



*The ordinandi are joined by Cardinal Collins (centre) at the Ordinandi Dinner in Toronto on March 3, 2020.  
(Photos by Emanuel Pires)*



*Ordinations for the Archdiocese of Toronto at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica June 27, 2020*

## Fourteen Men Ordained to the Priesthood

**I**t was not how any of the 14 men from St. Augustine's Seminary, including two from the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary, initially imagined their ordinations would be.

None imagined their spring ordinations would be postponed due to a global pandemic, let alone have countries around the world invoke social distancing orders and place restrictions on public gatherings, including all church services.

Yet through the adversity, there was a sense of increased closeness to the people of God, the very people they are being called to

shepherd as priests.

"There's a unique spiritual experience that we as ordinandi went through which is kind of a unity and solidarity with the flock," Rev. Michael Corpus told *The Catholic Register* in an interview. "There were those waiting to be baptized, confirmed, waiting to receive the Eucharist for the first time ever, those waiting for their marriage and us waiting to be ordained. There was this unity of longing and waiting for the sacraments."

The wait for ordination ended after a seven-week delay, as he was ordained along with seven others for the Archdiocese of

Toronto on June 27, 2020 at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica. The ordinations, originally scheduled for May 9, were streamed live online.

This year's ordinandi class also included two men for the Hamilton Diocese, one for the Archdiocese of Ottawa, one for the Pembroke Diocese and one each for the Diocese of Memphis, TN, USA, and the Diocese of Orange, CA, USA. They are being ordained in their own dioceses.

*Biographies of the newly ordained follow on pages 2-4.*



**Rev. Michael Corpus**

Rev. Corpus, 43, is a native of Toronto. His parents made the Church central to his childhood and thus he considered

the call to the priesthood at a very young age. However, his path to the priesthood first took him through university and a broad business career in operations, human resources and cash management. It was after the death of a close family member that he had a deeper conversion to a more personal faith and started spending much of his time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, where his calling increased. With encouragement from family, friends, priests and parishioners, he responded to God's call. He completed a Bachelor's degree in Thomistic Thought at St. Philip's Seminary and a Master of Divinity at St. Augustine's.



**Rev. Martin Dicuangco**

Rev. Dicuangco, 31, was born in Manila, Philippines and moved to Toronto when he was an infant. He attended Brebeuf

College School in Willowdale and felt his first calling to the priesthood in Grade 11 when he stumbled upon St. Pope John Paul II's funeral on television. In his heart, he heard a gentle invitation: 'Why not be a priest like him?' While in university studying kinesiology, he started to doubt his faith and drifted into skepticism. That changed after a chance encounter with seminarians at Serra House and after participating in a walking pilgrimage to Martyr's Shrine. He encountered Christ. Christianity was no longer an idea, he says, but an encounter with a person. It reawakened his calling to the priesthood.



**Rev. Joshua Lobo**

Rev. Lobo, 29, moved to Toronto from India as a child in 1994. He was actively involved in sports in his youth, including working as a

part-time swimming instructor. He studied business at the University of Toronto and worked for two accounting firms and a digital marketing firm. In his third year of university, after the sudden death of his grandfather, he began to spend more time in prayer which led him to encounter God's call to the priesthood. During his final year of university, he 'randomly' met the vocations director of the Archdiocese of Toronto who invited him to discern the priesthood in a more focused way. Immediately after graduation, he entered formation at St. Augustine's Seminary.



**Rev. Rafał Michał Bartosiński**

*(Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary)*

Rev. Bartosiński, 34, grew up in a suburb of Warsaw City, Poland. After

studying computer science in college, he worked for a few years as an office worker. When St. Pope John Paul II died in 2005, he felt the Lord calling him to enter the seminary, though it took him a few years before he decided to go. He studied theology at the University of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński before joining a community of the Neocatechumenal Way in 2009. It was in this community in 2011 that he made the final decision to enter the seminary. He was sent to the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary of Toronto and studied philosophy at St. Philip's Seminary.



**Rev. JiHwan Cho**

Rev. Cho, 32, was born in Korea. Sports was a big part of his life as a youth. He played soccer until middle school and even wanted to do this

for a living. That changed when he was in high school, when his desire to live for others became greater and he started to think about the priesthood. Right after high school, he joined the major seminary for Suwon Diocese in Korea. After seven years of formation, and before getting ordained as a deacon, he decided to take some time to discern a vocation to a religious order. After a year of discernment, he came to Canada to join the Archdiocese of Toronto.



