Provincial's Message
When one door closes . . .
John C. Kemper, PSS

Alexander Graham Bell (1848-1922), scientist, inventor, engineer, and innovator, is credited with saying, “When one door closes, another opens . . .”

As we usher in 2018, we often pause to reflect upon the year—on doors that closed and doors that opened. 2017 has been a year of grace and favor for the Sulpicians of the U.S. Province. In the spring, we closed the door on our 118 years of service at St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California. But we opened the door to two other seminaries—one in Malawi (Southeast Africa) and one in San Antonio, Texas.

(Continued on back cover)

Sulpicians Form New Partnership With Assumption Seminary

“And now, we take up this journey... A journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for one another. Let us pray for the whole world, that there may be a great spirit of fraternity.”

Pope Francis

The Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the U.S. (Sulpicians), will assume the administration and staffing of Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, on July 1, 2018. Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, Archbishop of San Antonio and Very Rev. John C. Kemper, PSS, Provincial Superior of the Sulpician Fathers, signed the agreement on November 21, 2017. Assumption Seminary is one of the major seminaries in the Southwest.

“San Antonio has long been a place of willing collaboration and combining of resources. Assumption Seminary has followed this model. It has resulted in the nurturing of many vocations and the forming of many fine priests,” said Archbishop Gustavo about this collaborative partnership with the Sulpicians.

“I look forward to the Sulpicians contributing the level of experience, dedication, and vision for which they are well known. Together we will work to provide all that is good for the formation of excellent priests as servant leaders in the image of Christ the Good Shepherd for an evangelizing

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New Partnership

(Continued from Page 1)

Church,” Gustavo added. The archbishop is also the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Assumption Seminary.

The Sulpicians have been assisting in the program at Assumption Seminary for the past twenty years. Beginning in July, the Sulpicians will assume administration of the seminary and appoint a rector and other formation faculty as necessary. This partnership with the Archdiocese of San Antonio is a historical moment in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, particularly in the Southwest. With this agreement, the Sulpician Fathers are taking a historical step forward in serving the Church in one of its most rapidly growing areas.

Letter from the Archbishop of San Antonio

It gives me great joy to announce the inauguration of a partnership between Assumption Seminary of San Antonio and the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the U.S. For the past twenty years, at least a dozen Sulpicians have served on San Antonio’s seminary formation faculty. We have been pleased with their contributions to Assumption Seminary.

On November 21, 2017, Very Rev. John C. Kemper, PSS, Provincial Superior and I, the Archbishop of San Antonio, signed an agreement of dedication and partnership. From fall 2018 and moving forward, the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the U.S., will provide a Rector/President for Assumption Seminary. I look forward to them contributing the level of experience, dedication and vision for which they are well known.

San Antonio has long been a place of willing collaboration and combining of resources. Assumption Seminary has followed this model. It has resulted in the nurturing of many vocations and the forming of many fine priests. I am particularly edified by the relationship between Assumption Seminary, Oblate School of Theology, the Mexican American Catholic College and the University of the Incarnate Word. I am also impressed by the collaboration created by the different members of the seminary faculty, the diocesan priests and deacons, religious priests, and lay men and women.

Once again, I am grateful to announce this added level of collaboration with the Sulpicians. Together we will work to provide all that is good for the formation of excellent priests as servant leaders in the image of Christ the Good Shepherd for an evangelizing Church.

Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio

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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At left: Anthony Pogorelc, PSS, Provincial Consultor and Sr. Jane Ann Slater, CDP, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of San Antonio witness the document beginning the new partnership.
Going Back to the Roots—
A New Sulpician Endeavor

At the invitation of Cardinal Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and Archbishop Murat, Nuncio of Zambia and Malawi, and with the approval of Very Rev. Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, Sulpician Superior General, the Province of the United States has taken responsibility for St. Anthony’s Seminary, Kachebere, Malawi. The Episcopal Conference of Malawi has entrusted the priestly formation of its seminarians to the Sulpicians beginning February 2018.

