



Update

The Sulpicians, Province of the US

Volume 1, 2023



Provincial's Message

Daniel F. Moore, PSS

Réville-toi, ô toi qui dors!

Eph. 5:8-14

As a young, somewhat naïve seminarian, I recall being *disheartened by the lack of charity* that I encountered among some of my peers in seminary—a *lack of charity that I harbored within my heart*. Relating this to my spiritual director, he smiled—*perhaps, it was a grimace*—and shared with me a bit of wisdom: “The holy,” he said, “are not spared temptation.” He affirmed what I had experienced: “*Evil lurks within holy places seeking its greatest triumph—those striving to become holy.*” Such was—and is—my experience.

Not only is evil a destructive presence in the world—among nations & people; churchmen & politicians; colleagues & peers; families & friends, some people seem to be more preoccupied,

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Sulpician Leadership

The pandemic has had multiple effects on everyone in the world. One way in which Sulpicians were affected has been the postponement of our General and Provincial Assemblies. Originally the General Assembly was scheduled from July 6 to 18, 2020. It was only able to take place from July 4 to 16, 2022, at Issy-les-Moulineaux, outside of Paris.

One of the first orders of business was the election of a new superior general to succeed Fr. Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, who served in the post since 2008. The General Assembly elected the Very Rev. Shayne Craig, PSS, as Superior General. Fr. Craig is the first member of the Province of Canada to hold this post. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Victoria in Canada and was admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 1999. He was a seminarian at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, and earned an MDiv from Newman Theological College, the university related to the seminary. He holds an STL from The Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He served St. Joseph Seminary for 28 years in the capacities of formator and eventually rector. He was on the faculty of Newman College and taught in the areas of moral, spiritual, and pastoral theology. He also served as its president from 2010 to 2012. His special interests in theology are the Ecclesiology and Mariology of Von Balthasar, Christology and Theological Anthropology.

Upon his election Fr. Craig said: “First of all, I want to express my gratitude for the trust conferred upon me in calling me to serve you in my new capacity. It came as a great surprise, and a humbling one. Please pray for me that I serve you, my brothers, well.”

The delegates of the assembly also elected the General Council on July 11, 2022. They are:

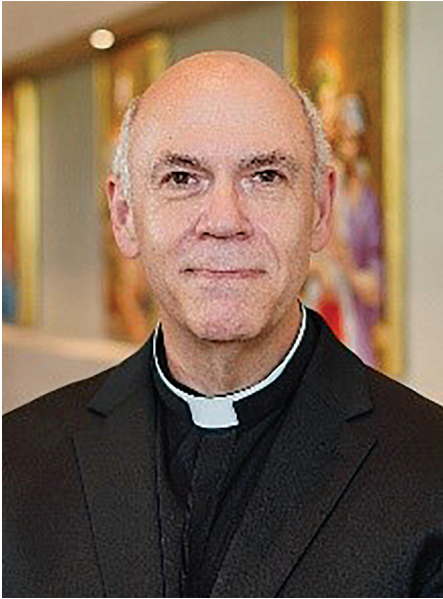
- Rev. Pierre de Martin de Viviés, PSS, the first Consultor, is a member of the Province of France. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Lyon in 1991 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 1992. He is a

(Continued on Page 2)

Cover image: St. Mary's Historic Seminary Chapel on Paca Street, site of the Father McGivney Propaedeutic House of Formation



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Very Rev. Shayne Craig, PSS, newly elected Superior General

Professor at the Institut Catholique de Lyon.

- Rev. Paul Maillet, PSS, the second Consultor, is a member of the Province of the United States. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2001 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2005. He is the Coordinator of Spiritual Formation at St. Mary's Seminary and University.
- Rev. Argiro Restrepo, PSS, the third Consultor, is from Colombia and a member of the Canadian Province. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Medellin in 1980 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2004. He is the Director of the Solitude.
- Rev. Justin Agossoukpevi, PSS, the fourth Consultor, is from Benin and a member of the Province of France. He was ordained for the Diocese of Cotonou in 1996 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 1998. He is the pastor of Pariosse Jesus-Eucharistie in Cotonou, Benin.

The General Assembly approved propositions meant to guide the mission of the entire society in the coming years. The first proposition

is rooted in the commitment of all three Provinces to pursue the mission of the Society, while at the same time recognizing contemporary challenges such as a decline in numbers and a significant shift in the location of the membership. The General Assembly recommended that the General Council ask each Province to study the probable consequences of these changes for the mission of the Province for the next two decades.

The Second Proposition recommends that the General Council foster and encourage a better knowledge of Jean-Jacques Olier and the history of the Society. A means to accomplish this is for Provincial Councils to identify younger Sulpicians who will appropriate our spiritual tradition and transmit it through our ministry.

The third proposition recommends that the General Council oversee and promote a more effective use of the internet resources of the Society by creating links to documents and podcasts posted in each Province to assist priests in their ministry and spiritual lives.

The fourth proposition calls for adopting the spirit and ecclesiology of Pope Francis which images the Church as a "field hospital" and calls for "pastors who smell like the sheep." The General Assembly recommends that the General Council encourage local communities to identify how the apostolic spirit of Jean-Jacques Olier supports the New Evangelization in each local context.

In December, the General Council met along with the Provincial Superiors of each province, to take up the propositions passed at the last General Assembly and to set in motion the application of the direction they offer. It was also a time for the superiors and consultors to get to know one another. Fr. Emmanuel Goulard is the new Provincial Superior of the French province, succeeding Bishop Jean-Marc Micas, the new bishop of Lourdes. Fr. Jorge Pacheco continues as the Provincial Superior of the Canadian Province.

