



# New Priests for New York

## Cardinal Dolan to Ordain 14 Priests at Cathedral May 28

Graduates of the Class of 2016 at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, look relaxed and confident as their priestly ordination approaches. Cardinal Dolan will ordain 14 men, his largest class as Archbishop of New York, at a Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, May 28, at 9 a.m. Nine of the men will serve as priests of the archdiocese and five are Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The ordination class includes Father John Wilson and Father Jesús Ledezma Castro, who have studied at Pontifical North American College in Rome. St. Joseph's ordinands are, seated from left: Father Hartley Bancroft, Father Dismas Marie Kline, C.F.R., Father Cruz Alejandro Sánchez Mares and Father Christian Amah. Standing, from left: Father Xavier Mariae Meiergerd, C.F.R., Father Innocent Montgomery, C.F.R., Father Bernardino Maria Soukup, C.F.R., Father Jon Tveit, Father Jean-Pierre Seon, Father James Sheridan, Father Thomas Colucci and Father Antonio Maria Díez de Medina, C.F.R.

PROFILES WRITTEN BY JULIANN DOSSANTOS, DAN PIETRAFESA, CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE AND JOHN WOODS. PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS SHERIDAN.



# Father John Wilson



A Saintly Pope's Death Spurred Him Toward Priesthood

The year was 2005, with John Wilson a sophomore in college, when the pivotal event that spurred his decision to become a priest occurred.

It was the death of Pope John Paul II at the end of a 27-year pontificate that would see him canonized in 2014.

"I was observant, but not especially 'on fire' for my faith growing up, so his death was my first opportunity to get to know his life," said Father Wilson, 31.

"What jumped out at me was the joy he had in his priesthood—and his sense of adventure."

Others played key roles in his priestly vocation, perhaps none more so than Father George Rutler, pastor of St. Michael's parish in Manhattan, who was his spiritual director before he entered the seminary. "I was struck by how, even as a man of great intellectual erudition, he found so much fulfillment in the day-to-day work of a parish priest."

Father Wilson holds a master's degree from Claremont McKenna College in California. He did his pre-theology training at St. John Neumann Residence and Hall in Douglaston, Queens,

before Cardinal Dolan asked him to undertake major seminary studies at Pontifical North American College in Rome, where he is pursuing a licentiate in sacred theology at Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. His thesis is on St. Thomas and the *Sensus Fidei*.

He's also the liturgical master of ceremonies at the seminary, and yet he finds time to enjoy playing on the Ultimate Frisbee team there.

His experience with classmates from across the United States "means that news from the Church in other parts of

tight copy requirements in his newspaper life may help him "keep my homilies short!" More seriously, he added that his work in the daily press "taught me a lot about the human condition, especially the reality of sin."

"It's also where I came to know and love my adopted city," notes Father Wilson, who added that he "can't wait" to serve in New York as a priest.

In the archdiocese, he's had assignments at St. Paul and St. Ann's parish, Congers, for the past two summers, and for one at St. Clare's on Staten Island.

**FATHER WILSON** will celebrate his First Mass at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan on Sunday, May 29, at 12:15 p.m. Father George Rutler, pastor of St. Michael's, will be the homilist.

the country isn't just news—it's something that's happening to one of my brothers."

"I've also had the opportunity to learn from many holy priests, even ones I've never met, who have been inspirations to my classmates," he said.

Father Wilson may follow current events more closely than most. He covered state and city politics as a journalist for the New York Post.

Showing his sense of humor, he says

A native of Hebron, Conn., he is the oldest of three children (one sister and one brother) of Michael and Lorraine Wilson. Tagging along with his mother to parish meetings and activities at Holy Family parish in Hebron helped him form "a very early and powerful sense of the Church as a second home."

His father, though not Catholic, would join the family at Mass each Sunday. And this year, he was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

# Father Jesús Ledezma Castro



His Priestly Journey Fueled by Family, Parish Priests

In many ways, it should not have come as a surprise that Jesús Ledezma Castro decided to pursue the priesthood. He had thought about such a vocation since he was a child growing up in a family with seven sisters and one brother in Zatecas, Mexico.

The Ledezmas were steeped in family values and their Catholic faith. Jesús cited his parents, Jose and Guadalupe, as "strong models of faith and love, supporting me in every way, especially with their prayers."

As Jesús began to consider his priestly calling in high school, he drew support from the pastors of St. Joseph's parish in his hometown of Tayahua.

Reading about the lives of the Mexican martyrs who were persecuted for their Catholic beliefs confirmed his desire to serve the Lord.

His own journey to the priesthood would take him far from his native land. He cited his parents for "willingly" making the sacrifice to be separated from him as his studies continued.

First, he relocated to New York, where he took up studies at St. John Neumann

Residence and Hall while earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's University in Queens.

Early in his final year of college seminary, he and his classmate, Father John Wilson, met with Cardinal Dolan, who asked if they would continue their priestly formation at Pontifical North American College (NAC) in Rome.

Before they left, the prelate shared a

endeavor, as opposed to an abstract and complex thing." At NAC, he cited the mentorship of former rector, now-Bishop James Checchio, who was ordained as Bishop of Metuchen, N.J., on May 3.

He is looking forward to serving as a priest in the archdiocese, but first must return to NAC to complete a licentiate in biblical theology.

He has interests ranging from Hispanic and prison ministries to evangelizing the culture and biblical theology. He has enjoyed parish service during

**FATHER LEDEZMA CASTRO** will celebrate his First Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in the Bronx on Sunday, May 29, at 3 p.m. Father Luis Saldaña, director of spiritual formation at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, will deliver the homily.

brief prayer in Italian that remains with him. "Sia lodato Gesù Cristo, sempre sia lodato." ("Praised be Jesus Christ, may He always be praised.")

He called his years at NAC "an enriching experience," made more so by the "diversity" of seminarians from across the United States.

During his studies in New York, he gained priestly insight from Father Luis Saldaña, who explained that "priestly holiness is a very practical and human

summer breaks, first at St. Patrick's Cathedral and then for two years at St. Ann's on Staten Island.

