



St. Augustine's Halls Are Busier This Year

The halls of St. Augustine's Seminary were a little more populated than usual as the new academic and formation year began.

That's not just because there were 80 seminarians to start the year, but because St. Augustine's opened its doors to those who were previously staying at Serra House, which is in the midst of a major demolition and reconstruction (see Serra House story below).

The 80 enrolled in the seminary this year not only reflect the national scope of the Seminary, but its international reach as well. Of the 80 seminarians, 35 are for the Archdiocese of Toronto. There are also men from 11 other dioceses across the country as well as two dioceses in the U.S. and one from the Archdiocese of Ha Noi, Vietnam. Seventeen of the 80 are from the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

Four of the men are in their final year and will be ordained in the Spring, including two for the Archdiocese of Toronto—Raymond So and Alexander MacDonald. Stephen



Theology, Spiritual Year and Serra House seminarians gather with a few of the faculty on the steps of St. Augustine's eager to begin a new year.

DeCarlo will be ordained for the Diocese of Peterborough and Brian Russell will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Kingston.

The new year also marked the beginning of the academic year for new and return-

ing students to the Institute of Theology's diploma and degree programs as well as returning and new candidates for the Permanent Diaconate Formation program.

Serra House Undergoing Major Reconstruction



Serra House has been temporarily closed for mold remediation, so the 13 residents, along with director Fr. Scott Birchall, have moved into the Seminary on Kingston Road in Scarborough with all the other seminarians.

The four-storey addition at the back of Serra House was demolished earlier this year. The addition (constructed by the Scalabrinian Fathers, and later used by the Focolare community) had deteriorated beyond repair.

Plans for a restored Serra House include a careful renovation of the historic Annex home, and the construction of a state-of-the-art residence which will accommodate all seminarians in the Philosophy program, with facilities for seminars, conferences and retreats.

Serra House, the Seminary's downtown residence for the philosophy program, is under reconstruction. The older addition in the back was torn down, while the rest of the historic building on St. George St. is being updated and renovated.

Let the Fun and Games Begin

Nothing says the beginning of the Academic and Formation year at the Seminary like the annual Faculty-Student BBQ.

Food abounds with hot dogs and hamburgers as the main entre. But the highlight of the day is always the highly competitive events of Balloon Toss, Egg-on-Spoon races, Tug of War and the Shoe Toss, where participants kick their shoes as far as they can.

While the Shoe Toss may not be an Olympic sport, the highly competitive event involves great skill and goes back decades at the Seminary. OK, so maybe the great skill part is an exaggeration, but a fun time was had by all.



Participants line up to compete in the famous Shoe Toss event.



The Chef, aka Fr. Séamus Hogan (centre), serves up hot dogs and burgers at the annual BBQ. He's joined by sous-chefs Alexander MacDonald (left) and Deacon Brian Russell (right). Fr. Charles Anang is supervising (far right).



The agony of defeat in the BBQ Tug of War. Disclaimer: No seminarians were injured during the photographing of the Tug of War.

Welcome Fr. Scott Birchall to St. Augustine's



St. Augustine's is pleased to have a new addition to our faculty. We welcome Fr. Scott Birchall as Director of Philosophy Formation at Serra House.

Fr. Scott was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Toronto in 2014 and served as the Associate Pastor of Merciful Redeemer Parish in Mississauga up until his posting at Serra House in April.

Fr. Scott was born in Richmond Hill, but grew up in Newmarket. He is the youngest of four children and has a twin brother who lives in Toronto. Prior to entering St. Augustine's Seminary in 2008, Fr. Scott obtained a Bachelor of Environmental Studies (Planning) from the University of Waterloo and a Master's of Science (Planning) from the University of Toronto.

Fr. Scott worked as a student planner for the Town of Newmarket and a city planner for a large private planning firm in Barrie, Ontario, carrying out various planning projects for both the public and private sectors across the province.

