

**ORDINANDI**  
DINNER



**“Rise, and have no fear.”**

(Matthew 17:7) from the Transfiguration -



March 18, 2025

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.*

As we gather this evening for the 35th annual Ordinandi Dinner, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for Serrans from across the Archdiocese of Toronto who work so tirelessly and with great dedication throughout the year not only for this event but also for so many other wonderful initiatives. The promotion and nurturing of vocations is a beautiful gift that is offered by the Serrans to the Church.

During this Holy Year of Jubilee in which we are called to be pilgrims of hope, we take time to honour the servants of Christ, our transitional deacons, who are now on the homestretch in their journey to the priesthood. These men offer us all a sense of hope for the future, as they look forward to starting their priestly ministry to the spiritual benefit of all faithful men and women throughout the archdiocese.

Serrans too are great enablers of hope for so many. Their ongoing efforts continue to make a profound impact on the journey of those discerning specifically a call to consecrated life or the priesthood. I am profoundly grateful for their life-giving dedication to cultivating a culture of vocations across the Archdiocese of Toronto.

May the Lord continue to abundantly bless our Ordinandi, the Serrans, and all who support this special evening.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,

Frank Cardinal Leo  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

# Celebration Program

- March 18, 2025 -

*Master of Ceremonies: Fr. Matthew McCarthy*

6:15 p.m. Please be seated

6:30 p.m. Welcome

6:40 p.m. Blessing by His Eminence  
Frank Cardinal Leo

- Introduction of Honoured Guests
- Priests celebrating their 25th, 50th & 60th Anniversary of Ordination
- Presentation of Spiritual Bouquet  
Connie Cristinziano, Vice President,  
Toronto Archdiocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League

## Class of 2025

The Ordinandi from:  
St. Augustine's Seminary  
Redemptoris Mater Seminary



## Tonight's Menu

Spiced Olives, Brie Cheese, Hummus and Pate served with Pita Points

Penne Rigate with Basil Scented  
Tomato Sauce and Grated Parmigiano

Pan Seared Chicken Supreme, Red Wine and Mushroom Sauce

Oven Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes and a Medley of Fresh Vegetables

Center Plate of Fine Pastries

Coffee and Tea

*For your dining pleasure a bottle of Red Wine and White Wine has been  
provided to your table through the generosity of **Cilento Wines**.*

*Additional wine may be purchased at the bar.*



**Serra international is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.** It is a volunteer organization of 20,000 Catholic men and women of all ages, races, occupations and backgrounds with over 1109 clubs in 46 different countries.

### The Serra Mission:

- To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.
- To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and
- To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.



**Become a promoter  
of Vocations  
You are invited to  
join SERRA  
Learn the many ways  
to participate and  
encourage Vocations**

# Assure the Holy Presence of Jesus in our lives and for future generations

## Toronto Downtown Serra Club

University of St. Michael's College, **Toronto**  
Anne McQueen, President | [eurekapro2@gmail.com](mailto:eurekapro2@gmail.com)

## Toronto West Serra Club

Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza, **Etobicoke**  
Joseph Gennaro, President | [25greenhills@gmail.com](mailto:25greenhills@gmail.com)

## Toronto Central Serra Club

Basilicata Cultural Society, 28 Roytec Rd. Unit 15, **Woodbridge**  
Mario Biscardi, President | [mariobiscardi@sympatico.ca](mailto:mariobiscardi@sympatico.ca)

## Durham Region Serra Club

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, **Oshawa**  
Fred Tuccia, President | [fred\\_tuccia@yahoo.ca](mailto:fred_tuccia@yahoo.ca)

## Markham Scarborough Serra Club

Precious Blood Parish, 1737 Lawrence Ave. E., **Scarborough**  
Dennis Wahking, President | [dennisw@decolabels.com](mailto:dennisw@decolabels.com)

## Serra Club of North Peel Region

St. Anne's Parish, 115 Vodden St. E., **Brampton**  
Carlos Abug, President | [carlg7@gmail.com](mailto:carlg7@gmail.com)

*For further information, please visit [www.serracanada.com](http://www.serracanada.com)*

## Vocations, Vocations, Vocations

Behind and before every vocation to the priesthood or consecrated  
life there is always strong and intense prayer from someone:  
a grandmother, a grandfather, a mother, a father, a community ...  
Vocations are born in prayer and from prayer: and only in prayer can  
they persevere and bear fruit.

- Pope Francis





## 2025 Ordinandi DINNER COMMITTEE

**Chair of the Executive Committee:** Celeste Iacobelli

**Program Chair:** Jerry Hayes

**Finance Chair:** Mario Biscardi

**Youth Event Chair:** Lisa Malcolm

**Reception Chair:** Anthony Mangione

**Executive Committee:**

Celeste Iacobelli, Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Fr. Michael Corpus, Mario Biscardi, Jerry Hayes, Anthony Mangione and Lisa Malcolm.