**Rev. André Luis de Lima**

*(Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary)*

Rev. de Lima, 32, was born in the town of Caconde, São Paulo, Brazil.

When he was a small child, he could not understand God, yet God surprised him with an invitation. Even before he received confirmation, he was invited to listen to some talks given by the Neocatechumenal Way. There, he started realizing how God points out sins without condemning the sinner and he felt loved. In 2007, he heard the call to the priesthood and decided to take the risk. He went on a retreat in Italy. There God helped him to be available and to give his consent to go anywhere in order to enter one of the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminaries around the world. His name was drawn by lottery and he was sent to Toronto.



## Archdiocese of Toronto *continued*



**Rev. Neil Pereira**

Rev. Pereira, 30, grew up in Mumbai, India and moved to Canada as a teen with his family. Even though his parents taught him the faith from

an early age, there was no inclination to the priesthood in his early life. Neil's faith remained limited to an hour of Mass on Sunday and the occasional prayer meetings of the charismatic renewal. His experience with the University of Toronto, Mississauga, chaplaincy showed him that his faith was not merely a personal choice but a communally lived reality. In 2011, after graduating with a degree in Psychology and Human Resources, he worked for the Archdiocese of Toronto as a Totus Tuus Missionary. In the fall of that year, he entered St. Augustine's.



**Rev. John Steven Sutka**

Rev. Sutka, 42, was raised in Etobicoke. The seeds of faith were first planted by his mother, introducing him to books about the

Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. Although he stopped going to Mass in his teen years, the seeds were still there. He first felt the call to discern a religious vocation in his twenties but remained in secular life. He worked at a potato distributor as a quality control supervisor for the next 10 years with both his father and brother. It was after his mother's sudden passing in 2008 that doors started opening on his priestly vocation journey. He attended a 'Come and See' weekend at St. Augustine's. In August 2010, he quit his job to enter formation at Serra House, completed his first degree at St. Philip's Seminary before continuing his formation at St. Augustine's.

## Archdiocese of Ottawa



**Rev. Jonathan Kelly**

Rev. Kelly, 30, grew up in the town of Aylmer, QC. He is one of four siblings. After graduating high school, he studied

at CEGEP Heritage College in the sciences program with plans to study engineering at the University of Ottawa. During this period, he went on a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia. While in Sydney, in the silence of a church, he felt an invitation from God to discern the priesthood. One year later, in 2009, he entered St. Philip Neri Seminary where he studied philosophy for three years. In 2012, he received his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and entered St. Augustine's Seminary to study Theology and complete his Master of Divinity degree.

## Diocese of Hamilton



**Rev. Hayden Starczala**

Rev. Starczala, 28, grew up in a loving family with two siblings in Cambridge, ON. After high school, he studied philosophy

at Wilfrid Laurier University, as he considered becoming a lawyer. During his studies he became aware that God was calling him to become a priest, both through a desire the Lord placed in his heart and through the words of his brothers and sisters in Christ. While in Spain for World Youth Day in 2011, he accepted this vocation and resolved to begin a program of formation for the priesthood. After a brief yet formative stint with a religious congregation, he entered St. Augustine's Seminary to resume studies in preparation for Holy Orders.



**Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz**

Rev. Stankiewicz, 29, was born in Toronto. He had a strong Catholic upbringing. It was in Grade 11 when he first felt drawn

to serve Christ totally. After finishing high school, he went on to study Life Science at the University of Toronto, intending to enter a monastery in Vermont as soon as he completed the degree. During his summer break after second year, he read two inspiring books about diocesan priests that attracted him to parish priesthood: Trochu's book on St. John Vianney and Weigel's on St. John Paul II. The attraction to diocesan priesthood became stronger and matured. He applied to and was received by his home diocese as a seminarian in 2013.

## Diocese of Pembroke



**Rev. Michael Coyne**

Rev. Coyne, 46, was born in North Bay. His family eventually moved to Renfrew, which is located in the Pembroke Diocese.

He grew up immersed in a strong Catholic tradition and was encouraged in his childhood to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Michael himself felt this call, but at the same time was drawn to the teaching profession. After high school, he travelled extensively abroad, teaching for numerous years, but continued to hear internally the call to the priesthood. Attempting to discern the direction of the Spirit in his life, he eventually returned to Canada and, on the advice of his spiritual director, spent some time at Madonna House in Combermere in an effort to better hear God's voice in his life. He officially entered formation for diocesan priesthood for the Pembroke Diocese in 2012.

