

# Sacred Heart

## HIGHLIGHTS ■ Spring Semester 2024

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# Preparing Evangelizing Disciples

From the President-Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology

**OUR MISSION:** *Preparing evangelizing disciples through specialized formation to conform our world to the Heart of Christ*

The 2023 – 2024 academic year was abundant with blessings. God continues to call men of many ages, backgrounds, and experiences to the priesthood, and we are grateful to be able to provide specialized formation to accompany seminarians on their journey. God also continues to call many lay people to step into roles within the Catholic Church, and our Master of Arts program provides the solid formation they need to thrive. As ministry becomes increasingly global, our English and Culture Studies Program continues to attract religious men and women from around the world, who are pursuing advanced degrees, going into mission work requiring English, or moving to the United States for ministry.

In our fifth year of growth, we are blessed with the continued support of the Priests of the Sacred Heart. As an apostolate, they support our work financially, spiritually, and pastorally. Together, we are envisioning a future that includes more residential rooms, additional classrooms, and conference spaces. With the successful implementation of the sixth edition of the Program of Priestly Formation, an expanded faculty, and continuing program innovation through our Lilly Pathways grant, the future is bright.

We are thankful for our many sponsors who entrust their seminarians to us, and we are very happy when we hear about our graduates flourishing in their ministries.

My service is coming to an end. While I will miss the people of Sacred Heart, I will hold you in prayer as I embark on leadership roles within my religious order, the Salvatorians. I know SHSST will be in good hands with Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ, as the Interim President-Rector, and Fr. Steve Huffstetter, SCJ, as the President-Rector Designate. Please see the full announcement on page 17.

God's spirit fills our chapel, classrooms, dining room, and living spaces. Prayer continues to unite and guide us as we strive to conform our world to the Heart of Christ. Join us!

*Very Rev. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz SDS, Ph.D.*

**On the cover:** During the Catholic Heritage II pilgrimage in Rome Pope Francis greets Fr. Ziggy Morawiec, SCJ, Vice Rector and Associate Director of Formation Programs, and presents him with a letter personally written to the SHSST community. See page 6.



## Diaconate Ordinations

- **Rev. Mr. Daniel Christe,**  
*Diocese of Saginaw*
- **Rev. Mr. Jason Diebolt,**  
*Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana*
- **Rev. Mr. Brady Gagne,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Mr. Joseph Glatczak,**  
*Diocese of La Crosse*
- **Rev. Mr. Bradley Grobbel,**  
*Diocese of Madison*
- **Rev. Mr. David Jaramillo,**  
*Diocese of Madison*
- **Rev. Mr. Ryan Ruhle,**  
*Diocese of Madison*
- **Rev. Mr. Timothy Sanchez,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Mr. Aaron Siehr,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Mr. Matthew Szymanski,**  
*Diocese of La Crosse*
- **Rev. Mr. Brian Ward,**  
*Diocese of La Crosse*



## Priestly Ordinations

- **Rev. Juan Carlos Altamirano Herrera,**  
*Diocese of Green Bay*
- **Rev. Dennis Beltré Báez,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Nicholas Dhein,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. David Drefcinski,**  
*Diocese of Madison*
- **Rev. Kevin Durand,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Phong “Paul” Le Hoang SCJ,**  
*Priests of the Sacred Heart*
- **Rev. Denny Jacob,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Anthony Kersting,**  
*Diocese of Madison*
- **Rev. Dominic Lazzaroni,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Charles Luke,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Mr. Randy Recker,**  
*Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, to be ordained in September*
- **Rev. Craig Richter,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*
- **Rev. Ricardo Rivera Gutiérrez, SDS,**  
*Society of the Divine Savior*
- **Rev. Mark Rydell,**  
*Diocese of Green Bay*
- **Rev. Michael Snyder,**  
*Diocese of Davenport*
- **Rev. David Sweeney,**  
*Archdiocese of Milwaukee*



# Serving our Graduates

## Annual Preaching Conference

Sacred Heart's Annual Preaching Conference was held for its sixth year from Tuesday, January 2, through Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Sacred Heart was honored to host attendees from across the country. This year's conference was titled "Ideas to Engage the Assembly: Integrating Illustrations, Images, and Icons". Attendees heard presentations from six different speakers. The topics of the talks explored the many ways images can be used when preaching the Gospel. The talks led to fruitful dialogue and the sharing of ideas across experiences. Participants are already asking about next year's topic! **Save the date: January 7-9, 2025**

## Alumni Association

2024 will kick off renewed outreach to alumni, starting with the creation of an alumni association! Are you interested in serving on an advisory board? If so, please email Rachel at [rallison@shsst.edu](mailto:rallison@shsst.edu). Priestly alumni will be represented by Fr. Matt Solarz, class of 2023. Lay alumni will be represented by Ms. Edell Schaefer, class of 2019.