He counts the celebration of the Eucharist and the prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours as important sources of strength. "No one gives what he does not have, so the encounter with Christ and His Church at the celebration of the Eucharist and the following encounters throughout the day inspire, guide and sustain any other activity," he said.

# Father Cruz Alejandro Sánchez Mares



In This Case, a Lawyer Debated His Own Vocation

Father Cruz Alejandro Sánchez Mares, 35, was born in the small town of Tecolotlan in the Mexican state of Jalisco. The community there had only 300 people, and a priest visited just once a week.

He was one of 10 children—eight brothers and one sister—born to Bartolo Sánchez Brambila and Juana Mares Perez.

His family was Catholic—and he learned some of the basics of the faith such as attending Mass, praying the Rosary—but that was pretty much all. Even so, Father Sánchez said, “I always knew I had a calling, but I resisted.”

In high school, he stopped attending Mass altogether.

He went to Universidad de Guadalajara and earned a degree in law and got a job as a lawyer at a government institution that offered legal services to Mexico’s farmers. “I loved that job,” he said.

His journey to the priesthood was a long one, which he described as a “late vocation.” Even blessed with a job he loved, he knew something was not

quite how it was meant to be.

That’s when he realized, “When you have a calling, every time you resist, your life is miserable.”

It wasn’t easy, he noted. “I was debating. I had a job, my family. I had all I needed.”

He came to New York in 2009 and entered the St. John Nuemann Residence and Hall then the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation.

**FATHER SÁNCHEZ’s First Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Manhattan, on Saturday, May 28, at 6 p.m. The homilist will be Father Santiago Rubio, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard’s.**

Along his faith journey, he credits two people, Father Santiago Rubio, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard’s, Manhattan, and another friend, Miguel Zaulza, for inspiring him.

“I was always looking for something, there was a need,” he said. “When I came to the seminary, that need, what I was looking for, I found it.

“I felt I was on the right path. I was answering the call God gave me,” he said.

He noted that although he did make

sacrifices to become a priest, he does not feel that his life will be lacking.

“It’s natural to desire to have a wife, a family,” he said. “I gave that up, but I feel in my life, it’s worth it. A priest is not sacrificing connections to someone else. A priest is connected to the families in the parish.”

His formation at St. Joseph’s Seminary, he noted, has helped him further develop that relationship. “When you

enter the seminary, you realize it’s fostering a change in you. It’s not only teaching you about God, it’s helping you develop a relationship with Him,” he said.

“That’s the main purpose of seminary formation,” he said.

He is most looking forward to sharing the blessings he has received with his parish family. “I have come to know God and I want to help people come to know God,” he said.

# Father James Sheridan



Priesthood’s Call Overcame Lure of Celtic Tiger Ireland

James Sheridan grew up in Ireland at the height of the so-called Celtic Tiger economic boom.

“I know what it’s like to live life without God,” said Father Sheridan, 37.

“I just fell into the aggressive secularism of Celtic Tiger Ireland. I bought into the material illusion that I would find happiness in making as much money as possible while having as much fun as possible....

“I decided I would become a lawyer and even for a while, I fell away from the practice of my faith.

“Then, through the prayers of other people and especially through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, I had an encounter with the Lord, and with His mercy, that changed my life.

“The idea of priesthood,” he said, “became stronger and stronger” and overruled the aspiration of becoming a European Union lawyer.

James had first sensed the call to the priesthood around the age of reason, 7 years old. As a boy, “whenever I envisioned myself being a man, it was as a

priest,” he said. Three late paternal uncles were priests. “It was really through my uncles that the Lord planted the seed of the call.”

James entered the Legionaries of Christ in 2006 in Dublin and made first vows in 2008.

He was eventually sent to New York, where during his apostolic internship, he served on the faculty of the Legion-

who we are supposed to be.

“I don’t think anything else in this world can compare with being a priest, because the priest, in a sense, opens up the gates of the kingdom of heaven for people, through the sacraments.”

His parents live in Ireland. His twin, Joseph, who is older by five minutes, works in finance. Their younger sister, Laura, 27, is a social care worker.

Hobbies include horseback riding, rugby, running, reading, pilgrimages and travel. He is fluent in Spanish. He’s

**FATHER SHERIDAN will celebrate his First Mass and deliver the homily Sunday, May 29, at 11:45 a.m. at St. Barnabas Church, the Bronx.**

aries in Thornwood and as secretary to the academic dean.

“While I’m very grateful to everything the Legionaries gave me, it became clear over time that my personality was best suited to diocesan life. Everything just seemed to fall into place with the archdiocese.”

He left the Legionaries in 2010.

“I want to be a priest because God has called me. I resisted His call for quite a while. I’ve learned that we are happiest when we do God’s will. That’s when we really begin to live life. We become

an ardent debater, and his high school debate team was runner-up in the national final.

Born in London and raised in Ireland since age 5, he studied law at Trinity College in Dublin, received a bachelor’s in philosophy from Regina Apostolorum in Rome. He attended Catholic grade school and high school in Ireland.

Summer assignments included the Bronx parishes of St. Barnabas and St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, and Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima in Crestwood.



# Father Hartley Bancroft



The Stars Aligned  
and He Answered  
the Call

One summer day, a fourth-grade age boy named Hartley Bancroft III wrote a heartfelt letter to God in his family's garage.

"I told God I loved him very much, and if He wanted me to be a priest, I would do it," recalled now 28-year-old Father Hartley Bancroft.

More than a decade later, at the end of the Funeral Mass of his pastor from childhood, Msgr. John Keaveney of St. Mary's parish in Washingtonville, Hartley, then college age, first verbalized his desire to enter the seminary.

The year was 2010, and he had served at the early January Funeral Mass. After the liturgy, Auxiliary Bishop Dominick Lagonegro approached Hartley and the other altar boys and asked, "I wonder who's going to be stepping up and taking Father Keaveney's place" as a priest?

"You had the feeling that this is something he says at all priests' funerals, to whoever is serving there," Father Bancroft surmised with a smile. As one by one the other servers said, "I don't think so, Bishop," he turned to me and I said, "Yeah, I think I would like to do that."

