a long-honored tradition among alumni, parents and friends of the seminary

• To honor our founder’s vision and life’s work to create an affordable institution for all seminarians from all walks of life, The Jessing Society was established to recognize donors who declared a gift in their Last Will & Testament

• Federal and state laws on income and inheritance taxes require that all donors consult with an experienced financial advisor/tax advisor prior to finalizing a planned-giving strategy

• The Josephinum’s estate-giving document may be found online at: www.pcj.edu/plannedgiving

• Please refer to the estate-planning section of this Charitable Giving Guide for greater details on how you can add the Josephinum as a beneficiary in your Last Will & Testament

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How will my gift to the Josephinum Fund be used?
A: Your generous support of our Annual Fund will go toward the day-to-day operations of The House of Joseph. That means, of course, the direct beneficiaries of your generosity are the seminarians! This is our highest priority for charitable giving.

Q. How much should I pledge?
A: Please take this question to prayer, and give as you feel called and within your means.

Q. I have never made a recurring gift. Why start now?
A: Gifts of this nature allow most contributors to consider a more significant contribution overall. While one-time gifts have great meaning and value, monthly sustained giving helps the Josephinum on a consistent level.

Q. Can I establish a named fund without endowing it?
A: Yes. These are “Current Use Named Funds.” The criteria is developed in coordination with our rector and treasurer. Instead of being invested in perpetuity, current-use funds require lump-sum cash gifts that are spent in their entirety each fiscal year. Your fund will require a replenishment of cash funding at that same level each and every year.
Still have questions? Please email us at give@pcj.edu or call Vice President for Advancement, Mr. Doug Stein, at 614-985-2325 or Advancement Director, Mrs. Meghan Henschen, at 614-985-2234.

Nota Bene
• The information offered herein is derived from multiple public sources and should not be taken as legal advice.
• Please consult with your personal team of advisors when making decisions

A Final Note
We recognize that your charitable giving is, ultimately, about giving to God and building His Kingdom here on earth. The Josephinum enjoys a long tradition of charitable giving that dates back to its founding in 1888. Our founder, Monsignor Joseph Jessing, was a tireless fundraiser. He knew that seminary education required gifts from the community wide and far. Over the years, that tradition of charity grew into capital campaigns to fund the New Josephinum, as well as gifts left to us by alumni and friends who named the Josephinum in their wills. Please keep in your prayers our beloved Josephinum and the men here who will be our future priests. May God reward you!

Questions? Please contact us!
Please contact us if you have any questions or need more information regarding making or planning a gift to the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Douglas H. Stein
Vice President for Advancement
614-985-2325 • dstein@pcj.edu

Meghan J. Henschen
Director of Advancement
614-985-2234 • mhenschen@pcj.edu

Support the Josephinum on Social Media!
• Follow our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn
• Like and share our posts
• Invite your friends and family to follow us
• Engage with our content (i.e. comment)
• Alumni – list the Josephinum as your school attended on LinkedIn

Amazon Smile
AmazonSmile is an easy way to support the Josephinum! When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Josephinum, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on any web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones.
A Tradition of Charitable Support

Monsignor Joseph Jessing knew that operating an orphanage and seminary relied on God’s Providence and the charity resting in the hearts of the faithful. After consultation with and a blessing from Bishop Sylvester Rosecrans, then Bishop of Columbus, Monsignor founded Saint Joseph Orphanage in 1875 in Pomeroy, Ohio, 100 miles southeast of Columbus on the Ohio River.

The orphanage soon outgrew its home and was moved to Columbus in 1877. The Collegium Josephinum was founded 11 years later in 1888 and it, too, began to flourish. In December 1892, the Josephinum was designated “Pontifical” by Pope Leo XIII. The Josephinum’s scholarship program began the following September, when Monsignor Jessing pooled donations that arrived from across the country due to the wide distribution of his German-language newspaper, Ohio Waisenfreund. He named that first scholarship after Saint Peter.

Most of the mailed donation envelopes contained a slip of paper bearing the name of the seminarian the donor wished to sponsor, followed by a town and state, or simply just the state. Monsignor referred to these early donors as his “collaborators” and adopted a practice of listing them and the value of their contribution in the newspaper and, later, in the newsletter The Josephinum Review. That tradition continued until 1967, when the last issue of the The Josephinum Review was published.

The Josephinum Endowment: A Brief History

From the Josephinum’s inception in 1888, founder Monsignor Joseph Jessing dedicated his life’s work to a plan for a “completely free” institution where students would “receive their education, maintenance and all they need, free of charge; all for the glory of God.” This premise was composed by Monsignor Jessing in 1893, in the wake of the Josephinum’s new-found pontifical status granted late the previous year.

By Jessing’s design, the primary means of financing each student was profits from newspaper subscriptions and charitable gifts generated through the Ohio Waisenfreund, the German-language weekly newspaper founded 20 years earlier by Jessing in Pomeroy, Ohio. In the early 1890s the circulation of the paper exceeded 40,000 and contributions in support of the seminary were given visible recognition on a weekly basis.