# Bringing Excellence to Academic Formation

## Staff and Faculty Development

The Sacred Heart staff and faculty participated in a joint development session given by the Formation Department. It was a great opportunity for the staff and faculty to gain a deeper understanding of formation in the seminary and to ask their questions to the formation team. It gave insight into the formation process and the lives of the seminarians.



## Commencement & Heart of Christ Award

In May, Sacred Heart said a fond farewell to graduates at the annual Evening Prayer with Commencement. The class of 2024 was made up of 16 MDiv graduates and 12 MA graduates. This year's commencement address was given by Dr. Barbara Anne Cusack, Board Chairperson, Pastoral Studies Lecturer, and Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Dr. Cusack asked students to contemplate

"What work of art will your ministry be?" as they take their next steps after graduation. During the dinner following Commencement Sacred Heart presented the Heart of Christ award to Dr. Cusack. The Heart of Christ award is given by the Board of Directors to recognize an outstanding contribution by a collaborator that supports Sacred Heart's vision "To Conform Our World to the Heart of Christ".





# Faithfulness in Love of the Church



*To the Community of Sacred Heart Seminary  
and School of Theology  
Hales Corners, Wisconsin*

I was pleased to greet a number of you at the General Audience of 6 March 2024, and I extend my prayerful good wishes to all the seminarians, clergy and lay faithful who form the community of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. In particular, to you, dear seminarians, I want to offer some brief considerations on three realities essential to your preparation for priestly ministry in the Church: *prayer, fraternity and mission*.

Before all else is *prayer*. Just as Moses spoke with God face to face (cf. Ex 33:11), so in individual moments of prayer, as well as in the celebration of the sacraments, we encounter the loving presence of the Lord who gives us the grace to discover his will for our lives and strengthens us to bear hardships, carry out difficult and even unpleasant tasks and serve others with undivided hearts. I encourage you, then, to cultivate a profound relationship of communion with Jesus, one built upon the dialogue of daily prayer, both personal and liturgical, meditation on the word of God and especially time spent listening to him in silent adoration before the tabernacle. For the more we are united in this way to Christ the Good Shepherd, the more we become capable of bearing joyful witness to the hope and new life he brings.

The second reality I would mention is *fraternity*. Like the disciples whom Jesus chose to be with him (cf. Mk 3:14), your time

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## Catholic Heritage Pilgrims Return with a Letter from Pope Francis

During the week of spring break Sacred Heart's propaedeutic men, those from the Diocese of Green Bay, as well as other seminarians and faculty members from Sacred Heart, undertook a pilgrimage for "Catholic Heritage II—Sint Unum" in Rome.

While there, His Holiness, Pope Francis, gave Sacred Heart a letter addressed to seminarians and all associated with Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. It is a wonderful message of encouragement.

READ IT! From [shsst.edu/events-news/](https://shsst.edu/events-news/) find the top paragraph's last sentence, "To read the letter, [click here.](#)"

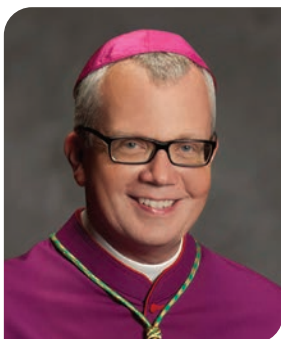


## Reflecting on the First Year of Our Propaedeutic Program

What a successful first year for our Propaedeutic Stage Program! Sacred Heart offered a residential program where men lived in our Dehon House on campus with their own spiritual

formation activities. It was a wonderful year of discernment for these men. Sacred Heart also offered hybrid programs for other dioceses, which included Catholic Heritage Studies and pilgrimages.

Fr. Zbigniew Morawiec, SCJ, Vice Rector & Associate Director of Formation Programs commented: "I cannot imagine a better foundation for these men to build a life of ministry upon."



