

SPRING 2021

NEWSLETTER 01



## ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY



2021 Ordinandi (Left to right) Rev. Mr. John Howard Walter Flynn; Rev. Mr. Arthur Lee; Rev. Mr. Michel Quenneville; Rev. Mr. Andrew Taylor; Rev. Mr. Patrick Salah; Rev. Mr. Christian Lindenbach; Rev. Mr. Kevin Adriano.

## Celebrating Our Ordinandi

Seven men representing various dioceses across the country to be ordained to the priesthood this year

Despite the challenging times brought on by the ongoing global pandemic, by the grace of God, St. Augustine's Seminary will have seven men representing various dioceses across the country ordained to the priesthood this year.

A date for the ordinations is still to be determined. The seven men to be ordained were, however, honoured on March 2, 2021 at a virtual Ordinandi Dinner, an annual celebration usually held in person and sponsored by the Serra Foundation of Canada and the six Serra Clubs of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

The program featured greetings from Cardinal Collins and from the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese. It also featured, as per usual, the Ordinandi as they shared their vocation stories.

*Each has their own unique journey*





## Archdiocese of Toronto



### Rev. Mr. Kevin Adriano

Rev. Mr. Kevin Adriano was born in the Philippines, whose family immigrated to Canada when he was nine years old. Growing up in Mississauga, his dream was to one-day be a star player in the NBA, even envisioning knocking down the game-winning shot at the buzzer to win the championship. God, however, had other plans. After a weekend youth retreat, Kevin started to feel called to a religious vocation. In prayer, Kevin could hear in the silence of his heart, God asking him to give his life to the Church. In 2010, after graduating from high school, Kevin entered into the seminary. He spent three years of formation at Serra House and completed his Bachelors of Thomistic Thought at St. Philip's seminary. He spent one year as a working guest at Madonna House Apostolate, in Combermere, ON. During this year, the Lord affirmed Kevin's call to the priesthood.



### Rev. Mr. Arthur Lee

Rev. Mr. Arthur Lee was born in Dorval, QC but moved to Oakville, ON as infant. He grew up there, before moving to Kingston, where he attended Queen's University to

study Mathematics and Engineering. While he was active in his home parish when he was younger, he did not practice his Catholic faith when he was away at university. Upon returning home, a friend encouraged him to become more involved in his church. He did, at St. Andrew Kim Parish, through the Choice Weekend, Choir, Legion of Mary and bible study groups. One day, during a break between choir practice and Mass, the associate priest asked him a question: 'Have you ever given priesthood a chance?' While he had been told previously that he should become a priest, he would always say he wanted to get married and have a family. This time was different. He was open to God's call. He entered St. Augustine's in 2014.



### Rev. Mr. Andrew Taylor

Rev. Mr. Andrew Taylor was born in Barrie and grew up in Aurora as the fourth of eight children. He was homeschooled during most of his elementary school years. His parents strongly emphasized the importance of faith, the Sacraments and prayer to him and his siblings from a young age. Starting in grade nine, he attended Brebeuf College School in Toronto. While he was in grade ten, he encountered Christ in a personal way through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. He began to hear a call to the priesthood later that year after being inspired by the example of St. John Paul II. After completing Grade twelve in 2011, he began formation for the priesthood at Serra House while studying philosophy at St. Philip's Seminary in Toronto. He spent one year at the Newman Centre in the University of Toronto, and then entered St. Augustine's Seminary in 2015.



## DIOCESE OF CHARLOTTETOWN



### Rev. Mr. John Howard Walter Flynn

Rev. Mr. John Howard Walter Flynn was born in Sydney, NS, and is the oldest of two children. Growing up in the very small town of Beaver Cove, Cape Breton provided the perfect opportunity to get to know God through the lively faith of the community and the beauty of nature. From an early age, Walter was intrigued by the Church. He was an altar server for most of his childhood and "graduated" from server to lector in his teens. In 2001, he left Cape Breton and moved to Charlottetown, PEI to begin Nursing School at the University of Prince Edward Island. As a Registered Nurse, he worked for eight years in the Mental Health and Addictions field before he heard God calling him to serve others in another way – as a priest. He entered Saint Augustine's Seminary in 2014 and discovered he was fulfilling his true call to heal the soul rather than the body.

