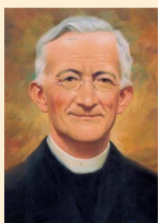




**November 21, 2025 • *The Sacred Heart Window***  
**Bi-weekly** News of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology



## Dehonian Spirituality

“Jesus took delight in the heart of St. Gertrude because he found there the same outpourings of love, of fidelity, of compassion, of devotion, that he had found in the midst of his friends at Bethlehem, Nazareth, Bethany, and the Cenacle, at Gethsemane, and on Calvary.”

– Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Spiritual Directory*, “Advice and Counsels: V”

## Announcements



### **Seminarians Take Next Step Toward Priesthood During Rite of Candidacy**

On November 12, the Sacred Heart community gathered for Holy Mass to celebrate the vocational journeys of two seminarians. During the liturgy, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, SCJ, President-Rector, presided over the Rite of Candidacy for Holy Orders, formally recognizing the intentions of those preparing to serve the Church through ordained ministry.

This year’s candidates were John Beiting and Rider Zerpa Romero, both seminarians of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee. By being admitted to candidacy, each publicly declared his resolve to pursue formation for the priesthood and to dedicate his life to the service of God’s people. The Church, in

turn, accepted their commitment and called them to continue their preparation with renewed devotion.

The Rite of Candidacy affirms a decisive step on the path toward priesthood. It marks the moment when the Church officially recognizes a seminarian as a candidate for ordination, entrusting him with intentional growth in human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation.

The Sacred Heart community rejoices with John and Rider and offers them prayerful support as they continue discerning Christ's invitation to lay down their lives in service to the Gospel. May God, who has begun this good work in them, bring it to fulfillment.



### **Congratulations!**

It is Sacred Heart's great pleasure to announce that student, Mr. John Duranso, successfully passed his Comprehensive Examinations in fulfillment of the requirements of the Master of Arts in Theology Program. Sacred Heart offers profuse thanks to the faculty examiners, Drs. Blackwood, Hughes-Huff, and Shippee, for their work serving as the examination board.

Congratulations, John!

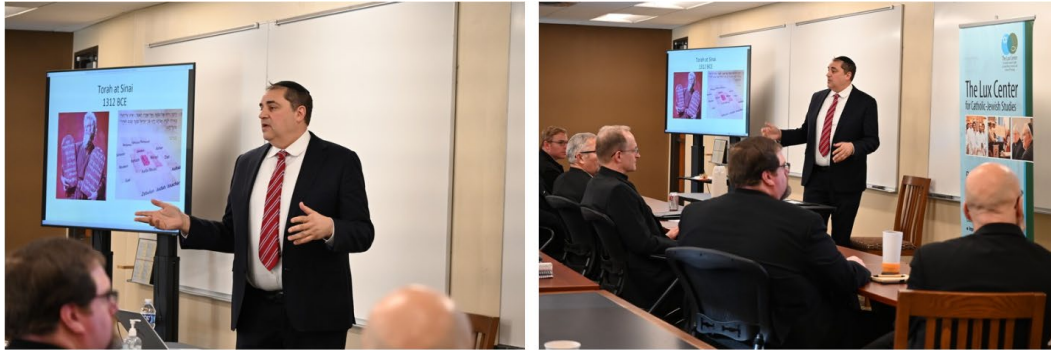


### Catholic Heritage I Excursions

Now in its third year, three regional excursions for the propaedeutic course **CA 500 Catholic Heritage I: Sal Terrae** continued for the 2025 Fall Semester. The three-credit course, the only one of its kind among US seminaries, brought together men from SHSST (1 seminarian) and the propaedeutic programs of St. Francis de Sales Seminary (9 seminarians) and the Diocese of Green Bay (6 seminarians). Dr. Paul Monson led the excursions as the instructor. Fr. John Paul Mitchell and Fr. Kevin Ripley joined as the respective propaedeutic formators. Highlights included:

- Sept. 19-21, the course visited **Green Bay** to focus on the legacy of the French Jesuit missionaries and Bishop Frederic Baraga in the Great Lakes region, with a visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady Champion.
- Oct. 16-18, the course ventured to **southwestern Wisconsin and the Dubuque** area to focus on the pastoral example of Ven. Fr. Samuel Mazzuchelli, O.P., including a visit to his Dominican Sisters at Sinsinawa Mount. Archbishop Thomas Zinkula greeted the group in St. Raphael Cathedral and shared his vocation story and perspective on Church history. At the conclusion of the weekend, the group celebrated Mass with Bishop Donald Hying of Madison in Fr. Mazzuchelli's perfectly preserved St. Augustine's Church in New Diggings, Wisconsin (with a Knights of Columbus honor guard). It was the first time a bishop has celebrated Mass on the altar Fr. Mazzuchelli built with his own hands.
- Nov. 7-9, the course explored early immigrant and religious communities in the **Milwaukee area**. The group learned about the heritage of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and the

School Sisters of St. Francis. This final excursion culminated with a special Mass in a forgotten chapel, likely the first time the Eucharist has been celebrated there in 75 years.