The U.S. Provincial Council

The Provincial Assembly, originally scheduled for January 3 to 9, 2021, was held May 15 to 24, 2022, in Baltimore.

The Provincial Assembly elected Very Rev. Daniel F. Moore, PSS, as Provincial Superior. Fr. Moore previously served as the acting Provincial and as first Consultor for previous provincials, Frs. Thomas Ulshafer and John Kemper. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Memphis in 1984 and was admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2002. He was a seminarian at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore where he earned an MA. He holds an STL and STD from The Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. Fr. Moore is also a published author. He has served on the faculties of St. Mary's Seminary & University, Theological College, and Catholic University, Washington, DC.

The delegates of the assembly also elected the Provincial Council. They are:

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.

Editor in Chief:

Daniel F. Moore, PSS

Copy Editor & Design:

Marguerite Plank

Editorial Assistant:

Carleen Kramer

Photographers:

Assumption Seminary, Larry Canner, Vincent Castaldi, and Timothy Chikweto, PSS.

If the recipient is not the correct person to receive *Update*, please email ckramer@sulpicians.org





From left, Rev. Gladstone H. “Bud” Stevens, PSS; Rev. Martin J. Burnham, PSS; Rev. Cornelius H. Hankomoone, PSS; and Rev. Inniah Chris Arockiaraj, PSS

Rev. Gladstone H. “Bud” Stevens, PSS, the first Consultor. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2000 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2004. He is the Vice Rector at St. Mary’s Seminary & University.

Rev. Martin J. Burnham, PSS, is the second Consultor. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 2002 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2013. He is on the Formation Faculty of Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, Texas.

Rev. Cornelius H. Hankomoone, PSS, the third Consultor, is from Zambia. He was ordained for the Diocese of Monze in 1996 and admitted to the Society

of St. Sulpice in 2000. He is the Rector of St. Kizito House in Lusaka.

Rev. Inniah Chris Arockiaraj, PSS, the fourth Consultor, was ordained for the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore in India in 1995 and admitted to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2012. He is the Vice Rector of Theological College.

The mandates and direction of the Provincial Assembly of the United States are covered in an article on the October 2022 Provincial Council Planning Days below.

Anthony J. Pogorelc, PSS
Provincial Secretary & Director of Personnel

Provincial Council Planning Day 2022

The Provincial Council met at St. Mary’s Spiritual Center on Paca Street for their annual Planning Day on Saturday, October 29, 2022. They began with a discussion of the sixth edition of the Program for Priestly Formation. Their special focus was how the Sulpicians could embrace initiatives to bring their particular stamp to the initial Propaedeutic and final Vocational Synthesis stages called for in the document.

Plans for the Propaedeutic Stage are being drawn up and the historic Paca Street location has been designated as its home, which will return the ministry of priestly formation to this site. This is a major initiative of the U.S. Province and an important contribution of Sulpicians to the Church in the United States. Likewise, the experience of the Sulpicians with programs facilitating the transition from seminary to parish and the formation of pastors are a resource for developing programs for forming pastor-mentors who will assist new deacons to synthesize their seminary experience with the pastoral initiation that is the primary goal of this stage.

The Provincial Council also discussed the mandates of the Provincial Assembly to enhance leadership in the Province and recruitment to Sulpician ministry and life. One element of leadership development will be the employment of the 360 Program which is a tool used by dioceses and other organizations to assess and shape the leadership capacities of present and future leaders of the Province. Secondly, a Convocation on Leadership is planned for 2024.

The second mandate on recruitment will operate at the level of the local community and the Province. At the local level, once a semester, the Sulpician Local Council of each seminary is asked to identify and discuss alumni with the potential to exercise Sulpician ministry in the future. Secondly, the Province will employ the services of professionals to collect data on how the Sulpicians are perceived by our publics so that the Sulpician story may be more effectively communicated.

Indeed, the 21st century continues to present challenges and opportunities to the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice, and indeed the Church in the US. The Assembly recognized this, and the Provincial Council is dedicated to strategic planning and implementation of these initiatives for the good of the Society and the Church.

Anthony J. Pogorelc, PSS
Provincial Secretary & Director of Personnel

Dr. Kilpatrick Is New CUA President



Dr. Peter Kilpatrick was installed as the 16th president of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, on November 11, 2022. His term began on July 1, 2022.

Before coming to CUA, President Kilpatrick was provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Illinois Institute of Technology and the Dean of Engineering at the University of Notre

Dame from 2008 to 2018. Dr. Kilpatrick and his wife were our guests here at Theological College at our opening Mass and banquet at the end of August. In July, when he arrived, he joined several members of the faculty for lunch and got a tour of our seminary building.

When asked, “What is your vision for The Catholic University of America?” Dr. Kilpatrick answered, “My vision is for the university to take its rightful place as The Catholic University of America. We can only attract more students by becoming more authentically ourselves, deeply rooted in our Catholic identity. How will we do that? By making sure our leadership is completely aligned with the identity. My primary responsibility as University President is to guarantee that we, as a team, are clear about who we are, what we represent, and where we want to go.” Enrollment and Catholic identity are important areas Dr. Kilpatrick wants to work on in enabling the mission of CUA to continue in the future. When Dr. Kilpatrick toured our seminary he was impressed with our building, our history and spirituality that is evident when entering TC. We pray for Dr. Kilpatrick as he begins his tenure as president and look forward to continuing our relationship with CUA in the years ahead.

