



## Sold-Out Preaching Conference Highlights Summer at St. Augustine's

A highly successful two-day conference on Catholic preaching more than made up for a relatively quiet summer at the Seminary due to ongoing construction.

The conference on August 7-8 featured His Excellency Bishop Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire Ministries and host of the award-winning PBS series Catholicism, as the keynote speaker. The other presenters were His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Fr. Peter Cameron O.P. and Fr. Jude Siciliano O.P. The conference was widely attended by deacons, diaconate candidates, seminarians, priests, bishops and some laity.

"It was an absolutely beautiful event," said Deacon Peter Lovrick, professor of homiletics at the Seminary, who coordinated the conference. "Despite the logistical problems related to construction, it is a testament to all at the Seminary that we were able to host an event of this size and stature and have it go so smoothly."

Each of the presenters approached the subject of preaching from a different perspective. Fr. Cameron spoke of the impor-

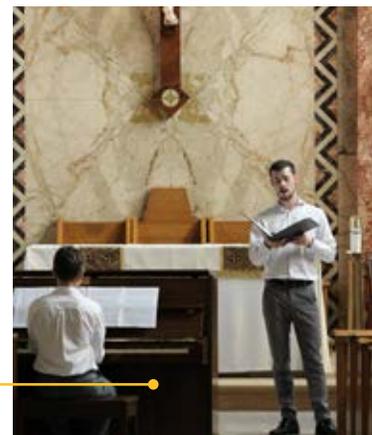
tance of clear structure, while Fr. Siciliano talked about a close meditative focus on the text before breaking it open. Cardinal Collins stressed the importance for preachers to spend adequate time to fully prepare their homilies.

In his keynote, Bishop Barron emphasised the importance of spending time in prayer – a point that resonated with St. Augustine's seminarian Josh Lobo.

"Bishop Barron gave a great example that really struck me," said Lobo. "Paraphrasing, he said, 'a preacher must allow himself to be seized by the Holy Spirit like a trumpet is seized and played by a musician to create beautiful music. This deep relationship with the Holy Spirit comes through prayer. To be a better preacher, therefore, we must become better pray-ers.' I really took that to heart."

Morning and evening prayer and daily mass were also held over the two days. In addition, St. Augustine's wonderful kitchen staff put on a gala dinner and there were musical performances from the Ho Deng Musical Ensemble; world-class organist William O'Meara; and baritone Matthew Snowdon, accompanied by Paul Jenkins.

*Baritone Matthew Snowdon, accompanied by Paul Jenkins, performs in the St. Augustine's chapel.*



*Bishop Robert Barron, keynote speaker at the St. Augustine's Seminary Catholic Preaching conference.*

*Some of the attendees at the sold-out preaching conference.*



# New Faculty Members

St. Augustine's welcomed two new faculty members – Rev. Giuseppe G. Scollo and Rev. John Elmer Abad.



**Fr. Scollo**

After being appointed vice-rector of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary last May, Fr. Scollo joins St. Augustine's academic faculty as an Assistant Professor, Biblical Theology.

Born and raised

in Italy, he entered the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary of Toronto at age 19. He obtained a Bachelor of Catholic Thought from St. Philip's Seminary and an Honours M.Div. from St. Augustine's and was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Toronto in 2007. He served as Associate Pastor at St. Marguerite d'Youville Parish in Brampton before going to Rome to complete his licentiate and doctoral studies.



**Fr. Abad**

St. Augustine's is delighted to have Fr. Abad join our faculty as Assistant Professor, Systematic and Historical Theology. Fr. Abad has a Ph.D. in Classics (Ancient history stream) from the Department of

Classics at the University of Toronto.

Before coming to Toronto, Fr. Abad studied in Rome and received a Licentiate degree in Theology from the Institutum Patristicum Augustinianum. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2000.



## News Briefs

The Seminary has a new home at the Downtown Toronto campus of the University of Toronto. St. Augustine's has moved into Muzzo Family Alumni Hall at the University of St. Michael's College. The Seminary classes were formerly held in the Cardinal Flahiff Centre, also on St. Joseph Street.



Congratulations to Dr. Patricia Murphy, who has been named Director of the Institute of Theology of St. Augustine's. Dr. Murphy began teaching with St. Augustine's in 2004 and will continue to teach Moral Theology courses in conjunction with her responsibilities as Director.



## Celebrating Our Authors

St. Augustine's Seminary will hold a special celebration on November 14, 2018 to honour four faculty members who recently had books published. Those being honoured are:

**Msgr. A. Robert Nusca**, Associate Professor, New Testament, for *The Christ of the Apocalypse: Contemplating the Faces of Jesus in the Book of Revelation*.

**Fr. Séamus Hogan**, Assistant Professor of Church History, for *Extraordinary Ordinaries, a historical account of the Archbishops of the Archdiocese of Toronto*.

