

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

Jesus Christ is born in our midst, God in the midst of men. He is not afraid of taking the risk, of manifesting his concern for humanity and of coming into our history as a little child, poor and in a manger. Yes, God comes to show us that he is not indifferent to us or to our afflictions. Even more, by making himself vulnerable, he draws us to himself, as to the Lord of providence and of history. We can thus truly rejoice in this time, because we know that “for God nothing is impossible!” (Lk 1:37). Indeed, the many interventions of God in our midst continue to assure us of his faithfulness in fulfilling his promises.

Among the many blessings witnessed in this past year, allow us to mention a few, which do testify to the fidelity of God in our midst.

On March 15th, three of our seminarians, i.e., André Luis de Lima, Rafał Bartosiński, and Renan Roberto Costa, were admitted to Candidacy (*Admissio ad Ordines*), at St. Clare of Assisi Parish, in Woodbridge. The rite was celebrated during a Mass presided by His Excellency John A. Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of



Toronto. Through this rite the Church officially recognized and confirmed their vocation and their suitability for the approaching presbyteral ordination.

On April 20th, we then had our Annual Fundraising Dinner. It was a sincere demonstration of your love, care and support for us. We thus thank all of you who attended, and we are looking forward to seeing you again on May 3, 2019!

The past month of May marked also the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Neocatechumenal Way in Rome. Together with many brothers and sisters from Toronto and other parts of Canada, we joined thousands of pilgrims from around the world for the commemoration of this landmark through a meeting with Pope Francis and the initiators of the Neocatechumenal Way. Below are some of the words which the Pontiff addressed to us during this solemn gathering at the University of Tor Vergata, on May 5th:

Go. Mission calls for departure. But in life there is a strong temptation to linger, to avoid risks, to be content to

have the situation under control. It is easier to stay home, surrounded by those who love us, but this is not Jesus' way. He sends forth: "Go." He does not use half measures. He does not authorize short transfers or reimbursed travel, but tells his disciples, all his disciples just one word: "Go!" Go: a powerful call that resonates in every cranny of Christian life; a clear invitation to always go out, pilgrims in the world in search of the brother or sister who does not yet know the joy of God's love.

Following this meeting, three seminarians graduated in philosophy, and after their summer vacation left the Seminary for a time of mission.

Also, last May, Fr. Giuseppe Scollo was appointed vice-rector of our Seminary, starting his work as an associate professor of Biblical Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary.

After the summer holidays, four candidates for ordination have had their petitions for the diaconate accepted by His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins. Eduardo de Oliveira Paixão was ordained deacon on November 3rd, at Our Lady of Grace Church in Aurora. On the following day, Mauricio G. Sanjines Calatayud received the sacrament of Holy Orders at Blessed Trinity Church in Toronto. Lastly, João G. Veras Ferreira had his ordination celebrated at St. Mary of the Angels Church, on November 11th.

Later, on November 21st, Carlos A. Torres Marquez and Mirko Ljuba were instituted lectors during a Mass presided in the chapel of St. Augustine's Seminary by Most Rev. Michael Mulhall, Bishop of Pembroke.

Finally, on December 15th, Renan Roberto Costa was ordained to the diaconate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. God willing, these four deacons will be ordained priests on May 11th, 2019, at St Michael's Cathedral Basilica, by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins. You are all warmly invited to join us in this wonderful event!

In all these things, we marvel at the love and fidelity of God towards us. We are more than thankful to the Lord for the abundance and generosity shown to us also by your constant assistance and prayers for our vocations. Once more, we assure you all of our prayers for you and your loved ones. May the Newborn King, the Saviour of every person on earth, keep you under his care and protection, and may he continue to shower you with his abundant graces throughout the New Year!

Formators and Seminarians



P.S.: Our Annual Fundraising Dinner will take place on Friday, May 3, 2019, at Paramount EventSpace, 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge. To purchase tickets please contact the Seminary at 416.264.9477.