John C. Kemper, PSS, Mr. Sean Callahan, President & CEO of Catholic Relief Services, and Bishop Martin Mtumbuka, Bishop Director of Seminaries for the ECM, on a recent visit to CRS Worldwide Headquarters in Baltimore.
Meet St. Anthony’s Administration and Faculty

Patrick Simutowe, PSS
Fr. Simutowe will serve as Rector. He previously served as Rector at St. Augustine’s Major Seminary (Mpima) in Kabwe, Zambia.

“The call on the Zambian Sulpicians to go and work in St. Anthony Major Seminary – Kachebere in Malawi is a call to the Zambian Church to go back to its roots. The evangelization of Zambia came from Malawi through the Missionaries of Africa—the White Fathers in 1891. Upon establishing the Church, the White Fathers started to promote local vocations. The seminary to which many Zambian Seminarians were sent is St. Anthony Major Seminary. As such, this new mission of the Society of St. Sulpice is a call to the Zambian Church to go back to the roots. We the Zambian Sulpicians shall become ambassadors to this mission which we may say is God's plan to reunite the Church in the AMECEA Region.”

Victor Shikaputo, PSS
Fr. Shikaputo will serve as Vice Rector. He served on the Formation Faculty at Emmaus Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.

Rev. Emmanuel Ichidi
Fr. Ichidi will join the Formation Faculty. A Sulpician candidate, he served on the Formation Faculty at Emmaus Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.

Mary Furlong
Ms. Furlong, a laywoman who served in Zambia for six years with the Franciscans and Jesuits on separate projects related to education and AIDS, is joining the faculty where she will teach U.S. English, pronunciation, and grammar, and other courses as needed.

Ms. Furlong recently retired after a long career as an educator of Social Studies, Political Science and English at Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, Pennsylvania, in the Diocese of Harrisburg. She holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Iowa and a C.A.S. Certification in Educational Administration from McDaniel University. She is interested in Inter-Religious Dialogue and has served on numerous local and national committees. She has taught on the college level as a Visiting Professor and lecturer.

“What a blessing it will be to work with the team of faculty and the Malawian seminarians, as well as with support staff in the next year. I especially look forward to learning about the role of the Catholic faith in the daily lives of the young men who have made a life choice to serve as models of Christ in the ministry of priesthood. I am most grateful to the Sulpicians for the invitation to return to southern Africa.”

Thomas Ulshafer, PSS
Fr. Ulshafer recently retired will be assisting with the transition at St. Anthony’s Seminary, Kachebere. He will present to the faculty on the Charism and History of the Sulpicians.

“The Society has always tried to make itself available to assist bishops who need our help. This is part of our mission as a community. And so I hope to be a support to the three Zambian confreres who are going to Malawi to assist the Episcopal Conference there. I am happy to go to Malawi to give moral support to my Zambian brothers, the pioneers of this new commitment.

“Since I am retired, some people have said that it is a great sacrifice for me to go to Malawi. But I see it less as a burden and more as a privilege. I admire the Zambian confreres who are going there and I know that I will enjoy being with them. This is a good way for me to continue to contribute to the ministry of priestly formation.”
Villa Olier Donors Honored on New Boards

Dan Doherty, PSS, Director of Villa Olier, assisted by John Kemper, PSS, Provincial Superior, bless the donor boards acknowledging those caring persons whose generosity demonstrates a commitment to the Sulpician Fathers.
His Excellency, Julio Murat, Apostolic Nuncio for Zambia and Malawi blessed the Sulpician Centre house and Chapel at the Regional Centre in Lusaka, Zambia on December 1, 2017.

The event marked a significant day for the Society of St. Sulpice in Zambia. On this memorable day, the Zambian Sulpicians, together with their American confreres, the Provincial Superior, Very Rev. John Kemper, PSS, and Rev. Gladstone “Bud” Stevens, PSS, were joined by more than a hundred invited guests.

In his homily, the Nuncio stressed the significance of a chapel in any religious and priests’ house as “a place where we encounter the Lord...” He went on to say that we can only be true instruments of the Kingdom of God if the “word of God guides us all the time.”