## Diocese of Memphis, TN, USA



**Rev. Martin Santos Lugo Tapia**

Rev. Tapia, 38, was born in Mexico City. He received the sacraments of initiation in Mexico, however he didn't practice the Catholic religion while growing up. As a teen, he spent much of his time practicing soccer and studying. He wanted to become a professional soccer player. When Martin was 18, he moved to Memphis, TN to live with his father. This was the time when he started attending Mass regularly, and, little by little, he got involved in different groups in the church. In 2008, a priest whom Martin admired, invited him to consider going to the seminary. He thought about that for one year. Then he contacted the vocations director in the Diocese of Memphis. He was accepted and sent to Mexico to study philosophy and theology. In 2016 he came to Canada to complete his studies.

## Diocese of Orange, CA, USA



**Rev. Jakub Mackowicz**

Rev. Mackowicz, 32, grew up in Southern California. As a youngster, he says he never imagined himself as a priest. During his time at university, he became more involved at his parish, volunteering his time in various ministries. He began to take his faith more seriously and serving the Lord in this way was something that he grew to love. While he felt a call to the priesthood, making such a lifelong commitment seemed like too much at the time. However, reading Fulton Sheen's book *The Priest is Not His Own* changed him. He started to learn about surrendering to God and actually listening to what God wanted for him. He entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2013. Though not quite sure what he was doing, he trusted that the Lord would take care of him. God has not let him down. He says the Lord has blessed him with so much and the journey, though not without its challenges, has been enriching and beautiful.

# Seven Men to be Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate

Every two years St. Augustine's celebrates the ordination of men to the Permanent Diaconate. This year, we are blessed to have seven men ordained as Deacons for the Archdiocese of Toronto — Paul Bar, Michael Lewis, Daniel McPhee, Donald Muller, William Nalepka, Martin Treash, Carlos Ivan Retamales-Riveros.

The Diaconate Ordinations will take place later this fall, after having been postponed

from May 23 due to the pandemic.

Deacon Peter Lovrick, Director of Formation of the Diaconate Program at St. Augustine's Seminary, says there is a sense of pride and joy witnessing the journey each of the candidates has taken through their four years of formation. He says God's call for each candidate is personal, but "many people tell us that part of the call comes from outside, that people come to them and say

'you should consider being a deacon.'"

Given that, he encourages anyone who hears such a suggestion should at least consider that it may indeed be a calling from God.

There is a group of 20 men studying and discerning for possible ordination to the Permanent Diaconate in two years and another 18 aspirants behind them.



*Fourth-year diaconate class (left to right) Don Muller, William Nalepka, Angie Nalepka.*



*Diaconate liturgical presidency instruction on the sacrament of baptism. (From left to right) Dan McPhee, Don Muller, Paul Bar, Dcn David Quail, Dea Muller.*



# Convocation 2019

It was a pleasure to see so many graduates return to receive their degrees at the 2019 Convocation last November. There were eight Master of Divinity graduates, nine Pontifical Baccalaureate of Sacred Theology recipients, two Master of Religious Education graduates and three recipients of Master of Theological Studies degrees. Rev. Peter Bisson, S.J., Assistant to the Provincial of the Society of Jesus in Canada for Indigenous Relations, gave the Address.

The winner of the 2019 *Father Gerald Tait, S.J., Award* was Ms. Kimberly Pastrak, who obtained a Master of Religious Education

(MRE) studying part-time while working full-time.

She came to St. Augustine's seeking a Catholic-based degree program that would prepare her for Catholic high school chaplaincy, having previously completed a Master of Theological Studies elsewhere.

"My focus of my Master of Theological Studies degree was ministry studies and I felt that prepared me for my role as a Chaplaincy Leader," she says. "However, my Master of Religious Education (from St. Augustine's) truly prepared me to be a Chaplain in an educational setting."

"Through the MRE, I was given a new lens through which to view my ministry and I feel that has best helped me to tailor my approach to my work. When I walked into my first class, Foundations of Ministry with Dr. Ligo, I already felt as if I was home. This was a welcoming environment that was rooted in the love of Jesus Christ – the epitome of Catholic Education, and that was what I was craving. My first and lasting impression was that here was a place where I could fully express my Catholicity."



