



ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY



Bishop Boissonneau's Long History With _____ St. Augustine's

As a young boy growing up in Scarborough, Bishop John Boissonneau would pass the large domed building of the Seminary nestled toward the back of the property on Kingston Road and marvel at its sight. Though he thought of being a priest from a young age, he didn't think then that one day he would be rector of the esteemed seminary which first opened its doors in 1913.

Since that day, over two-thousand men from St. Augustine's have been ordained to the priesthood, including Bishop Boissonneau in 1974.

"I am just a simple boy from Scarborough who wanted to be a priest so right after high school, I entered the Seminary."

He returned to St. Augustine's in 1982 as a professor. He was named rector in 1993, a role he held until 2001, when he was appointed bishop. During his tenure, he oversaw a number of important initiatives, including welcoming and negotiating the special relationship St. Augustine's shares with the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary.

"That now is a very important part of the Archdiocese of Toronto, and part of the vocation story of the Archdiocese."

He was also instrumental in having St. Augustine's confer its own Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree. In the past, it had been granted through St. Paul's University. "That allowed us to be even more a standalone seminary. I think it was a very important step in the ongoing life and growth of St. Augustine's."

He also helped set up a tuition fund through the Board of Governors to help defray costs for seminarians' studies.

Bishop Boissonneau is Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto with responsibility for the Northern Region. ■

The Many Gifts of Msgr. John Borean



Msgr. John Borean could have easily been an architectural designer, but from a very young age he wanted to be a priest.

He entered St. Augustine's Seminary after high school and was ordained in 1978. He has served in several

parishes around the GTA and is currently pastor at St. Clare of Assisi in Woodbridge, a church he helped design and build in 1995.

"I've always been very artistic"

Msgr. Borean has made sure not to take his artistic talents for granted or hide them under a bushel. So when he was approached by the Seminary about helping design the new sanctuary, he jumped at the idea.

"I lived seven years at the Seminary and I just felt it was a privilege to give back. The design for the new altar just came to me. I wanted the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the front of the altar."

Msgr. Borean is very hands-on with his creations. He doesn't just sketch the idea and then hand it off. He was at the Seminary over several months making sure things were just right.

"I followed it through right from the beginning. I feel privileged that I could do something for the Seminary. And, if having me do the work (instead of hiring a designer) saves them money, that is a good thing. I am happy to use my gifts." ■



The Call to the Permanent Diaconate

When Paul Ma was first approached about the prospect of becoming a permanent deacon, his response was to walk away.

"It was in 2002, my wife Maria and I had some friends over for dinner," he recalls. "During mealtime, Deacon Peter Lovrick said,

'Paul, you will be a deacon.'

I didn't know how to answer that. Both Maria and I didn't like the idea. So we walked away."

Six years later during a family trip to Toronto he says "a voice came to me, 'have you ever thought of being a deacon?' That came from nowhere. So I prayed in my heart, 'Lord, if that is you, can you have Maria say it?' There was no way she was going to say that."

"Just like the wind," Maria remembers, "as we were walking, the idea came to me, so I said to Paul 'have you ever thought of being a deacon?'"

He entered formation at St. Augustine's in 2010 and was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 2014. ■

Seminary Life



The Eternal Significance of the Seminary Curriculum



As Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Toronto, Fr. Matthew McCarthy regularly talks to young men considering the call to the priesthood. Ordained in 2017, he can relate to the young candidates and he's not shy about sharing the joys of priestly life and the formation process.

"My years at St. Augustine's were among the best years of my life," he says. "I found it really awesome in a sense, and this is something that I kind of grew to appreciate, but I realized that everything I was studying has eternal significance."

"I was blessed to have professors who not only educated us but also inspired us by the way they lived their lives. That's education par excellence, when they're not just able to convey information but to teach us how to live the life of a disciple."

Fr. McCarthy says the community life at St. Augustine's and the sense of camaraderie among his fellow seminarians was equally important in his formation.

A big sports fan, he was worried that part of his life would end when he entered the Seminary. But he was pleasantly surprised to be "playing sports with my brother seminarians once or twice a week. We played hockey, basketball." ■

Life of Prayer:



"My favourite memory of the Seminary was when I was on a silent retreat for four weeks. To be able to meditate on Christ's life for that time was such an amazing experience."

MATTHEW TULIO



"My favourite memory is my mission trip to Jamaica in my second year. It was beautiful because you got to experience the gospel in a real and tangible way."

SEAN JACOB



"There's something different about being able to walk into the chapel any time of day or night and talk with our Lord."

MICHAEL EL-NACHEF

Life of Study:



"The most rewarding part of studying at St. Augustine's is the opportunity to be in a seminary for seven years where your main goal, the work that you're here to do, is to grow closer to God and learn the things of God. That is a huge privilege."

DCN. FRASER MCLAREN

Community Living:



"The most rewarding part of seminary life is spending time living with priests and people studying to become priests. It has given me much greater love for not just the priesthood, but for priests as human beings."

DCN. DANIEL CORSO



"Last Semester, we produced a concert fundraiser for the Chapel. Even though that involved quite a bit of work and toil, it was beautiful seeing the fruits of that. I was very proud of the work that the men put in."

DCN. CONNOR O'HARA



Dr. Colin Saldanha: The Heart of a Giver

You never know what impact even a small act of charity has on another person. In the case of Dr. Colin Saldanha, the seemingly simple generosity a local priest showed him after his father died when he was 14, molded in him a heart of a giver.

“I was a scout troop leader in my school in Pakistan and we were organizing a camping trip,” remembers Dr. Saldanha, a Mississauga Catholic family physician with a long and distinguished career of public service and generosity. “The principal of our school, a Catholic priest, said ‘Colin I don’t see your name on the list.’ So I said, no I am not going. My mother was a recent widow and I didn’t want to ask her for the money. The priest said to me, ‘Colin you are going, and I will look after it.’”

That small act set aflame a desire in that young boy to help others. After he graduated from med-school, he immigrated to Canada in 1981 and set up his own family practice. Despite his busy schedule, he always has time for others and has received numerous accolades for his charitable community work, including the Governor General’s medal for volunteerism. ■



A Graduate Student’s Journey

When people think of the Seminary, the formation of priests and deacons is often the first thing that comes to mind. But an equally important aspect of St. Augustine’s mission is the formation of strong lay disciples for Christ through its Institute of Theology and Lay Spiritual Formation programs.

Erin Kinsella is one such graduate, who has often been called to answer many of the hot-button questions that face the Church and society as a whole, whether that’s appearing in the media to speak on behalf of the Church or having frank discussions with students as a campus minister.

“There’s something very empowering about having a more in-depth knowledge about the faith and the Church that gives you the confidence to even talk about hard things,” she says. “You can wade into very difficult situations because you are able to stand on solid ground. One of the things that struck me when I first started at St. Augustine’s was the integration of faith and knowledge.” ■



Wishing you
a Blessed
Christmas
and Joyful
New Year

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT
Please keep the Seminarians in your prayers



ST. AUGUSTINE'S
SEMINARY

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