In his remarks, Fr. Kemper spoke of the role of Mary in Sulpician spirituality, for the Chapel is named under the patronage of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple. The Chapel was given to the Zambian Sulpicians as a gift from the former provincial, Rev. Thomas Ulshafer, PSS, in honor of his parents.

The Nuncio and Archbishop Mpundu, the then Bishop Director of Seminaries who was directly involved in bringing the Sulpicians to administrate and staff the Emmaus Spirituality Centre in the spring of 1989, expressed appreciation for the great work that the Sulpicians do in the formation of priests for the church in Zambia. The Nuncio commended the Sulpicians for offering “stable service to the church in Zambia.” Archbishop Mpundu further expressed his esteem for the Sulpicians as a gift to the Zambian Church and applauded the Society for their upcoming undertaking of administrating St. Anthony’s Seminary in Malawi. This development signals the confidence of the Nuncio and the bishops in the Sulpicians, and it signals the growth of the missionary spirit of the local church.

At the meal after the Mass, Rev. Shoba Nyambe, PSS, the Regional Superior and Rector of Emmaus Spirituality Centre, expressed his gratitude to the Zambian bishops for inviting the Sulpicians to Zambia, to the Nuncio for presiding at the blessing ceremony, to Archbishop Mpundu for his presence and continued support, and to all the guests who celebrated this moment with the Sulpicians.

Fr. Shoba concluded by acknowledging how the Zambian Sulpicians shall ever remain indebted to Fr. Ulshafer for this invaluable gift.

Eugene Mwanza, PSS
The so-called *Protoevangelium of James* tells the story of Mary and her parents like this: “They went up into the temple of the Lord. And the priest received her, and kissed her, and blessed her, saying: The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, on the last of the days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the sons of Israel. And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her.”

Presentation of Mary in the Temple
Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.
The British psychologist Dr. Robert Holden once wrote, “The real gift of gratitude is that the more grateful you are, the more present you become.” Bearing this in mind, Fr. John Kemper, PSS, our provincial superior, extended an invitation to the members of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, who have offered support to our seminaries and other ministries, to partake in a reception with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres on November 14, 2017, held at Villa Olier in Baltimore, our newly renovated retirement residence.

The event was graciously organized by Carleen Kramer, the executive assistant to the provincial, with the assistance of Clarksville Caterers, a firm that the province often uses to host receptions associated with special events.

Those who were able to attend were: Bishop John Barres of Rockville Center, New York, Bishop John Dolan of San Diego, California, Bishop Ronald Gainer of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Bishop Richard Garcia of Monterey, California, Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu, Hawaii, Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sulpician Fathers Michael Barré, Melvin Blanchette, Joseph Bonadio, Gerald Brown, Cale Crowley, Richard Gula, Cornelius Hankomoone, John Kemper, John Kselman, John Mattingly, John McMurry, and Louis Reitz, enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with the bishops who they had not seen in some time.

The bishops individually expressed their appreciation for the formation that the Fathers offered to their seminarians and priests over the years. Some of them were even classmates and fellow faculty members with the Sulpicians who were part of the gathering, and so the event presented the opportunity to share some very happy memories from the past.

The evening concluded with each bishop being presented with a gift of the recently published book A Primer on Sulpician Spirituality, by its author, Fr. Melvin Blanchette, along with an expression of gratitude from Fr. Kemper, who then invited all of the bishops to a tour of the facility.
It is sometimes said, “Time heals all wounds,” and it is true that, for many, the passage of time does dull pain. But some injuries done to others should not be forgotten too quickly. It is thoughts like these that led me, last spring, to ask Rev. Thomas Ulshafer, my predecessor as provincial, to study how some of the first Sulpicians in the United States became involved in the practice of slave owning, apparently without fully appreciating its evil.

It is sometimes difficult to acknowledge the shortcomings of others, especially when you admire them. Nevertheless, I encourage recipients of Update to read the results of Fr. Ulshafer’s careful research. You can watch for his paper on our www.Sulpicians.org website.

