

Update

The Sulpicians, Province of the US

Winter 2016



Provincial's message

Blessed

John C. Kemper, PSS

Eight years ago, I arrived at the historic site of St. Mary's Seminary on Paca Street and was met with an unfamiliar Baltimore colloquialism. Often when I would ask someone, "How are you?," their reply was "Blessed!" Having served in Sulpician assignments in Michigan, Northern California and Texas, this common Baltimore colloquial reply took me by surprise and gave me cause to reflect. For the respondent, "blessed" is both an expression of faith and gratitude on the part of the respondent. I believe it is both their faith in the belief that God will look after them, as well as a sense of gratitude when God does. The past several years serving at St. Mary's, Paca Street, has filled me with a greater sense of gratitude for the original "Gentlemen of St.

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Historic Papal Visit: A Series of Papal Firsts!

Phillip J. Brown, PSS



Pope Francis, accompanied by the Speaker of the House and the Vice President, pauses briefly at the statue of Father Junípero Serra in the US Capitol Rotunda's Statuary Hall.

September 22-27, 2015, were historic days for the United States, in particular for American Catholics. During those days Pope Francis visited the US for the first time in his life, stopping in Washington, New York and Philadelphia.

September 23 was extra special for Theological College, Catholic University and the Archdiocese of Washington as Pope Francis celebrated Mass on the East Portico terrace of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, just across the street from Theological College, canonizing Blessed Junípero Serra. Inside were seminarians and other religious from all across America greeting the Pope as he walked through on

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(L-R) Father Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS (Provincial) and Father John C. Kemper, PSS, (Provincial-elect) at morning prayer during the May 2015 Sulpician retreat.

blessed
thankful
grateful

Update

is a publication that seeks to inform its readership of the state and current activities of the US Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, its membership and institutions. For more information please visit our website at www.sulpicians.org

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Sulpice" who arrived in Baltimore from Paris in 1791—before Baltimore was a city. Their heroic faith, apostolic spirit and dedication to the mission continue to inspire me as well as others to this day.

This past July, 22 young Sulpician candidates from around the world gathered for a *mois sulpicien* (Sulpician month) in Paris as part of our formation program. These priests, representing the three Sulpician provinces, came from five of the seven continents on the globe. I was privileged to be with them for part of their time together. Their fraternal spirit found expression as they struggled together over language, meals, worship and prayer, and traveling together. As the new Provincial Superior of the Province of the United States, I was impressed with our eight US Sulpician candidates who participated in the program, four from the United States and four from Zambia, Central Africa.

This past summer, David Brooks wrote an article in the *New York Times* entitled "The Structure of Gratitude." He concluded the article with the following: "People with grateful dispositions

see their efforts grandly but not themselves. Life doesn't surpass their dreams but it nicely surpasses their expectations." (July 28, 2015). The Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, is truly "blessed." We have a strong foundation forged by men of great faith animated by a real apostolic and pastoral zeal. Over the past 225 years our provincial leadership has served us well and our donors and benefactors, who collaborate with us to make our work possible, are truly part of our mission and ministry. Our incoming candidates, both in the US and Zambia, will enable us to move our mission forward, so please keep them in your prayers.

We are truly blessed!

John C. Kemper, PSS is Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

Papal Firsts

Continued from p. 1.



Pope Francis greeted enthusiastically by seminarians and religious as he entered the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC.

his way to the Mass. Priests and bishops from around the United States concelebrated the Mass with the Holy Father. Taking part in this historic event was a thrilling and a deeply spiritual experience.

Equally historic was the Holy Father's address to Congress. Anyone who knows the history of Catholicism in the United States had to be aware of the significance of a Pope addressing Congress. The event communicated that a new day has dawned for Catholics in the United States. It closed the circle of Catholics' "arrival" as fully accepted members of US society that began with the election of John F. Kennedy as President. It also closed a circle that opened when Sulpicians first arrived in the US in 1791, fleeing persecution during the French Revolution.

Sulpicians have been an integral part of the US from its beginnings, contributing to its culture, providing spiritual care of its people and planting the faith throughout the country through their work of priestly

formation. Sulpicians anticipated the spirit Pope Francis brought with him to America, and have in many ways represented the spirit of America to the Church. What a privilege to concelebrate the canonization Mass with Pope Francis as members of the Society of St. Sulpice and representatives of Theological College.

From Washington Pope Francis went on to New York where he spoke to the United Nations, visited the World Trade Center site and celebrated Mass at Madison Square Garden. In

Philadelphia, among other activities he celebrated Mass for the World Gathering of families. All will savor the memories of these historic days. May we all share with

others the spirit Pope Francis brought to America, as we continue to live this new day of faith in the USA.

Phillip J. Brown, PSS is the Rector of Theological College, Washington DC.



Seminarians from Theological College on the Capitol lawn awaiting the Holy Father's arrival.



Pope Francis, accompanied by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, arriving at The Catholic University of America.

Prayer, Presentations and Pilgrimages

Gerald D. McBrearity, PSS



Father Dominic Ciriaco making an observation during the mois.

