Provincial’s Message
Being Faithful to our Charism
John C. Kemper, PSS

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. …”

This classic quote opening A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens finds its way into my thoughts and reflections on the situations of our day. These tumultuous times within our church cause us to pause and reflect on the past and the future of our Church and its important work of priestly formation. George (Continued on back cover)

U.S. Convocation on Spiritual Formation held in San Antonio

The U.S. Province of Sulpicians met in convocation from May 27 to 29 at the Oblate Renewal Center in San Antonio. This convocation was developed in response to the 2015 Provincial Assembly mandate to sponsor a convocation in 2018 on the theme of spiritual formation in the Sulpician seminaries. The goal was to come to a clearer understanding of the core elements and underlying values that make up the spiritual formation in the Sulpician tradition.

The structure of our days together consisted of formal presentations, small group discussions, plenary sessions with feedback from the small groups, case studies, and communal prayer with the Eucharist and Liturgy of the Hours. We began with a presentation by a representative from each of our houses on the elements that make up the spiritual formation program in his house. These presentations set the stage for identifying not only the core elements of spiritual formation in the Sulpician tradition but also the similarities and differences among our houses for implementing these elements.

We had one major session on the French School of spirituality given by Fr. Joe Labelle, OMI, from the Oblate School of Theology. His theme was “Olier, the French School, and Priestly Formation in the Age of Pope Francis.” Two other formal presentations were given by our own colleagues. Fathers Phillip Brown, PSS, and Thomas Hurst, PSS, presented clarifying expositions of the internal (Brown) and external (Hurst) forum. Fr. Tony Pogorelc, PSS, (Continued on Page 2)
gave a stimulating presentation on human formation.

Our last session had small groups establish the “take home” priorities from the convocation that helped everyone identify succinctly those distinguishing characteristics by which spiritual formation in a Sulpician seminary can be recognized.

The convocation closed with a Mass at Assumption Seminary with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS, Archbishop of San Antonio. This Mass was followed by a festive dinner on the river walk in San Antonio.

The day following the convocation (May 30) was devoted to community business. We began with our ongoing education segment on creating a safe environment for the prevention of the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. This was given by Dr. Kathleen McChesney who, in 2002, was selected by the U.S. Bishops to establish and lead their Office of Child Protection. Her presentation was on “Maintaining a Culture of Integrity: Reflections on Scandal, Harm, and Compassion.”

The afternoon sessions were devoted to provincial business, including a report by Fr. Shoba Nyambe, PSS, on our African mission in Zambia and Malawi, and two sabbatical reports. Fr. Bud Stevens, PSS, explained his role in the revision of the Program of Priestly Formation, and Fr. Larry Terrien, PSS, gave an overview of the French document he translated called “Formation for Freedom.”

The evaluations for this gathering were quite positive. Not only did everyone find the sessions helped bring clarity to the ministry of spiritual formation, but they provided an opportunity to interact and socialize with colleagues whom we usually don’t have a chance to see during the school year.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel
Segment One of the Sulpician Formation Program for the Province of the United States was held at Theological College in Washington, DC, from June 3 to 29, 2018. It focused on the context and tools for Sulpician ministry.

The Sulpician Formation Program is conducted in three one-month segments; two occur in houses of the U.S. Province and the third occurs in Paris where our founder, Jean-Jacques Olier, lived and ministered. The program generally includes two two-hour conferences a day. There are daily communal celebrations of the Eucharist and the Divine Office as well as times for personal prayer. Devotional practices include the Sulpician Meditation, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the Rosary. Participants also share social time and meals. Weekends are generally free to offer participants an opportunity to visit sites in the vicinity.

Fr. Dominic Ciriaco, PSS, who just completed all segments of the program, commented:

“Each segment provided us with a core understanding of who Sulpicians are and what we contribute to the Church in the area of priestly formation. From Fr. Olier’s vision to the French School of Spirituality, the Constitutions and the prominence of Spiritual Direction, it was a worthwhile experience that I will continue to cultivate in my own Sulpician ministry and life.”

Participants in the program included three temporary members, Fathers:
- Brian Carpenter, PSS, of St. Mary’s Seminary & University in Baltimore, who will begin graduate studies at St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois, this fall;
- Joseph Chamwaza, PSS, of Emmaus Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, Zambia;
- Dominic Ciriaco, PSS, of Theological College, who will begin a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching through the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis.

The candidates for membership in the Society included:
- Fathers Simon Cheba and Neal Mulyata, who will both serve at Emmaus Spirituality Centre in Lusaka, Zambia.
- Fathers Emmanuel Ichidi and Edward Mwepeya, who are both serving at St. Anthony’s Major Seminary in Kachebere, Malawi.
- Fr. Shawn Gould, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago, who has been assigned to St. Mary’s Seminary & University in Baltimore.
- Fr. Carlos Piedrahita, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, who has been assigned to Theological College.