Dominic Ciriaco, PSS
Rector, Theological College

Theological College Symposium: *Ars Praedicandi*



Theological College’s Weekend of Recollection, themed *Ars Praedicandi* (*Art of Preaching*), was held Saturday, Nov. 12. Offering reflections were Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Rev. Nicholas Lombardo, OP, who spoke to seminarians and attendees from formation houses in the DC area, including St. Mary’s

Seminary in Baltimore, the Dominican House of Studies, the Capuchin College, the Paulist Fathers House of Mission and Studies, and the Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary.

Cardinal Dolan noted that preaching is an ecclesial vocation, that is, an activity that is from, for, and within the Church, the Bride of Christ. Moving from the theological to the practical, the Cardinal offered a range of concrete suggestions for preparing a homily, delivered with his characteristic candor and humor, including the need for brevity and simplicity of speech.

Fr. Lombardo’s talk outlined principles of preaching that he received from a beloved and recently deceased mentor, Rev. William John Burke, OP. His central message was that it is not enough for a homily to have good content—care must be taken to convey the content in a manner that is accessible to the assembly. Thus, the preacher must address the congregation’s felt needs (not just their objective needs), use concrete examples, and draw on personally experienced insights. The talks beautifully complemented one another and were enthusiastically received by those in attendance. Fr. Ciriaco, rector, commented, “The two talks by Cardinal Dolan and Fr. Lombardo were inspiring and practical for us in moving forward with our own preaching.”

Dominic Ciriaco, PSS,
Deacon Jacob Gruber (TC ’23),
and Suzanne Tanzi

Fr. James E. Myers, PSS, Installed as Rector at Assumption Seminary

“I remember Fr. Jim's smile. He was so joyful, like a bridegroom on his wedding day, waiting to make his commitment to his beloved.” This is how a close collaborator of Fr. James Myers, PSS, remembers his disposition when he was installed as Rector of Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, on August 19, 2023. He is the third Sulpician to head the Seminary since the Archdiocese of San Antonio entrusted its administration to the Society of St. Sulpice in 2018.

The image of a bridegroom is quite appropriate because the installation included his making the Oath of Fidelity, which signified commitment not only to Church instruction but also collaboration with all ecclesiastical entities and persons who are responsible for the formation of future priests at Assumption. This collaboration was acknowledged and celebrated when Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, who presided at the Eucharist, presented the Formation Council and the Seminary staff to Fr. Jim. It was a touching moment for all.

The Mass and Installation were followed by a festive luncheon at St. Joseph Hall, the Seminary refectory. The seminary community and guests sharing a bountiful and delectable meal was a vision of a community of treasured relationships, shared experiences, and common values. It called to mind Ps. 133:1: “How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters dwell together as one!” The fourth-year seminarians serving at tables were an example of servant-leadership.

Apart from a heartfelt word of thanks, Fr. Jim was markedly quiet throughout. He wanted the event to highlight the office he was assuming and the seminary it serves rather than his person. For the same reason, he did not invite family and friends. He wanted rather the presence of representatives of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Oblate School of Theology, Mexican



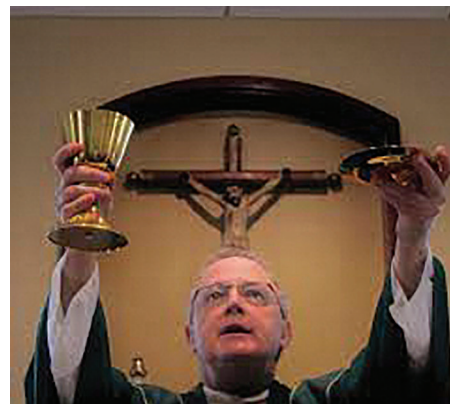
Fr. James E. Myers, PSS, (left) with Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller during the installation ceremony

American Catholic College, University of the Incarnate Word, and other partner institutions of Assumption. For him, it was about the mission of the seminary.

The seminarians' enthusiastic appreciation for their new Rector made up for the short time they had to prepare for the event. The Mass and Installation were reverently celebratory, seamless but relaxed and familiar. The luncheon was organized but lively and cheerful.

The day was Assumption at its best.

Réne Lopez, PSS
Vice Rector for Formation and
Director of Theology



Fr. Victor Shikaputo, PSS, Appointed Regional Superior



Fr. Victor C. Shikaputo, PSS, was appointed as the Regional Superior of the Central African Region on March 4, 2022. The Provincial Council, Province of the United States, made the appointment after careful discernment and wide consultation. The appointment was effective on July 1, 2022. Fr. Shikaputo is the third Zambian to be appointed to this administrative position, following Fathers Cornelius H. Hankomoone, PSS, and Shoba Nyambe, PSS. The Provincial Council also granted the current Regional Superior, Fr. Nyambe, a well-deserved sabbatical, effective July 1, 2022.

Commenting on the appointment, Fr. Daniel F. Moore, PSS, then the acting Provincial, said, "The many gifts and talents that Fr. Shikaputo has honed over the years both in Zambia and Malawi will prove valuable resources for him and the African Region. As a former vice regional superior, I believe that he will carry out his new duties effectively."

Fr. Shikaputo expressed his gratitude to the Council, saying, "I am humbled and honored to be appointed regional superior. I am

grateful to the Provincial Council and my confreres for their confidence in me. I pledge and promise to do my best. Obviously, I will rely upon the Council and the confreres for guidance, encouragement, and fraternal support."

Fr. Victor Chileshe Shikaputo is a native of Mungwi-Kasama and a priest of the Archdiocese of Kasama, ordained in August 1994. Fr. Shikaputo is an alumnus of St. Augustine's Major Seminary in Mpima (1989) and of St. Dominic's Major Seminary in Lusaka (1994). In 2005 he became a member of the Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States.