### **Diversity of Judaism**

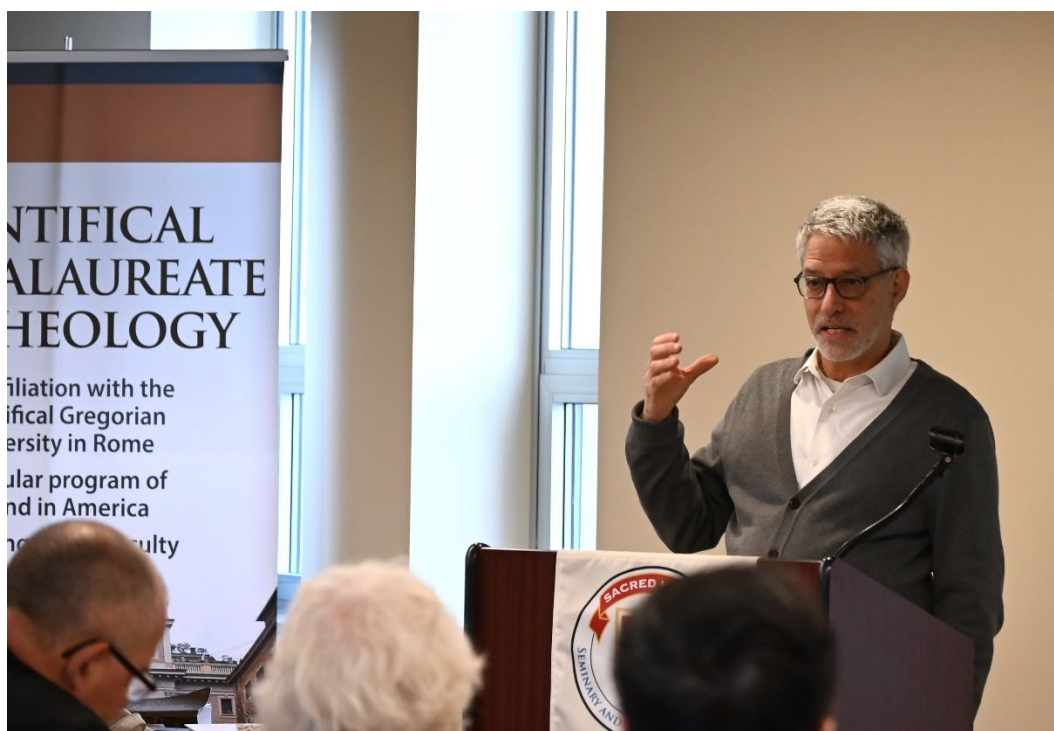
On November 12, Sacred Heart hosted Rabbi Wes Kalmar, an Orthodox rabbi and highly respected educator, for a formation session that opened a window into a side of Judaism many Catholics in the United States rarely encounter.

For many American Catholics, the expression of Judaism most frequently seen is the Reform or culturally liberal form common throughout the diaspora. Yet, as Rabbi Kalmar emphasized, that represents only one part of a much wider and more complex Jewish landscape. Judaism today includes several major movements, each with its own history, worldview, liturgy, approach to clergy, and way of living Jewish life. Some grew out of ancient practices, others emerged in response to modernity, and all of them continue to shape Jewish identity in unique ways.

Rabbi Kalmar guided participants through this diverse world, explaining how the Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, and other movements developed, where they differ, and how each understands tradition, community, and ritual. The presentation proved especially valuable for future clergy, theologians, and pastoral leaders seeking a deeper and more accurate understanding of the Jewish people and the living traditions that animate Jewish religious life today.

The session invited curiosity and engagement. Questions explored topics such as what makes a synagogue Orthodox rather than Conservative, why some Jewish communities strictly observe Shabbat while others do not, and how each movement understands its continuity with biblical Israel. The talk served as a meaningful opportunity for dialogue, learning, and appreciation of the rich diversity found within Judaism.