Msgr. Jessing knew intuitively, however, that a permanent funding solution was needed to carry the seminary through economic ups and downs. He created a development plan to pool gifts and, when $5,000 was
raised (equal to $145,000 today), invest that founding principal in an endowment for tuition assistance.

The plan came together during the 1892-93 academic year when the Josephinum took part in the national and local observances of the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus’ discovery of the New World. A consummate strategic planner, Monsignor Jessing arranged two prominent tributes to commemorate this historic observance – one at The World’s Columbian Exhibit of 1892-93 (also known as the Chicago World’s Fair) and the other in Columbus, Ohio.

The first tribute was Monsignor Jessing’s commissioning of a 9-foot copper statue of Christopher Columbus created by artist Alfonso Pelzer and, for $500, commissioned through the W.H. Mullins Studio Co, of Salem, Ohio. The 150-pound statue was placed on a horse-drawn cart and, with the Josephinum Band playing, the fanfare made its way through the streets of downtown Columbus to the statue’s destination of the seminary’s main courtyard at 18th and Main. When the Josephinum moved its campus north of Worthington in 1932, the statue was gifted to the people of Ohio and found its new home at the Ohio Statehouse. Photographs of the Columbus statue were placed on display at the Josephinum’s World’s Fair exhibit.

The second tribute was a magnificent High Altar created by the craftsmen of the Josephinum Altar Works Company and the orphan boys who were being trained as woodworkers at the Josephinum’s industrial school. This breathtaking Gothic altar was made of American oak, white mahogany, and red mahogany; it measured 23-feet high and 14-feet wide, with a 9-foot altar table. The 12 columns supporting the table were made of red mahogany. The upper structure comprised three parts. The exposition tabernacle and repository are in the central baldachin-turret. The two grand side towers contained niches for life-sized statues of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. Next to the tabernacle were two adoring angels on pillars with rich and artistic capitals, under corresponding baldachins. Between the central and side structure high above the gradation were reliquaries of white mahogany in a rich enclosure under elegant canopies. The richly jointed altar with its many elaborate pinnacles was entirely of carved work. All columns on the altar were of red mahogany. 133 artistically carved cross-flowers surmounted as many turrets and pinnacles. The steps and platforms were made of chestnut with elegantly inlaid work.

In the middle of the antependium was a niche containing a carved wooden panel of the Lamb of God surrounded by the symbols of the four Evangelists carved in white mahogany. According to the description provided by Sacred Heart Church the two carved plaques of the four Evangelists can be found in Ezekiel 1:1-21. The prophet Ezekiel had a vision in which he saw four living creatures whose form was human, and “Each had four faces, each had four wings... As to the
appearance of their faces all four had a human face, and a lion’s face to the right, and all four had a bull’s face to the left, and all four had an eagle’s face.” Revelation 4:6-8 relates a vision of living creatures shown again as a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle. Saint Irenaeus (140-202 AD) related these images to the four Gospel writers in his treatise, Adversus Haereses.

The Sacred Heart Church description of the altar reads, “Saint Matthew is represented by a divine man because his Gospel highlights Jesus’ entry into this world and shows the humanity of Jesus. Saint Mark is represented by the lion because his Gospel portrays the kingship or royalty of Jesus. The lion is a symbol of royalty. The winged ox represents Saint Luke because his Gospel tells of temple sacrifice and portrays Jesus as priest and redemptive sacrifice. The ox was used during the Old Testament times as a temple sacrifice. Saint John is represented by the rising eagle because his Gospel shows the divinity of Jesus—the glory of an only Son. Saint John delves deep into the mystery of God and relates the most profound teachings of Jesus to those who are reading his Gospel.”

The magnificent altar attracted the attention of German native Mr. George Kanne, a businessman from Saint Louis, who purchased the altar for his German-speaking parish of Holy Rosary. Monsignor Jessing invested Mr. Kanne’s payment of $5,000 (which arrived by check on December 6, 1893, the Feast of Saint Nicholas) as the founding investment of the Josephinum’s first endowed scholarship.

(As a footnote to this fascinating history, the 1893 altar was too high for the sanctuary at Holy Rosary Church, so Kanne arranged for it to be sent to Sacred Heart Church in Florissant, MO, which had just been rebuilt following a devastating fire. The altar remained there until 1958 when it was dismantled due to irreparable damage caused by termites. Elements of the altar have been preserved at Sacred Heart Church: The carved plaques of the four evangelists are part of the ambo; the Lamb of God graces sacristy; one of the angel statues is displayed at the Sacred Heart History Museum; and the hand-carved statues of Saints Peter and Paul stand inside the front entrance to the church.)

A second endowment, dedicated to Saint George, was initiated just a few weeks later when $1,000 arrived from Father Francis J. Vallazza, SJ, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Florissant. In early January 1894, a third endowment, named in honor of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, was established with a gift made by an elderly priest of the Diocese of Vincennes, IN.