After ordination, Fr. Shikaputo served as a curate for two years and then as the parish priest for one year in Santa Maria Parish, Chilubi Island, Zambia, from 1994 to 1997. He also served as the parish priest at St. John's Cathedral, Kasama, for two years (1997-1999). While pastor, Fr. Shikaputo also served as secretary and then as chairman of the Kasama Association of Zambian Diocesan Catholic Clergy. His archbishop assigned him to teach at St. Dominic's Major Seminary from 1999 to 2001, where he taught spirituality and pastoral theology. He was also the coordinator of the pastoral program. After teaching at St. Dominic's for two years, the

Zambia Episcopal Conference sent him to graduate studies in Rome at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce), where he specialized in moral theology. He completed his licentiate in 2003. He returned from Rome and became a candidate for the Society of St. Sulpice in 2003 and served for two years at both St. Dominic's Major Seminary and at Emmaus Spirituality Centre. In 2005, Fr. Shikaputo returned to Rome as a member of the Society of St. Sulpice to complete his doctoral studies in moral theology at the Academia Alfonsiana (2005-2007). He returned to Zambia to teach moral theology at St. Dominic's Major Seminary and serve as Dean of Studies from 2007 to 2013. He served as the Registrar of Catholic University in Kalulushi, Zambia for one year (2013-2014) and then returned to Lusaka to serve on the formation faculty at Emmaus Spirituality Centre until December 2017. At that time, Fr. Shikaputo became part of the initial formation team of Sulpicians joining the faculty of St. Anthony's Major Seminary, Kachebere, Mchinji, Malawi, in January of 2018. He is currently the vice rector. Fr. Shikaputo speaks English, four Zambian languages, and Italian. He also has reading knowledge of French and German.



Left to right: Fr. Jones Chitalu, Rector of St. Dominic's, with Fr. Patrick Simutowe, PSS, Fr. Victor Shikaputo, PSS, and Fr. Alick-George Ngosa, PSS



Sulpician Fr. Phillip J. Brown, PSS, president-rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori, and Grand Knight Michael Schultz of St. Mary's Seminary

St. Mary's Received Knights of Columbus Charter

St. Mary's Seminary & University welcomed Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, and Most Reverend William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore and also the Supreme Chaplain of the Knights, at a special charter ceremony at evening vespers on April 26, 2022, inaugurating the Blessed Michael McGivney Council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary's. The development of the Council is notable as it is established at the very seminary from which Fr. Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, graduated in 1877. St. Mary's Seminary named the council after Blessed Michael McGivney, whose canonization cause is underway in Rome.

The ceremony took place in St. Mary's Chapel where a portrait of Fr. McGivney and a relic were placed in honor with flanking candles. Archbishop Lori presided at the Evening Prayer and preached the homily. In addition to Supreme Knight Kelly, Knights of Columbus State council members attended along with Very Rev. Daniel Moore, PSS, Provincial of the Society of St. Sulpice, United States Province.

Charter Grand Knight Michael L. Schultz, a second-year seminarian at St. Mary's from the Archdiocese of Louisville, leads the new council made up of about forty members.

Schultz said members are encouraged to be men of heroic courage, generosity, and faithfulness. "He

(Blessed McGivney) lived in a time where Catholics were threatened and he did everything he could to support Catholic men struggling to be Catholic," he said.

According to Schultz, Knights can express their generosity through service to the poor at Our Daily Bread in Baltimore, the Source of All Hope urban ministry at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and similar ministries.

The first charter grand knight of the college council said it is important to have a Knights of Columbus council at the seminary because it connects seminarians to a broader service organization.

"We'll have a lot of interactions with the Knights of Columbus as priests in any parish we're sent to in the country, so it is important to foster those relationships with the Knights of Columbus now," he said.

The first project as the Knights of Columbus was to renovate a chapel space, located on the fourth floor of the seminary, dedicated to the honor of Michael McGivney and to house a (Blessed McGivney) relic that was gifted by the Supreme Council. The chapel serves as a space for seminarians to pray and ask for Blessed McGivney's intercession. Along with the relic, a portrait of the future saint was gifted to the new council.

Priestly Formation Returns to its Baltimore Roots on Paca Street



The convent at St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site will be renovated to accommodate a new program of discernment for the priesthood. (Courtesy U.S. Sulpician Province)

The site of the first seminary in the United States will be home to a new program for those discerning a vocation to the priesthood when a regional house of formation opens at St. Mary's on Paca Street.

The former convent on the site, which currently serves as the Spiritual Center, will be renovated to accommodate up to 16 discerners plus two Sulpician priests who will assist in their human and spiritual formation, especially in the context of becoming a priest, Sulpician Father Daniel F. Moore, Provincial, told the Catholic Review.

The new regional house of propaedeutic formation—the first stage of formation and discernment toward the priesthood—will be named for Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus and an alumnus of

St. Mary's Seminary, ordained to the priesthood in 1877. It was named with the permission of Patrick E. Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and has the endorsement of Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori, the Knights' supreme chaplain.

The archbishop is also chancellor and chairman of the board of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park.

Father McGivney's "final preparation for the priesthood took place at the site on Paca Street," the archbishop said. "The preparatory year is a relatively new feature of priestly formation that will be implemented on a very historic site in the history of priestly formation in the United States. It is a return to our roots," Archbishop Lori said.