In addition to his role as the Director of Philosophy Formation, Fr. Scott is currently undertaking a Doctor of Ministry (Spirituality) at the Catholic University of America. This pastoral degree will be used to help with the formation of both current and future seminarians.

Fr. Scott looks forward to working with the men in philosophy formation and to further develop and expand the Serra House program in the very near future.

Room Renovations at St. Augustine's

St. Augustine's is undergoing some construction work as many older rooms used by students are being retrofitted to include en-suite washrooms and air conditioning.

In addition to seminarians, the rooms are also used by external groups for events such as retreats at the Seminary. A number of rooms have already been completed but work continues on others as part of a three-year retrofit plan.



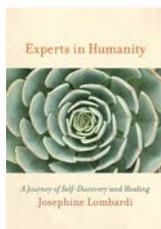
One of the newly renovated en-suite bathrooms.

One of the newly renovated rooms at the Seminary.



News Briefs

Congratulations to Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Associate Professor, Systematic and Pastoral Theology at St. Augustine's. The Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada awarded Dr. Lombardi's book *Experts in Humanity* first place in the Family Life category.



The Diaconate Formation program at St. Augustine's has a full and event-filled year ahead. Three cohorts will meet one weekend a month. The propædeutic year has an unprecedented 24 aspirants and wives who, with the formation team, will explore their discernment to enter diaconate formation. The second-year cohort will continue their formation and be commissioned as lectors. The fourth-year cohort is moving toward ordination, scheduled for May 26, 2018, preceded by a five-day retreat.



Special thanks and farewell to Pat Jordan, our retiring Bursar, who has spent the last 10 years providing us with his expert stewardship in all manner of things financial, from accounting to fund-raising. Pat has been a great friend to St. Augustine's over the years, and we wish him the very best in the years to come.

Supporting the Seminary With Securities



We want to thank you for your continued support of St. Augustine's. It is through your generosity that we are able to fulfill our mission of forming diocesan priests and deacons and offering degree and diploma programs in spiritual formation for lay men and women.

A gift of any kind is a blessing, whether it's a one-time gift, or a commitment to make monthly donations, or a bequest to St. Augustine's Seminary in your will. Another unique way that some people choose to help is a gift of securities. This can be a tax efficient way of giving.

Please contact Samantha Koon at the Seminary at 416-261-7207 ext. 358 or skoon@archtoronto.org for more information.

Upcoming Events at St. Augustine's

November 6, 2017

St. Augustine's Convocation

November 25, 2017

Marriage and Family workshop

Dr. Josephine Lombardi
and

New Beginnings Ministry workshop

Mary Benincasa and Alex Lopechuk

December 16, 2017

Advent Retreat with Fr. Charles Anang
"Eternity and the Last Things"

January 20, 2017

"The Faces of Christ in the Book of Revelation"

Monsignor Robert Nusca

February 3, 2018

"An Introduction to the Theology of the Body – Why Your Matter Matters"

Dr. Patricia Murphy

March 10, 2018

Lenten Retreat

Dr. Josephine Lombardi

June 9, 2018

Third Annual Retreat for Women

Dr. Josephine Lombardi

Register for all events at
www.staugustines.on.ca

Want to see the Seminary?

Did you know St. Augustine's offers small group tours of the Seminary? If your church group is interested in learning more about our historic building and mission, please contact us.



Samantha Koon (centre, facing forward), Development Officer, St. Augustine's, provides a tour of the Seminary to a small group of CWL members from St. Francis De Sales Parish in Ajax.



Seminary presentation at St. Mary Immaculate parish

Can't make it to the Seminary? No problem. If your church group would like to learn more about the Seminary and what it has to offer, but it is not convenient for you to come to the Seminary, then we can bring the Seminary to you with our mobile presentation. Contact Samantha Koon at 416-261-7207 ext. 358 or skoon@archtoronto.org

On-line Degree Courses at St. Augustine's

The Diploma in Theological Studies can now be completed fully online, while 50 per cent of the Master of Religious Education and Master of Theological Studies degree programs can be done through distance learning.

Visit www.staugustines.on.ca for details.



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

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