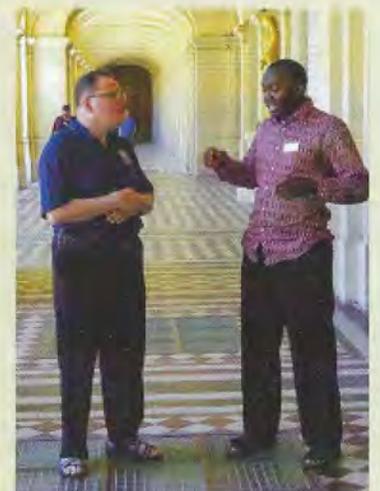


The Sulpicians enjoy the hospitality of the Dominican Sisters at Langeac.

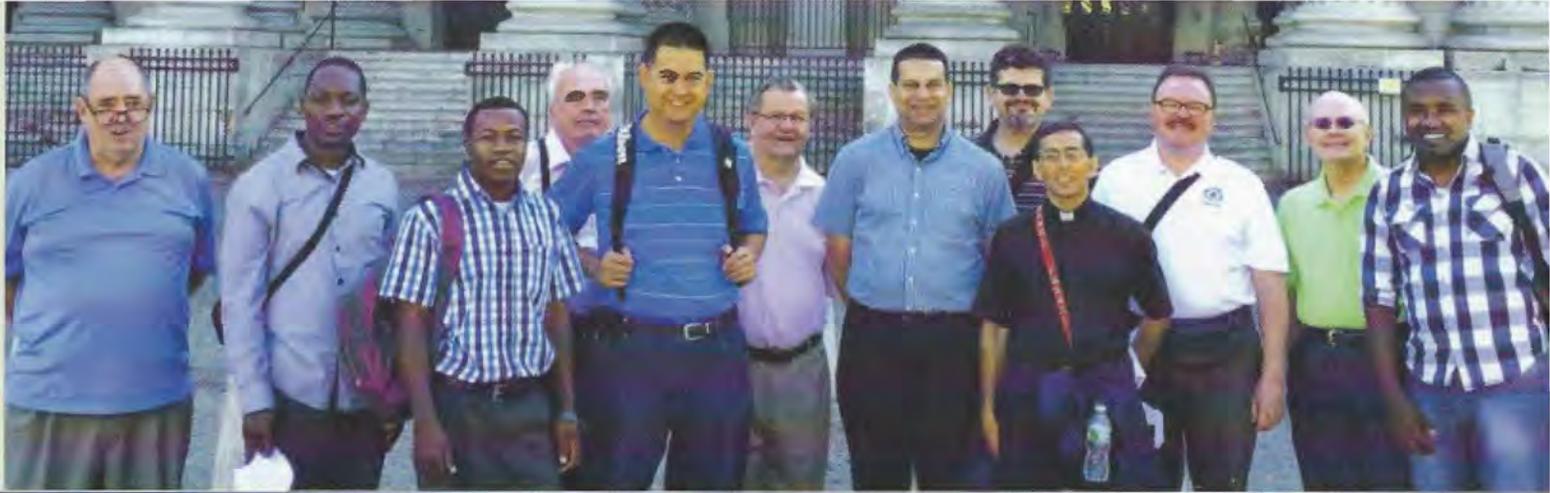
During the month of July, 22 Sulpician candidates from around the world gathered in Paris for the *mois sulpicien*, a month of prayer, presentations and pilgrimages. There were 10 candidates from the Province of France representing countries such as Vietnam, Benin, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, China and France itself. There were four candidates from the Province of Canada (all of them from Columbia) and there were eight candidates from the Province of the United States with four from the United States and four from Zambia. The gathering was marked very quickly by a spirit of hospitality, humor, mutual respect and a desire to learn from one another.

The *mois sulpicien* is organized to achieve several goals: first, to encourage interprovincial dialogue and unity; second, to engage the major challenges that are integral to the initial formation of diocesan priests, especially in the tradition of the French School of Spirituality and the witness and writings of Father Olier; and third, to become familiar with those places that were of special significance in the life of Fr. Olier. The first of these goals was achieved by the presentations made by the Provincials of the three provinces and the resulting questions and discussions. The similarity of challenges faced by each province was noted. The distinct challenges that each culture faces due to the country's history and specific traditions were also acknowledged.

The second of these goals was achieved by presentations given by members of the three provinces on topics such as the ministry of spiritual direction, a correct understanding of the distinction between internal and external forum, formation in prayer, and the meaning and



Fathers Anthony Pogorelc and Peter Kwaleyela in the cloister of Séminarie Saint Sulpice, Issy-Les-Moulineaux, Paris.