The move comes after the U.S. Sulpician Province consulted widely on the revised Program for Priestly Formation issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as it pertained to the propaedeutic year. The "Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis, The Gift of the Priestly Vocation" (issued by the Vatican in 2016) and the PFF envisions four stages of priestly formation: the propaedeutic stage, an initial time of discernment, and human and spiritual formation; the discipleship stage, currently the philosophy or collegiate period; configurative stage, the years spent studying theology; and the vocational synthesis, i.e., the pastoral stage, in which the candidate for priesthood integrates what he has learned by working in a Catholic community with his bishop and a pastor entrusted with

mentoring the seminarian's final stage of priestly formation.

According to Sulpician Father Daniel F. Moore, Provincial, the "bookends"—the first and fourth stages—should take place outside a seminary setting. Hence, the establishment of the McGivney House at Paca Street.

"We have several years to develop and hone this (final) stage. Presumably, the first third-year theologian to enter this stage would have been a discerner who began propaedeutic formation in summer/fall of 2023," he said.

"U.S. bishops are looking to seminaries and seminary administrators to assist in the planning and implementation of this vocational discernment initiative," Father Moore wrote in a letter to his Sulpician confreres announcing the new effort. The Baltimore house will be one of about a half dozen across the country addressing the same need, he said. "The two bookends are new stages," Father Moore said. The Program for Priestly Formation envisions that dioceses should have more of a role with the discerners in the early stage.

"Both of the bookends are ways to have young men who are serious about their discernment approaching it in a serious way and bring them into a formative community of like people," he said.

The program will be open to potential seminarians from several Mid-Atlantic dioceses in the contiguous Eastern region, with students from St. Mary's Seminary; the Theological College at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; and other seminaries.

The program and housing can accommodate up to 16 men in formation, plus two Sulpician priests—a rector and an assistant—to guide the formation. The purpose of the Society of St. Sulpice is mainly the education of priests, and it established the first Catholic institution for the training of clergy in the newly formed United States at St. Mary's on Paca Street in 1791.



Sulpician Provincial Father Daniel F. Moore, presider and homilist at Theological College Chapel, Washington, DC (Courtesy U.S. Sulpician Province)

The program will bring in people to give talks on catechesis and spiritual life. It is primarily not an academic experience, which is why the PPF notes that it should be located outside the seminary experience.

The program will provide those who may believe they have a call to the priesthood a chance to get to know one another, discern, develop a sense of prayer, and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. That includes "community, catechesis, deepening of spirituality and self-knowledge, trust, fraternity and prayer," he said.

The Paca Street site includes a historic chapel, classroom setting, a visitors' center, the Seton House where St. Elizabeth Ann Seton once lived, and an inside garden. "The place is built for spiritual reflection, study and community," Father Moore said.

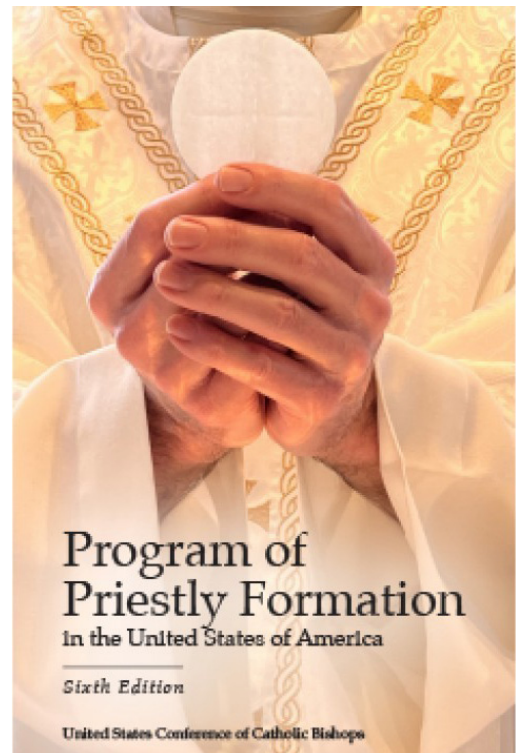
The convent that will house the propaedeutic program was built in 1898 and has been renovated over the years, most recently in 2009. It currently serves as the visitors' center and historic site.

The new program will mean that the St. Mary's Spiritual Center and Historic Site will no longer be open regularly to the

public. "Since its primary purpose will be a house of discernment, we wouldn't want it to be available for visitors during the week, but we are looking to make it available, perhaps one weekend a month, for visiting and history," Father Moore said.

Email Christopher Gunty at editor@CatholicReview.org.

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Sabbatical: Rome ICTE

Fr. Patrick K. Simutowe, PSS

In the spring of 2022, I was given an opportunity to go on sabbatical in Rome, Italy, after my twenty-five years of service in the priesthood. I decided to dedicate this opportunity to thank God for the gift of the priesthood. I dedicated most of my time to prayer, reflecting on my time as a priest. Thus, my sabbatical was focused on *Ad maiorem Dei gloriam*—for the greater glory of God.

I am grateful that the Society of St. Sulpice has given me the opportunity to take a sabbatical in Rome at the Institute of Continuing Theological Education (ICTE) together with a number of priests, especially those from Canada. As a team, we set off to enjoy the spring time of Rome under a program that included a good time of resting, praying, leisure, studying, and visits to the many holy places of Rome.

Some of the studies we undertook included the following:

- *Study on discernment:* Under this course we came to learn that discernment is a lifelong exercise in the life of a priest. This is because a priest has to always be able to recommit himself to his vocation every day.
- *Study on the period of Lent and the Triduum:* Under this study, we learned of the importance of the period in relation to the sacrament of the priesthood. In particular, the Triduum includes the feast of the Holy Thursday, when Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the priesthood.
- *Study on the Spirituality of Preaching:* In this study, we came to realize that this is a very important duty of a priest. Through this duty, a priest touches the lives of so many people; Catholics and non-Catholics alike.
- *Study on St. Paul and his missionary activities:* This was one of the most interesting courses. It brought to light the new understanding of St. Paul as a missionary and why the Church should continue with the missionary works today.