## ShareLife Helping Make 'Amazing' Things Happen at St. Augustine's

It's not uncommon when people give financially to charity that they may wonder if their donation is really making a difference. Marko Busic, a second-year Theology seminarian at



### **Rev. Mr. Christian Lindenbach**

Rev. Mr. Christian Lindenbach was born in Saskatoon, moving to Regina in 2009. He pursued a degree in Religious Studies and Philosophy at Campion College at the University of Regina, where he discerned a call to the priesthood. After graduation, he attended St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto and completed the Spiritual Year, which he spent in prayer and discernment before starting theological studies. Christian discerned that he needed to take some time out of formation before he began his formal discernment to be a priest, and so he returned to Regina for three years, being part of a vibrant parish community, helping with catechesis and Sunday ministries. During this time, he discerned a call to marriage while he worked in corporate sales for a year, later returning to the UofR and completing a Master of Arts degree in Religious studies and the New Testament. Christian then discerned to re-apply to St. Augustine's, and was accepted into the formation program.



### **Rev. Mr. Michel Quenneville**

Rev. Mr. Michel Quenneville was born in Kingston and grew up in a French-speaking family as one of four kids (with a twin brother). He is grateful for the gift of Faith received in the home and is particularly thankful for the love witnessed in his mother. Growing up, his family was involved in the local francophone parish of St. François d'Assise in Kingston, but his mind was much more fixated on playing hockey and enjoying the outdoors. Avid for adventure and serving his country, he joined the Army as a Reservist and later entered an engineering program at Queen's University. It was in university that he came to encounter Jesus Christ personally and first started feeling drawn to the priesthood. He graduated and moved to Calgary to work as a Chemical Engineer. There, he felt the Lord working on his heart and drawing him more and more to Himself. In 2014, he left Calgary, returning to Kingston, and was accepted at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto.



### **Rev. Mr. Patrick Salah**

Rev. Mr. Patrick Salah is from Halifax, Nova Scotia. After graduating high school, he earned a Bachelor of Music Degree from Dalhousie University's Fountain School of Performing Arts, while simultaneously working as Director of Music at Saint Benedict Parish. During this period, he found himself going through some struggles and difficulties, which led him to doubt his path in life. Finding himself alone one summer's afternoon in Halifax's St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica, Patrick turned to prayer. In the silence of the Cathedral, he heard God say to him, 'You're where you need to be for now.' In time, Patrick heard God calling him to the priesthood. He graduated from Dalhousie in 2015 and began formation at St. Augustine's Seminary that fall. When he left Halifax for the seminary, he thought it would mean leaving his musical life behind. But removed from the academic rigor of musical studies, Patrick fell in love with music all over again, and he shared that love with the seminary community. ■

St. Augustine's, is testament to the fact that, yes indeed, a difference is being made.

St. Augustine's is one of the institutions that ShareLife supports through donations to them. Busic says that financial support is invaluable in his discernment for the priesthood.

"Thanks to your donations, amazing things are able to happen," he says. "Living and studying at St. Augustine's has been a deep source of joy and blessings in my journey

thus far. Thanks in great part to the generous support of ShareLife, I am able to participate in the Liturgical life at the Seminary. I am provided with meals, a residence and space to live in community with those who are here to guide me and help me to grow. I am most grateful because your generosity in many ways is a contribution to the life of the Church both present and future."

St. Augustine's is indeed blessed by the generous support of ShareLife and our many benefactors who help us both financially and through prayer. Thank you. ■





## 2020 Convocation

Due to COVID restrictions, the 2020 Convocation took place virtually on November 2, 2020. In all, 42 Degrees were conferred along with eight Diplomas.

“Our goal is to lead our students to the objective truth of our faith in Christ Jesus,” said Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Rector, St. Augustine’s Seminary. “To know their faith more clearly and to share it with others.”

Fr. Edwin praised the efforts of the faculty and the dedication of the graduates during these difficult times. ■

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*Even when faced with challenges, such as this pandemic, I am grateful for the commitment of our faculty who are able to pivot to online teaching and still continue to joyfully serve and advance the mission of the Seminary. To each member of the graduating class, my heartfelt congratulations to you and may God, who has begun this good work in you, bring it to completion as you witness to all the teachings you received here at the Seminary.*

FR. EDWIN



## Wading in Troubled Waters With Confidence and Compassion: A Grad Student’s Journey

In her ministry work Erin Kinsella has often been called to answer many of the hot-button questions that face the Church and society. She has appeared in the media speaking on behalf of the Church. As a university campus minister, she regularly discussed difficult topics in a frank and loving manner with students.