**Ordinandi Dinner Committee:**

Fr. Edwin Gonsalves, Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, Carlos Abug, Joe Gennaro, Evelyn Manalo, Maria Luz Manalo, Anna Mangione, Philomena Menezes, Emanuel Pires, Felisa and Fran Pulumbarit, Anthony Stanco, Dennis Wahking



## Ordinandi Dinner SPECIAL GUESTS

- His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto
- His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Ivan Camilleri, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm, Diocese of Peterborough
- Most Reverend Bishop Bryan J. Bayda CSsR, Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
- Msgr. A. Robert Nusca, President of St. Augustine's Seminary
- Rev. Edwin Gonsalves, Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary
- Rev. Tomasz Skibinski, Rector, Redemptoris Mater Seminary
- Rev. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto
- Dr. Moira McQueen President, Serra International



Rev. Mr. Peter  
**BISSONNETTE**

Rev. Mr. Peter Bissonnette, 28, Diocese of Peterborough, is the fourth of seven children. He attended elementary and high school in Brantford, Ontario, while his family moved between farms in Mt. Pleasant, Caledonia, and now Almonte, ON. He attended Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College in Barry's Bay, and worked as a political staffer before entering St. Augustine's Seminary at the age of 21. Peter was an altar server since the second grade and felt God's powerful call to the priesthood as a young boy, but was hesitant to answer this call through his teenage and early adult years. Guided by the example and friendship of Our Lady, several events in Peter's spiritual life prompted him to more seriously consider this calling. Peter is now thankful for the loving patience shown by the Father as He continued to compel him to follow his heart's deepest desire: the holy will of God. Peter looks forward to serving the faithful people of God in the Diocese of Peterborough.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- I love to play the banjo.
- I love to go fishing and look forward to doing so all over the Diocese of Peterborough.
- Since high school, I have spent way too much time on Chess.com.



Rev. Mr. James  
**CYFKO**

Rev. Mr. James Cyfko, 27, Archdiocese of Toronto, was born and raised in Mississauga. He is blessed with seven younger siblings. When his parents, Leslie and Lorena, were children, they immigrated to Canada from Poland and Portugal, respectively. From a young age, James fell in love with the sport of hockey. His life revolved around the ice rink, the gym, and studies, as he invested countless hours, aiming to achieve an NCAA scholarship. Although he greatly enjoyed the life of a student athlete, he gradually realized he lacked a deeper peace. Whenever attending Mass, James could not shake the thought of giving his life as a priest. Although close to realizing his athletic and academic dreams, he decided that he should further discern what his heart was experiencing. After joining St. Augustine's Seminary, James studied at Toronto Metropolitan University, graduating with a Double Major in Arts & Contemporary Studies and Philosophy, with a Minor in History. He has treasured his seminary formation, and he is grateful for the calling to serve God and His people in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- My favourite animal in the world is a raccoon.
- When playing competitive hockey in high school, a Detroit Red Wings scout contacted me, but my favourite NHL team is the Columbus Blue Jackets. Sadly, I have never met another fan of that club in my life.
- I learned how to play the pipe organ in the seminary.





Rev. Mr. Jesús

# FIDEL AÑÓN

Rev. Mr. Jesús Fidel Añón, 28, Archdiocese of Toronto, grew up in Murcia, a city in the south of Spain. He was born into a Christian family and has one older sister. When he was 14 years old, he became part of the Neocatechumenal Way and joined a community. After finishing high school, he went to college to study Pathological Anatomy, and upon completion worked in a laboratory. In 2016, he had an unexpected experience at World Youth Day in Poland; it was there that he felt the vocation to the priesthood for the first time. After some time of discernment, he went to a retreat with the Neocatechumenal Way in Porto San Giorgio, Italy, and from there was sent to the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary of Toronto. He spent his first year learning English, and 2 years studying philosophy. After graduating, he went on mission for a year in Israel. He returned to the seminary to continue his theological studies. After completing the second year of Theology, he spent one year of internship at Blessed Sacrament Parish. He was ordained a deacon on October 12th, 2024. In his fourth and last year of theological studios, he is looking to serving as a priest of Jesus Christ.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- I love traveling and have visited most countries in Europe; my dream is one day to visit as much of Australia as I can.
- I studied science and worked in a lab, before joining the seminary; I wanted to work in medical research.
- My mother language is Spanish, but I also speak English, Italian, and a bit of Portuguese.



