



## Portland, ME Priest Named Director of the Center for Continuing Formation at St. Mary's Seminary and University

Father Phillip J. Brown, PSS, President Rector of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, the first Catholic seminary in the United States, announced the appointment of Msgr. Marc B. Caron, STD, as the new Director of the Center for Continuing Formation. Msgr. Caron is a priest of the Diocese of Portland, where he most recently served as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. In his new role, Msgr. Caron will oversee the Center's many ongoing formation programs for clergy and lay ministers, which are conducted on site and online.

*"I am very grateful to Bishop Ruggieri, the Bishop of Portland, and to St. Mary's Seminary for this unique opportunity to be at the service of priests from all over our country. Drawing on the heritage of St. Sulpice, I look forward to guiding the Center for Ongoing Formation in its mission of promoting the intellectual, pastoral, spiritual, and human growth of priests and ecclesial ministers."*

Msgr. Marc B. Caron



The Center for Continuing Formation was built by St. Mary's in 1996 in response to the teaching on the priesthood and priestly formation of St. John Paul II. The Center offers special programs each year for pastors, newly ordained priests, and senior priests. It also hosts various bishops' meetings, ecumenical gatherings, and other conferences as well. Building on the directives in the *Program for Priestly Formation* (6th edition) and the *Guide to Ongoing Formation for Priests* (USCCB, 2023), the Center has continued to expand its initiatives. Its offerings also include distance learning programs of varying lengths for priests. Programs for deacons and lay ecclesial ministers are offered as well.

Fr. Brown said of Msgr. Caron, "I have known Msgr. Caron for almost 40 years and have watched with admiration his outstanding, varied, and dedicated service to the Church, including several years of seminary formation work. No one understands priests and their needs for ongoing education and formation better than Msgr. Caron, and I know of no one who could fulfill this role better. St. Mary's is extremely blessed to have Msgr. Caron join us as the Director of our Center for Continuing Formation."

Monsignor Caron was ordained in 1989 with a Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree from The Catholic University of America. In his home diocese of Portland, Msgr. Caron served in a number of parish and chancery positions. He also served as a member of the faculty at St. John Seminary in Brighton, Massachusetts. Monsignor Caron will begin his new role on July 1, 2025.

The Center for Continuing Formation, which adjoins the main seminary building while providing necessary privacy to occupants, is a 30,000-square-foot facility with 30 private, three-star guest rooms and suites, and a variety of conference spaces and small meeting rooms. The Center also has an oratory and private chapel as well as its own dining room.

For more information about the Center for Continuing Formation at St. Mary's, visit <https://stmarys.edu/center/>.