Life needs to be more than a series of sound bites linked together by a loosely held common thread. In our world today, we are bombarded with information, often in thirty-second sound bites or, even worse, in a 140-character tweet.

As a lover of history, I appreciate how much of our knowledge of the past comes to us in finely crafted, reflective letters and documents. These records provide us not only with an account of the times past but they also give us a glimpse of the character of those who produced them.

(Continued on back cover)

Bishop Charles Kasonde Visits Sulpician Seminaries

The U.S. Province of Sulpicians arrived in Zambia in 1989. Over these years, our men have had the opportunity to work with seminarians at the three levels of the national seminary system—the propaedeutic year at Emmaus Spirituality Centre, the philosophy house at St. Augustine’s Major Seminary in Mpima, and the theolbrate at St. Dominic’s Major Seminary in Lusaka. Through these programs we have seen many young men become priests. One has become a bishop, Bishop Charles Kasonde.

Shortly after Bishop Kasonde was ordained to the priesthood, he was chosen by the Zambian Bishops to participate in the joint venture between the Province and St. Mary’s Seminary and University to provide a scholarship for a Zambian priest to study for the Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) at St. Mary’s Seminary. Bishop Kasonde was the second recipient of this scholarship. He completed his degree in 2008. Less than two years later, he was ordained the Bishop of Solwezi. He is the first African priest to be made a bishop who did not receive his ecclesiastical degree.

(Continued on Page 2)
Bishop Charles Kasonde
(Continued from Page 1)

from Rome, but from the United States at our St. Mary’s Seminary. Already the African bishops recognize in him a man of great talent and leadership, for he has recently been elected Chairman of the Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA).

Recognizing the significance of this new role, and the long-standing association that the U.S. Sulpicians have with Bishop Kasonde, the Provincial, Fr. John Kemper, PSS, in concert with our two seminaries, St. Mary’s and Theological College, the National Seminary of The Catholic University of America, invited him to the United States so that we could celebrate with him as a distinguished alumnus and he could celebrate with us his appreciation of our mission in Zambia. While Bishop Kasonde was in Baltimore, he was also the principal celebrant at the Sunday Mass at our Sulpician parish, Our Lady of the Angels, in Charlestown Retirement Community in Catonsville, Maryland. This Mass gave the Bishop an opportunity to express his thanks to the parish for their generous support of an annual scholarship for a student to attend Emmaus Spirituality Centre, which the Sulpicians staff and administrate. The parishioners of Our Lady of the Angels have also been generous in their financial support for special fundraising campaigns for other projects. After the Mass, he joined the Sulpician retirement community for lunch at Villa Olier. He then stopped to visit the Sulpician cemetery to pray at the graveside of Fr. Raymond Brown, PSS, and the first Sulpician missionaries to Zambia. His last stop was to Paca Street to visit the historic chapel and visitor center. When Bishop Kasonde finished his studies at St. Mary’s, the chapel was being renovated and the visitor center was under construction.
Theological College has a long tradition of providing the pastoral training of the seminarians who are taking their academic courses at the University. An integral component of being prepared to provide liturgical leadership is to have an understanding of the musical structure of Liturgy, along with an ability to prepare and judge appropriate music for worship. To ensure that there will be the highest quality of musical and liturgical formation of candidates preparing for ordained ministry at Theological College, the Sulpician Province has established the Rev. John C. Selner, PSS, Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy.

Fr. Selner is well remembered as musician, composer, writer, and director of music who served at Theological College for eleven years. While on the faculty of TC, he also served as an associate professor at The Catholic University of America and was Music Director at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. His legacy will now live on through this endowed Chair. The endowment for this Chair has already reached over $918,000 toward the goal of $1,500,000.