*Convocation 2019 (Back Row, left to right) Mr. Robert Rosales, Mr. Benjamin Mathew, Rev. John Schnurr, Rev. Vivek Trindade, Ms. Kimberly Pastrak, Rev. Mauricio Sanjines Calatayud, Rev. Eduardo De Oliveira Paixao, Rev. Joao Veras Ferreira, Rev. Gregory Merkley. (Front Row, left to right) Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Rev. Peter Bisson, S.J., Rev. Luis M. Melo, The Rev. Dr. Dorcas Gordon, SAS Chancellor, Thomas Cardinal Collins, Dr. Mark McGowan, Most Rev. Wayne Kirkpatrick, Rev. Edwin Gonsalves.*

## Upcoming Scheduled Events

(Dates are subject to change)

**Saturday, October 3, 2020**

*Annual Day of Reflection for Men:  
Called to a Daily Vocation*

Presenter: Deacon Peter Lovrick

Workshops and Retreats are normally held at the Seminary from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (including Mass). Cost is \$50 and includes lunch.

**Saturday, November 21, 2020**

*Workshop on the Holy Spirit:  
Water and Fire—The Person of the Holy Spirit in Christian Life*

Presenter: Rev. Joseph Chandrakanthan

For more information, visit  
[www.staugustines.on.ca/  
about/events](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events)

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

*Advent Retreat:  
Imitation of Christ*

Presenter: Dr. Josephine Lombardi



*(Left to right) Dr. Josephine Lombardi, Ms. Kimberly Pastrak, Rev. Luis M. Melo.*



# St. Augustine's President Bishop Kirkpatrick Departs for New Role in Nova Scotia

It is with mixed emotions that St. Augustine's bade farewell to its president, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick, who was given a new pastoral charge as Bishop of the Diocese of Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

"I am humbled by the trust placed in me by the Holy Father to serve the faithful of the Diocese of Antigonish as their shepherd," said Bishop Kirkpatrick, who served as St. Augustine's president for five years. "I ask for your prayers and be assured of mine as I prepare for this new chapter of ministry."

## Rector and Interim President

Bishop Kirkpatrick's departure has necessitated some additional changes. Our current rector, Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, will take on a dual function, adding Interim President to his duties.

## New Academic Dean

Meanwhile, we've also had a change in academic leadership. Our Academic Dean, Fr. Luis M. Melo, has been appointed Director of the Office for Promoting Christian Unity and Religious Relations with Judaism.

With his departure, St. Augustine's Faculty member Fr. John Abad has been appointed as the new Academic Dean.

We are profoundly grateful to Bishop Kirkpatrick and Fr. Melo for their tireless work and pastoral leadership of St. Augustine's.



*(Photo by Ashley Pettipas)*



*Rev. Edwin Gonsalves  
Rector & Interim President,  
St. Augustine's Seminary*



*Rev. John Elmer Abad  
Academic Dean,  
St. Augustine's Seminary*



# Spiritual Year Seminarians Complete 30-Day Ignatian (Silent) Retreat

St. Augustine's eleven Spiritual Year seminarians began 2020 by completing their 30-Day Spiritual Exercises at the Guelph retreat centre from early January through to February.

Their retreat consisted of five meditations a day, where they reflected on the life, cross and resurrection of our Lord. Each meditation was guided daily by an experienced spiritual director.

"They were moved towards personal growth in prayer and self-awareness," says Fr. Fred Chung, Director of the Spiritual Year (Propaedeutic Stage) and Assistant Professor of Biblical Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary. "They each witnessed that it was a profound experience of bonding with the Lord in sacred silence."

He also notes that "although it was not the main goal, the Exercises also provided the stillness to listen to God's voice regarding one's vocation and discerning it in the depths of one's heart."

Seminarian James Cyfko says "the Spiritual Exercises were exactly what I needed at this point in my formation. Immersing myself into the life of Christ by meditating on the Gospels opened my eyes to who I was in

the context of the Love of God. As I learned more about myself, I grew in understanding of the immensity of the mercy of God. In that, a call to the priesthood was realized more fully."

Fellow seminarian Alvin Joys echoes those sentiments.

"I can confidently say I have grown much deeper in my relationship with the Lord, learning to love and be loved by Him and growing in trust of His plan for my life," he says. "This experience has deepened my vo-

catational calling and has given me the zeal to spend these next few years in the seminary, really doing my best to become the holy priest which I know God desires me to become. This has been one of the most pivotal experiences of my life."

Fr. Chung says being a winter retreat, seminarians also "took advantage of the grounds and did hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and building, in silence, snowmen and snow cathedrals."



*Spiritual Year seminarians pray during their Martyrs' Shrine pilgrimage walk last fall.*

## A Portrait Of Giving



Meet some of the unsung heroes at St. Augustine's Seminary — Ada Suryadinata and her late husband; and Maria Luz Manalo and her sisters Evelyn and Sophie Manalo. All have decided to name St. Augustine's Seminary as one of the beneficiaries in their will as a means of helping support the Church long after they have been called home to our Lord.

