



ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY



The incense which billows out of the brazier and thurible signifies our prayer rising 'like incense' before the sight of God.

New Altar in St. Augustine's Chapel Consecrated at Special Mass

His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins consecrated the new altar in the Seminary's Chapel at a special mass August 31, 2021, just in time for the new academic and formation year at St. Augustine's.

"The Chapel is the centre of life at the Seminary," says Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Rector, St. Augustine's. "It is here that we experience the presence of Jesus, who feeds us with his word, body and blood. As a seminary community, we gather here to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We gather

for adoration, for personal prayer and devotion. It is in this chapel that our restless hearts find rest in Jesus."

Cardinal Collins echoed those sentiments during the consecration ceremony, saying "it is here that we have the sign of Christ in our midst and where we can offer a sacrifice, the holy sacrifice of the Mass."

The installation of the altar and tabernacle was made possible entirely through the generosity of donors who



Cardinal Collins praying the prayer of consecration of the new altar: "In the ineffable sacrament of Your love, You have decreed that the mystery of the altar should be brought to fulfillment in Christ." The altar is the throne of grace and font of life for us as Christians.

support the Seminary and its mission, both financially and through prayer. The new altar and tabernacle are part of the first phase of planned renovations to the sanctuary area – last updated in 1965.

"All of the seminarians know that the chapel is at the heart of our formation," says Deacon Connor O'Hara, president of St. Augustine's Seminarian Association.

"Our day begins here at the altar, and so it is fitting that our restoration efforts begin there, too. After this first phase is complete, some other areas sorely in need of attention are the Pipe Organ, the Bell, the Pews, and the Paintings."

The chapel's restoration, he says, aims to enrich the spiritual lives of all who enter. ■



Cardinal Collins anoints the altar with Sacred Chrism. In Scripture, priests and kings are anointed with oil. And so, the anointing of the altar with Sacred Chrism calls to mind the threefold office of Jesus the Christ as priest, prophet, and king. Jesus himself is the very priest, altar, and sacrifice of the New Covenant.



Beginning Our 109th Year of Forming Disciples

St. Augustine's Rector Fr. Edwin Gonsalves is dedicating the upcoming academic and formation year to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

"As we begin the 109th year, we look to the horizon of the coming year ahead reflecting on the Sacred Heart of Jesus," he wrote in his message. "We are filled with joyful anticipation as we move forward to the path marked out for us by our Lord, to share His teachings on how God's word is to be made flesh in the inner and outer living out of our Christian life."

There are currently 58 men at various stages of formation for the priesthood at St Augustine's Seminary, including 10 from the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

In addition to the primary mission of the formation of men to the priesthood, St. Augustine's also offers

programs of study for the formation of candidates to the Permanent Diaconate and various accredited graduate and diploma programs for lay men and women to help transform them into dedicated servants and faithful leaders of the Church.

"We live in challenging times but there is hope!" says Fr. Edwin. "For a true disciple is one who desires to follow Jesus and do his holy will. At St Augustine's Seminary and the Redemptoris Mater seminary, the seminarians are eager to serve God and the Church. We thank all our supporters and donors for their prayers and dedication to the Seminary. Not being able to visit the Seminary is disappointing. Trusting in the Lord, may we continue to be witnesses of His love and mercy. We ask for your continued prayers for us, and please, do be assured of ours for you." ■



Maggie Johnston: Quietly Making A Difference Behind the Scenes

Maggie Johnston is one of the most familiar faces at St. Augustine's Seminary – at least to those who have passed through its doors over the last three and a-half decades.

“They’re all like my sons and I take care of them the same as I do my own son.”

Maggie runs the kitchen at St. Augustine's. She and her team serve three meals a day to the Seminarians, faculty and staff as well as handle all meals for various functions held at the Seminary. Her official title is Service Manager, but she could just as easily be called ‘Mama Maggie’ for her motherly care of those she happily serves on a daily basis.

“I love to come to work,” she says. “It’s a real family atmosphere. I like seeing the Seminarians. They’re all like my sons and I take care of them the same as I do my own son.”

That means if a particular seminarian has a favourite meal, “well I try to fill it.”

It’s something she has been doing for 36 years since she answered a job ad in the newspaper in 1985 for a cook at the Seminary. She now has a staff of eight, including, she adds with pride, “very well-trained chefs.”

“It is a real family atmosphere. And we (in the kitchen) are all treated with so much respect.”

Her menu is fittingly dominated by homestyle meals. Among the favourites from the seminarians over the years, she says, are spaghetti and meat balls, steak, shepherd’s pie, beef stroganoff and stuffed chicken.

One of her favourite events to prepare a meal for is the Alumni dinner, where “you see faces that you watched during formation and now they’re priests.”