This initial groundswell of support was well-publicized by Monsignor Jessing and led to the establishment of 50 privately funded endowments; individuals, families, congregations, and Catholic fraternal organizations from all over the country responded to promotions in the Ohio Waisenfreund. The charitable funds were pooled and invested in a local bank where they earned interest
that would cover tuition, room, and board, as well as ancillary expenses for seminarians – many of whom were from families who could not afford such things. Whenever a new endowment would come to fruition, Monsignor Jessing called together a convocation of the seminarians and the orphans who would sing the Te Deum. This became one of the sacred traditions of the Josephinum.

Endowed Fund Collaborators

The Josephinum Endowment, one of the most important financial assets for our seminary, is a perpetual source of income for the mission of preparing men for the holy priesthood. Our endowment is made up of 2 faculty chairs; 1 professorship; 3 endowments for general operating support; 3 endowments for spiritual formation; 1 endowment for the Rector-President’s discretionary use; 2 endowments for library books/journals/subscriptions; 10 funds for scholarship and need-based tuition assistance; 3 funds for scholarships and expenses for academic instruction; 1 fund for seminarians’ annual pilgrimage to Rome; 1 fund for seminarian grants; 1 fund for human formation; and 1 fund for a retirement fund for alumni priests.

FACULTY CHAIRS & PROFESSORSHIPS

Sharron Rider and PFC William Anderson Professorship

Established in September 2014 in memory of Sharron Rider and her brother, Private First Class William Anderson. The investment earnings underwrite the salary, benefits, and other associated costs of a professor or lecturer with the College or School of Theology.

Bishop James Griffin Chair in Canon Law

Established in December 2002 in honor of James A. Griffin, who served as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Columbus from April 1983 to October 2004. The annual investment earnings underwrite the annual salary, benefits, and other associated costs of a professor of canon law, and/or a faculty position designated by the Rector.

Cardinal Pio Laghi Chair for Visiting Professors in Scripture and Theology

Established in April 1990 by longtime benefactors of the Josephinum and generous donors across the United States in honor of Cardinal Pio Laghi, who served as Saint Pope John Paul II’s Nuncio to the United States and Chancellor of the Josephinum from 1980 to 1990. The annual investment earnings underwrite the annual salary, benefits, and other associated costs of a faculty position designated by the Rector, and the expenses of the Josephinum Journal of Theology.
The Mildred M. Daniel Memorial Fund
Established March 1993 by the family of Mildred M. Daniel, a native of Tiffin, Ohio, in her memory to support the Josephinum Library and seminarian scholarships.

Canon John J. Flattery Library Endowment Fund
Established May 12, 2011 by Very Reverend Canon John J. Flattery, a member of the Josephinum’s Ordination Class of 1955, to support the PCJ Library annual acquisition of books, subscriptions, and other resources as well as new methods of delivering library information.

Building Spiritual Bridges To The Future Fund
Established in 2002 by the generous donors of the Josephinum for general operating support, seminarian scholarships, library technology and collections, spiritual and pastoral life, and faculty development.

Father Virgil Riedlinger Seminarian Support Fund
Established in December 1994 from the estate of Rev. Virgil J. Riedlinger, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, to provide for the welfare, maintenance, and support of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Father Virgil Riedlinger Priest Retirement Fund
Established in December 1994 from the estate of Rev. Virgil J. Riedlinger, a priest of the Diocese of Toledo, to provide financial assistance to retired priest alumni of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Cecilia J. Sponsel Support Fund
Established in February 2003 from the estate of Cecilia J. Sponsel of Durango, Colorado to provide financial assistance for day-to-day operations at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Class of 1965 Endowment Fund
Established in October 2015 on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary Year of the PCJ Class of 1965, to provide financial assistance to meet the greatest needs Josephinum at the discretion of its President-Rector.

Sir Virgil C. and Ann Dechant Fund
Established in 1992 by the generous donors of the Josephinum in honor of Supreme Knight, Sir Virgil C. Dechant and his wife Ann, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and expenses related to academic
instruction. At the time of his death in February 2020, Virgil, a former student at PCJ and twice a Trustee of the PCJ Board, was the longest serving Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

Monsignor Clarence Deruntz Scholarship Fund
Established in 1995 by the generous donors of the Josephinum in honor of Monsignor Deruntz, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum and expenses related to academic instruction.

Josephinum General Scholarship Fund
Established in 1992 by the generous donors of the Josephinum, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum, and expenses related to academic instruction.

Wacek Endowed Scholarship Fund
Established in December 2003 by the Wacek Trust, this fund provides scholarships to seminarians from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, the State of Kansas, and seminarians sent to the Pontifical College Josephinum by Bishop Thomas J. Olmstead, for the School of Theology at the discretion of the Rector of the Josephinum. Additional earnings of this fund may also benefit the School of Theology for its annual educational trip to Rome.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Diocese of Columbus Scholarship Fund
Established in January 1993 by the Diocese of Columbus as part of the Josephinum’s Second Century of Progress Campaign, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Monsignor David A. Gernatt Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established in June 1997 by Monsignor David A. Gernatt, a member of the Josephinum’s Ordination Class of 1947, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

William F. and Rose Geiger Hahn Endowed Scholarship Fund
Established in May 2008 by J. Nick and Iris Hahn of Bellevue, Ohio, this fund subsidizes the education and formation of seminarians at the Pontifical College Josephinum at the discretion of the President-Rector.

