

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, if this is how God loved us, we too owe love to each other.

1 John 4:9-11

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in his ineffable wisdom and immense tender-mercy, God was pleased to “pitch His tent” (John 1:14) in our midst, and thus make Himself completely known to us, in Jesus Christ (cf. Heb 1:1-2). “Born of a woman” (Gal 4:4), indeed “the most blessed of all women” (Luke 1:42), He humbly entered the sinful fabric of our history “as a little child in its mother’s arms” (Ps 131:2), and yet as “a great light” (Matt 4:16), dawning for all who dwell hopeless in the worldly shadowland of death and brightly shining amidst the gloomy darkness of the hearts, “to enlighten us with the knowledge of God’s glory” (2 Cor 4:6) and as a result “bring salvation to all” (Titus 2:11). Yes, in the poverty of a manger, “the radiance of God’s own glory and the very imprint of His being” (Heb 1:3) came to tell us that He knows our poverty and is not indifferent to our miseries. Wrapped “in strips of cloth” (Luke 2:12) and with “no room available for Him in the inn” (Luke 2:7), He let us know that, out of His infinite love, He is ever ready to be “wrapped in a shroud and laid in a rock-hewn tomb” (Luke 23:53) all over again for us, glad “to prepare us a place” (John 14:2) where we can become one thing with Him (cf. John 17:11.21-22).



Therefore, we can only praise and glorify Him together with you, by wishing to share a bit the many blessings we have received from His boundless love, particularly this past year.

On Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019, the Lord visited us through a severe flooding that lasted the whole night. Due to the very heavy downpour, one of the drainpipes gave in, and the water kept pouring in and affecting the Sanctuary of the Word, the Aula Magna, and the entrance in Kehoe 4th floor. However, God is faithful and against the extensive damage caused to the ceiling, walls, carpets, lectern, wall painting, etc. He has indeed provided. The carpet in the Sanctuary of the Word has been replaced, the walls repainted, and all the restoration work completed.

That same month, the vice-rector of our Seminary, Fr. Giuseppe Scollo, was blessed with the publication of His Doctoral thesis by quite a distinguished publisher ([Giuseppe G. Scollo, *The Strength Needed to Enter the Kingdom of God: An Exegetical and Theological Study of Luke 16,16 in Context*. WUNT II/485. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2019](#)), while still teaching as an assistant professor of Biblical Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary.

On Friday, May 3, 2019, we had our 17th Annual Fundraising Dinner, with over 950 guests and Bishop Kirkpatrick as a guest of honour. It was a sincere expression of your support and loving care for us. Many thanks to all of you who attended. We look forward to seeing you again on April 24, 2020!

A week later, on Saturday, May 11, 2019, at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins presided over the Ordination ceremony to the Holy Priesthood of four of our deacons: Eduardo de Oliveira Paixão, Mauricio G. Sanjines Calatayud, João G. Veras Ferreira and Renan Roberto Costa. Close to 80 relatives and friends came from overseas to join us for the great event, besides the many brothers and sisters from all parts of Canada, as well as all the local guests. The seminary organized and hosted a BBQ for the newly ordained priests' families and friends, on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, which was really a great joy for all of us.

On June 26, 2019, while the newly ordained priests begun their pastoral appointments (specifically, Rev. Mauricio in St. Ignatius of Loyola Church, Mississauga, with Rev. Timothy Hanley; Rev. João in St. Francis Xavier Church, Mississauga, with Rev. James Cherickal; Rev. Eduardo in Our Lady of Grace, Aurora, with Rev. Frank McDevitt; and Rev. Renan in St. Mary of the Angels, Toronto, with Rev. Landorff Garcia), Rev. Edmond Paul Gendron completed his 75th birthday and retired from parish ministry. After having resided with us at the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary for a couple of months, he felt called to go on a mission and was eventually sent to accompany the *Missio ad Gentes* in the Diocese of Rimouski, Québec (Canada), thus bearing witness with his life to the truth of that word which says: "They will bear fruit even when they are old, will remain fresh and green" (Ps 92:14)!

At the end of the Academic Year 2018/2019, two seminarians (Hugo Ernesto Escobar Baños and Jesús Fidel Añón) graduated in philosophy. Starting from July 8, 2019, after having attended two retreats, in Notre-Dame-du-Cap (Cap-de-la-Madeleine) for the catechists (June 27 to 30, 2019), and in Quebec City for the youth (July 4 to 7, 2019), Jesús Fidel was sent for a year of itinerancy to the Domus Galilaeae (Holy Land) and the rest of the seminarians departed for a time of both mission and vacation.

At the beginning of September 2019, in the course of the International Convivence that is held every year in Porto San Giorgio (Italy), two new seminarians were allotted to enter formation here in our Seminary: Abraham De Paz (USA) and Francesco Buttitta (Italy).

The Convivence at Notre-Dame-du-Cap Shrine, during the Thanksgiving Weekend, was truly a gift from God, which made present before us His loving actions and interventions in the lives of His people.

Finally, André Luis de Lima and Rafał Bartosiński were ordained deacons by His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, on Sunday, November 17 and 24, 2019, respectively, at St. Mary of the Angels and Blessed Sacrament Churches in Toronto, while on November 20, 2019, at the main chapel of St. Augustine's Seminary, Carlos A. Torres Marquez and Mirko Ljuba received the Ministry of Acolyte during a Mass presided by Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

In all these things, we rejoice, are glad and thankful to God, for the abundance of his providence, goodness and generosity. Many sincere thanks go to you as well, for your constant and kind support. Rest assured of our prayers for you and your loved ones. May the Newborn King keep you under his lavish care and protection, and may He bless you abundantly, now and throughout the upcoming New Year!

Formators and Seminarians



P.S.: Our 18th Annual Fundraising Dinner will take place on Friday, April 24, 2020, at Paramount EventSpace, 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge. To purchase tickets please contact the Seminary at 416.264.9477.