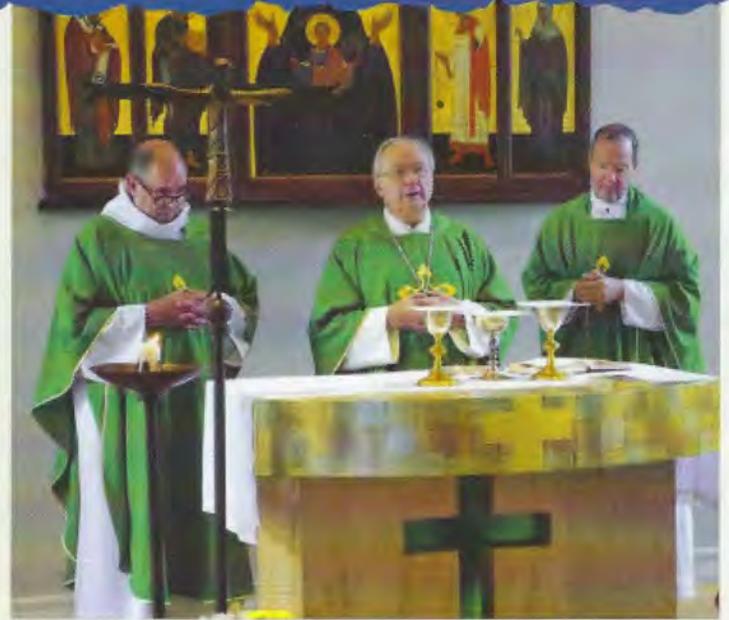
US participants in the 2015 mois sulpicien, Paris.

consequences of our Sulpician identity as a Society of Apostolic Life. Other presentations focused on the Sulpician response to the challenges presented in the Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* as well as the responsibility of each Sulpician to encourage priests and future priests to consider the distinctive ministry of priestly formation in the Sulpician tradition.

The third goal was achieved by carefully organized visits to a variety of important places: the Church of St. Sulpice, the Generalate, Chartres Cathedral, the church of Notre Dame de Vertus, the city of Lyon, the village of Le Puy and, especially, the village of Langeac and an encounter with the Dominican Sisters of the Monastery of Saint Catherine who embody the legacy of Blessed Agnes of Jesus. The organization of these visits was administered by Father Jean-Louis Rouilleir who deserves much credit for serving as the primary coordinator of this very successful *mois sulpicien*.

It must be added there were many occasions of celebration both in the seminary chapel at Issy-Les-Moulineaux and in the dining room of the seminary. Beautiful liturgies in multiple languages and marvelous food and fine wine assisted in creating an atmosphere of fellowship and solidarity. Thanks should be given to the General Council for its vision and guidance as well as to the staff of the seminary who assisted in creating a lasting memory for each of those who were fortunate to participate in this summer's *mois sulpicien*.

*Gerald D. McBrearity, PSS
is Vice-Rector, Theological College,
Washington, DC.*



(Center) Archbishop Joseph Doré, PSS, former Archbishop of Strasbourg, with (left) Father Lawrence Terrien, PSS and (right) Father Ronald Witherup, PSS, the former and current Superior General of the Society.



Father Jerome Magat explaining to the participants an aspect of Sulpician ministry in the United States.

225th Anniversary

of the Sulpician Fathers' arrival in the United States, July 10, 1791



225th Anniversary Events

"When, on October 3rd of that year (1791), the regular academic exercises were opened, Fr. Nagot and his colleagues, strictly following the instruction of M. Emery, carried out the rules, the exercises, the course of studies so familiar to them in the seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris."

*"Sulpicians in the United States"
Hebbermann, p 39., c. 1916*

April 22, 2016

The Historic Site, St. Mary's Seminary,
Paca Street, Baltimore, MD

- Evening Prayer with Superior General and Council
- Private Event, Sulpicians & invited guests

October 1, 2016

The Historic Site, St. Mary's Seminary,
Paca Street, Baltimore, MD

- Dedication of the new signage in St. Mary's Park followed by a picnic reception at St. Mary's Historic Site (sponsored by the US Province) with invited guests.

November 14, 2016

The Historic Site, St. Mary's Seminary,
Paca Street, Baltimore, MD

- An Evening with Cardinal Marc Ouellet, PSS
- Private Event, Sulpicians & Invited Guests
- Reception

November 15, 2016

St. Mary's Seminary & University,
Roland Avenue, Baltimore, MD

- Public Lecture by Cardinal Ouellet and his reception of an Honorary Doctorate
- Reception
- Sponsored by the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States and St. Mary's Seminary & University

On or near the Sulpician Feast Day, Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple, November 21

- Recommitment of Members to the vision of Father Jean-Jacques Olier
- Reaffirmation of Mission Statement



"The Venerable Nagot"

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS

Text adapted by Daniel F. Moore, PSS

*On April 8, 1791, with the blessing of Father Jacques-André Emery, Superior General of the Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice, four priests and five seminarians embarked from Saint-Malo, France on a chartered ship destined for the port of Baltimore. Upon their arrival, Father François-Charles Nagot, the superior, accompanied by Fathers Antoine Garnier, Jean-Marie Tessier and Michel Levadoux, were welcomed by Bishop John Carroll, the first bishop of the diocese of Baltimore—which at the time encompassed the entire fledgling nation. Eight days after their arrival in Baltimore, Maryland, the Sulpician community moved into a large building on Paca Street, just one mile north of city center, which was to become the first Roman Catholic seminary in the United States. The Seminary of Saint Sulpice, later known as Saint Mary's Seminary, was officially opened on October 3, 1791.