It’s like a homecoming and ‘Mama Maggie’ loves it. ■

News Briefs



ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF MARIO BISCARDI TO ITS BOARD.

Biscardi is a retired banker and faithful Catholic, having spent 37 years as a member of the Serra Club. He was also recently honoured with the Papal medal for his dedicated service to the Church.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

The date for the next preaching seminar at the Seminary is June 17, 2022. Watch our website for details for the popular event. Early-bird pricing is in effect until March 31, 2022.

THERE HAS BEEN A DATE CHANGE

in the comprehensive evaluation visit for reaffirmation of accreditation by the ATS Commission on Accrediting. It will now be held at St. Augustine's Seminary from March 23-26, 2022. The purpose of the visit is to verify that St. Augustine's meets all applicable Commission Standards of Accreditation.

FOUR OF OUR SEMINARIANS

were ordained to the transitional diaconate in September 2021. Ordained by Cardinal Collins were: Rev. Mr. Alex d'Silva, Rev. Mr. Fraser McLaren, Rev. Mr. Martin Lugo, and Rev. Mr. Adam Pantaleo.

DUE TO ONGOING PANDEMIC-RELATED RESTRICTIONS, ALUMNI DAY 2021 HAS BEEN POSTPONED

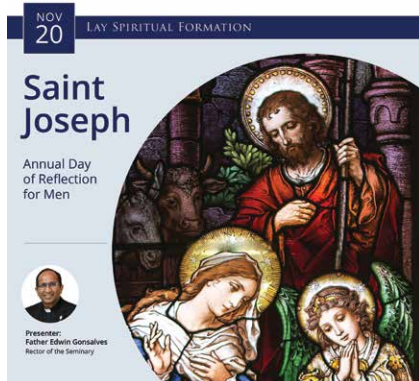
until next spring. It is tentatively rescheduled to Thursday, March 24, 2022. Alumni should watch for further communications as the date gets closer.

Info Board

UPCOMING EVENTS

Costs, schedule and details are available online.

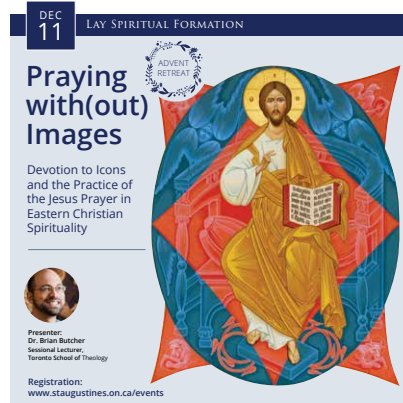
Register Online:
staugustines.on.ca/events



November 20, 2021

Annual Day of Reflection for Men on the theme of St. Joseph

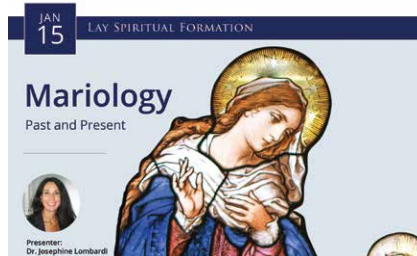
Presenter: Father Edwin Gonsalves



December 11, 2021

Advent Retreat: Praying with(out) Images: Devotion to Icons and the Practice of the Jesus Prayer in Eastern Christian Spirituality

Presenter: Dr. Brian Butcher



January 15, 2021

Mariology: Past and Present

Presenter: Dr. Josephine Lombardi

March 12, 2022

Lenten Retreat: The Light of Newman in the Dark of Winter: Help for Our Lenten Journey

Presenter: Dr. Donald Graham

June 4, 2022

Annual Day Of Reflection For Women: Sisters of Life (Feminine Genius Brunch)

Presenter: Sisters of Life



Generous Contributions Make Renovations Possible

The first phase of renovations to the sanctuary as well as ongoing work in the seminarian common areas like the kitchen, gym and lounge were made possible through the generosity of people like Catherine Soong, who

donated the funds necessary for the new tabernacle stand.

"After I saw the (virtual) concert 'Songs from the Seminary,' I asked God what He wants me to do to thank Him for listening to my prayers. I have just done a little part. God is amazing."

St. Augustine's Seminarian Association president Dcn. Connor O'Hara says the renovations to the common areas are invaluable to the formation journey.

"Much of priestly formation happens in these informal settings, just as I imagine formation happened among Jesus' first disciples," he says. "These common areas can be places of unexpected graces. I know that the seminarians are very grateful to the People of God for their contributions to the Seminary."

If you feel called to support the Seminary in any way, please contact Samantha Koon at: skoon@archtoronto.org or or by phone: 416-261-7207 ext. 358.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
Please keep the Seminarians in your prayers

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY

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