The Province is happy to announce that the first to hold this Chair will be a Sulpician, Fr. James McKearney, PSS. Fr. McKearney was ordained for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, in 1997 and has been a Sulpician since 2001. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise to this position. He served as music teacher for adults with special needs from 1985 to 1990 in Southbury, Connecticut; the parish music director at Assumption Church in Ansonia, Connecticut, from 1988 to 1992; the Dean of the American Guild of Organists (Danbury Chapter) from 1988 to 1991; associate pastor of St. Peter Claver Church in West Hartford from 1997 to 1999; and Director of Music while on the faculty of St. Patrick’s Seminary, Menlo Park, California, from 1999 to 2002 and again from 2006 to 2013.

He received a Bachelor (1984) and then the Master (1987) of Music Education from Western Connecticut State University; a Certification as a music therapist from the American Association for Music Therapy in 1988; the MDiv from St. Mary’s Seminary & University in 1996; the STL (2006), and the STD (2008) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, with the thesis: “Sacred Music’s Theological and Catechetical Significance: A Patristic Foundation for Contemporary Music Criticism.”

About his position, Fr. McKearney says, “I look forward to this fine opportunity and am honored to be the first Sulpician to hold the Rev. John C. Selner Chair for Sacred Music and Liturgy at Theological College. Among my hopes are helping seminarians to receive an education in Church Music suitable for the needs of the Church and today’s parish. Also, I hope to be able to prepare seminarians for their role as future singers and celebrants. I think it is wonderful that TC will have a Sulpician in this position full time.”

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Ever since the Second Vatican Council encouraged religious communities to get in touch with their roots and charism, the Sulpicians have been putting together resources that retrieve our tradition and interpret it for today’s Church. A precious few of the members, however, have dedicated themselves to this task in a conscientious way. Fr. David Thayer, PSS, is one of them. Though his professional training was in philosophy (PhD from Penn State, 1982), Fr. Thayer developed a serious interest in understanding the French School of Spirituality, particularly the Sulpician expression of it. He developed the necessary language skills in French that enabled him to work with the original sources. Over the years he has translated many sources into English, and he has written several articles that interpret the French School for contemporary times.

At the same time, he has been holding several important positions. He served as a full-time faculty member, first at the college level of St. Mary’s Seminary and University in Catonsville (1975-1977), and then at St. Patrick’s College in Mountain View (1978-1980) and again when its name changed to St. Joseph’s College (1982-1988). In the East, he served on the faculty and in administration at Theological College from 1988 to 1990, and then taught at St. Mary’s Seminary & University, Roland Park, from 1991 to 1997. He returned to Theological College and has remained there for the past twenty-two years. He has also served as editor of the Bulletin de Saint-Sulpice from 2002 to 2014 and has been a General Consultant from 2008 to the present.

For many years, Fr. Thayer has been a regular contributor to the formation of Sulpician candidates through his presentations on the French School and the Sulpician spiritual tradition. His reputation as an interpreter of the French School is highly respected among his confreres, not only in the States but also in Canada and France as well. Knowing that he had developed some significant works on the French School, but has not had the time to pull them together for publication and posterity, the Provincial Council decided that the Province would be well served if Fr. Thayer were to retire from his duties at Theological College and devote himself totally to completing the work he has long been desiring to do with the French School. To that end, the Provincial Council appointed him to be Senior Researcher on the French School in the Sulpician Tradition with residence at Villa Olier.

About his new position, Fr. Thayer says, “I feel overwhelmed by the possibilities that this new position offers me.” He went on to say, “I have enough projects already in the works that I can begin by finishing what I have started. I am especially interested in completing the translation of the spiritual letters of Fr. Olier, and in pulling together into one book all the materials that I have developed for the formation program. I would also like to do a series of Sulpician Meditations for Advent and Lent to post as podcasts on the Provincial website and on the websites of each of our seminaries. In short, my goal in this new role is to introduce people to some of my friends, who just happen to have lived in seventeenth-century France.”

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Fr. Shawn Gould

Fr. Shawn Gould was accepted as a Sulpician candidate in spring of 2018. He participated in the first segment of the Sulpician Formation Program this past summer in Washington, DC, and will participate in the Formators Institute this June at Theological College, and then the international segment of the formation program in Paris during the month of July.