All in all, a sabbatical time is an interesting period and it is worth taking. The ICTE made possible many experiences that enriched my sabbatical experience.



Emmaus Transfers from Electric Power to Solar

Emmaus Spirituality Centre aspires to be a model green seminary. The institution has since sought to migrate from more costly sources of energy, especially hydro-electricity whose cost keeps on rising, to cheaper renewable energy.

With the help of funds from the Province, Emmaus has been shifting from hydro-electric power to solar energy in phases. Phase 1 involved migrating over 90 percent of the lighting system to solar, first powered by gel batteries, which were later replaced by the more efficient lithium batteries. Phase 2 centered on the water heating system, where all the electric geysers were replaced with solar geysers (17 pieces; 2 of which were a donation from the company Green Field Energy). Phase 3 might touch on the water pumping system for the water tanks.

With all that has been put in place so far, the overall benefit to the institution has been a drastic reduction in the monthly bill for electricity. This in turn has affected the running cost positively.

We remain ever grateful to the Provincial Council for supporting this noble cause.

Timothy Chikweto, PSS
Rector, Emmaus Spirituality Centre



The Malawi Diocesan Clergy Conference held at Kachebere

The Malawi diocesan clergy formed an association called Association of Diocesan Catholic Clergy of Malawi (ADCCOM). This organization's major objective is to foster fraternity among the local diocesan priests as it is enshrined in their vision and mission statements that Diocesan Catholic Clergy should live as a family of God and serve God based on Catholic Values and Diocesan Priestly Spirituality. Their mission clearly states the promotion of integral development among Diocesan Catholic Clergy in Malawi by fostering love, fraternity, duty, and concern for one another in the work of evangelization. The association meets once every two years.

In August 2021, the assembly attracted over 200 priests from the eight dioceses of Malawi and took place at St. Anthony's Kachebere Major Seminary, which is now run by the Society of St. Sulpice's U.S. Province. Fr. Emmanuel Ichidi, the Academic Dean at Kachebere and a priest of the Society of St. Sulpice, took advantage of the presence of the diocesan priests of Malawi to share with them a few aspects about the Sulpician ministry. In his welcoming remarks Fr. Ichidi explained that Sulpician priests work with local bishops in seminaries for initial formation of seminarians as well as ongoing formation for priests. This was done in view of the many misunderstandings that priests have about Sulpicians. Following the acceptance of the first Sulpician candidate from Malawi, Fr. Enoch Eric Kanjira of the Archdiocese of Blantyre, many priests speculated

that he had abandoned his diocese. Some considered him a traitor or a "chameleon." However, Fr. Ichidi clarified that Sulpician priests are at the service of the local church particularly doing formation work in major seminaries.

In a similar vein Zambia has its own version called Association of the Zambian Diocesan Catholic Clergy (AZADCC). AZADCC held its meeting in the Mansa Diocese in the northern part of the country in August 2022 and attracted about 190 priests from the eleven dioceses of the country. Our Sulpician members Fr. Victor Shikaputo and Fr. Peter Kwaleyela attended this conference. It is also a bi-annual conference and has very similar objectives as the Malawian grouping. During the opening Mass of the conference, Right Reverend Patrick Chisanga, the bishop of Mansa, urged all the priests to value the gift of the priesthood and to make good use of the various gifts that priests are endowed with. The theme for this conference was: That they may be one: Promoting Fraternity among the Local Clergy in the Spirit of Synodality. The priests of the Society of St. Sulpice are members of AZADCC. On the final day after the closing Mass, which was attended by many Christians at St. John Maria Vianney, Samfya Parish, the priests were treated to an outdoor party, braai, and a boat cruise on Lake Bangweulu.

Victor Shikaputo, PSS
Regional Superior



Suspicious in Studies

Fr. Simon Cheba, PSS

Allow me to begin by indicating that I was quite elated when I was asked by the U.S. Provincial Council to prepare for my postgraduate studies. I thank them and congratulate our new Provincial, Very Rev. Daniel Moore, PSS, and the new Council members. It was indeed “a dream come true” for me to pursue a licentiate degree in philosophy. So far, my time and experience in postgraduate studies has been gratifying and academically enriching. I am now doing my second year, and have started working on my dissertation, “The modern identity of the self in the light of Charles Taylor’s philosophy.”

On a general perspective, both Ireland and Maynooth as a town in particular, have offered me a great time of academic and social interaction with internationally renowned professors—and not forgetting students from various academic backgrounds and cultures. This has indeed been a special impression and an indelible mark on my philosophical studies that I will forever appreciate. On the flip side, the weather in Ireland is freezing but that’s good for keeping a wandering Aramean indoors for schoolwork.

All in all, as the Irish people would say, my postgraduate experience has been *grand!*



Fr. Alick-George Ngosa, PSS

Every academic undertaking comes with the beautiful as well as the challenging side ... the former being the broadening of one’s scope of knowledge and the latter is having to endure learning a foreign language as the medium of instruction. The foregone describes the start of my three-year journey in the study of Canon Law at Pontificia Università della Santa Croce.

My first semester has been daunting but things are slowly getting better with better comprehension of Italian.

However, I’m most grateful to the Society of St. Sulpice for the opportunity to do my studies in Rome. There have been many beautiful moments to savor since I came, beginning with Verona City, where I did my Italian short course. Rome has given me the rarest of opportunities to celebrate feasts such as Christmas Eve, Mary Mother of God (Jan. 1), the Epiphany and the requiem Mass for the late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, among others. This gives one the appreciation of the “universal character of the Church” deeply embedded in the Church/Diocese of Rome with the Pope as chief shepherd, otherwise just found in books.