It can be challenging, but she credits the knowledge she obtained at St. Augustine’s working on her Master of Theological Studies Degree in helping her wade into hot-topic discussions with poise and compassion.

“There’s something very empowering about having a more in-depth knowledge about the faith and the Church that gives you the confidence to talk about hard things,” she says. “It becomes easier to wade into very difficult

situations because you are able to stand on newly discovered solid ground. Those difficult conversations also need to be grounded in humility. I’ve had to grow a lot in my humility.”

She says she learned a great deal about leadership, humility and spirituality by way of example from her professors.

“One of the things that struck me when I first started at St. Augustine’s was the integration of faith and knowledge,” she says. “The leadership from the professors was so grounded in humility. Even in something very simple like opening each class with prayer.”

Kinsella is working on her thesis and is set to graduate this fall. ■



## The Lasting Impact of an Alumna's Studies

It's been eight years since Teresa Hartnett, the Director of the Family Ministry Office at the Diocese of Hamilton, obtained her Master of Religious Education from St. Augustine's, but she says she still regularly draws on what she learned at the Seminary.

*The course I took on globalization opened my eyes to everything that Pope Francis writes about in the Encyclical today.*

"While working for the Diocese of Hamilton, I feel it is important to have a Master's Degree for the work I undertake," she says. "I give a lot of retreats, a lot of talks, in my work. I use the information I learned at St. Augustine's all the time. I still have my books and my notes. I still sometimes pull them out!"

She uses a course she took on globalization as an example.

"I'm doing some work in the Diocese on Pope Francis' recent Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* (on Fraternity and Social Friendship). The course I took on globalization many years ago opened my eyes to everything that Pope Francis writes about in the Encyclical today."

Hartnett says it was a bit of a daunting decision to return to school while holding a full-time job and raising a family, but she liked the fact that St. Augustine's made it so easy for her to pursue her degree on a part-time basis – not just logistically but from an emotionally supportive basis as well.

She says her education at the Seminary broadened her understanding that "we live in a reality, but have an ideal we are trying to help people toward. Life is messy. If we're not drawing people toward the ideal, are we really helping them on their faith journey?" ■

## Meet St. Augustine's New President



St. Augustine's Seminary welcomes back a familiar face as its new President – Fr. Robert Barringer.

He is a former Academic Dean at the Seminary and takes over the presidential position from St. Augustine's Rector Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, who had been carrying out the duties on an interim basis as a dual role.

Fr. Barringer brings to the position a wealth of academic and spiritual experience. He was ordained to the Congregation of St. Basil in 1974 and has taught at various universities across Canada, the U.S. and Colombia. He was Academic Dean at St. Augustine's from 2010 to 2014 and was preparing for retirement when he received a call from Cardinal Collins asking him if he would take over as President at the Seminary.

He says he is very conscious of the confidence being placed in him in this role, one he takes very seriously given the importance of the mission of the seminary – the formation of priests, deacons and lay disciples.

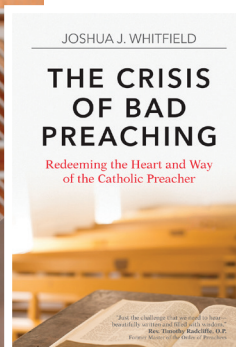
"I do think there is something that is at the heart of the reality of the Seminary, which I think is extremely important, and that is formation," he says. "That formation comes very centrally through the personal witness of the teachers here, the priest professors and the lay professors. Here are people who have dedicated their lives to understanding the shape and the substance of Christian life and the relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The treasure here at the heart of the Seminary is the witness of that in the lives of the professors." ■



# News Briefs



St. Augustine's wishes its heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Ivan Camilleri on his appointment as Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Toronto. Bishop Camilleri's Episcopal motto is 'Serve the Lord with gladness' (Psalm 100), something he exemplified over the years as a Sessional Lecturer at St. Augustine's.



- St. Augustine's has invited Fr Joshua J. Whitfield, author of *The Crisis of Bad Preaching* (Ave Maria Press, 2019), to be the keynote at its preaching webinar Friday, June 4, 2021. The focus of the webinar will be *The Joy and Challenge of Preaching*. He will be joined by Cardinal Collins at the online event. For more information and registration, visit [www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events](http://www.staugustines.on.ca/about/events)



## Registrar Theresa Kelly Celebrates 30 Years at St. Augustine's

This year we celebrate with Theresa Kelly and recognize her 30 years of service with St. Augustine's Seminary. Theresa's mother held the role of Faculty Secretary for many years and retired in 2001 and Theresa's son is currently the Coordinator of Assessment and Information Officer. We would like to thank the Kelly Family for their many years serving the mission of the Seminary.