A native of Grand Haven, Michigan, he is an alumnus of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois, where he earned his MDiv, STB, and STL degrees. His area of special interest is adult education and for mentoring parishioners in their spiritual life.

Fr. Gould was introduced to the Sulpicians through his friend, Fr. Brian Carpenter, PSS, and found his natural inclinations to teach and mentor to fit well with the Sulpician ministry. In this past year at St. Mary’s, he taught an introductory course in Scripture, liturgical theology, and a course in pastoral ministry. About his experience as a candidate, Fr. Gould says, “I have been very pleased with my experience at St. Mary’s. I enjoy being part of the Sulpician community life as well as the larger seminary community. The opportunity to teach and serve as a spiritual director for the seminarians has fit well with my ministerial aspirations and personal gifts.”

In addition to his formal ministerial responsibilities, Fr. Gould also enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, and music (he plays four instruments: flute, piccolo, piano, and organ).

Fr. Carlos Piedrahita

“Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.” (Phil 4:9) For Fr. Carlos Piedrahita, this verse brings back fond memories of a Sulpician Archbishop Alberto Giraldo Jaramillo, PSS, particularly of how he would assist him as a member of the Youth Ministry Board of the Archdiocese of Medellin. His life and example inspired Fr. Carlos to discern a vocation to the priesthood and the Society of St. Sulpice.

Born in Colombia, Fr. Carlos grew up in a very Catholic environment in Medellin. It is true that “you can take this boy out of Colombia, but you cannot take the Colombian out of him.” Fr. Carlos has said this when he has passionately shared stories of his youth in Colombia. They are filled with joyful memories. In elementary school, he came to love roller hockey; however, after playing for 14 years, an injury prevented him from becoming a professional player. After graduating high school, he began to dream of being a pilot, but again his dream was not actualized. During this time, however, he was certified as a trained scuba diver, which is still one of his favorite hobbies when he is on vacation.

Fr. Carlos has pursued a BBA in Business Administration, and an MA in Strategic Management of Costs and Finances at EAFIT University in Colombia. After working in the business world, and teaching at two universities in Colombia, the Pontifical University Bolivariana and the University of Antioquia, he moved to the United States in 2007. He studied Philosophy at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and completed an MA in Divinity at St. John’s Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts, in 2013, and an STL degree at Boston College in 2018. His thesis was on The Humanity of Christ in the Works of St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Teresa of Avila. Following ordination to the priesthood in 2013, he ministered in various ways for five years in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. In June 2018, he was admitted as a candidate for the Society of St. Sulpice. He was then assigned to Theological College as a member of the formation faculty and has been there since August 2018.

Fr. Carlos enjoys working with the Sulpicians and finds fulfillment in working as a formator in the seminary. Although this is a tumultuous time for the clergy, he believes that forming future priests is an honorable yet challenging ministry. He is confident as he continues discerning this “vocation within a vocation” because the Lord Jesus promised us that “my grace is sufficient for you.” (2 Cor 12:9)
Mary Furlong Finds Teaching in Kachebere Fulfilling

Being a lecturer for over a year at St. Anthony’s Seminary, Kachebere, with its international staff from Zambia, Malawi, Benin, Tanzania, and the United States, has been one of my significant life experiences. Daily preparation for three or four classes is one of my many responsibilities. While the eight priests meet with over 25 seminarians each almost every week for spiritual direction, all of us share responsibilities for the Singing Club (a renowned group), sports (almost a second religion here), student government, library overhaul, manual work, individual tutoring, or even the revival of the school magazine, New Telescope.

When the U.S. Province invited me to assist with the reopening of the seminary in 2018, I knew that my six years of volunteer work in neighboring Zambia to train teachers and to work with an HIV/AIDS program would provide a basic cultural understanding of the Malawians. I have been well embraced by both our staff and the young men. I am most grateful to the Malawian Episcopal Conference for approval as the first female staff member at a seminary in Malawi. My listening skills have been welcomed by all.