Rev. Mr. Alvin  
**JOYS**

Rev. Mr. Alvin Thevalakkara Joys, 29, Archdiocese of Toronto, was born in India and moved to Canada with his family in 2000 at the age of four. Raised in a devout Catholic household, he grew up with a deep connection to his faith thanks to the formation of his parents. He is the eldest child in the family and has two younger sisters. Alvin served as an altar server and parishioner at both St. Padre Pio Parish in Kleinberg and St. Alphonsa Syro-Malabar Cathedral in Mississauga. His spiritual journey was greatly influenced by his involvement with Jesus Youth, a lay missionary movement he joined in grade eight which began to shape in him a desire to serve God. Alvin pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering from the University of Waterloo, working in various software roles during his studies. Though the priesthood crossed his mind as a child, partly inspired by his uncle who is a priest in India, it was in his final year of university that he felt a profound call to discern the priesthood. In 2018, he entered formation, and over the past few years, has experienced God's love and mercy in great ways. He eagerly anticipates sharing this love and working for the people of God as a priest in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- I love to travel and have been to 17 countries and hope to visit more in the years to come!
- I had a chance to meet the Holy Father, Pope Francis, at World Youth Day in Portugal.
- I was chased down by a rooster in India as a child.



Rev. Mr. Jude  
**THUSIAR**

Rev. Mr. Jude Thusiar, 29, Archdiocese of Kingston was born in North York, the eldest of two children to loving and devoutly Catholic parents, who immigrated from Sri Lanka. From birth, his parents instilled the faith in Jude, attending daily mass, praying a daily family rosary, going to weekly holy hours, as well as regularly serving as an altar boy at every parish they called home, allowing him to draw closer to Christ on the altar, in the Sacrifice of the Mass. At a young age, the seed of the priesthood was planted in Jude's heart. That seed was nurtured thanks to the loving goodness of God and the faithful witness and support of his parents, many priests and friends, especially while completing a mechanical engineering degree at Queen's University where he was deeply involved with Newman House Catholic Chaplaincy. After university, Jude discerned a call to the priesthood, entering the seminary in 2018. Through seven grace-filled years, his vocation would deepen and grow. He is looking forward to serving the people of God in the Archdiocese of Kingston.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- I once won a 3-on-3 basketball tournament at World Youth Day Poland.
- I love making doughnuts!
- I can speak two languages – English and Tamil.



***Living with Christ* offers our prayers  
and congratulations to the 2025 ordinandi**

Rev. Mr. Peter Bissonnette

Rev. Mr. James Cyfko

Rev. Mr. Jesús Fidel Añón

Rev. Mr. Alvin Joys

Rev. Mr. Jude Thusiar

**To show our appreciation, we are providing a year's  
complimentary subscription to each man.**

**Canada's companion to praying and living the Eucharist**

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with  
Christ**



ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
SEMINARY



CELEBRATING  
*112 Years*  
OF FORMING DISCIPLES



“I reflect and see how many people it takes to form a man to be a priest from the spiritual to the material needs. I am thankful for all those who have been there on my journey to help form, mentor and support me along this vocational path. I thank you for supporting St. Augustine’s Seminary, where young men who answer the call to go into the deep are joyfully preparing for ordination to the priesthood.”

- FR. SZYMON SORBIAN, CLASS OF 2024





## Thank you for your generous support!

Your financial gift will help reduce the material costs of the formation of our future priests; the annual fees per Seminarian are approximately \$35,000 and this does not fully cover the actual costs.

Through your kindness, you enable us to continue to respond to our Lord's invitation to train priests, deacons, and lay ministers who will bring His message of love, hope, and forgiveness to our families, parishes and future generations.

Learn how to support the Seminary:  
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ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
SEMINARY

## PROGRAMS



PRIESTLY  
FORMATION



DIACONATE  
FORMATION



INSTITUTE OF  
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St. Augustine's Seminary offers a wide variety of programs  
for the catholic community.

Visit. [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) for more information





## Fr. Matt McCarthy

### The call to serve begins with the Lord's guidance

Fr. Matthew McCarthy takes his cue from the Lord Himself for his guiding principles as he continues to journey as Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

"I am hoping that my commitment to prayer and intimacy with God the Father will bear much fruit," said McCarthy.

Helping individuals discern a call to the priesthood or religious life is a key responsibility. McCarthy and his team will offer vocation-related retreats and programs such as the Come-and-See weekend at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Those discerning a call to religious life will also learn how to enrich their prayer life.

"It's true that we can pray to God in all times and places, but if you're serious about having an authentic connection with the Lord, go to where He shows up," said McCarthy.

"Every tabernacle contains the presence of the same Christ who called the first apostles. It's no wonder why many vocations were 'figured out' in the context of Mass or silent prayer before Christ's presence in the tabernacle. He is ready and waiting to speak to you there."

McCarthy understands he has big shoes to fill, taking over from Fr. Chris Lemieux and his other predecessors who have helped shape vocations in the archdiocese. He hopes he can exhibit their dedication in accompanying individuals' spiritual journey and, most of all, their love of the Lord and His people.



