



An International Feel at St. Augustine's This Year

As the new academic and formation year began this fall at St. Augustine's Seminary, there was a distinct international flavour to it.

This year, there are 80 seminarians enrolled, representing not just the Archdiocese of Toronto, but seminarians from 11 dioceses across Canada. In addition, there are two from Memphis, Tennessee, one from Orange County, California and one seminarian from the diocese of Hanoi, Vietnam.

Of the 80 total, 13 are in discernment and studying philosophy at Serra House, and 18 are enrolled in the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, studying at St. Augustine's.

Ten men are in their final year and coming up for ordination this spring, including 5 from the Archdiocese of Toronto.

In addition, we have proudly accepted 11 new candidates for the Permanent Diaconate Program, giving us a total of 21 candidates.



Theology and Spiritual Year students gather with St. Augustine's Rector Rev. Edwin Gonsalves on the steps of the Seminary as they get ready for a new academic and formation year.



Traditional BBQ

The year also began with the traditional BBQ on the lawn of the Seminary. Hot dogs and burgers were in ample supply, as was the fun. The day would not be complete without a water-balloon toss. Because of the hot weather, it's hard to say whether those who got wet or stayed dry were the winners or losers. But fun was had by all before settling in for a new academic and formative year.

Welcome Rev. Joseph Alozie, CCE

St. Augustine's has a new faculty member – Fr. Joseph Alozie, who this past July was appointed by Cardinal Collins as Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology.



Rev. Joseph Alozie was appointed Assistant Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Augustine's by Cardinal Collins this past July.

Fr. Alozie was born in Nigeria, the last child of the eight surviving children of his family. In 1994, he joined Congregation of Christ the Emmanuel, founded by Rev. John Egbulefu CCE, a Nigerian born priest and professor of Systematic Theology in Rome.

Having completed high school education in the Minor Seminary and novitiate program, he went on to receive a B.A. from Imo State University Nigeria and, later, a pontifical B. Phil from Seat of Wisdom Seminary in Nigeria.

In August 2007, he was sent to Rome to continue his priestly formation at John

Welcome Rev. Alozie

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Paul II International Seminary. Fr. Alozie earned a Bachelors in Theology and Licentiate in Theology from the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome. He was finally ordained a Roman Catholic priest in 2011.

While pursuing a doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome, he also engaged in pastoral work at parishes in the Archdiocese of Pisa. After completing his doctoral studies in 2014, he served as Associate Pastor in St. Joseph's Parish, Mississauga, before the Cardinal appointed him to the Seminary this past July.

News in Brief...

- The Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the major North American organization for accreditation of theological schools, accepted the report submitted by St. Augustine's. The report was over a year in the making and involved an exhaustive review of every aspect of St. Augustine's programs for clergy and laity and institutional structures. The response from ATS was very favourable. A celebratory dinner was held on March 9, 2016.
- After months of dusty and noisy construction, the new elevator has been installed at the Seminary, replacing the older original elevator that no longer met modern accessibility codes. We thank our donors, St. Augustine's alumni and the Archdiocese of Toronto for their generous support. Your contributions to the Seminary make projects like this possible.
- Demolition has begun on Serra House in downtown Toronto. It's still in its early stages. Watch for updates on construction of a new building.

Sr. Jeanne Cover – *Encountering God Through The Students*



Sr. Jeanne Cover was feted at a dinner in her honour, celebrating her retirement from the faculty at St. Augustine's after 20 years. Pictured with Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick.

After 20 years of service, Sr. Jeanne Cover has retired from the faculty at St. Augustine's Seminary.

A luncheon was held in her honour on August 23, 2016, where she reminisced fondly about the joy she had teaching.

"I delighted in the academic and spiritual ambiance of the Seminary. I enjoyed my classes and came to meet God through the students," recalled Sr. Jeanne. "It was a most enriching experience."

A native of Australia, Sr. Jeanne was first sent by her order, the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loretto Sisters) to Canada in 1981 to study theology. After obtaining Master's degrees in Religious Education and Sacred Theology, she returned to Australia, where she worked as a school principal for six more years before being sent back to Canada in 1990, where she obtained a Doctorate in Moral Theology. At that time, she also worked at the Archdiocese of Toronto's Marriage Tribunal, a function she still performs.

What started out as a temporary placement in Canada had become permanent. She was offered a teaching position at the Seminary in 1995, which she took enthusiastically.

"I taught Moral theology II as it was then known. It was later called Human Sexuality and Marriage. That was what I was really

employed to teach. As time went on, I was asked to write a course in Spirituality. So I did and I taught Spirituality and the Catholic Educator. In the meantime, I was asked to teach Conversion in Education as well, so I had three courses. I loved it."

Sr. Jeanne also served, in 2004, as acting director of the Master of Theological Studies, Master of Religious Education and other Extension programs for non-seminarians at the Seminary. She also acted as Academic Advisor to extension students (1998-2004).

"I always found the atmosphere at the Seminary to be great. I taught on-line courses as well, which I enjoyed, but always preferred the face to face."

As her responsibilities changed in her community, she knew she had to step away from St. Augustine's.

"My new responsibilities brought new time constraints and I felt I could no longer do justice to my students given the continual challenges to Moral Theology in today's society. The last course I taught was from September to December 2015."

"I leave with a great appreciation of the faculty, staff and students of St. Augustine's."