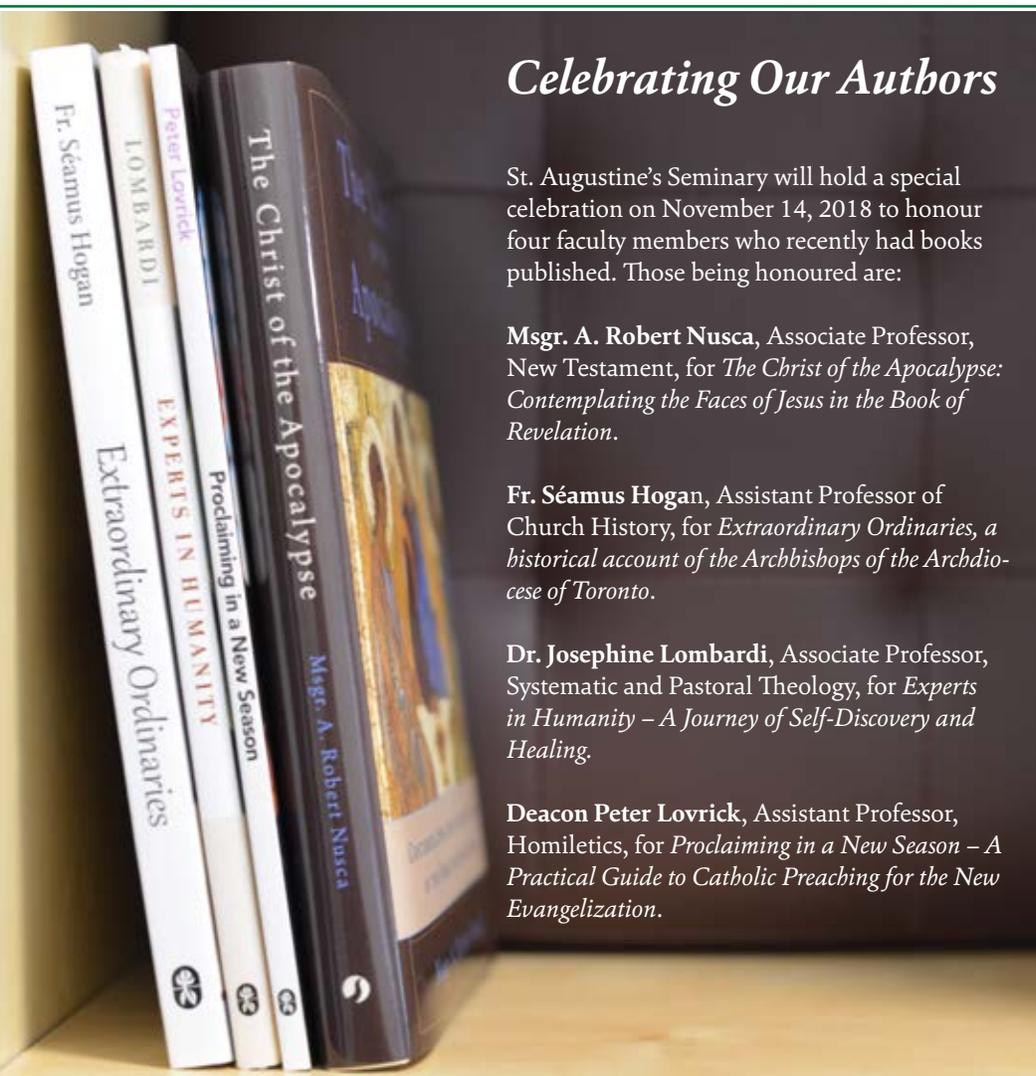
**Dr. Josephine Lombardi**, Associate Professor, Systematic and Pastoral Theology, for *Experts in Humanity – A Journey of Self-Discovery and Healing*.

**Deacon Peter Lovrick**, Assistant Professor, Homiletics, for *Proclaiming in a New Season – A Practical Guide to Catholic Preaching for the New Evangelization*.

## Board Approves Updated Policies On Sexual Violence and Harassment

In accordance with Ontario Bill 132, Sexual Violence and Harassment Action Plan Act, St. Augustine's has updated and created policies dealing with discrimination and harassment including sexual violence and sexual harassment.

The policies have been approved by the St. Augustine's Seminary Board of Governors. Training has been provided to faculty and staff of the Seminary to assist in the understanding of their rights and responsibilities under these policies. All students are covered by the University of Toronto's relevant policies, with the exception of ordained students who are covered by their respective Diocesan policies (i.e. the Archdiocese of Toronto Safe Environment Policy).



# New Faces, New Academic and Formation Year

As the new academic year begins, St. Augustine's is pleased to welcome 14 new seminarians, including 8 for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Two others are from the Archdiocese of Kingston, one from the Archdiocese of Regina and one from the Diocese of Peterborough as well as two new seminarians from the religious community the Congregation of the Disciples of the Lord (CDD).

