



The Unique Road to Priesthood *Profiling Our New Priests*

It is with great joy and gratitude that four men from St. Augustine's Seminary will be ordained to the priesthood this May. Two of the men are being ordained for the Archdiocese of Toronto, while one will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Kingston and another for the Diocese of Peterborough.

Since its establishment as Canada's first major seminary in 1913, over 2,000 men from St. Augustine's have been ordained to the priesthood. Dioceses from across Canada, as well as the US and other countries, entrust the formation of their priestly candidates to St. Augustine's.

Of the four men being ordained this year, Rev. Mr. Raymond So and Rev. Mr. Alexander MacDonald are both for the Archdiocese of Toronto. They will be ordained on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. Rev. Mr. Brian Russell will be ordained for the Archdiocese of Kingston on Saturday, May 19 at Kingston's St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Rev. Mr. Stephen DeCarlo will be ordained for the Diocese of Peterborough at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains in



St. Augustine's 2018 Ordinandi class. (From left to right) Rev. Mr. Brian Russell, Rev. Mr. Alexander MacDonald, Rev. Mr. Raymond So, Rev. Mr. Stephen DeCarlo.

Peterborough on Friday, May 25.

Each comes from a different walk of life, but they have all answered the call to be

servants of our Lord and shepherds of His flock. Here are their individual vocation stories.

Rev. Mr. Alexander MacDonald was born and raised in the fishing village of Arisaig, Nova Scotia, the third of four children. He attended St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish and University of New Brunswick Law



School. He was called to the Nova Scotia Bar and practiced law for a year before embarking on a writing and journalism career. In 2007, he offered himself for the service of the Church and entered the Venerable English College in Rome to commence

studies for the priesthood. He was educated at the Angelicum, Gregorian and Alphonsonian universities. In 2015, he joined the Archdiocese of Toronto and completed his training at St Augustine's Seminary.

Rev. Mr. Raymond So was born in Hong Kong and immigrated with his family to North York in 1994. Although he attended Catholic school, he did not pay much attention to his spiritual life at the time. He pursued engineer-



ing studies at University of Toronto, but didn't find fulfillment. It was during that period that he reconnected with his faith. He became active in youth ministry and catechesis at his parish, St. Agnes Kouying Tsao in Markham. After attending World Youth Day in Australia in 2008, he began to seriously discern God's will in his life. He entered Serra House in 2009, where he completed a three year philosophy degree through St. Philip's Seminary, before progressing to theological studies at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Rev. Mr. Stephen DeCarlo was born in Peterborough, the older of two boys. Growing up, he loved biking and skateboarding, as well as hanging out with friends and cousins. He worked briefly at a grocery store. He began to feel the call to the priesthood after high school and entered a discernment house in Peterborough. There, he got involved in the vocations office of the Peterborough Diocese, taking part in and leading several youth activities and events. He entered St. Philip's Seminary in 2008 for philosophical studies and entered St. Augustine's in 2012.



Rev. Mr. Brian Russell was born in Comox, British Columbia and grew up on a chicken farm in Spallumcheen, BC. He studied history at the University of British Columbia. While there he became involved in a non-denominational Christian group on campus and began to grow in his faith. In 2007, he moved with his parents to the village of Spencerville, Ontario. After working in the Government for five years, he felt the call to serve the Lord as a priest. Seeking assistance from a local priest, he began to discern a vocation to the priesthood. He entered studies for the Archdiocese of Kingston in 2012.



Cardinal Sarah visits St. Augustine's Seminary



His Eminence Cardinal Sarah greets seminarians James Cyfko (centre) and Michael Berlin-Riga (right) during his visit to St. Augustine's.

His Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, visited the Seminary on Tuesday, March 13, 2018.

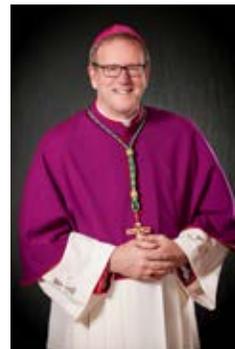
The faculty and seminarians of St. Augustine's and the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary were joined by Oratorian priests and various seminarians from St. Philip's Seminary.

In his address to the seminarians, Cardinal Sarah offered them fatherly advice. At the reception afterwards, many seminarians had the opportunity to converse with the Cardinal and receive his blessing. The following day, the Cardinal gave a Lenten Day of Reflection for the priests of the Archdiocese. The amazing kitchen staff at St. Augustine's provided a four-star luncheon for 120 priests to conclude the day.