Lessons Learned From Our Alumni

Each year at around this time, St. Augustine's honours and celebrates its alumni with a Mass and dinner at the Seminary. Just over 40 alumni, including 7 jubilarians, attended the event on September 28, 2016. Monsignor Paul Zimmer, from the class of 1976, presided at the mass.

Msgr. Zimmer has nothing but fond memories of his time at St. Augustine's. "The chapel at the centre of the seminary building, with Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament and in the daily celebration of Mass, kept me focused on Jesus as the heart and centre of my life and my future priesthood."

He remembered the fun he had with his fellow seminarians. "Practical jokes were the order of the day. I remember coming home late one evening to find that everything in my room had been moved into an empty room down the hall," he reminisced, admitting to his own modest pranks in return.

In his life as a priest, his connections with St. Augustine's have remained strong. He has had no less than 21 seminarians as interns in his parishes over the years. Some fatherly advice he offers to the seminarians of today:

"Every new age has its own challenges and problems. The only thing that lasts forever is our relationship with Jesus. Keep that relationship healthy by constant prayer and devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. He is the Good Shepherd. He will see you though anything the world throws in your way. And be joyful! Our faith is a marvellous gift from God. Allow it to delight your soul and lift your spirit each and every day."

Bringing the Seminary to You

If you would like to know more about the Seminary, but can't make it down to our iconic building in Scarborough, we can bring the Seminary to you.

St. Augustine's is pleased to once again be taking bookings for its travelling information sessions, where your group can hear more about the Seminary. Hear vocation stories from seminarians, deacons or find out more about diploma and degree programs for lay people.

To find out more or to book a presentation, please contact Samantha Koon at skoon@archtoronto.org or 416-261-7207 ext. 266.



ST. AUGUSTINE'S ALUMNI GATHERED to celebrate mass at the Seminary in late September. (From left to right): Fr. Mervin Coulas, alumni president, with jubilarians Fr. Charles Anang (class of 1991), Msgr. Edwin Gale ('66), Msgr. Paul Zimmer ('76), Fr. John Grainger ('66), Fr. Bart Burke ('56), Fr. Wilfried Lenius ('66), Fr. James Adams ('66).

Congratulations Graduates

Thirty-one graduates were to receive various degrees and diplomas at the St. Augustine's Seminary Convocation Ceremony on November 7, 2016.

David Mulrone, President & Vice-Chancellor, University of St. Michael's College is the convocation speaker. Mr. Mulrone spent 30 years in Canada's public service prior to his appointment at St. Michael's College last year.

Upcoming Lay Spiritual Formation Events at St. Augustine's:

DEC 03 2016	ADVENT RETREAT DR. JOSEPHINE LOMBARDI
JAN 07 2017	KNOWING GOD AND KNOWING YOURSELF: An examination of factors that influence human nature and freedom. DR. JOSEPHINE LOMBARDI
FEB 18 2017	PREPARING YOUTH FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION DAVID DAYLER
MAR 25 2017	LENTEN RETREAT FR. CHARLES ANANG

For more information on these and other events, visit www.staugustines.on.ca

St. Augustine's Welcomes the Knights

St. Augustine's Seminary was proud to host the Knights of Columbus for their Regional Meeting in early October. Fr. John-Mark Missio, Vice Rector of the Seminary, took the opportunity to thank the Knights for their ongoing support of the seminarians.

"Your support goes beyond financial," said Fr. Missio. "Your prayers for our seminarians have been a great source of inspiration in their studies and discernment."



Fr. John-Mark Missio, Vice Rector at St. Augustine's, speaks to the Knights of Columbus at their regional meeting at the Seminary.

Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine

Spiritual Year seminarians took a five-day pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine in Midland on September 11, 2016. During the pilgrimage, they visited the Shrine and passed through its Holy Doors. They also visited the historic site Carhagouha, site of the first Catholic Mass celebrated in Ontario on August 12, 1615; the chapel of St. Joseph with its natural dirt floor and iconic wood construction at Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons; as well as the sites of the capture and martyrdom of St. Isaac Jogues and St. Jean de Bréboef at St. Ignace and St. Louis.

When Pope John Paul II, now a Saint himself, visited Midland and the Martyrs' Shrine in 1984 he said, 'let us pray together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and the eight martyrs, that the faith which they have brought to this land may continue to grow.'

Fr. Peter Marr, Coordinator of the Spiritual Year at St. Augustine's, said pilgrimages like this set the spirit and tone for the beginning of the Spiritual Year.

"We are called to be witnesses to our faith in whatever circumstances God calls us to, and through prayer and perseverance, to foster growth in our faith in this beautiful land," said Fr. Marr. "This is especially true for future priests. Contemplating the reality of the witness and sacrifice of the martyrs draws us into their love for God as we see and experience the good fruit of their sacrifices, remaining true to their commit-



Standing in front of the Holy Door at Martyrs' Shrine. (From left to right): Fr. John Yake, Director of the Spiritual Year, Fr. Peter Marr, Coordinator of the Spiritual Year, Stephen Alves, Savio Da Costa, Pascal Mukuye, Adam Pantaleo, Alexander D'Silva, Nathan Fernandes and Connor O'Hara (top).

ment to the end of their lives."

The pilgrimage is part of the non-academic Spiritual—or Propaedeutic—year of studies, where seminarians intensify their discernment and their spiritual experience.



Spiritual Year seminarians celebrate mass as part of their pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine at the simple, yet picturesque, wood chapel of St. Joseph at Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons Village.

Thank You For Your Generous Support
Please keep the Seminarians in your prayers

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