Hartley soon made an appointment with the pastor, Father Jeffrey Maurer, to discuss applying to the seminary.

"I think Father Keaveney has definitely watched out for me over my years in the seminary," he said.

He also acknowledges the kindness of Father Andrew Florez, then a parochial vicar at St. Mary's, who first spoke

of four children of Hartley and Betty Anne Bancroft. His sisters are Tara, Colleen and Molly.

Summer assignments included Sacred Heart and St. Mary's, Newburgh; St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, the Bronx, and Most Precious Blood, Walden.

He studied physics at Duke University and received a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John's University.

Among the Eagle Scout's favorite pastimes are playing board games, reading science fiction books, watching tennis

**FATHER BANCROFT** will celebrate his First Mass Sunday, May 29, at noon at St. Mary's Church, Washingtonville. Father Mathew Reiman, parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier, the Bronx, will deliver the homily.

to him about the priesthood in the sacristy after Hartley, then a sixth-grader, had served Mass.

The realization of how remarkable the fraternity of the priesthood is came to be the night before his transitional diaconate ordination last year.

His good friend from the seminary, Father Seán Connolly, who was ordained a priest last year, randomly sent him a text. "He just said, 'Hartley, God has chosen you. He knows who He's chosen. He's happy with His choice.'"

Born in White Plains, he is the oldest

and playing the saxophone.

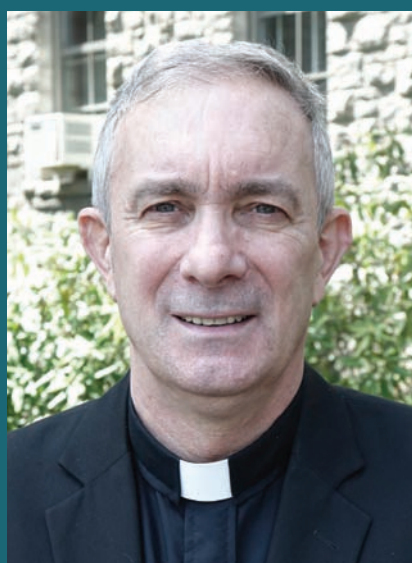
Science continues to fascinate him, as do discussions about faith and reason.

Gazing at the stars at night, he is awestruck. "God has created something so much larger than we can imagine, for us. It's a huge gift, the universe itself."

A sense of wonder is something mankind needs to recover, he firmly believes. "He absolutely loves us," Father Bancroft said. "He's created all of this for us."

"When we realize what's beyond us spiritually, also—God—how much greater is He than just the stars."

# Father Thomas Colucci



FDNY Firefighter,  
Benedictine Monk,  
Now Priest of  
Archdiocese

"I want to serve the people of God." And serve he has.

Father Thomas Colucci, 60, is reportedly the first firefighter of the FDNY to become a priest for the archdiocese. In addition to his 20 years of service to the city—including on 9/11, and rising to the rank of captain, he was also a Benedictine monk for nearly a decade.

"I'm very, very happy. The Lord's blessed me. To accomplish this at my age, He's given me a lot of graces. I owe it to Him. I've enjoyed it. It's been a lot work, but I've done well and persevered. It had to be His will."

The call to the priesthood for the former altar boy came sophomore year of college. "I essentially dropped out of school. I took a year off. I started going to daily Mass. It gave me some peace and grounded me."

His pastor at that time, the late Msgr. Charles Rader, founding pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish in West Nyack, asked if he had ever considered the priesthood. "I said, 'Father, please, I just dropped out of college. I'm not

'priestly material.'"

The priest disagreed. "He said, 'Tom, I think you'd be an excellent priest.'"

He returned to college, got involved in campus ministry and kept going to Mass on a regular basis. "I've been going to daily Mass pretty much since '76, a miss here and there," he said.

As his FDNY retirement was approaching, he contacted the vocations office of the archdiocese to inquire

at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pa., for three years, and then left the Benedictines in 2012 to pursue the diocesan priesthood.

Born in Bronxville and raised in Bardonia, he is the second of five children of Donald and Marilyn Colucci, both of whom are 86. He has two brothers and two sisters. The family belonged to St. Anthony's parish in Nanuet until Thomas was about 10, and then moved to St. Francis of Assisi in West Nyack.

He earned master's and bachelor's degrees in physical education, hav-

**FATHER COLUCCI** will celebrate his First Mass and deliver the homily Sunday, May 29, at 3:30 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Nyack.

about the priesthood, but during his last year on the job, he was injured in an explosion. He developed a blood clot on the brain and underwent two surgeries. "The idea of studying made my head hurt more, so I entered a Benedictine monastery in upstate New York, near Elmira."

He joined the Benedictines in 2004, made final vows in 2009 and took the name Brother Thomas Bernadette, after Bernadette of Lourdes. He studied

ing attended American University in Washington, D.C., Springfield College in Springfield, Mass., and SUNY Cortland.

His summer assignment for three years was at St. Margaret of Cortona, the Bronx. As a deacon, he served at Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima parish, Crestwood.

"I just love the people in New York," Father Colucci said. "There's nothing like our city. I'm looking forward to serving them as a priest."

# Father Jon Tveit



He Drew  
Inspiration From  
A Teacher and a  
Papal Mass

Going to Mass as a child was not about faith, it was about singing for Father Jon Tveit.

"I always went to church growing up. I was in my church's choir at a very young age," he said. "When I was young, I did not have much personal faith. I did not learn the faith really well and understand it. So going to Mass to me was about singing."

Father Tveit, 27, began to better understand the faith as a student at Minisink Valley High School in Slate Hill and Boston College with an additional 'spark' coming from attending Pope Benedict XVI's Mass at Yankee Stadium in 2008.

One year after graduating from Boston College, Father Tveit entered the seminary.

"I started to think I may get called to the seminary. Around the same time, Pope Benedict visited the United States and I was able to go to his Mass at Yankee Stadium. There was grace coming from that visit," he said.

Father Tveit continued to reflect back to high school and college when he bet-

ter understood the faith.