Mirolo Scholarship Fund
Established in February 2007 from the estate of Miss Amelita Mirolo in honor of her parents Louis and Adelina Mirolo, and her brother Peter Mirolo, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.
Arthur J. Prendergast Jr. Scholarship Fund
Established in October 1996 by the William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation, this scholarship is in memory of Arthur Prendergast, an attorney who for many years served as a member of the Josephinum's Board of Trustees. This fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Anthony C. Ramm Scholarship Fund
Established in December 1994, from the estate of Anthony C. Ramm of Fort Wayne, Indiana, this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

H. John III and Kathleen E. Sauer Scholarship Fund
Established in October 2002, from John and Kathleen Sauer of St. Louis County, Missouri this fund provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum with preference going to a seminarian from a Missouri diocese.

Henry and Christina Schmenk Memorial Scholarship Fund
Established in 1993 from the estate of Monsignor Cleo S. Schmenk, a member of the Josephinum's Ordination Class of 1953, to honor Monsignor Schmenk’s parents, provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Walsh Family Scholarship Fund
Established in December 1997 from the estate of Sarah H. Walsh, provides tuition assistance to seminarians in need at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Zahniser Scholarship Fund
Established in May 2005 from Dr. Marvin R. and Adrienne A. Zahniser, this fund provides financial assistance to college seminarians from the Diocese of Columbus enrolled at the Pontifical College Josephinum.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND HUMAN FORMATION

Roger and Sally Baughman Fund: Preparing Spiritual Fathers for the New Evangelization
Established in December 2011 by Roger and Sally Baughman of Columbus, Ohio, to provide financial assistance for the Josephinum’s spiritual formation activities, including retreats, and retreat directors.

Elizabeth Frost & Family Endowment
Established in October 2004 from Thomas F. Frost and Family of Williamstown, New Jersey, to honor the memory of his beloved wife, Elizabeth Frost, to support the formation of excellent priests and to provide financial assistance for the Josephinum’s spiritual formation and education activities.
Father Lawrence Landini Fund
Established in June 2005 by Reverend Lawrence C. Landini, O.F.M., a former member of the Josephinum faculty, to provide financial assistance for the Josephinum’s spiritual formation activities.

The Dr. Glenn, Margaret and Elsie Haninger Endowment Fund
Established in October 2011 by Dr. Glenn Haninger, a Past Chief of Staff and Past Chairman of Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology, St. Ann’s Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, in loving memory of his first wife Margaret and second wife Elsie both who predeceased him, to provide financial assistance for the Josephinum’s human formation programs.

EXTERNAL ENDOWMENTS
We are fortunate to have the following funds held in perpetuity outside the Josephinum's treasury, for the exclusive benefit of the Pontifical College Josephinum.

Monsignor Anthony Borrelli ’53 Seminarian Assistance Fund
Established in January 2014 at The Catholic Foundation of Ohio from the estate of 1953 alumnus, Monsignor Anthony Borrelli, to provide financial assistance to seminarians of the Diocese of Columbus at the Pontifical College Josephinum. NB: Monsignor Borrelli was awarded the Msgr. Joseph Jessing Alumnus of the Year in 2012.

Sally and Tom O’Keefe Family Endowment Fund
Established by the Sally and Tom O’Keefe Family at The Catholic Foundation of Ohio to provide financial assistance to the Pontifical College Josephinum.

The Rimelspach Family Endowment Fund for the Pontifical College Josephinum
Established in January 2017 at The Catholic Foundation of Ohio by Reverend Jeffrey J. Rimelspach, a 1979 undergraduate alumnus, for the general needs of the Pontifical College Josephinum

Creating Your Named Endowment Fund at the Josephinum
Your endowment will exist at the Pontifical College Josephinum in perpetuum and can be funded with cash, appreciated stock, or proceeds from a sale of personal property during a donor’s lifetime (sometimes known as Living Endowment). Endowed Funds are also established through a bequest in a donor’s estate (known as a Testamentary Endowment) and are funded as part of the settlement of the donor’s estate. All endowment funds require the drafting of specific awards criteria and the scope/purpose of the fund, which is executed with a signed endowment agreement between the donor and the Josephinum rector/president or designee. Once the funding is
in place for at least one year, the endowment will produce an annual cash award that can fund a wide range of needs for the Josephinum: annual operations; faculty chairs and professorships; scholarships/financial aid for seminarians; faculty development; library resources; spiritual and pastoral life; a travel abroad program for annual pilgrimages, and a priest-alumni retirement fund.