There have been some great challenges as well. Within a week after beginning school in late February 2018, I realized that there were no textbooks for any of my three classes. Even I didn’t have a textbook! Another immediate challenge was the limitation of being allowed to copy only two sets of materials for classes of 50 to 57. Yet, in the midst of such limitations, the thirst for academic and spiritual formation by the young men is obvious week after week. With the introduction of solar power in January 2019, the students now have more time to complete assignments. Of course, being able to turn on a light at 5 a.m. makes everyone happy.

I continue to be deeply humbled by the hospitality and personal support offered by our 20-member small Christian community as they assist in maintaining the physical plant, and work in the garden to provide food for the table.

When I leave in July, part of my heart will always be focused on the lives of these young men as they continue their journey to become priests. I hope to keep in touch with many of them through social media.

Thanks again to the Provincial Council and the Provincial Superior, Fr. John Kemper, PSS, for the invitation to be part of the team at Kachebere.

Fr. John Kemper, PSS, and Mary Furlong at St. Anthony’s.

Improvements Planned at St. Anthony’s in Kachebere

A delegation led by Provincial Superior, Fr. John C. Kemper, PSS, went to St. Anthony’s Major Seminary in Kachebere, Malawi, in late October 2018 to evaluate the seminary’s ability to support itself and to update its electronic infrastructure. Goals include the ability to grow food to feed nearly 200 staff and seminarians—and perhaps even crops and livestock for market. The team also examined the possibility for installing campus-wide internet access.

St. Anthony’s is situated within about 350 acres of designated farm land. To assess just how arable the characteristically reddish Malawi soil was, Dr. Roch Gaussoin, a faculty member of the University of Nebraska Department of Agronomy & Horticulture, coordinated the collection and shipment of soil samples with the U.S. Department of Agriculture for comprehensive soil analysis in the U.S. Other delegation members became field-designated agricultural assistants, helping “Dr. Rock” obtain and store the uncontaminated samples for shipment back to the U.S. To evaluate a nearby natural spring as a water source, the delegation improvised a way to calculate its flow rate by using a found plastic bottle, two sturdy tree branches, and a ruler.

Inside the campus, the information needs of the seminary were determined by Ronald Clinch, information technology expert. Assessing both signal strength of Malawi’s internet carrier and the angles and dead spots of the campus’s buildings, Mr. Clinch met with the regional internet representative to design a way for the campus to have a unified Wi-Fi signal. The most economical approach will be for the Province to install the hardware needed. Mr. Clinch plans to go back this summer, to complete the installation.

Blaine Carvalho, Administrative Staff at St. Mary’s Historic Site
The first seminary established in the United States was founded by the Sulpicians in 1791 and relied upon the income from a local Maryland plantation called Bohemian Manor to sustain its early years. Likewise, St. Anthony’s Major Seminary relies upon the Seminary Farm in Kachebere for the food on the tables and a stable source of income to sustain the school.

Fr. Patrick Simutowe, PSS, brings skills not limited to the seminary classroom. He is skilled as an overseer of the working of the farm, from crop management to animal husbandry. Prior to coming to Malawi, he served as the Rector of St. Augustine’s Seminary (Mpima, in neighboring Zambia) with responsibility for the farm that supported the seminary.

Over the past decade, the Seminary Farm at Kachebere has fallen into neglect. Our hope is that this appeal will give Fr. Simutowe the funding needed to rejuvenate the seminary’s farm and source of both food and income.

Very Rev. John C. Kemper, PSS
Provincial Superior

With your help, Fr. Simutowe believes the Seminary Farm can be turned around within a few growing seasons.

Fr. Simutowe, PSS, sees much room for needed improvement to the chicken and Guinea Fowl areas of the Seminary Farm.

The original 1939 Seminary building: now the Grist Mill. Nothing is wasted at St. Anthony’s!
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In July of 2017 I began a medical leave to address some major dental issues that are the result of treatment I have been receiving for a rare dermatology condition. Since the dental work and dermatology treatments were being done through the Johns Hopkins Hospital, the Provincial Council assigned me to live at Villa Olier while undergoing treatment. I knew the treatments would take at least a year, but I didn’t know what else the time at the Villa would yield. Would I be bored? Would I be lonely? Would I ever get better?