"I had a teacher at Minisink in 10<sup>th</sup> grade who was Catholic," Father Tveit said. "He got me to start thinking about the faith in our interactions inside and outside of class. Obviously, it was a public school and he wasn't preaching the faith, but I could see there was something about what he stood for. I started to think about the faith and started to see it made sense intellectually, but it took a few more years.

"When I was at Boston College, I had a deeper conversion of the heart,

"I feel a call, especially for those who may have fallen away. In many ways, it's because they didn't really understand the beauty of the faith and what Christ is offering us."

Father Tveit, who still enjoys singing and has been a coordinator for some of the music at the seminary, credits his family for planting the seed of the Catholic faith in him. He is the son of Stanley and Rosemarie Tveit and the brother of Aaron.

"I'm very blessed and was given a great gift to have a family as loving and

**FATHER TVEIT** will celebrate his First Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Middletown, his home parish, on Sunday, May 29, at 3 p.m. Father Brandon O'Brien, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will deliver the homily.

especially through the beauty of the liturgy, sacred architecture and sacred music. I was really able to experience the faith and Christ for the first time in a real way."

Father Tveit is hoping to share his experience with the faith and Christ to bring people back to the Church.

"Somebody could be depressed or inspired to get out and evangelize to do something," he said of the decreasing number of people practicing the faith.

supportive as I do. My parents raised us well. So much of who I am comes from my parents and my faith," he said.

"Three of my grandparents are still with us. As I was coming to the faith in high school and college, I would see my one grandmother would go to daily Mass and both of my grandmothers would pray the Rosary very often. As I was coming to the faith, they had this quiet but consistent faith. To see their faith, it inspired me."

# Father Jean-Pierre Seon



Mathematician's  
Life Added Up to  
The Priesthood

From an early age, Father Jean-Pierre Seon had an inclination that perhaps he was meant to be a priest.

At age 12, he thought that might be the answer to the age-old question, "What am I supposed to do with my life?"

However, he wasn't sure that was the answer. "I felt I was going to dive head-first into something I didn't know about," he said.

One of his high school teachers recommended that he take some time to ponder the problem, so he went on to attend and graduate from Manhattan College with a degree in mathematics/education.

"It wasn't God's time," the 35-year-old said.

Although he didn't pursue the priesthood right away, faith was always important in his life. As a child, he was an altar server at his parish, Immaculate Conception in Astoria.

After graduating from Holy Cross High School in Queens, he served as director of campus ministry at his alma mater for five years. Before ac-

cepting the position, he attended a summer program at the University of Notre Dame specifically to train for the job. Brother Stephen LaMendola, C.S.C., assisted him in his career there as well as in his faith journey.

"I was happy as a campus minister, but something inside me wasn't settling right," he said.

Then, there was a moment that

Jean-Pierre, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, died. His mother, Jocelyn, is also from Trinidad and Tobago, and his stepbrother Frederick, along with his aunts and godmother Suzanne Seon, have been sources of support for him.

With a calm and peaceful demeanor, he said he is most looking forward to "being able to be with the people"

**FATHER SEON's** First Mass will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday, May 29, at 2 p.m. Msgr. Robert Ritchie, rector of the cathedral, will be the homilist.

changed the course of his life.

"I was sitting at St. Patrick's (Cathedral)—I was a parishioner—and something just came over me. You can call it the inspiration of the Spirit or the urge to take the first step. I called Father Luke Sweeney, who was the vocations director at the time," he said.

At that point, he decided to enter the seminary.

Before the school year began, however, tragedy struck. His father,

wherever he serves in the "kaleidoscope of the archdiocese." He has been stationed at varying places from St. Anthony of Padua, West Harrison, to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, LaGrangeville, to Sacred Heart and Holy Cross, both in the Bronx.

"The best thing I can do is walk with the people in their highs, lows, on their good days and bad days," he said.

"I feel humbled and honored to be called by God."





CHRIS SHERIDAN

## Fourteen Priests Celebrate Golden Anniversaries

**F**ourteen priests of the archdiocese celebrated their golden anniversaries this year. Cardinal Dolan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with them at St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 11.

Cardinal Francis Spellman ordained 11 of the priests at St. Patrick's on May 28, 1966. The other three priests were ordained at St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in Rome: Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney and Father James Healy on Dec. 17, 1966, and Msgr. George Thompson on Dec. 18, 1965.

**Msgr. Francis Bellew** has resided at the parish of Our Savior/Our Lady of the Scapular/St. Stephen and the Chapel of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Manhattan since 2014. He had served as senior priest administrator of St. Mary's, Wappingers Falls, since 2013, and previously was pastor since 1993. He had served as regional vicar of Dutchess County since 2007. He was principal of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie, 1986-1993. He was on the faculty and served as dean of students at Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, 1970-1986. He served at St. Angela Merici, the Bronx, 1966-1970. He was named a monsignor in 1990.

**Msgr. Philip Franceschini** has been pastor emeritus of Our Lady of Pity on Staten Island since 2013. He was senior priest administrator there, 2011-2013; pastor, 1990-2011; and parochial vicar, 1987-1990. He served on the faculty at Msgr. Farrell High School, Staten Island, 1983-1987, and Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, 1969-1983. He earlier served at Our Lady of Mount Carmel-St. Benedicta, Staten Island, and Sacred Heart, Dobbs Ferry. He was named a monsignor in 1995.

**Father James Healy** has served as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle parish, Yonkers, since 2010. He was pastor of St. Vito's, Mamaroneck, 1992-2010. He

served at Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, as principal, 1988-1992, and dean of studies, 1980-1988. He was administrator of Mount St. Mary High School, Newburgh, 1977-1980, and a faculty member at Cardinal Spellman High School, the Bronx, 1969-1977. He served at St. John the Evangelist parish, White Plains, 1967-1969, and the Church of the Magdalene in Pocantico Hills, summer 1967.

**Father George Hommel** was appointed senior priest administrator of St. John's, West Hurley, in 2014. He had been pastor of St. John's since 1994. He has served as regional vicar for Ulster County since 2010. He served on the faculty of Maria Regina High School, Hartsdale, 1990-1994, and Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, 1971-1990. He was parochial vicar of Blessed Sacrament, New Rochelle, 1966-1971.