The Sulpician community is deeply sorry that our pioneers in this country failed to grasp the full implications of slavery here. It is hoped that acknowledging their blindness will be a small contribution toward healing a wound that still festers: the first descendant of slavery was segregation and the second racism. As Cardinal Donald Wuerl wrote recently, “Intolerance and racism will not go away without a concerted awareness and effort on everyone's part. Regularly we must renew the commitment to drive it out of our hearts, our lives and our community.”

John C. Kemper, PSS, Provincial Superior
Ecce Quam Bonum... 1917-2017

A History and Classical Studies graduate from The George Washington University, with work experience at the National Archives and Records Administration, seminarian Michael Russo (3-T, Washington) was the first overall draft pick as author for a proposed TC centennial history volume, Ecce Quam Bonum: A History of Theological College. An avid history buff and disciplined researcher, he readily accepted the challenge from TC’s Office of Institutional Advancement for a spring and summer work-study project. Michael explains his motivation: “I enjoyed researching for and writing this book. It was a chance for me to put my skills to use for a seminary and formation for which I am deeply grateful. The Sulpicians and TC have a rich and fine-tuned tradition of forming men for priesthood. I am now much more appreciative of being a recipient of this tradition.”

Michael began research in earnest in March, as the goal was to have the writing component finished for the TC staff and others to edit, design, and print in time for the Alumni Days 2017 celebration in early October. The fact that the bulk of TC archival material was accidentally lost during major renovations in the 1990s necessitated long visits to the archives at The Catholic University of America, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Associated Sulpicians in Baltimore. Other archives referenced were those of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and those of the Sisters of the Congregation of Divine Providence of Kentucky, who handled food service and other ministries at TC until the 1980s.

Six months before this research began, master videographer John Minnich (2-T, Richmond) and Matthew Browne (3-T, Rockville Centre) were already hard at work on a centennial video, also to be released at Alumni Days. During the first stage of video production, the two seminarians packed up cameras, tripods, lighting, and sound equipment countless times to film interviews with bishops, priests, other alumni, and seminarians. The second stage was editing the footage and bringing the vision to life. Minnich says, “Sifting through hours of material, trying to tell the story of the seminary’s past 100 years, is a formidable challenge. Creating a powerful experience for the viewer requires careful attention to minute details that make a big difference: selecting each clip from all our material, adjusting the timing and length of the clip and its transition, choosing the right music and typeface for captions, and getting the perfect sound on the voiceover, among many other things.”

Seminarian artist Elmer Herrera-Guzmán (now on pastoral year in Dallas) assisted by culling photos to provide pertinent graphic resources, and Patrick Judd (2-B, Charleston) did supplementary interviews, while others supported in invaluable ways throughout the process. The last stage was Michael’s drafting of an abbreviated script for the five-minute video, which was narrated by Gabe Bouk (1-T, Memphis).

While these interlocutors had to balance this ambitious work with the demands of formation and academics, they were thankful for the opportunity and the knowledge it imparted. Matt Browne shares, “For me, one of the greatest benefits was learning about and experiencing in a new way Theological College’s incredible history and the impact the Society of Saint Sulpice has had on it over the last century!” John Minnich concurs, adding, “In spending so much time with the historical material, I appreciate much more not only the seminary’s history, but that of the Church in America that I am preparing to give my life to in service. Creating something for others to enjoy on such a momentous occasion as the centennial anniversary was very rewarding, and all the hard work is worth seeing how much it touched those who cherish their time spent at TC.”

To receive a copy of the centennial volume, contact TCCentennialBook@gmail.com. To view the historical video, go to theologicalcollege.org.

Suzanne Tanzi
Media and Promotions Manager at Theological College
Sulpician Patrimony Returns

This past summer Baltimore received a special delivery from Menlo Park, California. Traveling cross-country by truck was a collection of artwork and sacred objects that comprised the patrimony of the U.S. Province of the Sulpicians on the West Coast.