Our superior general, Fr. Ron Witherup, PSS, began the program with a presentation on the
spirituality of Fr. Olier. Fr. David Thayer, PSS, presented on the French School of Spirituality from June 11 to 18 and also guided a tour of important Sulpician sites around Baltimore, such as the historic seminary at Paca Street, where the participants concelebrated Mass in the chapel with our provincial, Fr. John Kemper, PSS. We also visited the Mother Seaton House, the Chapel of Our Lady of the Angels at Charlestown, and the Sulpician cemetery there. We had lunch with retired Sulpicians at Villa Olier, and then ended the day with fellowship and dinner at the Provincial House.

Fr. Tom Ulshafer, PSS, gave an engaging presentation on Sulpician history, Constitutions, and special Sulpician topics from June 20 to 22. From June 25 to 28, Fathers Mel Blanchette, PSS, and Gerry McBrearity, PSS, made presentations on a Sulpician approach to spiritual direction. The Director of Initial Formation, Fr. Tony Pogorelc, PSS, facilitated the final day with a process for synthesizing the program.

The program concluded with the Mass of the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul and a reception and festive dinner at Theological College. The participants were then sent forth, like apostles, to their respective assignments in the U.S., Zambia, and Malawi to put into practice what they have learned. These words of Fr. Olier, quoted in the final homily, are especially appropriate for our reflection: “Now that Christ dwells in the hearts of his preachers, He preaches throughout the world at the same time.”

Anthony J. Pogorelc, PSS
Director of Initial Formation
Fr. Jaime E. Robledo Appointed President-Rector of Assumption Seminary

Fr. Jaime E. Robledo, PSS, became the first Sulpician President-Rector at Assumption Seminary under the new partnership between the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas, and the Sulpician Fathers. Fr. Robledo began his duties on July 1, 2018.

Fr. Robledo is from the Diocese of Buga, Colombia, and is a member of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States. Since his ordination in 1990, he has served as pastor of several parishes in his home diocese and as rector of two seminaries in Colombia. He came to the United States in 2006 to serve on the faculty of Assumption Seminary for five years and then for six years on the faculty of St. Patrick’s Seminary in Menlo Park, California.


This agreement allows the Sulpicians, who have been assisting with the program for the past twenty years, to assume the administration and staffing of Assumption Seminary. With this agreement, the Sulpician Fathers are taking a historical step forward in serving the Church in one of its most rapidly growing areas.

Fr. Eugene H. Mwanza’s Internship at Archives

The Associated Archives at St. Mary’s Seminary & University had a special guest this spring when Fr. Eugene Mwanza of St. Dominic’s Major Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia, came for a visit.

For two weeks in June, Fr. Mwanza was given the opportunity to go behind the scenes and see how an archives operates. His interest in archives was born out of his love of photography and concern for the growing collection of digital photographs he had taken to document St. Dominic’s events and activities.

The experience of writing his thesis, which required him to do research in several archives, also told him that he needed to develop a plan to care for them. With the support of the Provincial, Fr. John Kemper, arrangements were made for him to receive some training to undertake this project. During his time in Baltimore, he had the opportunity to sit down with the staff to discuss how to establish an archives program, consult published resources, and get some hands-on experience. One project he worked on was of particular interest. It was a collection of photographs that had been donated to the archives by Fr. Gerald Lardner (1941-2012), who had served in Zambia from 1995 to 2002. Fr. Mwanza was able to help identify the photographs, many of which were of former classmates. He was also able to make digital copies of a number to take back with him. We look forward to working with Fr. Mwanza in the future and wish him well in his new role of archivist.

Tricia Pyne, MA, PhD
Archivist
Following a number of years with little electric power and electrical outages in the country, Emmaus embarked on a project to install solar panels. Through the support of the Provincial and the Council members, Emmaus now runs on solar energy. This has given the institution electricity without any interruptions, unlike the outages of previous years. We thank the Council for making this project possible.

Among all benefits that come along with solar energy installation, Emmaus has benefitted from a renewable energy resource. The abundance of solar energy has reduced our electric bills. The whole house is now lit with clean energy and the worries of losing power belong to the past.

Some people argue that the negative side of using solar panels includes the expense of installing them, the cost of storing solar energy, and the limited access to solar energy at night or during overcast periods. However, the benefits surpass the negatives. The long-term savings on electricity will offset the expense of installing panels and storing solar energy while they reduce our overall dependence on hydroelectricity.

As a gesture of appreciation, on behalf of Emmaus and in my capacity as Rector, I would like to thank all our benefactors, including Sulpicians and others, who made the Sunshine Campaign a success. Your support is really appreciated. May God richly bless you for your generosity.