Levels of Endowed Fund Support

- Endowed Named Faculty Chair = $1.2 million
- Endowed Named Faculty Professorship = $700,000
- Endowed Named Full Scholarship = $800,000 (based on annual tuition of $41,000)
- Endowed Named Partial Scholarship = $100,000 (distributes annual award of approx. $4,000)
- Endowed Named Unrestricted Fund = $100,000 (distributes annual award of approx. $4,000)

Resources are available online at www.pcj.edu/give to assist you in discerning a permanent endowment at the Josephinum.

Creating Your Named Current-Use Fund at the Josephinum

Current-Use funds serve the same purpose as endowed funds but are not set up on a permanent basis. Rather they are funded annually and on a recurring basis with cash gifts that provide funding to a specific area of need at the Josephinum. Current-Use funds exist as long as the donor provides the cash funding annually. All Current-Use Funds require the drafting of awards criteria and the scope/purpose of the fund, which is executed with a signed gift agreement between the donor and the Josephinum rector/president or designee. Examples of current use funds will help the Josephinum with a wide range of needs: annual operations; beautification and upkeep for our buildings and grounds; sacred fixtures and furnishings for our 4 chapels; scholarships/financial aid for seminarians; faculty development; and library resources.

Levels of Current-Use Support

- Current-Use Named Faculty Chair = $75,000 cash gift annually
- Current-Use Named Faculty Professorship = $30,000 cash gift annually
- Current-Use Named Full Scholarship = $40,000 cash gift annually
- Current-Use Named Partial Scholarship = $5,000 to $10,000 cash gift annually
- Current-Use Named Unrestricted Fund = $5,000 cash gift annually
Josephinum Endowment Q&A

Q: How do we decide the name of an endowment?
A: That is a decision made by you as the donor(s). Endowments can be named for yourself, your family, a mentor, a beloved pastor or professor, your company – so that is your decision to make.

Q: What other instruments are required?
A: The Josephinum requires all endowments to have an agreement that spells out the criteria and purpose of the fund. The agreement also outlines our seminary’s endowment management policies and fund-distribution procedures.

Q: Should we speak to legal counsel regarding our endowment agreement?
A: Many donors do ask for input from attorneys and estate planning professionals, however the Josephinum uses easy-to-understand language widely adaptable on most endowment agreements. Our treasurer’s office will work with you to establish the parameters of the endowment, and make ourselves available to offer counsel as we partner with you in building this fund.

Q: Can I create an endowment fund with a gift through my estate plan?
A: Yes, those are known as Testamentary Endowments and are popular estate-planning instruments among alumni, parents and friends of the Josephinum. It’s very important to be cognizant of the Josephinum’s endowment funding levels which may increase/rise over the lifetime of the donor.

Q: A member of my family has an endowment at the Josephinum. Can I contribute to that?
A: Yes, absolutely. Gifts are added in regularity to many of our existing endowments. If there is an honoree whom you wish to notify about your gift, our Advancement staff will send a gift notification. In the case of a memorial event, we will send a gift notification to the next of kin.

Q: How does the Josephinum determine annual distributions from the fund? Are there any administrative assessments against endowments?
A: The specifics of your endowment agreement with the Josephinum will determine the annual allocation of the cash award. Those terms are spelled out between you the donor and the Josephinum. There are management expenses associated with all endowments so the Josephinum will assess charges and costs against the ongoing earnings of the fund.
Naming the Josephinum in Your Last Will & Testament

There are many ways to plan your gift to the Pontifical College Josephinum, all of which honor your personal needs while also supporting the mission of the seminary. A gift from your estate aligns with the prayerful vision of our founder, Monsignor Joseph Jessing, whose tireless efforts to cultivate financial support for his beloved Josephinum fulfilled his vow to provide for all qualified applicants regardless of their financial means. We are proud to continue that tradition.

Leaving the Josephinum a Bequest in Your Will or Trust

Naming the Josephinum as a beneficiary in your Last Will & Testament is one of the greatest honors you can bestow on this institution. Whether you are an alumnus, parent(s) of an alumnus, a volunteer, a Friend of the Josephinum, or an ambassador – remembering the Josephinum in your will helps to further Monsignor Jessing’s vision for a pontifical seminary that is fully-equipped to prepare the next generation of men for the priesthood.

A gift from your estate helps the Josephinum in its planning for the future and also ensures that your gift is properly designated when it is received.

Bequests from your estate may be specified in dollar (USD) amounts, a percentage, a part, or 100% of your estate after settlement of any obligations. Such bequests are deductible for estate and gift tax purposes, so please consult with a tax advisor. The following is a brief wording of how the Josephinum may be included in your will for the first time or in a codicil to your existing will:

“I, (your full legal name), of (City, State, and ZIP), give, devise, and bequeath the sum of (specific dollar amount, percentage of the estate, or description of property) to the Pontifical College Josephinum, 7625 North High Street, Columbus, OH, 43235 Federal Tax I.D. is 31-4379535, to be used for unrestricted financial support to prepare men for the ordained priesthood (or specify a desired purpose).”