Of special significance were the chalices of six Sulpicians who had served on faculties of St. Patrick’s Seminary & University and St. Joseph’s High School and College, including those of the Reverends Robert V. Gavin, PSS, Andrew A. Forster, PSS, and Francis J. “Pop” Rock, PSS. Janice Frey Wolfe’s portrait of Rev. John Olivier, PSS, along with thirteen paintings and drawings by Rev. Peter Wm. Gray, PSS, were also sent. Fr. Gray’s collection included his Scenes from a Mexican Village and Its People, a series of six black ink-and-wash drawings, and the hand-painted tile mosaic commissioned by the artist Geza Saint-Galy to commemorate the 1991 bicentennial anniversary of the Sulpicians’ arrival in the United States and the founding of St. Mary’s Seminary & University.

Several pieces are already on display in Sulpician houses. St. Joseph’s elegantly carved oak prie-dieu that depicts the Madonna and Christ Child can now be found in the vestibule of the chapel at St. Mary’s Seminary & University. The Renaissance Revival Tall Case Clock given to the Sulpician community at St. Patrick’s by the Little Sisters of the Holy Family has been restored and placed in the dining room of the Provincial House, along with the Patarino ceramics. The bronze statue of the Sedes Sapientiae has been installed in front of the Provincial House.

Tricia T. Pyne, Ph.D.
Director, Associated Archives at St. Mary’s Seminary & University
When I think about the future, two things stand out in my mind:

First, it is my desire to avoid being a *najua*. *Najua* simply means *I know*, in Swahili, and it is an expression used to signify a person with an exaggerated self-opinion: one who, for example, after exchanging pleasantries in a conversation and discovering that you are a philosopher, would start to lecture you about Socrates! By this, I do not mean that I am not interested in hearing what other people think about my field and its theories.

Second, it is my desire to be competent in my field. I desire to be competent in what I am studying now because I am enthusiastic about it. During my two years of graduate studies at the Pontifical Antonianum University in Rome for a Licentiate in Philosophy, I wish to specialize in philosophical phenomenology as well as methodological phenomenology with a purpose of studying the human conscious experience, otherwise called our lived experience.

My interest is in existential phenomenology, where perception plays an important role in understanding the world as well as offering a way of engaging with the world. Thus, I will use the phenomenological method of research which is qualitative and has the goal of gaining insight into a lived experience.

As a result of my aforementioned interest, I hope to be capable of research in carrying out data collection and analysis that shall assist me when it comes to making good judgment choices posed by real-life situations faced by seminarians who shall be assigned to me for accompaniment as advisees and spiritual directees. My past experience of being a member of a seminary formation team has taught me that accompanying seminarians is more than a one-way channel of teaching and offering oneself as a model of Christian living, but also one of avoiding the temptation of being abstract!

Consequently, I am convinced that my specialization in phenomenology will be a useful tool in helping me to be relevant to my students in as far as cultivating a practical sense of judgment is concerned.

In my spare time, away from studies, I love to watch soccer and simply enjoy time with my community at the Pontificio Collegio Canadese. Needless to say, there is a lot to see in Rome!

Peter M. Kwaleyela, PSS
Sabbaticals

Gladstone “Bud” Stevens, PSS

While I have used this sabbatical year as an opportunity to get caught up on Game of Thrones and to visit every Mexican restaurant in middle Tennessee, I have also engaged in activities of a more edifying nature.

Last year I was asked to be the writer for the sixth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation. I completed the initial draft in November and now it is in the hands of the committee. It was an honor to be a part of the process and I will have an opportunity to share some reflections with all the members at our May gathering.

I have also been doing consulting work with Sacred Heart School in Atherton, California. Specifically, I was asked to work with the board of trustees and faculty on issues relating to Catholic identity. I have enjoyed getting to know the members of the community and collaborating with the Sacred Heart Sisters again.

Given that the last few years have involved a great deal of traveling, I have tried to keep that to a minimum during my sabbatical. I was, however, privileged to accompany our Provincial recently on a trip to Zambia and Malawi. During the course of the visit, I got to spend time with our confreres in the region, go on safari, and give two lectures. This was an amazing experience and it was wonderful to see first-hand our institutions in Central Africa. I was particularly delighted by my stay in our newest Sulpician Seminary, St. Anthony’s in Kachebere, Malawi. The setting is spectacular and the students and faculty could not have been more hospitable.