Shoba Nyambe, PSS
Regional Superior in Zambia
Vincent D. Bui, PSS

It was my first sabbatical experience since I joined the Sulpicians in 1997. The planning for the sabbatical was quite an experience and I am grateful to the Provincial Council for allowing me to have this much needed experience.

I began the sabbatical in July 2017 with several short trips to visit relatives and to reconnect with some former advisees in their various parochial settings.

In August, I made a 17-day trip to Switzerland, France, and Portugal for a spiritual journey that led me to the Monastery of the Our Lady of Fatima in Switzerland. While there, I stayed with the Vietnamese Cistercians for a five-day personal retreat prior to the pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima. I arrived in Fatima on August 11 and stayed there for three nights. It was my first pilgrimage to Fatima and it came during the Centennial of the Apparitions of Fatima. In Fatima, I was able to participate in the Candlelight Procession on the 12th and to concelebrate mass on the 13th with hundreds of bishops and priests, and up to a million of the faithful from all over the world. After that I made the pilgrimage to Lourdes and then returned to the monastery for a four-day retreat.

In September and October, I spent five weeks in Vietnam visiting my mother, siblings, and family. One of the highlights of my stay in Vietnam was the opportunity to officiate at my nephew’s wedding. I was also able to teach a course in Religious Law to the leadership of the Dominican Sisters in my home diocese.

From the beginning of November, I became more involved with ministerial activities in two different parishes in the Diocese of San Jose: Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. John Vianney. The parochial ministry in these two parishes has brought me back to my early years of priestly ministry. I had the opportunity to preside at the Eucharist both during the week and on the weekend, and I especially enjoyed celebrating Mass with school children. I also helped with funerals, weddings, confessions, baptisms, and being on-call for the local hospitals. I was indeed experiencing a time of grace!

I had hoped to travel to Taiwan for ten days of missionary work during the 2018 Holy Week to assist the Vietnamese workers in Taipei. I also hoped to spend a few months with the Oblate Sisters of Jesus the Priest in Mexico City to be immersed in the Spanish language. However, some health issues prevented me from having these two plans fulfilled.

Looking back to the sabbatical experience, I am grateful to God and to the Province for the wonderful opportunity to rest, relax, rejuvenate, and renew.
Lawrence B. Terrien, PSS

I had a wonderful experience on my sabbatical. I had two major projects. The first was a translation of a document produced by the French Province on the Sulpician methods of priestly formation. The second was a translation of the first critical historical biography of the life of our founder. It was written by the former Superior of our French Province, Fr. Bernard Pitaud.

I stayed at our mother house in Paris for four months so that I could consult Bernard on his work and get his help in translating the many citations from theMemoirs of Father Olier. Seventeenth century French is sometimes as different from the current language as Shakespeare’s English is from today’s vernacular. Bernard’s help was very important in my efforts to translate the life of our founder. Bernard’s biography is a very good work that has raised my admiration for our founder to a new level, without overlooking or underestimating the challenges he faced in his spiritual development. Bernard’s respect for the work of the earlier biographers is apparent; so is his analysis and contextualizing of the events of Fr. Olier’s life.

I divided my sabbatical into three stages. The second part was a month of Spanish study in Spain. Then I went to Oxford and stayed with the Jesuits at Campion Hall, continuing my translation of Olier’s biography. From the first day I was made to feel like a member of the community and had a wonderful three months with them.

Brian K. Carpenter, PSS

Fr. Brian K. Carpenter, PSS, is excited to be returning to the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary where he completed his initial formation for priesthood and a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) in 2009.

Fr. Carpenter’s STL thesis explored the thoughts of French literary scholar René Girard and German theologian Rudolph Bultmann in regard to the mythological language of scripture. Fr. Carpenter hopes to continue to explore the thoughts of Girard in his doctoral dissertation. He wants to place Girard in a liturgical context, specifically exploring Girard’s notion of sacrifice and the sacrificial nature of the Mass. He expects this project will take two to three years to complete.
When you come to St. Anthony’s Major Seminary—Kachebere, from distance of a kilometer, you see great magnificent buildings of a well-planned and well-built seminary. When you enter the gate, your vision becomes clear and all you can say is, “This is a good structure. It was well planned and well built.” Further observation reveals to you that the Seminary lies at the foot of the Kalulu Mountain. With time, when you climb the Kalulu Mountain, you manage to get a beautiful panoramic view of the seminary and of Mchinji, the district wherein the Seminary lies.