**Father Owen Lafferty** retired for medical reasons in 2011. He had served as parochial vicar at Holy Innocents, Manhattan, 2004-2011, and St. Joseph's, Greenwich Village, 1998-2004, and was chaplain at Mount Sinai Medical Center, Manhattan, 1996-1998. He was pastor of Sacred Heart, Mount Vernon, 1984-1996, and earlier served as administrator. He served at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford, 1972-1983, and St. Anthony of Padua, the Bronx, 1966-1967. He also served on the faculty of John F.

**GOLDEN JUBILARIANS**—Priests celebrating their golden anniversaries gather with Cardinal Dolan after Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 11. They are, from left: Msgr. Francis Bellew, Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney, Father Owen Lafferty, Father Raymond Rafferty, Cardinal Dolan, Msgr. Philip Franceschini, Father James Healy, Msgr. Thomas Modugno, Father George Hommel, Father Richard LaMorte and Auxiliary Bishop Gerald Walsh.

Kennedy Catholic High School, Somers, and Cardinal Spellman High School, the Bronx.

**Father Richard LaMorte** has served as chaplain and director of campus ministry at Marist College in Poughkeepsie since 2000. He was pastor of Regina Coeli, Hyde Park, 1999-2000, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Poughkeepsie, 1988-1999 and 1966-1972. While pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, he was also appointed administrator of St. John the Baptist in Poughkeepsie, 1990-1994. He was pastor of Immaculate Conception, Amenia, 1985-1988. He taught at Marist College, 1976-1985. He was chaplain of Piux XII School, Chester, 1973-1976. He served at St. Christopher's, Red Hook, 1972-1973.

**Msgr. J. Christopher Maloney** was pastor of St. John the Baptist, Yonkers, 2003-2015, and has served as pastor of the merged St. John the Baptist-Most Holy Trinity parish since last year. He was pastor of Notre Dame, Manhattan, 1988-2003. He also served as Newman Apostolate and Columbia University chaplain during that time. He was secretary to Cardinal O'Connor, 1985-1988. Before that, he served at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx for eight years. He was a religion teacher and chairman of the religion department at Archbishop Stepinac High School, White Plains, for nine years and taught religion at John S. Burke Catholic High School, Goshen, 1967-1968. He was named a monsignor in 1990.

**Msgr. Thomas Modugno** retired in 2013 after serving for 21 years as pastor of St. Monica's in Manhattan. He was named regional vicar for East Manhattan in 2007. He was director for the archdiocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 1980-1992. He was parochial vicar at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1977-1980; Blessed Sacrament, Staten Island, 1970-1977; Assumption, Staten Island, 1966-1969; and St. Joseph's, Croton Falls, 1966. He was named a monsignor in 1990. He resides at Epiphany parish in Manhattan.

**Msgr. James O'Connor**, who retired in 2014, had served as pastor of St. Joseph's, Millbrook, since 1994. He also served as administrator of St. Joseph's, Clinton Corners, 2002-2006. He was professor of dogmatic theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, 1972-1992. He was named spiritual director of the Legion of Mary in the archdiocese and the New York Senatus in 1977. He was parochial vicar at SS. Peter and Paul, the Bronx, 1966-1969. He was named a monsignor in 1990.

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CHRIS SHERIDAN

## Eleven Priests Celebrate Silver Anniversaries

**E**leven priests of the archdiocese are celebrating their silver anniversaries this year. Cardinal Dolan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving with them at St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 11.

Cardinal John O'Connor ordained seven of the priests—six were ordained on May 11, 1991, and Father John Bonnici was ordained on June 22, 1991—at St. Patrick's. The other four priests were ordained that year for other dioceses or religious orders and were later incardinated into the archdiocese.

**Father John Anthony** has served as administrator at Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish, Poughkeepsie, since 2013. He was parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception, Tuckahoe, 2011-2013; St. Clare of Assisi, the Bronx, 2010-2011; St. Barnabas, the Bronx, 2000-2005; St. Joseph's, Millbrook, 1997-2000; and St. Teresa's, Staten Island, 1996-1997. Ordained in his native India on Oct. 1, 1991, he was incardinated into the archdiocese in 2005.

**Father John Bonnici** is pastor of St. Columba's parish, Chester, where he has served since 2008. From 2002-2008, he was the pastor at St. Philip Neri, the Bronx. He was director of the archdiocesan Family Life/Respect Life Office, 1996-2002, and was assistant director, 1995-1996. In 1994-1995, he studied at St. John Paul II Institute for studies on marriage and family in Washington, D.C., and was on the faculty at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. He served as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford, 1992-1994, and studied at Pontifical North American College, 1991-1992.

**Father Michael Challinor** has been administrator of Our Lady of Mercy and Sacred Heart parish, Port Chester, since last year. He served as pastor at St. Mary Star of the Sea, City Island, the Bronx, 2006-2015, and administrator, 2005-2006. He was parochial vicar at Sacred Heart, Hartsdale, 2002-

2005; St. Denis, Yonkers, 2000-2002; Immaculate Conception, Stony Point, 1996-2000; and St. John the Evangelist, Mahopac, 1991-1996.

**Father Herbert DeGaris** has been parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception parish, Stony Point, since last year. He was administrator at St. Patrick's, Highland Mills, 2013-2015. He served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph's, Bronxville, 2010-2013; St. Patrick's, Yorktown Heights, 2004-2010; St. Catherine's, Blauvelt, 2000-2004; St. Gregory Barbarigo, Garnerville, 1994-2000; and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Manhattan, 1991-1994.

**Father Richard Gill** is pastor at St. Lawrence O'Toole and Sacred Heart parish, Brewster and Patterson. At St. Lawrence O'Toole, he was administrator, 2012-2015, and parochial vicar, 2011-2012. He was parochial vicar at St. Barnabas, the Bronx, 2010-2011. Ordained in Rome on Jan. 30, 1991, he was incardinated into archdiocese in 2015.

**Father Neil Kelly** has been parochial vicar at St. Joseph-St. Thomas parish, Staten Island, since 2011. He was parochial vicar at St. Lucy's, the Bronx, 1996-2011, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Bronx, 1991-1996.