Overall, there are 84 seminarians in various years of formation, including 38 for Toronto. Once again, the Seminary has a national and international flavour with seminarians representing 10 dioceses across Canada, two from the U.S., one from the Archdiocese of Ha Noi, Vietnam, in addition to the two new seminarians from CDD. Seventeen of the 84 are from the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

This also marks the beginning of the academic year for new and returning students to the Institute of Theology's diploma and degree programs as well as returning and new candidates for the Diaconate program.



*Seminarians who attended Orientation 2018: (front row, left to right) Alvin Joys, Julius Balita, Nicholas Da Silva, John Wang, Marko Busic, Rajen Gomes; (back row, left to right) Dylan Michael, Jude Thusiar, Peter Bissomette, Hilton Chiu, Brendan Reilly, Mark Crossman, Roberto Echeverria, Daniel Malone, Matthew Wang.*

## Alumni Honoured



*St. Augustine's honoured its alumni with a special reception and Mass at the Seminary on September 19, 2018. It was a beautiful celebration, where priests who have been ordained for over 40 years received a memorial icon of St. Augustine.*

## Construction Update

Ongoing construction at the Seminary required a few adjustments to Seminary life as the new academic year began after Labour Day.

Spiritual Year seminarians were temporarily relocated to the Manresa Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering. They were there for most of September while work was completed retrofitting all student and faculty rooms.

Renovation work will resume next summer, upgrading the rooms in St. Joseph House (the former Sisters of St. Martha convent), and adding air conditioning to the main chapel, the dining room and Session Hall.



# Upcoming Events

**October 13, 2018**

*First Annual Day of Reflection for Men*  
Fr. Séamus Hogan

**November 10, 2018**

Noon - 2:00 p.m.  
*Estate Planning*

**December 1, 2018 (new date)**

*Celebrating Humanae Vitae at 50:  
Reflections of Life and Love for a  
New Generation*  
Dr. Patricia Murphy and  
Dr. Julia Cataudella

**December 15, 2018**

*Advent Retreat: Waiting in Hope*  
Dr. Josephine Lombardi

**January 26, 2019**

*The Life and Writings of St. Paul*  
Fr. Joseph Chandrakanthan

**February 23, 2019**

*Same-Sex Attraction and  
Gender Identity: Welcoming and  
Accompanying with the Heart of Christ*  
Fr. Kevin Belgrave

**March 30, 2019**

*Lenten Retreat: Mary in the Heart  
of the Church*  
Fr. Charles Anang

Register for all events at  
[www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca)

# Reflections on the 30-Day Spiritual Year Silent Retreat

At the end of the Spiritual Year program this past spring, seminarians at St. Augustine's crowned the year with a 30-day silent retreat at Martyrs' Shrine in Midland.

"Apart from their daily one-on-one meetings with their spiritual directors (Fr. Philip Shano, SJ, and Br. Dan Leckman, SJ), seminarians spent their days in silence and contemplation," explains Fr. Frederick Chung, Director of the Spiritual Year. "It was a profound experience of discerning Jesus' call to discipleship, and surrendering themselves completely to the service of God at the initial stages of their priestly formation."

"Despite the fact that we were all in silence, at the end of the 30 days I think we (the Spiritual Year seminarians) were all much closer to each other than we were prior," recalls seminarian Cole Powers.

"That was really quite striking to realize that our fraternity didn't depend on talking a lot or spending lots of time with each other, but on walking the same path. I realized that silence is not an absence, but is actually a presence that fills you."

He recalls the intense feeling he had going into the first week of reflection on Sin, Hell and Death.

"When you hear those words, it's kind of frightening. However, for many of us, that was really an occasion of grace. It's not that we focused on our sins, but rather looking at our sins gave us a chance to better understand the mercy that God offers us. So all of us were bowled over when we stopped and reflected just how much and how deeply God's mercy had entered into our lives. That was certainly one of the greatest graces that I experienced."



*Seminarians with their directors at the conclusion of their Spiritual Year retreat: (front row, left to right) Cole Powers, Sean Jacob; (back row, left to right) Noel Vida, Evann Yakabuski, Michael El-Nachef, Fr. Philip Shano, SJ (retreat director), Br. Dan Leckman, SJ (retreat director), Lukas Časta, Vang Ngoc Tran.*

## St. Augustine's Hosts Estate Planning Session

As many have inquired how they may leave a legacy gift to the Seminary, we will be hosting a special Estate Planning session on Saturday, November 10, 2018 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Representatives from the Archdiocese of Toronto and a lawyer will be on hand to answer questions. Please RSVP on or before November 1, 2018 to Samantha Koon at 416-261-7207 ext. 358 or email: [skoon@archtoronto.org](mailto:skoon@archtoronto.org).



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

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