St. Anthony’s Major Seminary is found in Mchinji district, a border town between Malawi and Zambia. It was established by the Missionaries of Africa commonly known as the White Fathers. It opened its doors in October 1939. This seminary was established with a view that it was going to serve as a regional seminary for Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania. Indeed, the Seminary has lived to serve its purpose as many students, ordained and not ordained, have passed through it from the countries mentioned, including Mozambique. This fact has served to show that the Church is One. This Church which is One is also Missionary. By this fact, all the baptized are called to be agents of the missionary work of the Church which is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. This is the true identity of the Church.

Recently, the Society of St. Sulpice was invited to go to St. Anthony’s—Kachebere and participate in the work of formation. As earlier stated, this is all because the Church is One and its goal is the same—to work for the salvation of people.

The U.S. Province sent its first priests and a lay woman volunteer: Fathers Patrick K. Simutowe, Victor C. Shikaputo, Emmanuel Ichidi, Thomas Ulshafer, and the lay woman, Miss Mary Furlong. As the first Sulpicians, we had our own fears but our faith was our inner motivation. From February 2018, another page for St. Anthony Major Seminary was opened. As a team together with our brothers and Sisters from Malawi, we commenced work with a sense of Oneness and togetherness. The Fathers from Malawi were Enoch Kanjira, Enoch Gwengwea, and George Nyanga. The Sisters were Evelyn Gilbert, Gloria Zidana, Eunice Banda, and Esther Phiri. These sisters belong to the congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Ottawa, a congregation whose foundation was assisted by a priest from the Society of St. Sulpice in Canada. We also had two lay teachers and formators from Tanzania. These are Mzeru Naiman and Mihafu Leonard.
When we were asked to come to St. Anthony, we had a lot of questions. As the first team of Sulpicians, we also had our own fears and concerns. With time we have come to realize that this is not our mission, it is a mission of Christ and we are just agents. Our call is to cooperate with God and allow his mission to succeed. We know many other Sulpicians will come after us. Do not be afraid. Kachebere is beautiful and a very nice place in which to work. It is beautiful as it looks from the top of the Kalulu Mountain.

Patrick K. Simutowe, PSS
Rector of St. Anthony’s Major Seminary
St. Patrick’s Seminary Scholarship Recipient Named

The Society of St. Sulpice Province of the United States congratulates Thomas J. Stuart of the Diocese of Santa Rosa on being the first recipient of the Sulpician Scholarship for St. Patrick’s Seminary & University.

This endowed scholarship, held and managed by The Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, assists a seminarian attending St. Patrick’s Seminary with tuition. The seminarian must be in his final year of studies and sponsored by a Mission Diocese in the United States. It is our hope the scholarship will one day provide a full year’s tuition to a seminarian.

Stuart recounts his spiritual path:
“I am from Occidental, a small town in west Sonoma County, where I attended St. Phillip the Apostle parish from childhood. I first remember getting the call to the priesthood in the second grade; I would follow the priest’s parts at Mass until I was old enough to serve.

“I attended El Molino High School, which was attended mostly by students from the surrounding rural areas. Having fallen away from—and then read my way back into—the Catholic Church, I began to seriously discern a vocation by the age of seventeen.

“After a year of college, I applied to the Diocese of Santa Rosa and am now in my third year of theology at St. Patrick’s Seminary and University in Menlo Park, California.”

Sulpicians Award Scholarships To St. Frances Academy Students

Two St. Frances Academy students have been blessed with scholarships provided by the Sulpicians. One scholarship of $20,000 was given to cover tuition, room, and board for Tyquan Smith, a resident of the Fr. Joubert Boarding Program at St. Frances Academy.

The other scholarship of full tuition, provided to a day student, was given to Michael Cummings. Both young men met Fr. John Kemper, P.S.S. prior to the start of the current school year. They expressed their extreme gratitude for this tremendous opportunity. Each student felt that this gift to attend St. Frances has been a turning point in their lives and will help to provide them with a strong foundation into adulthood and beyond. This is the opening of many doors of opportunity for them that they would not have otherwise received.

The school founded by Mother Mary Lange aims to provide a quality Catholic education to students from all walks of life and all financial backgrounds. St. Frances has a long history of working to help students who are in great need. Students frequently describe their experience at St. Frances as transformational. The school is very appreciative and proud of its 190 year relationship with the Sulpician Fathers!

Melissa A. D’Adamo
Director of Development at St. Frances Academy

Save the Date!
June 5–12, 2019
Institute for Seminary Formators

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.
210th Anniversary Mass Honors Mother Seton’s Arrival

For an event to be celebrated 210 years after it happened, it must have made a truly remarkable impression at the time to be recorded and important enough within the lives of those today to be remembered. Such an event both remarkable and memorable was marked by a commemorative Mass on Saturday, June 16, 2018, held 210 years to the day at the site where it happened: the arrival of Elizabeth Ann Seton at 600 North Paca Street in Baltimore, Maryland.