Well, living at the Villa turned out to be a grace beyond my imagining. I found myself surrounded by the wisdom of age and the care of a supportive staff. Living at the Villa was a wonderful experience of what a loving and caring Sulpician community looks like. I don’t think I could have found a better home and embraced me beyond my expectations. This parish experience added to the lessons learned at the Villa. I have realized that a priest can be welcomed everywhere as long as he approaches the people with faith and love coupled with some humility.

My medical leave, followed by sabbatical, was like a golden opportunity to work on three theological areas: faith, culture that I developed in my doctoral dissertation, but I never had time to do it. My medical leave, followed by sabbatical, was like God taking me away from my busy life so that I could concentrate on this work for His people.

In January, I moved to a parish in San Antonio to stay with a priest friend of mine. Parish ministry has also opened another wonderful experience of ministering to a people of a different culture and worldview. The people of this parish have welcomed me and embraced me beyond my expectations. This parish experience added to the lessons learned at the Villa. I have realized that a priest can be welcomed everywhere as long as he approaches the people with faith and love coupled with some humility.

Congratulations to Graduates

The Province is happy to announce that five of our men will be awarded advanced degrees this spring.

Two will be receiving doctorates: Fr. Martin Burnham, PSS, will receive a PhD in pastoral counseling from Loyola University of Maryland; and Fr. Leo Gajardo, PSS, will receive the STD in systematic theology with a concentration in liturgical studies from The Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome. We have three receiving ecclesiastical licenses: Fr. Robert Cro, PSS, will receive an ecclesiastical license in history (HEL) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome; Fr. Jerome Magat, PSS, will receive an ecclesiastical license in theology (STL) with a concentration in moral theology from the Alphonsian Academy of the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome; and Fr. Peter Kwaleyela, PSS, will receive an ecclesiastical license in philosophy, (PHL) from the Pontifical University Antonianum, Rome.

We are proud of their achievement, congratulate them, and look forward to their service for years to come.

Charlestown: “Meeting Our Neighbors”

On September 12, 2018, the Charlestown Board of Directors and Executive Team, accepted with great pleasure an invitation to dinner with our neighbor, Villa Olier. This generous invitation came from Fr. John Kemper, PSS, Provincial Superior of the Society of St. Sulpice, who has served on the Charlestown BOD since 2018, following the many years that Fr. Thomas Ulshafer, PSS, represented the Sulpician Community on the BOD.

We enjoyed a lovely evening of fine dining prepared for us and conversation with many of the retired priests of Villa Olier that was embracing and stimulating.

This evening was also a treasured opportunity to tour Villa Oiler and see the wonderful home created for our retired Sulpicians. The space is beautiful in both appearance and feel, worthy of those who have given a lifetime of service.

We have lived close by for many years, but the redesign and renovation of Villa Oiler last year brought us even closer together, truly neighbors, with a shared driveway and entrance.

More importantly, we share not only space and location but a commitment for the support and care of our community Seniors.

Thank you, Fr. Kemper, for your hospitality and sharing an evening at Villa Olier with the Charlestown Board of Directors! It was delicious!

Clara Parker
Executive Director, Charlestown
Heart of St. John Vianney Venerated at Paca Street

The heart of St. John Vianney was hosted for public veneration in the historic chapel at the St. Mary’s Historic Site on Nov. 10 and 11, 2018, during its nationwide tour, which was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

The honor of hosting the relic was bestowed by the Archbishop of Baltimore, William E. Lori, who is also the Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain.

Brought to the upper chapel of the seminary chapel and guarded closely by Knight of Columbus Vice Postulator, Brian Caulfield, during its two-day stop in the Premier See of the United States, the heart was venerated by more than 200 visitors over the two days, some simply wishing to approach the heart within its special reliquary in front of the chapel altar, others finding solace in spending more time in the vicinity of the relic in the chairs set up in the footprints of the original choir stalls. Many families prayed with arms interlocked around the relic.