To leave a gift to the Josephinum in your will, please fill out our Bequest Notification Form available via downloadable PDF at: www.pcj.edu/plannedgiving

All completed/signed forms should be sent to us via US mail to:
Pontifical College Josephinum
7625 North High Street
Columbus, OH, 43235
Other Ways to Give in a Bequest

- Cash
- Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and U.S. Savings Bonds
- Appreciated stock/securities
- Appreciated mutual fund shares
- Appreciated bonds
- Retirement plan assets (IRA; 401(k) & 403(b))
- Life insurance policies
- Appreciated real estate such as house, land, and buildings
- Personal property such as artwork

Beneficiary Designation Forms (TOD or POD)

Many people feel that if they have a will or trust they are finished with their estate planning and the important work of distributing their earthly assets. However, many assets are not covered by a will or trust.

- Retirement assets, i.e., your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or 401(k) plan/403(b) plan can be transferred at death. NB: the donor must fill out a beneficiary designation form with the plan’s administrator. A financial planner can advise the donor on the tax consequences with retirement plan assets.
- Bequeathing retirement assets is an excellent way to support the Josephinum as the assets pass tax-free.
- Insurance policies, financial accounts like bank or brokerage accounts, Certificates of Deposit (CDs) and US Savings Bonds are other assets that must be designated specifically in the estate plan. As the owner of these assets, the donor must complete the proper beneficiary designation forms – either Transfer-on-Death (TOD) or Pay-on-Death (POD) forms. Be sure to keep your beneficiary designations on these assets up to date to reflect where you wish your gift to go upon your death. The Josephinum is honored you would consider sharing your retirement plan assets, insurance policies and financial accounts as an eternal steward of the only pontifical seminary outside of Italy.

The Jessing Society

Once your plan has been received and documented with our Advancement Office, the Josephinum will invite you to a lifetime membership in The Jessing Society. Members are welcomed to an annual Mass and gathering with our administration, faculty, and seminarians, and are provided with timely updates on the seminary. If you have already included the Josephinum in your estate plans but are not yet a member of The Jessing Society, please contact our Vice President for Advancement, Mr. Douglas Stein at dstein@pcj.edu or by phone (614) 985-2325.

Jessing Society Ambassadors

Since its founding in 1888, the Josephinum has benefited from the expert advice of attorneys and
financial advisors who assist their clients with giving options and tax-wise estate planning. If you do not have a will or estate plan and would like financial advice on leaving your legacy at the Josephinum, please contact one of our Jessing Society Ambassadors listed below. All fees for professional services rendered by these professionals apply.

**Ambassadors Serving the Josephinum**

**Joseph F. Bettendorf**  
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If you are a practicing trusts and estate attorney, Certified Financial Planner, or tax advisor, and wish to be listed online or in future editions of our Charitable Giving Guide, please contact our Vice President for Advancement, Doug Stein, VP for Advancement at dstein@pcj.edu or call him at (614) 985-2325.
Monsignor Joseph Jessing
The Josephinum Story

The Josephinum owes its existence to men who have said “Yes” to their calling to the priesthood.

Our story for nearly 2,000 priests who were formed at the Josephinum begins with the vision of a determined and inspirational German immigrant named John Joseph Jessing (1836-1899), who was born in the city of Muenster, in Westphalia, Germany, on November 17, 1836. Jessing’s father died when he was only four years old, plunging the family into poverty. Those difficult years would form young Jessing into a champion of the poor and orphaned when his own vocation to the priesthood culminated 28 years later.

At age 14, Jessing left school and started working as a lithographer to support his mother and younger brother. He later joined the Prussian army, distinguishing himself as an artillery sergeant and earning five medals for bravery. But Jessing yearned for something greater and while he was starting to set his sights on a vocation, he accepted a position as a secretary of a Tyrolese aristocrat and lived for three years in a castle in Rotholz in what is modern-day Austria. It was here that Jessing took dozens of pilgrimages to shrines, abbeys, and feast day celebrations in some of the most beautiful vistas on the planet. He was introduced to Father Eugene Schraz who fostered in him a vocation to the priesthood and tutoring in Latin, German, history, and rudiments of theology. It was in this region of the country that Jessing was introduced to German shorthand and he became a master teacher of Gabelsberger.

When his mother died in 1867, Jessing left Westphalia and sailed for America, with the intention of becoming a priest and of serving the Church in the United States. In Germany, Jessing’s age and lack of formal education prevented him from studying for the priesthood; in America, he would be free to pursue that vocation but it was up to him to establish advocates who would help him gain admittance to a seminary.

Jessing’s passage to America brought with it many weeks of sea sickness and a serious intestinal infection. Soon after arriving in Baltimore, Maryland, he set out for Cincinnati, Ohio, where there was a strong German-speaking community. With the assistance of a family friend in Terre Haute, Indiana, Jessing was recommended to the pastor of St. Joseph Church in Hamilton, Ohio, where he spent the next year establishing his credentials as a Catholic school teacher. He became the founding principal of St. Joseph School where he was in charge of 200 students. After a year of teaching school and orchestrating the building of a new school building, Jessing entered Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, and after three years of study, was ordained to the priesthood on July 16, 1870 by the first bishop of Columbus, Sylvester H. Rosecrans. Father Jessing was made pastor of Sacred Heart Church,
a German immigrant parish in Pomeroy, Ohio, a small mining town on the Ohio River.