On that very day in 1808, the 33-year-old, recently widowed mother of five arrived at the brand-new Federal-style house commissioned by the Sulpician Fathers as the Seminary Chapel was also being constructed. Mrs. Seton was a recent convert to Catholicism. She was drawn to the faith at her time of bereavement following her husband’s death while on a trip to Italy, which had been taken in the hope the sea air would help his tuberculosis. Mrs. Seton had been invited by Sulpician Father Louis William Dubourg, president of St. Mary’s College in Baltimore, with the idea for her to open a school for Catholic girls. This humble endeavor would later become the model for the current parochial school system in the United States.

As it happened, Elizabeth Ann Seton arrived on the Feast of Corpus Christi, and her arrival coincided with the dedication of the Chapel of The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Temple (the chapel of the Sulpician Seminary), which finally provided a permanent house of worship for St. Mary’s students and faculty at the first Roman Catholic Seminary in the United States, founded in 1791. Perhaps Divine Providence was at work that day as Mrs. Seton witnessed Bishop John Carroll dedicate the Chapelle Basse, or Lower Chapel—the very chapel in which she would soon pronounce her private vows before him.

Bishop John Carroll would live another seven years following the dedication of the chapel at Paca Street and would be buried in its Upper Chapel upon his death on December 3, 1815. He rested there until the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was completed in 1821. Elizabeth Ann Seton would stay less than a year at Paca Street before joining Sulpician Fathers on the frontier of western Maryland at Emmitsburg and eventually establishing the Sisters of Charity of Saint Joseph, the first apostolic religious society of women in the United States. The society was later known as the Daughters of Charity.

Elizabeth Ann Seton was canonized by Pope Paul VI on September 14, 1975, and is the first U.S.-born saint of the Catholic Church.

The celebration of this historic event properly honored its sanctity with Mass in the Upper Chapel, which was presided over by Bishop Denis J. Madden of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He also gave the homily. Friends and supporters of Mother Seton filled the chapel to near capacity at the invitation of the Sulpician Fathers and the staff of St. Mary’s Spiritual Center & Historic Site—the organization tasked with preserving St. Mary’s Chapel and the 1808 Mother Seton House and presenting her inspirational story to current generations. Sulpician Father Richard M. Gula offered words of welcome and proclaimed the Gospel. Sulpician Father Melvin Blanchette offered the Prayers of the Faithful.

In a fitting tribute to such an influential and strong woman, the beautiful voice of the Cantor, Megan Crampton, sang out among the same pillars of the Upper Chapel that Elizabeth Ann Seton herself would have gazed upon. It is remarkable we are still able to find our inspiration from the same sacred space in which St. Seton first found hers 210 years ago.

Blaine Carvalho
Administrative Assistant at St. Mary’s Spiritual Center & Historic Site
Formation for Freedom

Fr. Larry Terrien, PSS, has provided an expert translation of a 2009 document of the French Province explaining the fundamental principles of the Sulpician method of priestly formation. This book now joins other recent Sulpician publications featured in the summer 2017 issue of Update: Fr. Thomas Ulshafer, PSS, The Life and Times of François-Charles Nagot; Fr. Mel Blanchette, PSS A Primer on Sulpician Spirituality; and Fr. Bernard Pitaud, PSS, Jean-Jacques Olier (1608-1657), a work in French which Fr. Terrien is presently translating into English.

Formation for Freedom is structured around the four themes that have deeply marked our whole history: collegial responsibility, the formation community (Communauté Éducatrice), spiritual direction, and the unity of formation for priestly ministry.

Collegial responsibility brings together all the players to collaborate in the process of evaluating seminarians: pastoral supervisors, the lay people (even non-Christians) from pastoral placements, adjunct faculty, and the seminarians, too, may have some input into assessing the qualities of their peers. Obviously, the seminary formation faculty has the strongest voice, as they are the ones who ultimately act as the Bishop’s council on the continuance of the seminarian.

The formation community fulfills Fr. Olier’s vision that the seminary be a single community of formators and seminarians responding together to the same demands of Christian and priestly life. The seminarians are invited into the life of the priests to live with them and to live like them. For Fr. Olier, the witness of the priests is more compelling than their commands or arguments. Thus the great importance Fr. Olier gave to the presence of all formators in the full life of the seminary community.

Spiritual direction holds primacy of place in the Sulpician seminaries. The insight at the heart of Fr. Olier’s spiritual life is that Jesus lives within us through the Spirit given to us in Baptism. Spiritual direction, then, is the process by which one helps the seminarian attend to the Spirit in discerning one’s true vocation.