## Faith and Culture Workshop

Sacred Heart held its third-year Faith and Culture Workshop in March. Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Madison led the workshop. With case studies about pressing current issues serving as the primary pedagogical methodology, the workshop consisted of a mix of instructor lectures, student group work, and plenary session discussions.



# Strengthening Priestly Formation

## All Seminarian Conferences

Twice a semester all seminarians gather with the President-Rector for a conference where they join in collegial sharing and dialogue. The seminarians are joined by the President-Rector as well as the formation advisors.

## Seminarians Commissioned to Pastoral Service

Sacred Heart held Mass for the Rite of Commissioning Seminarians Involved in Pastoral Service. The commissioned seminarians are:

- **Mr. Fernando Díaz Olazábal**, *Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee*, to St. Mary Parish Hales Corners. Supervised by Rev. Aaron Laskiewicz.
- **Rev. Mr. Philip Mayer**, *Diocese of Duluth*, to the Parishes of St. Roman and St. Charles Borromeo. Supervised by Rev. Gideon Buya.





## All-School Ash Wednesday Day of Reflection

Most Rev. Joseph N. Perry, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus from the Archdiocese of Chicago, led the Ash Wednesday All-School Day of Reflection at Sacred Heart. His morning reflection was about how to make this a successful 40-day Lenten

season. He gave three areas of focus to the group to carry with them throughout the day. The three areas were excellence of spiritual growth through positive thinking, excellence of wisdom, and excellence of humility. Bishop Perry also presided

at Ash Wednesday Mass. For general knowledge, Days of Reflection are designed as a day of prayer which in turn helps us to withdraw from the noise of the world and deepen our relationship with God.





## Candidacy for Holy Orders

Mr. Charles Wuebker (Diocese of Austin) participated in the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass at Sacred Heart. This rite is an important step during a seminarian's formation journey. Called forward by President-Rector Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz SDS, he publicly declared his intention to advance towards ordination, offering himself to God and a life of ministry.



## Ministry of Lector

Congratulations to the following seminarians who were instituted into the Ministry of Lector by Auxiliary Bishop James T. Schuerman of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee!

- **Mr. Fernando Díaz Olazábal**, *Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee*
- **Mr. Eric Frieb**, *Diocese of Dodge City*
- **Mr. Charles Wuebker**, *Diocese of Austin*





## Diaconate Promises

Rev. Mr. Daniel Christie, Diocese of Saginaw, was called forward by President-Rector Fr. Raúl-Gómez-Ruiz SDS during Vespers at Sacred Heart to make his diaconate promises. The Sacred Heart community was present to witness this important step in his seminary journey.

## Farewell Fr. John, Welcome Fr. Anthony



**Sacred Heart said a fond farewell this year to our Vice President of Formation Programs, Fr. John Mack, as he enters into retirement.** Sacred Heart is grateful to Fr. Mack for his years of service and for bringing new ideas from his experience to benefit our formation program. Fr. John's insight helped to form a more robust Formation Program with a strong community at its core.



**Sacred Heart is pleased to welcome Fr. Anthony Lajato, OFM Conv., as the new Vice President of Formation Programs.** Fr. Anthony took his Final Profession of Religious Vows in 2009 and was Ordained to the Diaconate in 2009. In 2010 he was ordained into the Priesthood with the Friar of the Province of St. Bonaventure of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual. Since his Ordination to the Priesthood, Fr. Anthony has written publications and has held several ministerial positions. Most recently, Fr. Anthony has served as Missions Promoter for the Province of St. Bonaventure, Vicar Custode with the International College Sant'Antonio alle Terme, Rome and Extraordinary Confessor of the Apostolic Penitentiary with St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican. We are honored and blessed to have Fr. Anthony join us here at Sacred Heart.



# Celebrating our Faith Community

## Recognizing Employee Commitment

Sacred Heart held its annual Employee Recognition celebration. The night began with Vespers in the Sacred Heart Chapel followed by a reception, dinner, and an

awards presentation. The celebration honored new employees, years of service, retirements, anniversaries of marriage vows, and volunteer services. Employee

Recognition is a great way to celebrate the faculty and staff's commitment not only to Sacred Heart but also their personal commitment to their religious and marital vows.