It was in Pomeroy that Father Jessing found a number of orphaned boys in his parish who had no one to care for them. Realizing that an orphanage was needed and, undaunted by lack of funds, Father Jessing found a way to raise the money necessary to build an orphanage. Relying on his fellow German immigrants for support, he began a German-language newspaper, named *The Ohio*, in 1873; Father Jessing was the sole journalist and publisher. Circulation increased rapidly, and the name soon changed to *Ohio Waisenfreund* (*Ohio Orphan's Friend*). He used the newspaper as a fund-raising organ but also to provide much needed religious instruction for his German-speaking readers. Jessing's paper met with great success and soon became one of the most widely read German language publications in the United States.

After careful coordination with the Bishop Rosecrans, Saint Joseph Orphanage was built and dedicated in May 1875. Just two years later, in 1877, with the bishop's blessing, Father Jessing moved Saint Joseph's to Columbus, Ohio, to a campus on the eastern edge of downtown at 18th Street and Main Street, which was originally named "Friend Street." As the boys grew older, four of them expressed the desire to study for the priesthood. Father Jessing would see to it that their vocations were met and more. In the July 4, 1888, issue of *Ohio Waisenfreund*, he announced that he would educate two additional boys for the priesthood, if he could find suitable candidates. Twenty-three boys from 11 states responded and asked to be received. Not knowing how he would provide for so many, Father Jessing nevertheless accepted them all, and thus, on September 1, 1888, began the *Collegium Josephinum*, named in honor of his patron, Saint Joseph, thus forming the *House of Joseph*. Remembering the burdens and obstacles he encountered on his own journey to the priesthood, Father Jessing wanted to give boys who were without financial means a way to answer their calling.

Four years later, to ensure that his seminary would serve the whole nation, Father Jessing asked Pope Leo XIII, to accept the ownership of the seminary as a pontifical institution. On December 12, 1892 the request was granted and the Josephinum came directly under the authority of the Holy See and became the Pontifical College Josephinum. Two years later, on June 5, 1894, the College was incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio; and on June 14, 1894, it was chartered as a degree-granting institution.

In recognition of Father Jessing's dedication to the Church, His Holiness Pope Leo XIII made him a Domestic Prelate with the title of Monsignor in 1896. In his late 50s, Monsignor Jessing's health began to decline. His physician, Dr. Starling Loving, diagnosed cancer of the stomach. After battling and rallying, the beloved
priest and founder of one of Columbus’s most endearing institutions died on November 2, 1899, surrounded by his dear students. They remembered him as a champion of the poor, who was dedicated to higher education, and the one advocate they needed in life to pursue their calling to the priesthood and service to God. The legacy Monsignor left changed the landscape of vocations as the country expanded westward.

For the first few decades of its existence, the Josephinum focused its efforts on educating priests to minister to German-speaking Catholics throughout the United States. After World War I, that focus shifted to preparing priests for missionary areas of the country and for dioceses lacking their own seminaries.

With its enrollment burgeoning in the mid-1920s and a land-locked 4 acres which had been fully developed, the Josephinum faced relocation from its original site at 18th and Main. The Rector, Monsignor Joseph Och, was introduced to a farmer north of town named William D. Duffy who agreed to sell 120 acres of his farm located on the Scioto Trail (now U.S. Route 23) for an astonishingly generous price of $1.00, plus the local property taxes at the time. On October 9, 1924 the seminary celebrated in a solemn dedication the future site of its new home on the banks of Olentangy River, 11 miles from downtown Columbus and just 2 miles north of Worthington. Nestled in 24 acres of woods and prime farmland, the Josephinum was eventually comprised of four main buildings devoted to educational and administrative purposes and two auxiliary buildings that contributed to the service of the college. The fundraising for the New Josephinum required five years of constant appeals through the Waisenfreund and The Josephinum Weekly that took place on a national and local level. The cornerstone for the new building was laid in October 1929, which coincided with the great Wall Street Crash and start of the Great Depression. But faith, hard work, and generosity prevailed, and the main building of the new complex was dedicated in 1931. On Thanksgiving Day 1931 the Josephinum dedicated the Minor Seminary, the Major Seminary, the Administrative wings, faculty living quarters, dining rooms, an auditorium, guest rooms, and Saint Turibius Chapel – named in honor of the first saint of the Americas. The south wing of the main building originally housed the major seminary (seminarians spent six years in theology and philosophy studies). In the north wing, the minor seminarians lived and studied during high school and the first two years of college. The landmark bell tower of the Josephinum, which rises 200 feet from bottom to top and can be seen for miles around, was completed in 1931 and was known as the highest point above sea level in Franklin County until 1974. That was the year the Rhodes State Office Tower was completed at 629 feet high.