The unity of formation means that the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of formation are carried out at the same time, not successively, even though the time devoted to each is not equally proportionate.

This resource on the major principles and values of the Sulpician tradition can be used not only within the Society to help us reflect on our own practice, but it can also be used to orient candidates and non-Sulpician members of our seminary communities to the distinctive features of our rich tradition.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel

The Church: Theology in History

Fr. Frederick Cwiekowski’s new book, The Church: Theology in History, is the result of persistent perseverance in pursuing one’s passion. Three decades in the making, this magisterial text expresses Fr. Cwiekowski’s love for learning and passion for theology, especially the biblical and historical roots of doctrine. His first book, The Beginning of the Church (1988), is reprised with updates in the first half of this book that begins the history of the Church in the apostolic period. The book continues to tell the story of the Church’s self-understanding through the Patristic era, the medieval and Reformation period, Vatican II, and on to Pope Francis. Through his meticulous grasp of historical detail and its relation to developments in the Church, Fr. Cwiekowski shows how the understanding of history is a pillar in the proper understanding of the Church.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel
Fr. Raymond E. Brown, PSS, Biography

Twenty years ago, on August 8, 1998, Sulpician Father Raymond Edward Brown, a major figure in the post-conciliar biblical movement, died unexpectedly at the age of 70. He was a nationally and internationally known expert in the Johannine literature.

After his death, the U.S. Province had sought to find an historian to write his official biography. It was not an easy task. The primary obstacle was the lack of the usual personal correspondence and memoirs from which to reconstruct a life and career.

This lack has finally been corrected with the publication by Paulist Press in July 2018 of *Raymond E. Brown and the Catholic Biblical Renewal* by Donald Senior, CP. Himself a renowned biblical scholar who knew Brown personally, Passionist Fr. Senior agreed to write an intellectual biography that now provides a more comprehensive overview of Brown’s life and career. The U.S. Province helped to fund the research, also giving access to privileged materials from the Associated Archives at St. Mary’s Seminary & University. Yet the biography remains an independent, objective study filled with personal and professional details gleaned from files, publications, and extensive recent interviews with friends, colleagues, and former students who knew Brown personally.

The result is a marvelous blend of biography, history, and theology that will serve well to memorialize this phenomenal biblical scholar whose works continue to shape contemporary questions in biblical interpretation. The Sulpicians express sincere gratitude to Fr. Senior and Paulist Press for this remarkable achievement.

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS
Superior General

Taking Root in Zambia

The Zambian mission celebrated its silver jubilee in 2014. As we get excited about our future, it is very easy to lose sight of our humble beginnings. If we do not remember our history, we risk becoming like a tree without roots. Therefore, this recently published book, *Taking Root in Zambia*, on the Society in Zambia is timely. Illustrated with photos and symbols, this book tells the story of the beginnings of the Zambian mission.

After describing why the U.S. Province chose Zambia for its mission outreach, the book explains the Zambianization of the Society in Zambia and the formation program at Emmaus Spirituality Centre, the propaedeutic year of the Zambian national seminary system for which the Sulpicians are responsible. The book then gives significant attention to the financial challenges of taking root in Zambia and the progress the Province made in becoming incorporated in Zambia.

With this publication we now have a coherent document that explains how a Province, so long an island onto itself, opened its heart and mind to mission. The book highlights both the people and events that gave us so much to remember about the birth of this mission and its growth through the first twenty-five years. It will now serve as a reference work to keep memories alive of the contributions made by the founding fathers of this mission. This book may also be an inspiration for others to support us in furthering our mission work in Africa and, perhaps, even to join the Society of St. Sulpice.

Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS
First Zambian Regional Superior, 2010-2017
Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson was honored with the Rev. Gerald Brown Award for Excellence in Pastoral Ministry in April 2018 at Theological College. He was named Rector of Cathedral Parish of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington, DC. He had been named a Prelate of Honor with the title of Monsignor in July 1995.


Supreme Directors of Knights of Columbus visit Historic Site on Paca Street

The Supreme Directors of the Knights of Columbus visited St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site on August 3, 2018. They came as pilgrims to the place where their founder, Venerable Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney prepared for priestly ministry which gave birth to the Knights of Columbus. To express appreciation for the stewardship of this historic place in the history of Catholicism in America and in the history of the Knights of Columbus, Deacon Vito S. Piazza, Sr., Director of St. Mary's Spiritual Center & Historic Site, received a $10,000 donation. The gift will be used for repair and restoration of the Chapel masonry.
Cale John Crowley was born in Billings, Montana, on June 10, 1943, to Cale and Catherine (nee Allard) Crowley. He was ordained for the Diocese of Great Falls, Montana, on April 19, 1969. Fr. Crowley earned both his bachelor’s degree (1965) and M. Div. (1969) from St. Thomas Seminary, Kenmore, Washington.