*Cf. "Tradition and Transformation in Catholic Culture, The Priests of Saint Sulpice in the United States from 1791 to the Present (1988)", Christopher J. Kauffman, pages 38-44.

Daniel F. Moore, PSS, is the First Consultor and Provincial Secretary for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

This year, 2016, is both the 225th anniversary of the arrival of the Sulpicians in the US and the 200th anniversary of the death of Father François-Charles Nagot, PSS, the first Sulpician superior here. So, as one of my sabbatical projects, I am working on a new biography of that holy priestly pioneer.

Many of our readers know that Fr. Nagot founded the first Catholic seminary in the US, established a Catholic college in Baltimore, built an elegant chapel there, and started a minor seminary program at Pidgeon Hill in southern Pennsylvania that was the precursor to Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. Few, however, know much about his life prior to his arrival in the US, when he was already 57.



Here are a few aspects of his "unknown" ministry in France. First, he was a very accomplished seminary leader there. For 12 years, he was in charge of an endowed Sulpician program in Paris for bright seminarians from all over France. For the next eight years, he was in charge of another seminary program that, despite the title *Petite Séminaire*, was actually a theologate. Finally, for two more years, he assisted the Superior General Father Jacques-André Emery in running the premier Sulpician seminary in France.

Second, Fr. Nagot was a very intelligent man. He earned a doctorate in theology from the University of Nantes. Before emigrating to America, he published three small books. He also wrote a two-volume biography of Father Olier, the founder of the Sulpicians. Due to the French Revolution, it was only published many years later.

Third, Fr. Nagot had a very strong apostolic and missionary spirit. For example, he took a

keen interest in the conversion of Protestants and in the formation of recent converts. One young Scottish gentleman who became a Catholic partly due to Nagot's influence wrote of him, "Filled with the most fervent and genuine devotion, it could not be confined to his heart alone, but appeared in all his exterior; and though he spoke his sentiments with great freedom and plainness, his conversation, so far from being any way stiff and repulsive, was, like his whole deportment, simple, natural and singularly attractive."

Fourth and most importantly, Fr. Nagot was a man of great personal holiness, a man of God. This was the key to his success as a seminary leader and a spiritual guide. He was also known for his humility and simplicity. He spent hours each day in personal prayer. He was admired by

many, and his counsel was valued by other holy people. For example, he was the director and confessor of the Abbé Henry Essex Edgeworth de Firmont (1745-1807), the dedicated French-Irish priest who bravely accompanied King Louis XVI to his execution. These qualities prompted some simply to refer to Fr. Nagot as "venerable."

As Bishop John Carroll described Fr. Nagot in French after their first meeting, Nagot was "*un Ecclésiastique aussi instruit et respectable en toutes manières*," "an ecclesiastic knowledgeable and respectable in every way." That a priest of this caliber should have come to the US at the age of 57 in order to found the first Catholic seminary here was surely a gift of God.

Thomas R. Ulshafer, PSS, former Provincial Superior, is currently on sabbatical.

His focus while on sabbatical is Father Francois Nagot, his predecessor.

Past Residents

Louis Arand
Robert E. L. Aycock
Charles J. Becker
Lawrence A. Bender
John L. Bitterman
John W. Bowen
James H. Brennan
John J. Canfield
Frederick V. Chudzinski
Edward P. Cronan
John F. Cronin
Richard P. Cullinan
Charles P. Dillon
John M. Dougherty
Vincent M. Eaton
Andrew A. Forster
John T. Franey
Robert V. Gavin
Albert C. Giaquinto
Lowell M. Glendon
Thomas F. Haggerty
James J. Healy
Theodore M. Hemelt
Raymond F. Hesler
Edward J. Hogan
Charles A. Kerin
James J. Kortendick
Gerald V. Lardner
James A. Laubacher
William J. Lee
James C. Linehan
John Linn
John D. Mahar
John S. McDonough
John P. McCormick
J. Carroll McHugh
Raymond B. Meyer
William S. Morris
Carroll J. Noonan
Thomas E. O'Connor
William T. O'Keeffe
John H. Olivier
John J. O'Neill
George E. Ott



Future-Present:

A Capital Improvement

John C. Kemper, PSS

St. Charles Villa is an independent retirement residence for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States. The priest residents form a Sulpician community and support one another by mutual consideration and prayer. Their prayer also supports other confreres, both in the US and around the world. The retirees frequently include alumni and benefactors in their prayers and reminiscing.

Nestled between Charlestown and St. Martin's Home, which is owned and operated by the Little Sisters of the Poor, the Villa is now undergoing a major renovation. Motivated by the increasing maintenance issues of an aging facility and the care of our senior members, the Provincial Council approved this capital undertaking. The renovation will include 12 one-bedroom apartments (550 square feet each), each with a small kitchenette and seating area, and an additional storage area for each of our retired residences. Also included in this make-over are two full apartments, an enlarged chapel and an additional entrance to the Villa facing the Charlestown campus. This new entrance will make accessing various adjacent locations, e.g., Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Charlestown, easier for the senior Sulpicians, many of whom once taught on the campus and called it home when it was St. Charles College. Lastly, a recent estate gift from an alumnus has allowed the Province to commission a statue of Father Jean-Jacques Olier, the founder of the Society of St. Sulpice which, when finished, will be placed on the grounds of the Villa.