Fr. Shawn D. Gould, PSS

I am presently in Rome, working on an STD in dogma at the Angelicum. My project involves constructing an analytic from the work of St. Thomas on the filial dimension of Christ's human nature considered (a) in itself by virtue of the hypostatic union and habitual grace, (b) as an instrument for communicating grace, and (c) as an effect produced in those who receive grace. I will then use that analytic to tease out Fr. Olier's sense of Christic-filial divinization. Of course, the project requires a good bit of French and that is more of a bit than I had before last year. Happily, I was able to stay at the rue de Regard last summer and take classes at the Institut Catholique. In Rome, life at the Casa Santa Maria has been a blessing; it's an excellent community of about 55 priests from almost every region of the U.S. and a few from Australia, studying a wide range of topics (and patiently letting me introduce them to the Society and the French School). As time has permitted, I've been taking advantage of the active symposia and visiting lecture series at the Ange. This past September they hosted the first International Thomistic Congress in almost 20 years, and some of us were able to attend an audience with Pope Francis (who was in good spirits; see accompanying photo).

Fr. Ngosa (continued from p. 12)

Apart from that, one is just amazed at how every place within Rome gives testimony to the history of the Church. It brings to life all that I have only known through my study of Church history that seemed very remote ...

All in all, I have enjoyed my stay in Rome (the eternal City). I hope the remaining two and half years will be even more fulfilling, both academically and otherwise.



Above: Fr. Gould greets Pope Francis; below, outside the Angelicum.





Candidate Profile: Msgr. Fredrik Hansen



Msgr. Fredrik Hansen is a priest of the Diocese of Oslo, Norway, and became a Sulpician candidate on July 1, 2022. His initial placement is St. Mary's Seminary and University, where he serves as formation mentor, spiritual director and assistant professor of pastoral studies.

He was born in Drammen, a town outside Oslo, where his father, mother, and sister still reside. Following secondary school and military service, he studied for a B.A. at the University of Oslo. From 2001 to 2007, Msgr. Hansen completed both pre-theology and theology at Allen Hall in London, the seminary of the Archdiocese of Westminster, earning an M.A. in theology and an S.T.B. He was ordained to the diaconate in 2006 and to the priesthood in 2007.

After a year as private secretary to his bishop, Msgr. Hansen studied canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, completing the J.C.L. in 2011. That same year, Msgr. Hansen was enrolled at the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy (the "diplomatic school" of the Holy See), where he spent two years while finishing his J.C.D. (his thesis was on the governing power of the diocesan bishop). As a papal diplomat, Msgr. Hansen served at the Apostolic Nunciature in Honduras (2013–2015), at the Holy See Mission to the United Nations in Vienna (2015–2019) and at the Holy See Mission to the United Nations in New York (2019–2022).

On his path towards candidacy, Msgr. Hansen commented: "I discerned for many years about a possible vocation to some common life, a shared apostolate and academic work. Having had more indirect encounters with the Society in Rome and Paris, it was my engagement with the U.S. Province, Theological College, and St. Mary's that confirmed an aspiration to move toward Sulpician candidacy. My initial months at St. Mary's have deepened that aspiration and I am very grateful for the warm welcome I have received, from both the confreres and the seminarians."

Paul Purta Obituary

Paul P. Purta died on October 26, 2022. A memorial service was conducted at the chapel of Riderwood in Silver Spring, Maryland, on Nov. 25, 2022. Paul and his wife, Judith, had lived there since 2018. Paul was remembered as a man of deep faith who brought his faith into day-to-day interactions. He was also remembered as a

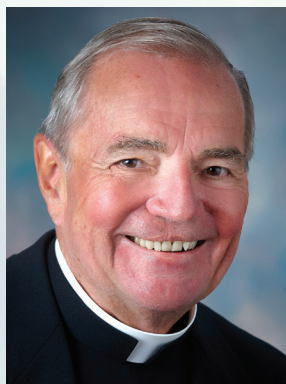
visionary leader, during the period of transition after the Second Vatican Council, who was dedicated to its implementation. Paul continued the ministry of spiritual direction, which is at the heart of Sulpician ministry. Some of his directees were present at the service. I expressed the condolences of Fr. Daniel Moore and the province leadership as well as

the fond recollections of many confreres. His family and friends were most grateful that the Sulpicians were represented because we continued to be an important part of his life. May he rest in peace.

Anthony J. Pogorelc, PSS
Provincial Secretary &
Director of Personnel

Howard P. Bleichner, PSS

Jan. 11, 1934–Dec. 14, 2022



Born January 11, 1937, and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Fr. Bleichner was one of two children of Howard and Catherine (nee Hoban) Bleichner. He died from complications related to Parkinson's disease on December 14, 2022. He is survived by his sister, Joan Stanley.

Fr. Bleichner was educated in Pittsburgh parochial schools. He earned a BA in 1958 from

Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire. He then entered St. Mary's Seminary & University where he earned the STB in 1965 and the STL in 1967. He was ordained for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on May 13, 1967. He immediately joined the Society of St. Sulpice and was admitted in 1970.