**Father Kazimierz Kowalski** has served as paro-

**SILVER JUBILARIANS**—Priests celebrating their silver anniversary gather with Cardinal Dolan after Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 11. They are, from left: Father Dennis Williams, Father Dessier Predelus, Father Richard Gill, Cardinal Dolan, Father Richard Seagraves, Father Herbert DeGaris, Father Kazimierz Kowalski, Father John Anthony and Auxiliary Bishop Gerald Walsh.

chial vicar at St. Agnes parish, Manhattan, since last year. He served as pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Manhattan, 2003-2015. From 1996 to 2003, he was parochial vicar at St. Agnes. He was administrator at St. Francis of Assisi, Newburgh, 1995-1996. He was parochial vicar at Blessed Sacrament, New Rochelle, 1993-1995, and St. Joseph's, Manhattan, 1991-1993.

**Father George Oonnoony** has served as pastor of St. Christopher and St. Patrick parish, Buchanan and Verplanck, since last year. He was administrator of St. Patrick's, 2014-2015. He served in the Metropolitan Tribunal as associate judicial vicar, 2012-2014, and judge, 2002-2012. He was appointed to the Metropolitan Tribunal, 1998-2000, and was parochial vicar at St. Ann's, Staten Island, 1991-1996.

**Father Dessier Predelus** has been parochial vicar at St. Catherine of Genoa parish, Manhattan, since 2013. He served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph's, Spring Valley, 2003-2013. Ordained in his native Haiti on Jan. 25, 1991, he was incardinated into the archdiocese in 2012.

**Father Richard Seagraves** retired in 2010 after serving at St. Patrick's Cathedral as senior priest, 2009-2010, and parochial vicar, 2004-2009. He was parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarsdale, 1999-2004; St. Eugene's, Yonkers, 1997-1999; Sacred Heart, Hartsdale, 1994-1997; and Notre Dame, Manhattan, 1993-1994. Ordained in Austria on April 1, 1991, he was incardinated into the archdiocese in 1997.

**Father Dennis Williams** has served as pastor of Holy Rosary and Nativity of the Blessed Mother parish, the Bronx, since last year. He was administrator at Holy Rosary, 2014-2015. He was temporary administrator at St. Mary's, Marlboro, 2013-2014. He served as parochial vicar at St. Francis de Sales, Manhattan, 2011-2013; St. John the Evangelist, Mahopac, 2007-2011; St. Aedan's, Pearl River, 2003-2007; Epiphany, Manhattan, 1999-2003; St. Gregory the Great, 1996-1999; and Our Lady of Assumption, the Bronx, 1991-1996.



# Father Christian Amah



Seminary Retreat  
Visit Led to  
Permanent  
Residence

Father Christian Amah originally came to St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, on a retreat, but his plans to return home to Nigeria changed.

"I've always been in the seminary when I was in Nigeria," Father Amah said. "The first time I left the seminary was when I came to the United States, and then after a year outside the seminary through the help of spiritual guides, friends and through my own dominant desire, I came to realize I wanted to stay. I applied to stay in the United States."

It was a difficult decision for Father Amah and his family. He is one of nine children and is very close to his family. The son of Elizabeth and the late Anthony, Amah credits learning the faith from his parents and older siblings. His family prayed together before bedtime and again in the morning.

"Leaving the seminary in Nigeria was a huge disappointment for everybody who knows me—beginning with my mother, my siblings and my relatives. Nobody supported this at the beginning," said Father Amah, who had

the desire to become a priest in high school, inspired by his parish priests.

"Going to the United States was a big challenge because I have nobody here that is close to me from my immediate family. But for some reason, I was almost certain that I was making the right decision."

Father Amah, who earned a bachelor's degree from the Seat of Wisdom Seminary in Nigeria, expressed his goal

"I hope the gift of the priesthood will allow me to be with others in such a way that they will encounter the Lord more."

Father Amah, 31, stays fit by running and playing soccer and tennis. He enjoys reading Scripture "because everything we do in church is the foundation from the word of God." He also shared some missions he enjoyed while a student at the seminary.

"Helping the kids in CCD was really influential because you see how enthu-

**FATHER AMAH** will celebrate his First Mass on Sunday, May 29, at 12:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Barbarigo Church in Garnerville. Father Vernatius Chukwudum Offorka will deliver the homily.

for the coming years as a priest.

"My primary goal is the goal of the Church, and that primary law is the law of salvation," he said. "I want to bring people to have more encounters with Jesus Christ and bring more people to have an active faith life. It's not just going out to tell people what to do. It's being with them just as Jesus is with us. Jesus being with us allows us to be with others. I think that is the biggest difference a Catholic priest can make.

siastic these young children were learning about God and spiritual life. That was very impactful for me," he said.

"Working in a nursing home, I work with elderly people, and I see how happy they are to have us come. It's not what we did for them, but it's more what I gained from being with them. You see the faith and hope, and some of them are close to the Church and are looking forward to when the Lord will call them."

# Father Innocent Montgomery, C.F.R.



Temporary  
Paralysis  
Reminded Him  
God's Love Is All  
That Matters

The day after surgery for a recurring back injury from playing sports, Father Innocent Montgomery, C.F.R., awoke with no feeling from his waist down. Although he was scheduled to walk home that day, the first Friday of Lent seven years ago, his doctor cautioned he might not be able to walk again.

"It saved my vocation," Father Montgomery said. Coming from a close-knit and success-driven family, he had some doubts before surgery. "I didn't believe I had what it took to be a friar."

Lying in the hospital bed, he was alone—"no habit, I'm out of the friary, no chapel, the brothers aren't around, they call you by your baptismal name. The whole (religious) life was just stripped from me."

"I can't prove myself now. I'm paralyzed. I can't be a 'super friar.'"

"The Lord brings me to this place of utter poverty, and it was there that, for the first time in my life, I experienced the Lord communicating to my heart that I was dearly loved by Him.

"I'm loved by Him and that's all that

matters. It doesn't matter if you're the best preacher or if you have the longest beard," Father Montgomery said. "I could just be his son. The Lord said, 'I don't love you because you're a friar. I love you because you're my son.'"