In an effort to maintain some sense of normalcy for the current residents, a decision was made to allow them to remain at the Villa while the renovation unfolds. The architects and contractors accomplished this by scheduling the renovation in two phases. A substantial partition separates the two sections, blocking most of the sound and especially all the debris, dust, etc. created by the demolition and subsequent construction. This configuration allows the residents to reside in one portion of the Villa, while the other portion is



George Wilks, Louis Contractors' site supervisor, pointing out new features in the apartment's design.



Electrician threading the new wiring to appropriate junction boxes.



Workers confirming the placement and installation of the new HVAC duct work.

extensively renovated. When the first section is completed, estimated in late March, the men will move into the new apartments and the vacated section will be renovated. When asked how the retirees were weathering the adjacent construction, Father Cale Crowley, PSS, director of the Villa, commented, "The construction crew could not be more attentive to our present circumstances. Though quite cordial, they are focused on their tasks." The project is expected to be completed by August 2016.

In 2016, the Society of St. Sulpice celebrates its 225th year of service to the Catholic Church in the United States in educating and forming effective and holy priests. This anniversary year served as one of the motivating factors in taking on the needed remodeling of the Villa. Your assistance in funding this large undertaking is welcome. Please consider helping us. No gift is too small (or too large) to help with this project. Please know also that you and all of our alumni and benefactors are remembered daily at Mass by our retired members.

John C. Kemper, PSS is Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

Past Residents (continued)

Leo F. Ruskowski
 Carleton M. Sage
 Walter J. Schmitz
 Edwin J. Schneider
 Daniel D. Sullivan
 John R. Sullivan
 Laurence V. Taylor
 John B. Tennelly
 William Thielemann
 Robert L. Turner
 John A. Ward
 J. Paul Welch
 Joseph L. White

Current Residents

Joseph J. Bonadio
 Gerald L. Brown
 Peter F. Chirico (St. Martin's Home)
 C. Henry Dukehart
 John F. Mattingly
 John F. McMurry
 Vincent deP. McMurry
 Cale J. Crowley (Director)



Meet Our Newest Sulpician Candidate

Father Brian Carpenter

James L. McKearney, PSS



With translators in the background, Father Brian Carpenter asks a question of the French confreres during the mois.

Father Brian Carpenter, a new Sulpician candidate, comes to the Society from the Diocese of Rochester, NY. Originally from South Bend, Indiana, Fr. Carpenter's family moved to Rochester when he was in eighth grade. He later returned to Indiana for college and graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He then went to work in Chicago as a computer consultant (and has been known to help many a priest with their computer woes). During this period, he sensed a call to priesthood and applied to the Congregation of Holy Cross (of which his uncle, Father Kenneth Molinaro, C.S.C. is the current novice director). His time with the Holy Cross community was short-lived as he began to consider a call to diocesan priesthood. He left the community amicably in 2002. While working in the Washington, DC area, he focused his discernment on diocesan priesthood. In 2004, he was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Rochester. He then attended Mundelein Seminary where he earned an M.Div. and the S.T.L. in systematic theology. It was here, too, where Brian first sensed an interest in higher education as a priestly ministry.

He spent the next six years as a parochial vicar in two different assignments. During that time he was very active in the Catholic schools attached to his parishes. He most recently taught fifth and sixth grade religion at St. Patrick School in Owego, NY. He also began to see teaching and forming disciples as not only a ministry, but a specific vocational calling.

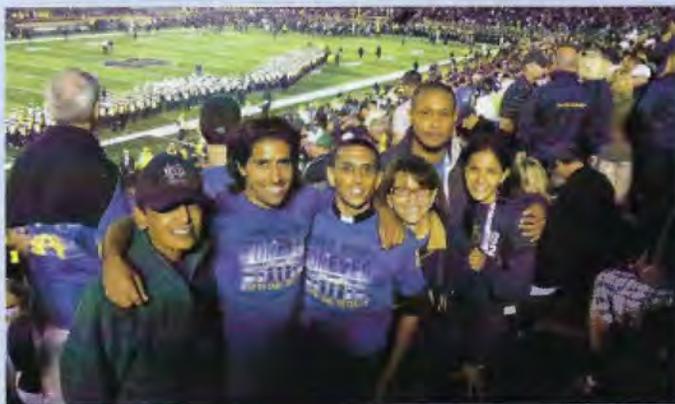
This led him to consider a ministry with the Society of St. Sulpice.

As a candidate, Brian has already spent the summer in Paris as a participant in the *mois sulpicien*, where he, along with 21 other new candidates from around the world, was able to learn more about the history of the Society. Having returned stateside, he is now assigned to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. There he has been active not only in the academic and formation programs, but also as a player and coach on the St. Mary's soccer team. While short of stature, he is also a formidable opponent with quick moves! The seminarians are enjoying their interaction with this joyful and engaging young priest.