As a Sulpician candidate he earned both the M.A. degree (1972) and the Ph.D. in philosophy (1976) from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.


In Zambia, he began his service at St. Augustine’s Seminary (1992–1996), the philosophy division of the Zambian national seminary system. He then became Rector of the Emmaus Spirituality Centre (1996–1999), the propaedeutic program under the auspices of the Sulpicians. He returned to St. Augustine’s in 1999 and became Rector there from 2002 to 2010. Fr. Crowley served as the Regional Superior for all the Sulpicians in Zambia from 2003 to 2010 and finished his last year in Zambia back at Emmaus Spirituality Centre (2011). For medical reasons, Fr. Crowley returned to the states in July 2011.

Fr. Crowley loved Zambia. He made it his home, as manifest in his wearing the colorful clothes of the country and in the rhythm of his simple dance. As the Zambians would explain it, he was a grandfather figure for them. They saw him as having more kindness and sensitivity than their own parents. He was one to whom students would go for consolation, protection, and understanding. His students there admired how conscientious he was about learning a new culture and living in its style.

In 2012, Fr Crowley was assigned as the Director of St. Charles Villa, since renamed as Villa Olier. He held this position until his own retirement in 2016, when he stepped down as Director and joined his retired confreres as a resident.

That he was asked to give so many years to administration is incongruous with his personality, as organization was not his strength. His strengths were in teaching and the one-to-one ministry of advising and directing through which he touched the lives of two generations of students.

Fr. Crowley was admitted to home hospice at the Villa on September 22, 2018, and died soon after on October 7, 2018, from metastatic lung cancer. On October 12, 2018, Fr. Crowley was buried in the Sulpician cemetery in Catonsville, Maryland, following the funeral liturgy at the Chapel of Villa Olier. At his Mass of the Resurrection, the Provincial, Very Rev. John C. Kemper, PSS, presided; Fr. Cornelius Hankomoone, PSS, a former student from Zambia was the homilist. Fr. Crowley’s successor as Director of the Villa, Fr. Dan Doherty, PSS, led the committal service at the graveside.

A community man through and through, he loved to be among his confreres and to be part of the larger seminary community. One of his distinguishing characteristics was how he took a personal interest in those with whom he lived, especially those vulnerable in any way. They, in particular, know who they are and will hold a special place for Fr. Crowley in their hearts.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel
James Stephen Tucker was born on April 14, 1943, in Detroit, Michigan, to Joseph and Mary (Perinovic) Tucker. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California on April 26, 1969. He did both his undergraduate studies in philosophy (1961–1965) and his theological studies (1965–1969) at St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, CA. He went on to do an M.A. degree in psychology at California State University, Sacramento, in 1977. From 1979 to 1983, he earned the M.S. and then Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, Palo Alto, California. He was admitted to the Society in 1979.

His first Sulpician assignment was to the college faculty of St. Mary’s Seminary, Catonsville, Maryland, from 1975 to 1977. He then went west to St. Patrick’s College (later St. Joseph’s College), Mountain View, California, from 1978 to 1981. He remained there in residence while completing his doctorate in clinical psychology and then joined the faculty as the staff psychologist and Director of Admissions. During these years, he also served as therapist for the priests on sabbatical attending the Vatican II Institute at St. Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park, California.

While at the college, Fr. Tucker established a clinical office to serve the needs of priests and religious within Northern California. This office, along with all its contents, was totally destroyed by the Loma Prieta earthquake on October 17, 1989. Following the eventual closing of the college, he became the Director of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of San Jose, California, from 1991 to 2004. He then went to serve the growing church in the Southwest by assuming a position on the formation faculty of Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, Texas, from 2004 to 2012.

Fr. Tucker made his mark in the Society not so much as a classroom teacher but as a formator, spiritual director, and therapist. In those roles, he not only assisted many seminarians but also many priests and religious. He also served as a consultant to many bishops around the country during the early years of the crisis of sexual abuse in the church.

While at Assumption Seminary, he began to experience a series of strokes that affected his ability to carry out his ministry. Recognizing that he couldn’t meet the demands of the seminary program, Fr. Tucker retired in 2012. He moved from the seminary to his private home in San Antonio. In time, he needed the daily assistance of a care-giver. He found that help in Mr. Ray Montelongo, who provided faithful and competent care for six years. During those years with Ray’s assistance, Fr. Tucker managed to attend the Sulpician community retreats and convocations and to travel widely throughout the world. Not until liver cancer overcame his strength did he curtail his travel and remain in his own home under hospice care and with Ray’s faithful attendance.