He remained in the hospital for a month. And within eight months he learned to walk again, "like a baby," he said. "Step by step, that's an analogy for life."

**FATHER MONTGOMERY** will celebrate his First Mass Monday, May 30, at 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Church in Harrington Park, N.J. Father James Atkins, C.F.R., will deliver the homily.

There were at least 10 diocesan priests, all in their 30s, who happily taught at his high school, St. Pius X, in Lincoln, Neb. "These guys would be on the sidelines at our football games." After a retreat sophomore year, "I could see myself being like them."

And he felt drawn to pray more. "There was this moment where I knew" it was something to pursue, which he did, at the nearby college seminary, St. Gregory the Great in Seward, Neb.

His second year there, he and his

identical twin (Brother Angelus Montgomery, C.F.R.) came to New York to assist at a children's summer camp run by the Missionaries of Charity at St. Rita's in the Bronx. The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal were also there. "It was a really beautiful thing, because I had never met a religious in my life. They were so incredibly joyful and they just loved Jesus so much. Something stirred

in my heart."

He entered the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in 2007 and made final vows in 2012.

He has served homeless men and those with addictions at St. Anthony Shelter for Renewal, the Bronx, since 2010.

Born a triplet in Wichita, Kan., Scott Montgomery grew up in Lincoln, Neb. The triplets—Katie, Scott and Russell (Brother Angelus), 31, have an older brother, Bob, 34. Their parents are Richard and Luanne Montgomery.



# Father Bernardino Maria Soukup, C.F.R.



Hoping to Heal  
Hearts as He  
Originally Planned

**T**he Catholic faith became instilled in Father Bernardino Maria Soukup, C.F.R., at a young age in Slovakia, but he never intended on becoming a priest.

He was studying to be a doctor.

"After I graduated from college, I did not do well on the (Medical College Admission Test)," Father Soukup said. "So, not doing well on the MCAT gave God a chance to work in my life again by asking the question, 'What does God want me to do?' It was after that I responded with more prayer and adoration.

"My brother was the instrument in my vocation. He asked the question if I ever thought of the priesthood and a religious life. I told him, 'No, I want to be a doctor.'

"God used my brother at that point. He was an example to me to recognize in my family how the Lord protected us. Like any immigrant family coming to the United States, we were starting with zero. We had difficult times, but in that difficulty, there was faith."

Father Soukup, 40, compared being in the community of the Franciscan Friars

of the Renewal and now a priest to his original plan of becoming a doctor.

"I wanted to be a cardiologist and fixing people's hearts is a beautiful thought," he said. "That's what the priesthood is about, too—be a spiritual doctor and be one who repairs, heals, consoles and instills in the soul something new and that is to be an instrument of God's grace. I want to restore souls to God."

**FATHER SOUKUP** will celebrate his First Mass at St. John Nepomucene Church in Manhattan on Monday, May 30, at 11 a.m. Father Eugene Fulton, director of Trinity Retreat in Larchmont, will be the homilist.

Father Soukup's journey began in Kosice, Slovakia. The son of Stephen and Josephine Soukup and brother of Steven and Dasa, he received his early exposure to the Catholic faith from his mother while his father was working in Iraq. The family was reunited on St. Patrick's Day in 1984, coming to the United States with residence in Sarasota, Fla.

"So, we escaped from Slovakia and he escaped from Iraq," Father Soukup said. "So, knowing God in his provi-

dence protected my father a few times from near death, that was a way for giving thanks to God. It set the stage for having a father in my life, and that was important to me growing up."

Father Soukup, who studied for one semester in Australia, entered the University of Miami in Florida in 1995 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology and minors in chemistry and psychology. He also studied at Seton Hall

University, the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome and the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico.

He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers in 2012. A year later, he professed his final vows with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan in 2013.

"My journey to this point is a great trust in God's providence and his plan," Father Soukup said.

# Father Xavier Mariae Meiergerd, C.F.R.



Planting Roots  
While on a Mission

**F**ather Xavier Mariae Meiergerd, C.F.R., described himself as a country boy from Wichita, Kan. So it could only be God's providence, he reasons, that he finds himself graduating from St. Joseph's Seminary in the Archdiocese of New York.

Not only that, he belongs to an order founded in the South Bronx.

"I'm a long way from home," he said. "I never would have imagined myself living in New York."

Living in New York was a big adjustment for him. He explained that he had a "sheltered environment growing up."

His parents, Don and Judy, belonged to St. Francis of Assisi parish in Wichita. That is where he and his two sisters—Lisa Prichard and Holly Tanner, both now married—attended as children.

"I love everything back there. A call brought me here," the 37-year-old said.

In high school, he volunteered in the pediatrics unit at a local hospital. In college, he signed up as a Big Brother. He went on service trips during his spring breaks, including one to Mexico.

As a student at Kansas State Universi-

ty, Father Meiergerd attended a retreat at the St. Isidore Student Center. "I was called back to a more intensely active relationship with the Church," he said.

"In college, I could choose what I want. This was something I wanted to choose. It was a moment of awakening," he said.

During that retreat, he received "a taste of God's unconditional love."

**FATHER MEIERGERD's** First Mass will be celebrated at St. Adalbert's Church in the Bronx on Sunday, May 29, at 10 a.m. with Msgr. Thomas Caserta, pastor of St. Bernadette's parish in Brooklyn, as the homilist. Another Mass will be celebrated at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 12, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita.

"That's when the faith became more central in my life," he said. At the same time, he realized God might have plans for him to enter the priesthood, but he had his own plans.

"That's when the wrestling began."

In the summer of 2000, he traveled to Jordan to teach English, and the experience had a great impact on him. He wanted to repeat the experience, this time with a greater connection to

the Church.

Even though he was offered a job when he graduated, he chose to become a Salesian lay missionary for two and a half years and became a teacher in rural communities in Bolivia.

When he returned, he knew what he had to do next. "I had to give the priesthood a try," he said.

That's when he joined the diocesan

seminary in Wichita. During his fourth year, he felt a familiar struggle. "I was holding back from God," he said.

"The Lord challenged me to make the missions my life," he said.