## Hot Wings Contest

Sacred Heart's Student Council held their second annual hot wings contest fundraiser during lunch on February 13. Ten participants, comprised of seminarians, students, faculty, and staff, ate their way through 10 levels of hot sauce. Each participant had sponsors

and the rest of the school was able to buy milk for the participants. Eight of the ten participants made it through all ten levels. The participant who raised the most money while completing all ten levels was named the winner. This year, the winner was Dr. Michael Brummond,

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, who is the undefeated, two-time champion! Dr. Brummond designated the Women's Support Center of Milwaukee as the beneficiary of the funds. In total, \$3,674 was raised.







# Ministering in a Global Church

## English and Culture Studies Certificate Ceremony

The English and Culture Studies Program (ECS) concluded the Spring semester with a certificate ceremony. We were sad to say goodbye but know that these graduates will now become a part of the fabric of Sacred Heart as we continue to serve the global Church.

### **Graduates:**

- Br. Vital Ringuyeneza CI
- Rev. José Alves Paiva Junior
- Rev. Norbert Hahe Ndebo Masaze, SCJ
- Rev. Milton Herrera, FMM
- Rev. José Alves Paiva Junior



## Preparation for Hispanic Ministry

The eight deacons enrolled in Presiding and Preaching in Hispanic Communities had the opportunity to practice celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation or El Rito de Reconciliación with members of the community.



# Opening Hearts & Minds

## Sacred Music in the Seminary

Dr. Benjamin Stone, Director of Liturgy & Music and Lecturer of Pastoral Studies, performed a recital of music for the Easter season, including works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich

Scheidemann, Johann Ludwig Krebs, and Christa Rakich. Dr. Stone also gave a talk on the evening's musical selections before the recital. The performance was featured on the beautiful Berghaus

organ, installed 30 years ago and meticulously restored in 2021. Dr. Stone holds both a Doctor of Musical Arts and a Master of Sacred Music from the University of Notre Dame.



## Spring Lux Center Lectures

Sacred Heart was honored to host Professor Massimo Faggioli, a scholar and professor of theology and religious studies at Villanova University, who gave this year's Lux Lectures. His talks focused on Antisemitism and the Roman Catholic Church since Vatican II. Both talks generated great dialogue and questions. The lectures were recorded and are available on Sacred Heart's YouTube channel @[sacredheartseminaryschool07850](https://www.youtube.com/sacredheartseminaryschool07850).



# Fostering the Dehonian Mission

## Formation with Openness, Adaptability, and Fidelity

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is an apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, also called SCJs after the Latin initials of their name *Sacerdotum Corde Jesu*, or Dehonians, after their founder Venerable Fr. Leo John Dehon.

Fr. Dehon's first assignment was in an urban parish in the town of Saint-Quentin, France, during the Industrial Revolution. Daily life for factory workers was very difficult, and he saw that the Church needed a more robust pastoral ministry. He started by going out to the people to see what they needed. He established schools, youth centers, and newspapers, and sent priests into the neighborhoods and factories where the people were. Soon, he realized he needed more religious

committed to this type of ministry and he was allowed to begin a religious order.

Fr. Dehon also realized that the priests needed formation to prepare them for their ministries in a changing world. SCJ author Andre Perroux wrote: "Clearly, one of the spiritual aims of his Congregation was to develop a serious program of studies in order to improve the quality of priestly ministry"; Fr. Dehon was seeking formation that would allow for "...informed dialog with the world, shaking the Church out of its habitual passivity...remarkable openness and adaptability...undeniable fidelity" (*Leo Dehon: A Passion for Christ, A Passion for the World*, by Andre Perroux SCJ, page 21.)



## A Seminary for the Future

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology (SHSST) embodies these characteristics to this day. Sacred Heart has a long history of adapting to meet the changing needs of our Church. Beginning as a novitiate for SCJs in 1928, the institution became a theologate, then open to other religious orders, then later vocations, then dioceses.

SHSST reflects the openness, adaptability, and fidelity that Fr. Dehon called for so many years ago, and that the Church still needs today: implementation of the *Program of Priestly Formation 6th Edition*, establishing a Propaedeutic Stage program, offering

Master of Arts programs in Catholic Studies as well as Theology, Master of Divinity degree, Individualized Ordination Track, Hispanic Preparation for Ministry, English and Culture Studies, and soon a pontifical degree!

Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology is again on the brink of an exciting year of growth, and we are thankful to the Priests of the Sacred Heart for their financial, spiritual, and pastoral support.

*Together, may we conform our world to the Heart of Christ!*

## A Smooth Transition in Leadership



Meet our Interim President-rector: Fr. Tom Cassidy, SCJ! Fr. Tom begins July 8th, 2024, but is not new to SHSST. Fr. Cassidy is an experienced leader with a long and successful ministry in Catholic education, including serving as Sacred Heart's President-Rector from 2004-2007. Fr. Cassidy served as General Councilor for the Priests of the Sacred Heart in Rome and as Provincial Superior of the US Province. He was President of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) in the United States. A Milwaukee native, Fr. Cassidy has ministered in many parts of the world as a Priest of the Sacred Heart. His leadership skills and experience will be a blessing to the seminarians, students, faculty and staff of SHSST.



Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, has been named as the President-Rector Designate. He is currently completing his second term on the Dehonians' General Council in Rome. When he returns to the United States, he will live on campus, which will allow him to familiarize himself with SHSST while on sabbatical. He will assume his new position at the start of the 2025 academic year. Before his election to congregational-level leadership, he was the Provincial Superior of the US Province. Fr. Huffstetter brings with him the robust pastoral experience of serving among the Native Americans in rural areas of South Dakota, and a vision of the global Church which has been enriched by his 10 years in Rome.

**We believe Fr. Cassidy and Fr. Huffstetter will be a great team to shepherd formation at SHSST.**







# Looking back in gratitude



## Thanking Fr. Raúl and Wishing Him Well

As you know, our President-Rector, Fr. Raúl Gómez-Ruiz SDS, is stepping down at the end of June to serve as Vicar Provincial of the US Salvatorian Province. We are grateful to Fr. Raúl for not only his ministry as President-Rector since 2019 but also for the nearly 30 years that he gave to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology. During his tenure as President-Rector, Fr. Raúl's accomplishments include:

- Honed and advanced the strategic plan to better fulfill our mission of *Preparing evangelizing disciples through specialized formation to conform the world to the Heart of Christ*
- Increased the number of residential seminarians
- Stabilized faculty and staff
- Moved closer to offering pontifical degrees
- Renovated the classrooms and residential rooms in the south wing
- Received two major grants from Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative
- and a number of other grants to help us improve and expand our ability to fulfill our mission
- Reorganized the administrative structure for better success in accomplishing our mission
- Introduced devotional practices to complement the liturgical schedule and to deepen our work through prayer
- Improved communication with our sponsors
- Brought sponsors onto the Board of Directors
- Moved quickly to implement the PPF6
- Led the school through the pandemic
- Increased our capacity to use technology for teaching and learning purposes
- Introduced a pathway for advancement and professional development of staff
- Participated in national and international events and organizations making SHSST better known
- Encouraged more faculty publications and talks
- Eased accreditation burdens by aligning SHSST more closely with our most important
- accrediting agency and eliminating what was not needed
- Moved forward in collaboration with our SCJ sister institution in Brazil
- Formulated new MOUs and adjusted existing ones for better relations with partners
- Established regular staff meetings and staff development sessions
- Increased the number of women administrators
- Dared to dream big for Sacred Heart

We thank Fr. Raúl for his faithful service and will pray for him in his new leadership role.



# Supporting Our Sponsors

Sacred Heart serves over 28 US and Canadian sponsors, and many international bishops and religious superiors entrust their international students to us.

## How Can We Serve You?

From helping with vocations outreach, assisting with visas, providing scholarships and creating tailored student plans, to providing speakers at events, organizing alumni events and offering continuing formation programs, we want to be YOUR seminary for lifelong ministry.

## Contact Us!

- **VOCATIONS:** Deacon Steve Kramer, D.Min., (414) 858-4767, [discerning@shsst.edu](mailto:discerning@shsst.edu)  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Studies, Director of Homiletics,  
Director of Recruitment
- **VISIT SCHEDULING:** Rachel Allison, M.A., (414) 858-4652, [rallison@shsst.edu](mailto:rallison@shsst.edu)  
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An apostolate of the Priests of the Sacred Heart



**YOUR SEMINARY:** *Specialized formation for a universal Church*