Aside from soccer, Fr. Carpenter enjoys watching college football (especially when his alma mater is winning), working out at the gym and eating anything that contains chocolate. He especially enjoys spending time with his family and visiting his four godchildren who keep him updated on all things Disney.

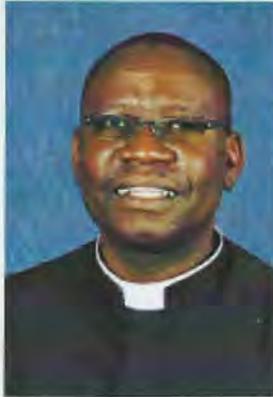
Fr. Carpenter is grateful to Bishop Salvatore Matano for allowing him to explore this "vocation within a vocation". In the fall of 2015, Brian joined the faculty at St. Mary's Seminary & University as a candidate. Currently, he is engaging as an effective team member in the homiletics classroom, working well with directees and mentees and providing a great example for seminarian disciples and future priests.

James L. McKearney, PSS is a member of the academic and formation faculty at St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore, MD.



Fr. Carpenter, a Notre Dame enthusiast, with friends at a recent ND football game.

M Sulpicians in Studies



Victor Mwanamwambwa, PSS

Richard M. Gula, PSS

Father Victor Mwanamwambwa's journey to the priesthood began very early as an altar boy who, at 13, entered St. John's Seminary formation house while attending Christian Brothers High School. He was ordained for the Diocese of Mongu in 2005.

Following ordination, Fr. Mwanamwambwa served in various capacities for the diocese: parish priest and chairperson of the association of local diocesan clergy, vocation director, rector of his alma mater, St. John's formation house, and chaplain at Mongu College of Education. These roles engendered a love of the ministry of formation which, together with the inspiration of the zeal of young Zambian Sulpicians, encouraged him to become a candidate for the Society in 2009.

His pastoral experience nurtured an interest in and respect for people that led him to study psychology. "I believe that every person is worthy of my attention," he says. "With that in mind, I was drawn to study clinical psychology." Fr. Mwanamwambwa studied at Loyola University of Maryland and earned a master's degree in clinical psychology in 2015.

About studying psychology in an environment and culture different from his own, Fr. Mwanamwambwa says, "As Zambians, we all come from different tribes and regions with different belief systems. I grew up in different provinces other than my own province of origin. This taught me to appreciate people who are different from me. Because of this background, I fitted well into the American environment. When it comes to mental issues and disorders, there is no difference

between an American and a Zambian. We all face similar challenges."

Now back in Zambia, Fr. Victor is on the faculty at Mpima Major Seminary, St. Augustine. He serves as the spiritual director for the house, teaches psychology and is helping develop an evaluation system for the students. Fr. Victor does some counseling

not only at the school but also for some local parishes. He sees a role for elements of psychology in the formation program of seminaries and the ongoing formation of priests. Though glad to be home, Fr. Victor hopes to have an opportunity for renewed studies in the future.

Richard M. Gula, PSS is Director of Personnel and Supervisor of Properties for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.



Father Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS, Regional Superior, and Fr. Victor Mwanamwambwa during a planning session in Lusaka.

Record Numbers Attend Institute

James E. Myers, PSS



Forty-nine participants gather in Washington, DC for the 12th Biennial Institute for Seminary Formators.

*"The task of formation of candidates for the priesthood requires ... a certain special preparation of those to whom this work is entrusted, one that is professional, pedagogical, spiritual, human, and theological."
(Pastores Dabo Vobis, #66)*

Saint Pope John Paul II, in his 1992 Apostolic Exhortation, *Pastores Dabo Vobis*, clearly affirmed the critical importance of special preparation of those undertaking the ministry of seminary formator.

The following year (1993), the US Sulpicians, in collaboration with the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Education Association, sought to address this need through the development of a special program entitled "The Institute for the Preparation of Seminary Formation Staff and Advisers."



Participants gather for daily Eucharist in TC chapel.

According to Father Melvin Blanchette, PSS, the first director of the Institute, "Already in 1993, a need was discerned for the education and formation for those who were assuming the responsibility of forming future priests and religious. Ministering within the seminary system had already become much more specialized and requiring skills of mentoring, advising, in addition to the traditional role of teaching and spiritual direction." The eight-day institute has been offered every other year under the sponsorship of the US Sulpicians. The curriculum seeks to address the fundamental issues and concerns that seminary formation personnel will encounter in working with seminarians. Father James Myers, PSS, has succeeded Fathers Blanchette and Gerald McBrearity, PSS, as Director of the Institute.

Forty-nine participants gathered for The Twelfth Institute for Seminary Formators held at Theological College in Washington, DC on June 3 – 10, 2015. The participants reflected a wide and enriching diversity of geographic locations, formational settings (e.g. theologates and college-level programs, free-standing seminaries and houses of formation, both diocesan and religious) and formational roles (formation advisors, spiritual directors, directors of formation programs and seminary rectors). Although most of the

participants (44) were priests, participants included two permanent deacons, one religious sister and two laywomen.