In the concrete city, God still finds use for his degree in agriculture. "I garden on the streets in Harlem. It's a great tool for evangelization. Gardening on the street draws people in. They stop and want to talk to you."



# Father Dismas Marie Kline, C.F.R.



A Self-Described  
'Bad Agnostic'  
Who Began to Pray

At the turn of the millennium, a young Father Dismas Marie Kline, C.F.R., celebrated with some 85,000 people at the Big Cypress Indian Reservation in Florida as the rock band Phish performed a sold-out concert.

On one side was his girlfriend, and on the other was his best friend. The starry blue night was idyllic and music filled the air until sunset.

Yet, as he looked around, there was something unsettling. "I thought, this is all meaningless," Father Dismas said. "I felt crushed.

"That's when I said, I think I'm going to start praying," he said.

Father Dismas, 35, was born to Richard and Laura Kline in Morehead, Ky., and has two brothers, Cabe and Vincent. As a child, he felt that he might have a call to the priesthood, but he knew that meant sacrificing having a wife and a family.

"Throughout my childhood, adolescence and teenage years, I tried to repress that inkling," he said.

Sometimes that inkling, or "sneak-

ing suspicion," of a vocation to the priesthood would surface, he said. He recalled one vivid memory in particular. At the age of 12, he was cast as an insignificant character in the Stations of the Cross at his parish, Our Mother of Sorrows in Louisville, Ky.

"I went off on my own and stood in front of the sanctuary and stared out at the empty pews and there was this surge of joy," he said.

**FATHER DISMAS' First Mass will be celebrated at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Louisville, Ky., on Sunday, June 5, 10 a.m. The homilist will be Father Agustino Torres, C.F.R., director of evangelization for the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.**

Not wanting to believe it was a call to the priesthood, he said with a gentle laugh, "I told myself it was because I was supposed to be an actor."

At college, he underwent a crisis of faith that began in 1998 at Western Kentucky University and continued as a philosophy major at the College of Charleston through 2002.

"It seemed pretty much impossible to believe in God," he said. He explained

saying that an agnostic is someone who "firmly confesses that it's not possible to know whether God exists or not," he referred to himself a "bad agnostic" because he "was unsure about God's existence," but "was desperate to know whether or not He did."

In the beginning of his search, his prayer was simply "To Whom it May Concern." He didn't know who or what he was praying to, but he desired

to be in communion with whatever it was. Slowly, after years of searching, he returned to his Catholic faith and discerned his vocation to the priesthood.

"When I marched down that aisle for Communion, I was still unsure," he said of his return to the sacrament.

Since that first step, he has been a daily communicant for 14 years—missing only a handful of times.

# Father Antonio Maria Diez de Medina, C.F.R.



Confession  
Changed His  
Direction, Outlook

Father Antonio Maria Diez de Medina, C.F.R., hopes to return to all of the countries he's visited and resided in.

He'll be piling up frequent flier miles if he does.

Father Diez de Medina is the son of Richardo Diez de Medina and Hisae Iihoshi, and the brother of Maria Elena Diez de Medina. His father was a U.S. diplomat and his family resided in La Paz and Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Mexico City; Tokyo; Santiago, Chile; and Bethesda, Md. He was born in Bolivia and confirmed in Japan.

"It was tough at first," Father Diez de Medina said. "I remember being angry with my family and God. After a while, you get used to it and grow from the experience of being in the different cultures. The two constants in my life were my family and going to Catholic Mass. I'm grateful to God for the experience."

Father Diez de Medina said he went through rebellious periods while living in Japan and Chile, but "didn't have peace with that." At the University of Michigan, everything changed for him.

"I went to confession for the first

time in four years and that changed the direction of my life," said Diez de Medina, who has a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Michigan. "I had a new joy in being cleansed and renewed. I sensed a call to the priesthood, and it was a new beginning for me in finding purpose with the Lord.

"God was very patient with my stubbornness. I would resist at times and

he said.

Father Diez de Medina studied two years of philosophy at St. John Neumann in Queens and four years of theology at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. He said he learned to appreciate poetry during his studies to become a priest.

"I've written a few poems and there is one in particular I like because I wrote it in sonnet form and there is theology

**FATHER DIEZ DE MEDINA will celebrate his First Mass on Sunday, May 29, at 11:15 a.m. at St. Adalbert Church in the Bronx. Msgr. Thomas Caserta, pastor of St. Bernadette's parish in Brooklyn, will be the homilist.**

other times I would try to bargain with him. It's been a long journey."

Father Diez de Medina, 36, has been a Franciscan Friar of the Renewal for 13 years, professing his final vows in 2008, and traveled to Honduras, Nicaragua and Ireland. He called his time in Honduras and Nicaragua a "blessing" and worked at a summer camp in Limerick, Ireland.

"It's a beautiful country, but even better than the beauty of the country is the people. I love the Irish sense of humor,"

in there as well. It speaks of creation and of God's grace at work," he said.

He'll return home to celebrate Mass on Father's Day, June 19, at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg, Md., with Father Gene Fulton, a priest of the archdiocese, delivering the homily.

"Some people use the analogy that the ordination is like the wedding, but you know after the honeymoon, there is real life to follow God and what God has planned for me," he said





**CONVOCATION**—Msgr. Robert Thelen, rector of the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, Douglaston, and Auxiliary Bishop Raymond Chappetto of Brooklyn, greet Daniel Cocozello, a graduate from the Archdiocese of New York, at the seminary's convocation May 13. At left, Father George Sears, a priest of the archdiocese who is vice rector, congratulates William Snow, spokesman for the class of 2016 who is from the archdiocese. Below, graduates line up with bishops and seminary administrators. From left: Father Sears, James Kellaheer, Auxiliary Bishop James Massa of Brooklyn, Joseph Catafago, Steven Gonzalez, Brendon Harfmann, Daniel Cocozello, Brother Malachy Joseph, C.F.R., Bishop Chappetto, William Snow, Robert Dogal, Emmanuel Ambrose, Dominik Wegiel, Nolan Beahan, Msgr. Thelen and Auxiliary Bishop Paul Sanchez of Brooklyn.



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