### **The Jewish Sabbath**

On November 19, the Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies welcomed Rabbi Joel Alter of Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid in Glendale for an evening of reflection and learning focused on one of the most cherished pillars of Jewish life: the Sabbath.

Rabbi Alter guided attendees through the biblical foundations of the Sabbath, exploring its origins in Scripture and its development throughout Jewish history. He described traditional practices surrounding Shabbat—from the rituals that welcome its arrival to the prayers and customs that mark its weekly celebration—highlighting how the day serves as both a sacred obligation and a gift of spiritual renewal for the Jewish people.

Beyond its traditions, Rabbi Alter emphasized the profound spiritual meaning of the Sabbath: a weekly reminder of God’s creative work, the dignity of rest, and the sanctity of time. He also addressed how Shabbat observance has adapted in modern times, noting the ways Jewish communities continue to honor its sacred essence even as they respond to the demands of contemporary life.

For Catholics, the lecture offered a meaningful window into a central element of the faith from which Christianity emerged. Engaging with the Sabbath deepens understanding of the world in which Jesus lived, illuminates the rhythms of Jewish spirituality, and highlights the shared spiritual roots linking Judaism and Christianity.



### **Final Oblation as Benedictine Oblate**

On November 16, Dr. Mike Brummond, Associate Professor of Liturgical and Sacramental Theology, made his final oblation to become a Benedictine oblate following a year of formation and discernment. Oblates of Saint Benedict are lay or ordained individuals who live in the world while associating themselves with a particular Benedictine monastery in order to deepen their relationship with Christ. Dr. Brummond is formally connected with the Monastery of the Holy Cross in Chicago, through which he now shares in the spiritual life and benefits of the monastic community.

By making his final oblation, Dr. Brummond promised to lead a more deeply rooted Christian life shaped by the Gospel as reflected in the Rule of St. Benedict. Though Benedictine oblates do not take monastic vows or reside permanently in the monastery, they commit to allowing Benedictine spirituality to permeate their daily lives—cultivating habits of prayer, humility, stability of heart, and hospitality to all.

Dr. Brummond's oblation represents a significant moment in his personal spiritual journey, and the Sacred Heart community celebrates this milestone with him. May the wisdom of St. Benedict continue to inspire his life, teaching, and ministry.



### **Faculty Publication**

Sacred Heart is excited to announce a new publication by Dr. Charles Hughes-Huff, Associate Professor of Scripture Studies:

Charles Hughes-Huff, "Mysticism and Dei Verbum," in *Dei Verbum at 60: Rediscovering the Word of God Ever Anew* (special issue), *Nexus* 4 (November 2025).

The digital publication is through The Hank Center at Loyola University Chicago.

Congratulations, Dr. Hughes-Huff!

## *Looking Forward*

### **2025-2026 School Year**

**Nov 26-Nov 28** Thanksgiving Break

**Dec 05** Last Day of Classes

**Dec 09** Exam Days

**Dec 12-Jan 11** Christmas Break

**Dec 12** Christmas Evening Social

**Jan 06-Jan 08** Preaching Conference

**Jan 13** SHSST Residential Students Return

**Jan 14-Jan 18** SHSST Residential Seminarian Retreat

**Jan 20** Classes Begin

**Jan 22** Christian Unity Evening Prayer

**Feb 03** Bagels with Lux

**Feb 18** Day of Recollection/Ash Wednesday (All School)

**Mar 01-Mar 08** Spring Break

**Mar 03** Bagels with Lux

**Mar 11** Ministry of Lector

**Mar 11** Board of Directors Meetings  
**Mar 22** Spring Lux Center Public Lecture  
**Mar 23** Lux Center Morning Lecture  
**Mar 25** Faculty & Staff Development  
**Mar 26-Mar 27** Faith & Culture Workshop  
**Mar 30-Apr 06** Easter Break  
**Apr 07** Bagels with Lux  
**Apr 08** Easter Lunch & Student Council Employee Appreciation  
**Apr 22** Day of Recollection (Seminarians Only; Faculty and Staff Off-Campus)  
**Apr 29** Employee Recognition & Diaconate Promises  
**May 05** Bagels with Lux  
**May 06** Administrator & Graduate Dinner  
**May 08** Last Day of Classes  
**May 08** Commencement  
**May 13** Faculty Council Dinner  
**May 18** May Session Begins  
**May 19** End of Year Celebration  
**May 20** Board of Directors Meetings  
**May 31-June 14** Biblical Pilgrimage  
**Jun 19** May Session Ends



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