Finally, I have been able to re-engage in parish ministry. I am in residence at St. Henry’s Church in Nashville and this has truly been a heaven-sent moment in my life. The parish is the second largest in the Diocese of Nashville and is one of the most vibrant Christian communities in which I have been involved. I live with two great priests and the people have been kind and very gracious to me. I had forgotten how much I love ordinary parochial tasks and it brought back very pleasant memories of the early years of my priesthood. In addition, most of my family lives in the area and it has meant so much to me to be in proximity to them again.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Provincial Council for allowing me to take this sabbatical. It was very much needed.
Paul A. Maillet, PSS

I began my sabbatical year in mid-July by making a two-week silent retreat in France at the Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes. Next, at the beginning of August, I went to Paris to study French in preparation for my stay in Israel at the École biblique et archeologique francaise de Jerusalem (EBAF). The month-long course at the Institut Catholique de Paris, a short walk from my residence at the Sulpician Generalate, was an excellent intensive immersion experience. While in Paris, I also got to know some of the French confreres, reconnected with French relatives, and enjoyed some of the city's museums and churches.

I left for Jerusalem in mid-September. During my first month at EBAF, I did research in its excellent library on subjects pertaining to teaching the Old Testament. I also visited sites in and around the Old City as well as Masada and Magdala. Since the beginning of the academic year in mid-October, I have been immersed in Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek at the nearby Polis Institute (Polis—The Jerusalem Institute of Languages and Humanities), where languages are taught entirely in the target language. I am also taking a topography course at EBAF, taught by a Dominican archaeologist. In this course, the class visits various sites in the Holy Land.

In summary, the experience so far has been enriching and rejuvenating, not least because of the experience of living at EBAF where, thanks to shared meals and liturgy, I have met scripture scholars and archaeologists from around the world.

Daniel F. Moore, PSS

In early July, I traveled to Belgium as a visiting fellow at the Catholic University of Louvain (KU Leuven). I resided at The American College where I enjoyed both spontaneous and sustained conversations and camaraderie with students and priest colleagues. KU Leuven offered me the opportunity for occasional weekend excursions to Aachen, Cologne, and Berlin. Its university and theological libraries made it possible to renew or acquaint myself with “friends”: Francis A. Sullivan, SJ, Hans Ur von Balthasar, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Abraham Heschel, Amy Jill Levine, and others.

In mid-September, I left Louvain for Boston College as a visiting scholar. I resided with the Jesuit Community at St. Mary’s Hall where I met old friends and made new ones, mostly Jesuits, but also two diocesan priests—one from Ireland and the other from Germany (see photo). We occasionally broke with the academic routine to make excursions, notably Walden’s Pond in autumn, Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts in winter, and Boylston Street’s “Eataly” in the spring, to name but a few. While at BC, I interacted with The Center for Christian-Jewish Learning (CJL), The Church in 21st Century Center (C21), and the Institute for Advanced Jesuit Studies (IAJS). The bi-monthly luncheons at the CJL featured various topics ranging from discussion of current events to selected books. I also renewed my acquaintance with Susannah Heschel who frequently attended various CJL events.

Throughout the sabbatical, I was accompanied by family, friends, and confreres via FaceTime, texts, or in person. While at BC, select Jesuits guided my prayer and encouraged me in my renewed exploration of the Ignatian Exercises. I was enriched by their hospitality, fraternity, and prayer.

I am grateful that I could return home to be with my family upon the death of my sister-in-law, Gail, in early August. Conversations with family and friends, colleagues and confreres proved invaluable then and throughout the sabbatical experience.

I returned to Baltimore on May 20, 2017 and quickly got caught up in a whirlwind of activities. At the end of June, I moved from my apartment in the Sulpician’s Dubourg House to St. Mary’s Seminary & University, Roland Park, bringing the sabbatical to its formal close. I am grateful.
“Deck the halls” is a familiar holiday imperative and tradition. In December, we fulfilled this imperative and carried on the tradition by having our decorated Christmas tree, holly around the fireplace, nativity scene on the mantel, and poinsettias throughout the house. On December 7, this seasonally festive atmosphere welcomed twenty-four local Sulpicians, including a large number from Villa Olier, to our annual Christmas party. Everyone who could come did. An hors d’oeuvre dinner made it easier for us to mingle as we filled the house with conversation and laughter to celebrate the season and the end of another year.