News Briefs

His Excellency Bishop Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and host of the award-winning PBS documentary *Catholicism*, will be the keynote speaker in a two-day conference on Catholic preaching on August 7 and 8 at St. Augustine's Seminary. The conference, for priests and deacons, will focus on how Catholic clergy can improve their preaching. The Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles has been a pioneer in the Church in evangelizing through new media. His YouTube videos alone have been viewed over 25 million times. Other speakers at the conference include His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Fr. Peter Cameron O.P., and Fr. Jude Siciliano O.P. Clergy can register at: www.staugustines.on.ca



The summer calendar at the Seminary is lighter than normal this year due to ongoing construction. In fact, the summer of 2018 will involve the largest renovation of the seminary residence since the 1960's. Last summer, one quarter of the seminarian rooms in the main building were renovated. This summer, the remaining three quarters will be done. As a result, the building will be largely closed with the exception of the August Preaching Conference.

Applications are now being accepted for degree and diploma programs available through St. Augustine's Institute of Theology. The Seminary offers laity diplomas in Lay Ministry and Theological Studies as well as degrees in Theological Studies and Religions Education. Visit www.staugustines.on.ca for details.



St. Augustine's Diaconate Program Sees 10 Men Ordained This Year

Ten men will be ordained to the permanent diaconate on May 26 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica.

Joining the ranks of well over 120 permanent deacons serving the Archdiocese of Toronto will be: Andrzej Rychlicki, Anthony Wong, Thomas Aquino, Mark Neugebauer, Ray Frendo, Roman Lim, Robert Tunney, Douglas Asselstine, Joseph Yan and Marcus Terfloth.

Their ordination comes after years of discernment and study through the diaconate formation program at St. Augustine's Seminary. The program includes both a propaedeutic (or spiritual) year of discernment, followed by four years of formation. Candidates attend one weekend a month at the Seminary for spiritual, academic, pastoral and human formation. In addition, they meet in small groups weekly for prayer, study, discussion, reflection and continuing discernment.



The Deacons to be ordained this May, with their wives in the chapel at St. Augustine's Seminary. (Front row left to right): Ewa Rychlicki, Agnes Wong, Maria Aquino, Sue Neugebauer, Teresa Frendo, Agnes Lim, Denise Tunney, Penny Asselstine, Shirley Yan, Gloria Terfloth. (Back row, left to right): Andrzej Rychlicki, Anthony Wong, Thomas Aquino, Mark Neugebauer, Ray Frendo, Roman Lim, Robert Tunney, Douglas Asselstine, Joseph Yan, Marcus Terfloth.

"The wives of the candidates are an integral part of the process," explains Deacon Peter Lovrick, Director of diaconate formation and professor of homiletics at St. Augustine's. "In fact, if a candidate is married, his wife must give her consent to her husband becoming a deacon. Wives attend all weekly meetings and are encouraged to attend the courses at the Seminary. In

addition, the wives of candidates participate in an ongoing women's program, specific to each year of formation."

Non-married men may also become permanent deacons, however, in doing so they understand that they take a vow of celibacy. For information on the Diaconate program, visit www.staugustines.on.ca

Preserving Art at St. Augustine's

St. Augustine's has been fortunate over the years to be the recipient of a number of works of sacred art. These gifts, while beautiful, sometimes become damaged or their beauty fades over time.

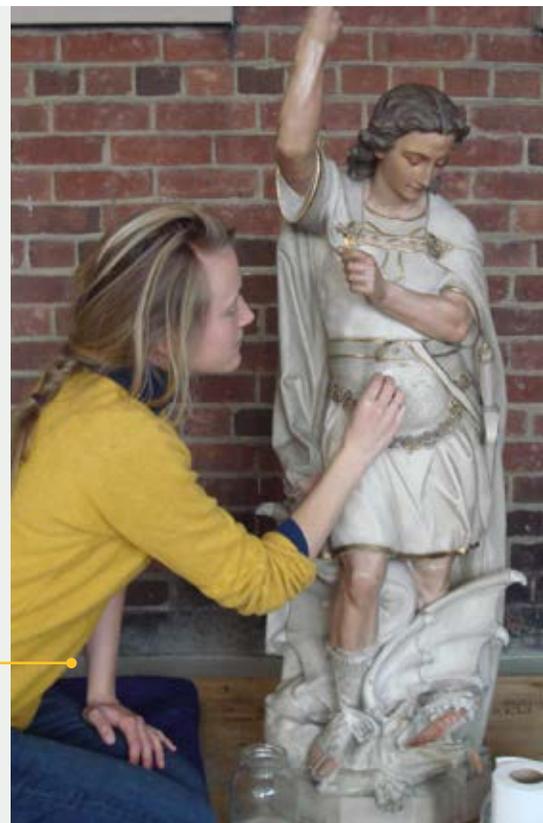
Two of those works — a copy of B.E. Murillo's *The Heavenly and Earthly Trinities* and a 19th century terra cotta statue of St. Michael — were recently restored to their original beauty. The work was painstakingly done by Sjoukje van der Laan, Art Conservator at Toronto Art Restoration Inc. and Assistant Conservator at the Art Gallery of Ontario.