In the 1950s, largely for reasons of accreditation, the organization of the seminary was changed from the
6-year/6-year arrangement (minor seminary/major seminary) to a 4-year/4-year/4-year (high school/college/theology) arrangement. A separate college building was erected for those middle four years; it was dedicated in June 1958. It stands to the west of the theology seminarians’ residence and houses living quarters for college seminarians, the college chapel of Saint Pius X, and classrooms.

The recreation building was also dedicated in June 1958; it is to the north of the college building and features a variety of indoor recreation facilities as well as the Monsignor Leonard J. Fick Auditorium.

The building on the east side of campus near the front entrance of the seminary was built in 1938. This building served as the library of the Josephinum until 1982, when the facility became known as the A.T. Wehrle Memorial Library. At that time, it was relocated in the old minor seminary (north) wing, now known as the Pope Saint John Paul II Center for Priestly Formation. Today, along with the Wehrle Library, the building also houses faculty offices and classrooms for the School of Theology.

The old library building was renovated in 1997 and became the Monsignor Joseph Jessing Center, which houses two adjoining conference rooms served by state-of-the-art audio-visuals system, a small meeting room. The Jessing Center provides the Josephinum with meeting space for the seminary’s academic and theological symposia, lectures, and small conferences. The facility is also open to the public and has a full-service catering kitchen.

An Alma Mater’s legacy is carried forward by her alumni. Since its founding in 1888, more than 2000 priests have received their formation and education at the Pontifical College Josephinum. Ordained alumni are active today in 48 states in the United States and in 18 foreign countries. Similarly, our alumni who are members of the lay faithful are making profound contributions to the life of the Church through a commitment to family, distinguished work in their professions, and witness to service.

“It is the task of the priest to lead souls, and there is no more difficult calling. It requires patience, wisdom, prudence, love, and strength of character. At the altar, the priest obtains these virtues of our Lord, whom he daily takes in his hands and receives into his soul. At the altar the priest obtains all the graces of his state, as well as comfort and strength for the fulfillment of his duties. Oh the dignity! Oh the power! Oh the blissfulness of the priesthood!”

—Monsignor Joseph Jessing, October 4, 1896 delivered in Saint Turibius Chapel at the Old Josephinum
Almam Matrem salutamus,
Josephinum, te amamus,
Ter augusta mœnia,
Te virtutis tam fautricem
quam scientiæ nutricem
Dulcis amicitiæ.

Joseph Jessing conditorem,
Sacerdotem bellatorem
Fortem, pium, providum,
Prece, laude prosequamur;
Eius robor admiramur,
Grata recordantia.

Heia, rector, professores,
Nostri amici monitores
Indulgentes asperi
Floreat, qui vivunt cuncti,
Et potiti, qui defuncti,
Requiescant praemio.

Studiosi Sextae, Primæ,
Classis principis et imæ
Quæque inter sunt mediae;
Vos, philosophi subtiles,
Vos, theologi viriles,
Matri vestrae plaudite.

Veterani iam spectati,
Rude dudum condonati,
Josephini decora;
Srenui, negotiosi
Vinea in Domini operosi,
Alumnorum exercitus.

Josephinum, piæ matrem,
Joseph Jessing, carum patrem,
Efferamus laudibus;
Alumnorum, magistrorum,
Agminis discipulorum
Corda, voces consonent.

Sacram indolis formandæ,
Sedem, mentis educandæ,
Hanc palaestræ nobilæm
Cælique terræque Rector
Augeat, Joseph, Protector
Magnus noster, sospitet.
Our alma mater we now greet, 
the Josephine them to us sweet.
Hallowed thrice within its walls,
Garden bright and virtues growing,
Classrooms dear with knowledge flowing,
While a lasting friendship calls.

Joseph Jessing, Founder famed,
Man of God, yet Soldier named
To defend his Church and Creeds.
For him prayerful praise we desire,
And his courage we much admire,
With happy thoughts of all his deeds.

All hail, good faculty and Rectors,
Friends to all and loyal directors,
Very kind but still demanding,
Those still living, may their lives expand,
May the others, with reward at hand,
Soon before their Lord be standing.

Boys from Sexta onto Prima passed,
The classes all from first to last,
Each one, yes, a friendly frater.
Wise students of Philosophy,
Those well-learned in Theology,
Praise ye all our Alma Mater.

Veterans there are among the fold,
Already sent forth in days of old,
Fine examples of men well-trained.
Priests of vigor working on the line,
Faithful branches joined to the Vine,
That great throng of those ordained.

Josephinum, Alma Mater,
Joseph Jessing caring Pater.
Let us honor you with praise.
From the alumni and our masters,
From the ranks of soon-to-be pastors,
Let our hearts and voices raise.

May both Ruler of land and sky,
And great Joseph, our friend on high,
Cause to grow and keep renowned
This formation seat of ministry,
This font of Spirituality,
God’s most notable training ground.
Monsignor Joseph Jessing with students, c. 1893.