## Vocations Programs

### COME & SEE

In the Fall and Winter of each year, the Office of Vocations offers single men, aged 18+, an opportunity to visit St. Augustine's Seminary for a weekend retreat of communal prayer, fellowship, and time to discern the Lord's vocation for their lives.

Please contact our Office to inquire about upcoming retreats.



### Online Discernment Groups

Offered twice a year for both men and women, these book studies are meant to give individuals valuable tools to discern both their vocation, and daily decisions people make through the course of their lives. Please contact our Office to inquire about any upcoming series.

*Groups meet online via Zoom*



### ASSOCIATES:

#### PRE-SEMINARY FORMATION PROGRAM

The Associates bi-weekly program is the primary discernment group for men considering diocesan priesthood in the Archdiocese of Toronto, and has been active for the last three decades.



Register online at [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



HOLY HOUR FOR  
**VOCATIONS**



Scan the QR Code for Suggested  
Outline for Adoration and Holy Hour

# *Congratulations to those priests celebrating their 25th, 50th & 60th Anniversary of their Priestly Ordination*

## **25th Anniversary**

Rev. John Elmer Panigbatan Abad  
Rev. Joao (John) Manuel Bertao  
Rev. Dexter Alpha Brereton, CSSp  
Rev. Paul James Dobson  
Rev. Francis Fayia Folleh, CSSp  
Rev. Flavian Gondos, OFM Cap.  
Rev. William Leslie May, C.S.B.  
Rev. Marcin Robert Mironiuk, OMI  
Rev. Edward Lawrence Murphy  
Rev. Joseph Tap Van Tran

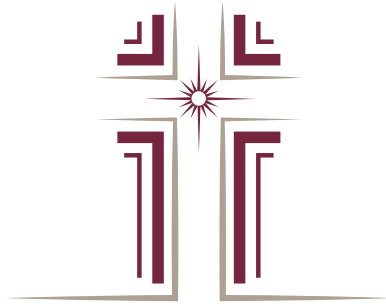
## **50th Anniversary**

Rev. John A. Carten, S.F.M.  
Rev. Peter Kim Loy Chin, C.Ss.R.  
Rev. Jude Coyle  
Rev. John Govan, S.J.  
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Kalarathil  
Rev. Antonio V. Pablo  
Rev. Msgr. Edgardo Elias Salazar Pan  
Rev. Msgr. Peter Pham-Hoang-Ba  
Rev. Edward Joseph Smith

## **60th Anniversary**

Rev. Joseph A. Brzezicki, S.J.  
Rev. William Burns  
Most Rev. John Dennis Corriveau, OFM Cap.  
Rev. Donald F. Finlay, C.S.B.  
Rev. James Douglas Gauthier, S.F.M.  
Rev. Joao Serpa  
Rev. Msgr. Joseph D. Shiels





CATHOLIC & CEMETERIES  
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**“Well done my good and faithful servant,  
come and share your Master’s happiness!”**

Lord God, You chose our brothers to serve Your people as priests and to share the joys and burdens of their lives. Look with mercy on them and give them the reward of their labours, the fullness of life promised to those who preach Your Holy Gospel.

In loving memory of our beloved priests who have gone to their eternal home.

Fr. Jon Bromley  
Fr. Bernard Cryer  
Fr. Fred Foley  
Fr. Rodolfo Imperial  
Fr. Paul Lennon  
Fr. Andrew Macbeth  
Fr. Daniel Palillo  
Fr. Leo Ramsperger  
Fr. Manfred Schmid  
Fr. William Noel Whelan



**2025 Ordinandi Class**

**l to r - Rev. Mr. Jude Thusiar, Rev. Mr. Jesús Fidel Añón, Mr. Peter Bissonette,  
Rev. Mr. Alvin Joys, Rev. Mr. James Cyfko**



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Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services, Archdiocese of Toronto

## **Ordinandi Youth Event Platinum Sponsor:**

Novalis, Jonathan Guilbault, Publishing Director

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St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough, Rev. Hansoo Park, Pastor

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- Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Toronto, Rev. Joseph Tran, Pastor
- Claudette Wilson



## Serra Prayer for Vocations

**O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner  
but rather that he be converted and live  
grant we beseech You  
through the intercession of the Blessed Mary  
ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse  
Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints  
an increase of labourers for your Church  
fellow labourers with Christ  
to spend and consume themselves for souls  
through the same Jesus Christ Your Son  
Who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God forever and ever. Amen.**

The priesthood is where the human meets the Divine. Not only does our God love us so much that He became man through the Incarnation and gave His entire being to us through the Cross, but He also left us tangible ways of uniting with Him on earth.