"It's important to restore works of art in order to preserve our culture and heritage," she says, adding that a conservator's job is to restore art back to its original vibrancy with all the nuances the artist intended. "As an art conservator you don't want to be the artist. The artist created the artwork

and you must respect it. I work with what is there and use my expertise to bring it back to a state that reflects the original work."

That is exactly what she did with both the Murillo copy and the statue. In the case of the painting, it had become so dark due to discoloration of the varnish that many details were invisible. Thanks to van der Laan it is now as lively and detailed as when the artist painted it. The same is true of the St. Michael statue, where the top paint layer had become very oxidized, making the work appear much darker than the original artist would have intended.

Sjoukje van der Laan, Conservator of Modern and Contemporary Art, restoring a 19th-century terra cotta statue of St. Michael recently donated to the Seminary.



Upcoming Events

June 9, 2018

Lay Spiritual Formation: Third Annual Retreat for Women
Dr. Josephine Lombardi

August 7-8, 2018

Conference on Catholic Preaching for Catholic Clergy
Keynote speaker: Bishop Robert Barron

September 19, 2018

Priests Alumni Day

October 13, 2018

First Annual Day of Reflection for Men
Fr. Seamus Hogan

November 10, 2018

Celebrating Humanae Vitae at 50: Reflections on Life and Love for a New Generation
Dr. Patricia Murphy

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

Encountering Christ Among the Poor During Spiritual Year Mission Trip

In previous years, as part of the Spiritual Year program at St. Augustine's, seminarians went on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. This past February, they instead travelled to a mission house in Jamaica, where Fr. Frederick Chung, Assistant Professor, Biblical Theology at St. Augustine's, says seminarians encountered Christ among the poor.

"In the same week we would have been flying to Tel Aviv, our seven seminarians and two priest formators travelled together from Kingston Road, Scarborough to the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica. For me, it was a kind of holy pilgrimage, not in terms of visiting famous shrines and relics, but encountering Christ in the flesh, in the poorest of the poor."

The seminarians, accompanied by the Brothers of the Missionaries of the Poor, assisted with feeding residents at centres run by the brothers. They swept and mopped floors, made beds, even gave some of the men a clean shave and assisted at prayer devotion.

"The Gospel of the poor was a lesson that we could not have learned by textbook alone," says Fr. Chung.

"The Spiritual Year, or the Propaedeutic Stage, serves as a kind of novitiate for diocesan seminarians, laying the spiritual and human foundations at the very beginnings of formation. Seminarians are free of exams and essays, and they are asked to fast from social media, cell phone and internet. The purpose is to nurture an inner silence that is conducive for growing in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, and for building up fraternity in a community of faith. This stage is normally undertaken before seminarians begin the rigorous intellectual studies of philosophy and theology."



Seminarians Noel Vida (on left) and Lukas Casta (right) with children at Bethlehem House (Missionaries of the Poor) during their Spiritual Year mission trip to Jamaica.



Spiritual Year seminarian Evann Yakabuski with a child at Bethlehem House (a home for children with special needs) in Jamaica.

Leaving a Legacy

For over 100 years St. Augustine's Seminary has been forming priests who will stand witness to the faith and serve the Church. May is Leave a Legacy month. We ask if you could prayerfully consider leaving a legacy

by naming St. Augustine's Seminary as a beneficiary in your will. For information, contact Samantha Koon at skoon@archtoronto.org or 416-261-7207 ext. 358.

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

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LIVING THE GOSPEL

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