Maria credits her sister, Remi M. St. Louis, who passed away in 2008, as being a major inspiration, calling her "the Rock of Gibraltar of the Manalo family as she inspired us in supporting and promoting vocations."

For her part, Ada says "my late husband, Raymond, has always regarded the needs of the men discerning the priesthood at St. Augustine's. These courageous men have a need they could not meet on their own."

*Ada Suryadinata and her late husband named St. Augustine's Seminary in their will.*

The Seminary is so grateful for their faithful generosity. If you are considering a Legacy gift to the Seminary and would like more information, please contact Samantha Koon at skoon@archtoronto.org or 416-261-7207 ext. 358.

*(From left to right) Sophie, Evelyn and Maria Manalo. All three sisters generously included St. Augustine's Seminary in their will.*





# The Impact of the Pandemic on St. Augustine's

St. Augustine's was impacted in several ways by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Seminary closed its doors to the public in mid-March. As a result, seminarians moved home or to nearby parishes and staff were instructed to work from home. All were healthy at the time.

Despite the closure of the building, students and seminarians were able to complete their academic year and write exams using the University of Toronto's on-line learning portal, thanks to the Seminary's partnership with UofT as part of the Toronto School of Theology.

One of the most notable impacts was the postponement of both the priestly and permanent diaconate ordinations, which were originally scheduled to take place in May for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Ordinations for dioceses outside of Toronto were also rescheduled.

Other scheduled events at the Seminary were also impacted. Check the Seminary website for updates.

**"You, Lord, will not leave us at the mercy of the storm. Tell us again: 'Do not be afraid' (Mt 28:5). And we, together with Peter, cast all our anxieties onto you, for you care about us" (cf. 1 Pet 5:7).**

*Pope Francis, March 27, 2020  
(Urbi et Orbi blessing)*



## News Briefs

### Moving Events Online

During the pandemic, St. Augustine's found creative ways online to reach the faithful. It streamed a daily Come Holy Spirit Novena from May 22 through Pentecost Sunday, led by various priests from the Seminary. St. Augustine's also brought its Preaching Conference online on June 29, featuring presentations by Dr. Scott Hahn, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Dr. Josephine Lombardi and Dr. Mary Callan.

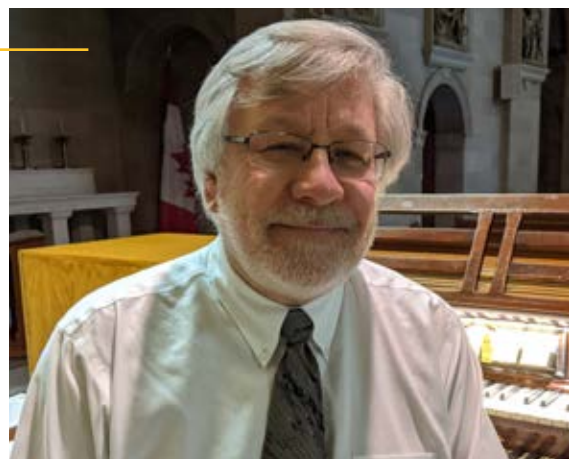
### We Are The Champions

Every year, St. Peter's Seminary in London, ON and St. Augustine's come together for fraternity and fun in the annual Rectors' Cup challenge. Traditionally hockey is the game of preference, but lately soccer has provided a good way to mix things up. The games were hosted at St. Augustine's this year, and the home team was victorious. The Rectors' Cup weekend also features basketball, social time with St. Peter's seminarians, and a hearty brunch after the Saturday Mass before their return to London.



### St. Augustine's New Music Director

Jerzy Cichocki joins St. Augustine's Seminary as its new organist and director of Liturgical Music. He is also music director and conductor of the Victoria Scholars, which was founded in 1993 by graduates of St. Michael's Choir School. He worked at the Choir School from 1986-2016, serving in various capacities, including artistic director, principal choir conductor, organist and teacher. He also performed worldwide with the St. Michael's Choir School choirs.



### Construction Update

The renovation of the Seminary's dining room has been completed. The room is now air conditioned and a state-of-the-art programmable lighting system has been installed. New AV projectors, screens, automatic window shades, and a new sound system make the dining room an ideal setting for large conferences. Separate controls for the north and south sections of the dining room allow for maximum flexibility when the dividing wall is closed for separate meetings, but automatically integrate the whole AV system when the wall is open.



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

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