St. Mary’s hosting of St. John Vianney’s heart was the culmination of many Knights of Columbus activities throughout 2018 at the place where their founder, Venerable Father Michael J. McGivney, studied and prayed as a seminarian from 1873-1877 before founding the Knights in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882.

St. John Vianney (born Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney on May 8, 1786, in Dardilly, Lyonnais, within the Kingdom of France) was a French parish priest who is venerated in the Catholic Church as the patron saint of parish priests. He died on August 4, 1859, was beatified on January 8, 1905, in Rome, Italy, by Pope Pius X, and was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, also in Rome.

St. John Vianney (born Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney on May 8, 1786, in Dardilly, Lyonnais, within the Kingdom of France) was a French parish priest who is venerated in the Catholic Church as the patron saint of parish priests. He died on August 4, 1859, was beatified on January 8, 1905, in Rome, Italy, by Pope Pius X, and was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, also in Rome.

St. Mary’s on Paca Street is the patrimonial site of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States, and the pilgrimage center created from the grounds of the first Catholic seminary in the U.S. The site contains the 1808 historic seminary chapel and the 1808 Federal-style Mother Seton House.

Interprovincial Collaboration Aids Common Mission in U.S. and Africa

A few years ago a popular Nigerian proverb made its debut on the global stage, “it takes a whole village to raise a child.” The same can be said of priestly formation. Both in the U.S. and around the world, priestly formation is a collaborative effort enlisting many voices. As U.S. Sulpicians, we are blessed to be one of three Sulpician Provinces that constitute our global reality.

Last year when the U.S. Province accepted the responsibility for the administration and staffing of St. Anthony’s Major Seminary, Kachebere, Malawi, I asked Fr. John Marc Micas, PSS, the Provincial of France, if there were any members of the French Province working in Africa who could join us in Kachebere. Fr. Julien Zossou, PSS, a member of the French Province and a native of Benin, joined the faculty at St. Anthony’s. He holds a Licentiate in both Canon Law and Church History and a Doctorate in History from the Sorbonne, France.

Fr. Andrew Szablewski, PSS, a native of Poland and a member of the Canadian Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, was looking for an assignment in an English-speaking seminary. With his initiative and with the permission of Fr. Jorge Pacheco, PSS, Provincial of Canada, Fr. Andrew will be joining the faculty at Theological College, Washington, DC. He holds a Licentiate in both Psychology and Moral Theology from the Gregorian in Rome. We look forward to welcoming Fr. Andrew to Theological College and to the U.S. Province for his four year assignment.

These two examples of interprovincial collaboration exemplify the common mission at the heart of each of the three provinces, the formation of shepherds after the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd.

John C. Kemper, PSS
Provincial
The Truth Will Make You Free

This book is the most in-depth and erudite treatment of secularization and the new evangelization available. In *The Truth Will Make You Free*, Fr. Robert F. Leavitt, PSS, displays an incredible depth and breadth of knowledge as he analyzes the current state of affairs in the world and the role the new evangelization can play in it. He takes his cue from Vatican II’s call to discern the “signs of the times,” adds insights from the formidable Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor, among others, and sets forth a comprehensive and perceptive analysis of religion in the secular age. Anyone concerned about the new evangelization—and why it is desperately needed—need look no further for a reliable guide.

Ronald D. Witherup, PSS
Superior General of the Sulpicians and the author of *Saint Paul and the New Evangelization*

Mercy and the Bible

*Mercy and the Bible: Why It Matters!* by Sulpician Superior General and biblical scholar Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, is a collection of essays written for the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis in December 2015. The seven brief chapters present overviews of both the Old Testament and New Testament teachings on mercy. Chapters specifically devoted to mercy in the letters of St. Paul and the Gospel of Luke are particularly insightful. Questions at the end of each chapter assist the reader’s reflections and provide a stimulus for group discussion. While this is a small book, it opens up insights into a biblical teaching much needed in our contemporary world.