As a Sulpician candidate, Fr. Bleichner was first assigned to teach at St. Charles College, Baltimore, Maryland (1967-1968). In 1968 he completed the MA degree at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He then went west to teach at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California (1968-1969). After two years of teaching, he began doctoral studies in theology at the University of Tübingen and was awarded the DTheol in 1973. He returned to the U.S. to begin teaching at St. Mary's Seminary & University from 1973 to 1977. He then went west to St. Patrick's Seminary to teach there from 1977 to 1988 and served as its Rector from 1978 to 1988. Fr. Jerry Coleman, who succeeded him as Rector, said: "Perhaps his greatest achievement was to build a solid and professional faculty devoted to scholarship, pastoral sensitivities, and in many cases well-praised theological publications."

After a sabbatical from 1988 to 1989, he served as the Executive Director of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Priestly Formation and Committee on Vocations from 1989 to 1992. During this time, he oversaw the development and drafting of the fourth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation. He was made Rector of Theological College in Washington, DC. During his term (1992-2002) he oversaw a major renovation of the dining room and chapel.

Following a sabbatical from 2002 to 2003, he retired but did not stop teaching. He returned to the west coast to live in his own home in Santa Cruz, CA, and to teach part-time at St. Patrick's Seminary for ten more years (2003-2013). He wrote two books: *View from the Altar: Reflections on the Rapidly Changing Catholic Priesthood*

and *In the Circle of Mysteries: The Coherence of Catholic Belief*.

With his health starting to weaken, he moved back to his home diocese of Pittsburgh to reside at its own seminary, St. Paul's Seminary, and to teach part time for them in their program affiliated with Duquesne University (2013-2015). By this time, his needs for health care made it imperative that he move to a facility where he would have ready access to whatever care he needed. In 2015, he moved to the senior living facility of Brookdale in Mount Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

Throughout his career, Fr. Bleichner was universally acclaimed as an excellent teacher. He excelled in exercising his intellectual abilities. Students found him to be a master of his subject matter and a clear presenter who was also witty and at times poetic. Fr. Bleichner was a master of the metaphor. He frequently, and with ease, used a metaphor to encapsulate his point. Sometimes this would provoke strong reactions from others. As an administrator, he was straightforward and willing to face difficult matters. He was highly respected by church leaders for this ability.

Fr. Tom Hurst, who served as Vice Rector at T.C. when Howard was Rector, remembered him as an inspired preacher:

"Howard took seriously the words of St. Paul to Timothy, '... proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is inconvenient or convenient; convince, reprimand, encourage...' (2 Tim 4:2). Howard had an in-depth understanding of Scripture as the word of God for us. He had incisive observations for its application in our lives as individuals and as members of a community." His good friend, Fr. Bob Leavitt, reflected on Howard the priest. "Inside the formidable public person was a sensitive even shy, spiritual man. He prayed and recited the Mass Prayers with a deep inner devotion to the mystery. There was a calm and contemplative spirit about him."

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Basil Church of Holy Trinity Parish, the church in which Howard was baptized, in Pittsburgh, PA, on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. The Most Rev. David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, presided and Fr. Clement Gardner, a longtime friend, was the homilist. Fr. Bud Stevens, the first provincial consultor, was the official representative of the Province. Fr. Bleichner was interred beside his parents at St. Michael's cemetery in Pittsburgh. Fr. Daniel Moore, Provincial, commented, "With the passing of Fr. Bleichner, the Province, the Society, and the Church has lost a significant spiritual father."

May he rest in the arms of the God he sought and served so well.

Anthony J. Pogorelc, PSS
Provincial Secretary & Director of Personnel

fascinated, *perhaps even possessed by it*. One needs only to observe the social/media's fascination with catastrophic news, specious conspiracies, and the *dark web*—its seemingly disproportionate *obsession*—perhaps, ours too.

Why is it that *some* are more fascinated by the cruel news of Satan, than the good news of Christ Jesus? Why is it that *some* seem more captivated by *signs of evil, than signs of God's grace*? Perhaps, *the worst temptation of Satan* is the one that invites us, *beguiles us*, to succumb to *disbelief* and *thereby deny the good news of God's saving presence in our lives*.

Savoring my morning coffee, while pondering a homily for the *4th Sunday of Lent*, I noticed a coincidence, or was it providence? St. Paul's message to the Ephesians, verse 5:14, stenciled on my coffee cup, *echoed* the second reading: *Réveille-toi, ô toi qui dors!*

"Awake, O sleeper, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."

Though once darkness, as enlightened, Lent is a time for us *to affirm our belief in the*

Update

Society of St. Sulpice
Province of the U.S.
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risen life, in the presence of God in our world, in the good news that *Christ our Light* has overcome evil and sin—not only *the diabolical evil* that makes world news, but *the petty evil* that lurks in *our hearts*.

Lent is that privileged liturgical period for us, not only to embrace the good news, *but manifest Christ's light*, rather than succumb to the allure of darkness.

The Scriptures that we hear during Lent feature two locations, *the desert, and the mountain*. On the 1st Sunday of Lent, we were in the desert, on the 2nd and 3rd Sunday, a mountain top. On the *4th Sunday of Lent*, Paul reminds us, "though once darkness, we are now light in the Lord."

(Eph 5:8) As light, we are "to live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." (Eph 5:9)

As this Lenten season wanes, I encourage each of us, *enlightened by Christ*, to find a way, if we have not done so, to travel to both places, perhaps figuratively: to some *arid desert* where we can face our demons, repent of ill deeds, and emerge renewed; and to some *lofty mountain top* where we can hear and ponder the good news—*anew*, the profound, yet often overlooked truth: God's grace, and benevolence, His love, and omnipresence, is greater than any evil that we can encounter or imagine. *We are not alone, orphaned*.

My spiritual director said one thing more, that day—some forty years ago:

"Do not be afraid!"



Update is also available on the Sulpician website at www.sulpicians.org