The Sulpicians.org website is being redesigned and updated. Management of the content has been brought in-house and is being developed by Marguerite Plank, who handles publications, graphics, and web design at the Provincial House. Ms. Plank had previously created several successive versions of the website for the Sulpicians’ historic site on Paca Street, www.stmaryspacast.org.

The updated site is being built in WordPress, a platform that lends itself to being quickly updated as need be and offers many design options to highlight features of interest to site visitors.
Thank you, Margaret (Nancy) Seaton

Mrs. Margaret Seaton, who liked to be called Nancy, was first introduced to the work of the Sulpician Fathers almost 20 years ago when she moved into Charlestown Retirement Community, Catonsville, Maryland. The site was once St. Charles College. The Catholic Parish, Our Lady of the Angels, once the chapel for the college, is now a parish under the pastoral care of the Sulpician Fathers. The chapel serves the needs of both the Catholic and the Protestant faith communities at Charlestown. She became interested in all the ministries of the Sulpicians, especially our mission seminary in Zambia. Through Nancy’s generosity, the first computer lab was established in Emmaus Spirituality Centre in 2006. Her ongoing commitment to the task of priestly formation in the mission fields of Central Africa was unremitting. The Sulpicians are thankful to Mrs. Seaton for her support of our work in Zambia. Her last and greatest gift, her bequest, will help us secure the Sulpician presence in Zambia and assist us in the important task of priestly formation in our mission seminaries in Zambia and now Malawi.

Save the Date! June 5–12, 2019

Institute for Seminary Formators

The Fourteenth Institute for Seminary Formators is presented and sponsored by the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, as a formational program for those who minister within the seminary as an advisor, a spiritual director, or a member of the formation team. The Institute employs a workshop format to provide an opportunity for the education and formation for those who assume the responsibility of forming future priests. The Institute for Seminary Formators seeks to situate these important formational roles within the vision of Pastores Dabo Vobis and the Program of Priestly Formation.

The Institute will be held at Theological College, 401 Michigan Avenue, N.E., Washington, DC.

For more information, please visit www.sulpicians.org or call 410-323-5070.

Society of St. Sulpice
Province of the United States
In the spring of 2017, when we closed the door in Menlo Park, we received a joint invitation from His Eminence Cardinal Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation of the Evangelization of Peoples and from Archbishop Julio Murat, Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi. Their invitation was to consider assuming corporate responsibility for St. Anthony’s Seminary, Kachebere, Malawi, a country adjacent to the eastern border of Zambia. These two neighboring countries have a long standing and cordial history together.

After a period of consultation and prayerful discernment, the Sulpician General Council gave us permission to accept this invitation. Beginning in January 2018, we will provide a Sulpician rector and three other Sulpicians to help staff the seminary. In addition, we are also inviting a lay woman from the United States to collaborate with us in this mission. Now retired, she brings a wealth of educational administrative and teaching experience as well as prior missionary experience in Zambia. She comes to us already familiar with the culture in the society, in education, and in the Church of that region.

The other seminary for which we will assume corporate responsibility is Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. The Sulpicians have been assisting at Assumption Seminary for over twenty years. In this past year, the U.S. Province has been in dialogue with the Archdiocese of San Antonio to deepen and to formalize our relationship with Assumption Seminary.

I am delighted to share with you that we entered into a formal partnership with the Archdiocese of San Antonio on November 21, our patronal feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple. As a result of this agreement, we will assume corporate responsibility for Assumption Seminary on July 1, 2018. We will assign a Sulpician rector and commit five other Sulpicians to staff the faculty there.

I ask your prayers and support as we pass through this door to face the challenges in two seminaries that represent the multicultural character of our Church today. Together let us pray that these new commitments in priestly education and formation will bear much fruit for service to the Church for generations to come in Southeast Africa and in the Southwest of the United States.