Thomas R. Hurst, PSS
Retired

Violence as an Obstacle to Good Governance

The Second Vatican Council and now Pope Francis have encouraged us to appreciate the role of the local church and the contribution it might make to its situation. In *Violence as an Obstacle to Good Governance*, his doctoral thesis at the Lateran University, Fr. Patrick Simutowe, PSS, looks at what Catholic social teaching might bring to his native Zambia. While Zambia claims to be a beacon of peace whose governments have transitioned without military intervention, he argues that even though the country is rich in resources, various forms of violence prevent the country from achieving its potential for the good of its citizens. The possible role of government in addressing the political and social challenges facing the country is hindered by forms of violence within its own structures. In addressing the moral issue of violence in his country, Fr. Simutowe reviews the possible contributions of such individuals as René Girard and Dom Helder Camara and statements of the World Bank. He gives his greatest attention to the social teaching of Pope John Paul II in the two works cited in the title of the book. The final chapter of this lengthy work suggests proposals that might improve the current governmental system in Zambia for the betterment of its own people and an example for its surrounding neighbors. Fr. Simutowe speaks boldly but evidences his strong conviction that Catholic social doctrine can make a major contribution to his beloved homeland.

Frederick J. Cwiekowski, PSS
Retired

Legacy Gift

More alumni and friends are remembering the Sulpicians in a personal and enduring way by naming the Society as a beneficiary in their wills. We are most grateful to Rev. George R. Fleischmann of Wisconsin for a recent legacy gift. With any type of bequest, the key is planning ahead.

Consider this sample language:

I give and devise to the Associated Sulpicians of the U.S., located in Baltimore, Maryland, all (or state a percentage) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, both real and personal, to be used for its general support (or for the support of a specific fund or program).

Your thoughtful legacy gift honors the past, serves the present and invests in the future of the Church.

Frederick J. Cwiekowski, PSS
Retired
Fr. Peter Gray Paints Portrait of Heroic Navy Chaplain

On Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, 2018, a new portrait of Servant of God, Fr. Vincent R. Capodanno, MM, was unveiled at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. The portrait was painted by the Artist-in-Residence of the Archdiocese for Military Services, initiated by the Capodanno Guild. The portrait was painted by the Artist-in-Residence of the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

Fr. Gray originated a cause, and the Millitary Archdiocese of Washington celebrated with a special Mass in honor of the portrait unveiling.

“On that day, a bond was forged with this original work, as I was alive during the Vietnam War. I was in high school when he died, and now, as priest to priest, I leave this icon of his heroism and humility,” Fr. Gray said, adding that, of all his paintings of the saints, this one has become the one he will always cherish. While painting, the work began to speak to him personally as a conversation between two priests. The interiority of Fr. Capodanno came through to him. “There is an aura, a perspicacious area which often settles in the eyes and the outward gaze toward the viewer. This is what happened when I was painting the face of Fr. Vincent,” Fr. Gray later told me. “After the unveiling, many of his company in Vietnam remarked to me privately that they saw this in the work. They were overwhelmed and wept, telling me that somehow, ‘You caught it, him, and his eyes ... it looks like he is right there. It was scary and also amazing to see this.’”

David Montgomery, Theological College Advisory Committee Member

In Memoriam

Joseph Truong Ky, PSS
March 6, 1929 – December 30, 2018

Fr. Joseph Ky came to us at a time of crisis in Vietnam with the fall of Saigon, and at a time when the seminary needed a Vietnamese priest to serve the increasing number of Vietnamese seminarians. Joseph Truong Ky was born March 6, 1929, in the HaNam Province, Vietnam. He was educated in the minor seminary of Hanoi from 1945 to 1950 and then at the Sulpician seminaries in Hanoi, Vinh Long, and Saigon from 1951 to 1958. He was ordained on June 6, 1959 for the Diocese of Cantho, Vietnam. He immediately began teaching at the Cantho Seminary in South Vietnam (1960-1966). He joined the Sulpicians for the Province of France in 1967 and began teaching at St. Sulpice Seminary of Vinh Long, South Vietnam (1967-1968). He then went off to graduate studies at the Institut Catholique de Paris in comparative religion and earned his M.A. in 1971 and then another M.A. in sociolinguistics at the Université de Paris in 1972. During this time, he also earned a diploma in Chinese Mandarin at the École Nationale des Langues Orientales (1970-1972). In 1972 he returned to Vietnam to teach at the St. Sulpice Seminary of Danang (1972-1975).