Fr. Tucker is well remembered as a person who lived life fully, even when constrained by the increasing limitations of his strokes. He experienced great joy in visiting with his confreres, having them to his home for dinners, and traveling to exotic as well as ordinary places.

Fr. Tucker died on March 23, 2018, in his own home in San Antonio. His body was flown back to Baltimore where the Mass of Resurrection was celebrated in the chapel of Villa Olier on March 28 with the Provincial, Fr. John C. Kemper, PSS, as celebrant, and Fr. Mel Blanchette, PSS, as homilist. He was buried in the Sulpician Cemetery, Catonsville, Maryland.
The Province of the United States joins the Diocese of Monterey, California, in paying tribute to the life and ministry of Bishop Richard John Garcia. He died on July 11, 2018, at the age of 71, after experiencing a rapid decline in health that followed his diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease only three months earlier.

Bishop Garcia was ordained for the Archdiocese of San Francisco in 1973, and then, with the creation of the Diocese of San Jose in 1981, served in that diocese as an associate pastor (St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Morgan Hill), as pastor (St. Leo the Great Parish, San Jose) and as Vocations Director and Vicar for Clergy. In 1997, he was named Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento, and then in December 2006, he was named the fourth bishop of the Diocese of Monterey.

Bishop Garcia was a long-standing friend of the Society and a colleague on our faculties in California at St. Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park (1984–1988), and at St. Joseph’s College, Mountain View (1989–1991), the two seminaries of which he was also an alumnus. During those years when he shared in our ministry, we experienced firsthand not only his personable and welcoming demeanor, but also his special concern for the marginalized and the immigrant communities. He helped our seminary community open itself to cultural diversity and taught us how to celebrate a bilingual Mass as one community.

He will be remembered fondly for his personal witness to serving the diversity of cultures represented in the Church, and not only to the Mexican-American community of his own heritage. His compassion and hospitality to all were always accompanied by his welcoming smile and warm embrace.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel

Christopher Joseph Kauffman (1936–2018) died on January 30, 2018. Dr. Kauffman, or “Chris” as we all knew him, was the noted historian who held the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chair in American Church History at the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America. His work, *Tradition and Transformation in Catholic Culture: The Priests of Saint Sulpice in the United States from 1791 to the Present*, written to celebrate the 1991 bicentennial of the Sulpicians in America, stands among his seven other great historical studies and the many volumes of the *U.S. Catholic Historian* for which he was the General Editor for many years.

In his reflection at the memorial Mass at Corpus Christi Church in Baltimore, Fr. Joseph Chinicci, OFM, extolled the virtue of friendship as the thread that wove through Chris’s “book of life.” Fr. Chinicci added, “His friendly reach also extended way beyond the university to encompass both accomplished scholars and those beginning their historical journey.” About one of the purposes for the *U.S. Catholic Historian*, Fr. Chinicci quotes Chris as saying, “We must make the voice of the younger scholars heard—particularly the women—giving them a first chance to break into the public sphere.” Fr. Chinicci praised Chris for this vision but also to write with his life of loves a grand narrative of friendship given and received.

His former student, Dr. Tricia Pyne, Director of the Associated Archives at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, affirmed as much: “Chris’s gifts to the Church in his role as historian were many. Whatever role he played—teacher, mentor, colleague, or friend—we were blessed to have him in our lives. While we may still grieve for our loss, what will remain with us always is gratitude—gratitude for having known him and gratitude for what he taught and shared with us.”

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel
Santayana reminds us, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

The Society of St. Sulpice was founded in Paris, France, in 1641, itself a tumultuous time. The French Revolution prompted the Sulpician Fathers to seek a safer venue in which to exercise their ministry of priestly formation. In 1791, the first band of Sulpicians found their way to Paca Street, then the French Quarter of Baltimore City. The Paca Street property has been my home for over a decade. Praying in the historic Seminary Chapel, stopping to pause at the grave of Fr. Nagot, our first U.S. superior, and walking these grounds encourage me. I find here hope and inspiration.

Over the past four months I have visited almost all of our seminaries as they begin this new academic year. In these visits I also find encouragement, hope, and inspiration. I am impressed with the young men who are responding generously to God’s call and beginning their discernment process within our Sulpician seminaries. During my visits, I witnessed seminarians hauling boxes for the incoming seminarians during orientation week, setting a formal table to welcome alumni back for Alumni Day, competing in a soccer match, and, last but in no way least, praying together at Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. I find them to be generous, talented, healthy, and well-rounded individuals. They give me hope that, through the darkness of the day, the light of truth will triumph.

Pope Francis noted, “Hope is what Mary, Mother of God, sheltered in her heart during the darkest time of her life.” May Mary, Seat of Wisdom and Mother of Hope, guide us as we move into the future, being faithful to our mission and charism of initial and ongoing formation of priests.