Participant Sister Dianne Heinrich, CDP, (Assumption Seminary, San Antonio) remarked, "The Seminary Formators Institute was excellent! The presenters were knowledgeable and experienced in their areas, giving us relevant information, both practical and helpful for our work. I also learned a great deal sharing with the other participants – they were committed, knowledgeable people. I'm grateful to the Sulpicians for offering a quality Institute addressing the issues of contemporary seminary formation."

Father Ralph O'Donnell, executive director of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, commented, "I was delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate Mass with those participating in this year's Institute...Having benefitted myself from completing the program in 2011, before beginning work as Vice Rector at Conception Seminary, I can attest to the value of the Institute for those in seminary work."

Father Ronald Witherup, PSS, attests: "As Superior General of the Sulpicians, I am very proud of the US Province's commitment to the Institute for Seminary Formators. This program, which is particularly distinguished by its emphasis on integration of the many aspects of priestly formation, fulfills the vision of our founder Father J.J. Olier to foster the best priestly formation programs possible. Having well-trained formators is essential to this vision."

The next Institute for Seminary Formators will be held in June 2017.

James E. Myers, PSS is a member of the formation faculty, Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, TX.



Sulpician Retreat: "Journey into God"

Richard M. Gula, PSS



Father Gerald McBrearity, PSS, enjoying a contemplative stroll at the Palisades adjacent to Puget Sound.

The members of the US Province gathered for our community retreat at the Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades in Federal Way, Washington, from May 23 – 27, 2015. The Retreat Director this year was Father Stephen Rowan of the Archdiocese of Seattle. The theme of

the retreat was "Journey into God" with Dante as guide.

Fr. Rowan is a longtime friend of the Society. He completed his theological studies at St. Mary's Seminary and University and served as an associate to the Society for several years. He taught with us at St. Joseph's Seminary College in Mountain View, California and at St. Thomas Seminary College in Kenmore, Washington. Fr. Rowan did his doctoral work in English at the University of Vancouver, British Columbia. While our retreats are usually based almost exclusively on the Bible, Fr. Rowan drew from his expertise in classical literature to use Dante's "Divine Comedy" as his point of reference.

Fr. Rowan is a master teacher as well as retreat director. He used both skills well as he introduced the community to the context of the "Divine Comedy", then drew upon selected episodes to spark our prayer with spiritual implications relevant to our own day. From the beginning through to the end, Fr. Rowan was our Virgil, Beatrice, and St. Bernard, escorting us through the nether regions of Hell, Purgatory and Paradise so that our "desire and will were moved by the Love that moves the sun and the other stars."

In addition to his conferences, Fr. Rowan gave three evening reflections on Sulpicians from his past whom Dante could well have included in his "Divine Comedy" had he known them. Fr. Rowan presented Fathers James Campbell, PSS, John Paul McManus, PSS, and Raymond E. Brown, PSS as examples of priestly character and inspirations to himself in his earlier years with the Society. These reflections not only paid tribute to these giants of the Province but also affirmed the power of priestly witness that Sulpicians can have on their students and colleagues. Everyone in the community felt not only inspired but also honored by these reflections.

After the retreat ended, the community enjoyed a festive dinner at Salty's Alki Beach

Top photo: Father Ronald Witherup, PSS, Superior General, leading the community in prayer during the opening Eucharist.

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Chapel at the Sulpician Centre House

Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS



Interior of the new chapel, awaiting furniture and sanctuary appointments.

The Sulpician Centre House is the first property that the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, owns in Zambia. It is the sign of our permanent commitment to the Zambian mission of priestly formation. It has always been the desire of the Zambian Sulpician confreres to have a residence nearby that would serve as a home away from the busy life of the seminary. The Centre serves both purposes. The property is located in Lusaka, Zambia's capital city. It is about five kilometers, or three miles, from Emmaus Spirituality Centre which serves as the Sulpician Fathers' primary focus of ministry.

On this property the province has built its regional house. This is where I, as the regional superior of Sulpicians in Zambia,

reside and from which I coordinate various facets of our Sulpician ministry. During one of my occasional visits to the provincial council meetings in the US (the leadership team of the province), I expressed the value of building a chapel on the new property. I strongly believe the presence of a chapel on the property would signify not only permanence but also spiritual fraternity. The Sulpician property should not be viewed as simply a residence but also a "centre" for the Sulpician confreres, i.e., an "oasis" of physical and spiritual refreshment.



At the time I proposed a chapel, the council, though open to the idea, was not in a position to fund this project as the province had recently undertaken (or participated in) and completed other building projects in Lusaka, notably among them, the new addition to Emmaus and the Centre house. The chapel project, while worthwhile, was

postponed until a more feasible moment. However, on one of Father Thomas Ulshafer's provincial visits to Zambia, he resided with me at the Centre house. I believe it was during this time that Fr. Ulshafer began to perceive a way to move the chapel project forward.