Fr. Ky was admitted as a definitive member of the Society for the Province of France in 1970. After the fall of Saigon in 1975, Fr. Ky came to Honolulu as a refugee and helped to establish the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Hawaii. He served as associate pastor at Sacred Heart Church from 1975 to 1980 and then at the Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus from 1980 to 1982. He was incorporated into the Diocese of Honolulu on May 8, 1979. With the agreements of the Province of France and of the U.S., and with the approval of the Bishop of Honolulu, Fr. Ky was assigned to St. Joseph’s College, Mountain View, California. There he served as the ethnic advisor to the seminary community and to the Vietnamese refugees. In the seminary, he was the wisdom, the highly esteemed not only by the Vietnamese students but by all. He was instrumental in introducing the community to Vietnamese customs and celebrations. Fr. Ky will be especially remembered for coordinating the Tet celebration each year which brought in Vietnamese families and friends from the community to celebrate with traditional food, music, and dance. In the academic program, he taught philosophy, comparative religion, and Vietnamese literature until the college closed in 1992.

Upon the closure of the college, Fr. Ky requested early retirement due to illnesses caused by his diabetes. He retired to the Vietnamese retirement community of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer in Carthage, Missouri. Though retired, he continued to work for the Vietnamese community as a spiritual adviser and through his publications: several books, a Chinese-English lexicon, and articles in the monthly magazine, Forum of the People of God (Điễn Đan Giao Dan). Fr. Ky was officially transferred from the Province of France to the Province of the U.S. on November 15, 2014. On December 30, 2018, Fr. Ky died at Mercy McCune Brooks Hospital in Carthage, Missouri. The Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on January 4, 2019, with Fr. John Thanh Toan Tran, CRM, Provincial Superior of the monastery of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer, as presider, and Fr. Hy Nguyen, PSS, as homilist. Burial followed in Park Cemetery, Carthage, the cemetery of the monastery of the Congregation of the Mother of the Redeemer.

Richard M. Gula, PSS
Director of Personnel
Provincial’s Message
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I recall the ancient dictum, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” This quote is all the more relevant in our world of sound bites and tweets. We cannot permit sound bites to form our opinions. We need the thoughtful reflection that makes up an “examined life.”

In our society and, sorry to say, in our Church as well, sound bites animate our people. I am afraid that too many people are forming their opinions without examining life reflectively. Today, perhaps more than ever, we need to retrain our ears to hear more carefully, and to retrain our minds to examine more critically all that is stimulating us before we form our opinions.

As Sulpicians, our mission is the initial and ongoing formation of priests. We strive to cultivate listening hearts and discerning minds—hearts and minds that will not be thrown off kilter by a sound bite or a tweet. Such a skill is learned over time, like a virtue. Sadly, in a world as fast-paced as ours, the quality of character required to be so discerning can too easily elude us unless we have contemporary models to imitate.

As I watch the way so many people today seem to be falling for sound bites and tweets, I pray that we are forming in our seminaries men of character who will bring us the reflective discernment of heart and mind that we so desperately need.

Happy Birthday, Fr. Mattingly!

Fr. John Mattingly, PSS, both the senior resident and most seasoned member of the Province, was recently feted for his 96th birthday on January 19, surrounded by his Sulpician confreres. Fr. Mattingly moved into the Villa 20 years ago after spending his priestly ministry teaching Scripture and serving as the Director of the Library at St. Patrick’s Seminary. He lives a rather active life: reading widely, frequently hosting family and friends, visiting St. Martin’s Home and the Charlestown retirement community in his motorized scooter, animating the conversations during socials and meals, and spending time in quiet prayer. We wish Fr. Mattingly, the quintessential Gentleman of St. Sulpice, many more happy years among the confreres at Villa Olier!