*Having a role of supporting our students on their way to ordination is very fulfilling.*

In her role as Registrar and Academic Officer, Theresa is the backbone of St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto. A typical day as registrar is all about the students, taking care of issues, reports, surveys, enrollment, admissions and official documents. Theresa has served 10 Deans over her 30 years "with anything I can do to support the Academic Faculty, the Academic Administration and Students. We want to make the experience at St. Augustine's Seminary as enriching and pleasant as possible."

Having a role of supporting our students on their way to ordination is very fulfilling and because Theresa is able to juggle so many priorities, things run very smoothly at the Registrar's Office. "Theresa serves with a smile and gives 100 percent of her time and talent. She is a valuable

and trusted member of our community," says Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Rector at St. Augustine's.

Theresa herself can empathize with adult education because she went back to school as an adult, and so she is well positioned to make students feel comfortable and overcome their fears. She also works closely with and had previously led the Association of Theological School's Self Study initiatives which has highlighted that our seminary is excellent at the formation of priests, deacons and lay disciples.

There are many joyful and spiritual memories over these 30 years, like singing the Litany of the Saints with Rev. John White in St. John's Chapel for the transitional diaconate ceremony, celebrating the Seminary's Centenary and being part of this rich history. "Look what we've done for 100 years and I'm a part of that!"

When asked about the impact of her own faith journey, Theresa recalls directing two choirs in the early 2000 for 12 years. She feels fortunate to be able to participate in Seminary events and is grateful to be working where she can actively celebrate her faith with her colleagues.

Theresa succinctly captured the atmosphere at the Seminary by saying, "it's almost like you can't express enough thanks for the support and coordination. Everyone knows what the mission of the Seminary is, and we all work together and give it our all. The joy of congeniality is very welcome!" ■



# Info Board

## UPCOMING EVENTS

All Events will be held Online. Dates are subject to change



**April 15, 2021,**  
*Songs From the Seminary:*  
*An Evening of Music in Honour*  
*of Our Blessed Mother*  
Featuring St. Augustine's Seminarians  
Streaming at:  
[www.youtube.com/archtoronto](http://www.youtube.com/archtoronto)  
**7:00 p.m.**



**June 4, 2021**  
*A Webinar in Homiletics:*  
*The Joy and Challenge of Preaching*  
Presenter: Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield  
**8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



**June 5, 2021**  
*Annual Day of Reflection For Women:*  
*Where Holiness is Found - Ordinary*  
*People Called to Extraordinary Lives*  
Presenter: Dr. Anne Jamieson  
**9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

See event details online for cost.  
Link for virtual presentation will be sent upon registration.

**Register Online:**  
[staugustines.on.ca/about/events](http://staugustines.on.ca/about/events)

## ATS Comprehensive Evaluation Visit

St. Augustine's Seminary of Toronto is hosting a comprehensive evaluation visit for reaffirmation of accreditation by the ATS Commission on Accrediting from 12 to 15 October 2021. The purpose of this visit is to verify that the school meets all applicable Commission Standards of Accreditation. Comments regarding how well the school meets those standards and/or generally demonstrates educational quality may be sent to the ATS Director of Commission Information Services at least two weeks before the visit. Comments may also or instead be sent by email to Mr. Frank Kelly at [frank.kelly@utoronto.ca](mailto:frank.kelly@utoronto.ca). All comments will be shared with the onsite evaluation committee.

## Thank You For Your Prayerful and Generous Support



During these challenging times, your prayer and financial support have been invaluable to all the seminarians. During the 2020-2021 Formation year, we have 46 men studying for the priesthood from 11 dioceses across Canada, one for dioceses in the USA, two for Vietnam, and two for a religious order. Know that our seminarians keep donors' intentions in their daily prayers and offer thanks during the Holy Eucharist. As we continue to journey together, let us seek the protection of the precious blood of Jesus. If you feel called to support the Seminary in any way, please contact Samantha Koon at: [skoon@archtoronto.org](mailto:skoon@archtoronto.org) or or by phone: 416-261-7207 ext. 358.

**THANK YOU**  
FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT  
Please keep the Seminarians in your prayers

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A ShareLife funded agency



ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
SEMINARY

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