Following the recent death of his mother, Dr. Chloe Ulshafer, the family received their parents' estate. (Note: Her husband, Dr. Thomas Ulshafer, had preceded her in death.) Fr. Ulshafer generously donated a portion of the inheritance to fund the chapel's construction. The chapel was designed and recently completed. It was subsequently dedicated to the memory of Fr. Ulshafer's parents. This chapel will be used primarily by Sulpician confreres in Zambia. The size of the chapel is 8 x 10 meters, or 26 x 33 feet. It is meant to accommodate 20 to 30 people. The chapel will be formally blessed when the interior furniture as well as the Sanctuary appointments, e.g., altar and tabernacle, are in place. Completion is expected in the spring of 2016. We remain grateful to Fr. Ulshafer and his parents for this generous donation.

*Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS
is Regional Superior
of Sulpicians in Zambia.*

Worldwide Novena for Sulpician Vocations

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS



One of the normal tasks of the General Council during their term of office is to implement the decisions of the General Assembly. The last Assembly, held at Issy-les-Moulineaux in July, 2014, called for inaugurating a novena for Sulpician vocations. The Council responded to this request by composing a short prayer, which was then translated into various languages (French, English, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Japanese) and distributed on a prayer card containing a portrait of Sulpician founder Father Jean-Jacques Olier. Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore graciously granted ecclesiastical approbation. The first novena was held November 13-21, 2015.

These dates were intentionally chosen. The novena concluded on the patronal feast of the Society of Saint Sulpice, November 21, the Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in the Temple. For Fr. Olier, this feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary provided a marvelous model for priestly ministry. Already as a child, she was the most perfect vehicle for accomplishing God's will. Mary's fiat to the mysterious announcement by the Angel Gabriel (Lk 1:38) can inspire priests to be available to God's call and to assent to it in order to proclaim the gospel message. Each

Society also volunteered to participate.

The need for priestly vocations is not only a Sulpician concern. The prayer also asks God to bless dioceses with the necessary priestly vocations so that bishops will have collaborators in their ministry of evangelization. Praying for vocations, of course, does not imply that other avenues of promoting priestly vocations are ignored. The US Province of Sulpicians has been particularly proactive in accompanying aspirants while promoting vocations through creative advertising and resources on the Internet. Yet Jesus' own advice remains at the heart of this initiative: "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Lk 10:2). Thus an annual novena for Sulpician vocations! We pray that the Lord will make our efforts fruitful.

Anyone wishing to participate in this endeavor can request prayer cards by contacting the Provincial House in Baltimore.

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS is Superior General,
Society of the Priests of Saint Sulpice.



Prayer for Sulpician Vocations

Lord, you have told us, "If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it." (Jn 14:14). Strengthened by your promise, Lord Jesus, and in the power of your Spirit, we turn to you, God our Father.

Bless, O Lord, the Society of Saint-Sulpice. Watch over every one of its members throughout the world. Bless their ministry in the Church of your Son. May your Apostolic Spirit descend once again upon us and make us servants who are humble, zealous, filled with your love and with the joy of the Gospel.

Among the priests of our dioceses, we beg you to cultivate the Sulpician vocations we need to accomplish the initial and ongoing formation of priests. Faithful to the teachings of our founder, Father Jean-Jacques Olier, we pray especially for our bishops. May they never lack the co-workers they need. May they find us faithful and zealous cooperators.

We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, in the peace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Servant of God
Father Jean-Jacques Olier,
intercede for us!*

With ecclesiastical approbation.
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Sulpician Retreat

Continued from p. 13



Quiet conversation between junior and senior members, (L-R) Father Joseph Chamwaza and Father Fred Cwiekowski, PSS.

Seafood Grill on the shore of Puget Sound where we continued to enjoy fraternity in a lovely setting. That beautifully clear evening afforded us spectacular views of the Seattle skyline, Mt. Rainier and a Northwest sunset.

Our final day in Washington was devoted to ongoing education and provincial business. Father Ray Carey, psychologist and priest of the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, began the day with a presentation on "Adult Survivors of Sexual Abuse." In the afternoon, our Superior General, Father Ron Witherup, PSS, gave a presentation on Father Olier's use of Scripture. I gave the business session on our revised policy for residence after retirement.

In short, the week was overwhelmingly well-received. We were spiritually enriched not only by experiencing God through the conferences and following prayer times, both personal and communal, but also by the peaceful environment of the retreat center. If it is true as Dante claims that "nature is the art of God," then we were immersed in God's artistry nestled on a bluff overlooking Puget Sound under clear blue

Update

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skies and caressed by the gentle breezes of spring.

For us Sulpicians who share a common vision, mission, and ministry but live so far apart, this week is precious. It gives us an opportunity to strengthen the bonds of fraternity among confreres gathered from east and west and the in-between of this country, as well as from our Zambian Region a half a world away. We look forward to our next gathering, May 2017, when we will connect with our confreres in the French Province through our retreat leader Jean-Marc Micas, PSS, their Provincial.

Richard M. Gula, PSS is Director of Personnel for the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.



Reminiscing among old friends, (L-R) Fathers David Thayer, PSS, Richard MacDonough, PSS and Richard Gula, PSS.



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