

ST. MARY'S SEMINARY & UNIVERSITY



Annual Report 2024

The St. Mary's Difference

ALUMNI REFLECTIONS



*Rev. Phillip J. Brown, P.S.S.
President Rector*

Dear Friends of St. Mary's Seminary & University,

I am pleased to share St. Mary's Seminary and University's annual report with you. While the report provides an accounting of the Seminary's financial operations, its intended purpose, it also is an opportunity to share some insights into the life and rhythm of seminary life here at St. Mary's over the course of the calendar year.

Complete transparency is, of course, critically important, along with maintaining sound, responsible fiscal policies and practices, something we strive for through the hard work of our many Board and staff members, with deep gratitude for the generosity of individuals too numerous to name. A seminary's success cannot be measured based solely on

its bottom line, however. Our success is really measured by the thousands of men who have been formed in the Sulpician tradition here at Saint Mary's who have gone on to effectively and passionately lead people to Christ through their pastoral ministry in the many dioceses we are blessed to serve: the kind of priests the people of God truly deserve.

In the ensuing pages, you can read about three such graduates who represent the pastoral excellence and faithful ministry of their fellow St. Mary's Seminary alumni: Bishop David Zubik of Pittsburgh, St. Mary's 1975; Very Rev. Scott Jabo, Rector of St. Mark Seminary in Erie, St. Mary's 1989; and Fr. Francis Ouma, Pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Havre de Grace, Maryland, St. Mary's 2015. These wonderful graduates of St. Mary's have generously given of their time so we could share stories of the impact their ministry is having through their lives of service and how St. Mary's prepared them to share their gifts with the people they serve. We are enormously proud of them and of all of our alumni, who continue to demonstrate the "St. Mary's Difference" in their ministries every day for the good of God's Church and the good of His people: the kind of priests the people they serve deserve.

Men studying at St. Mary's today, trained in the Sulpician tradition, are prayerful, pastoral, mature, competent, and sensitive. They begin and end every day in the Chapel as we pray together as a community dedicated to forming the kind of priests the people of God deserve. I'm happy to report that we now have a full-time Director of Human Formation, one of the top priorities of our successful capital campaign. This allows us to focus on the essential foundation for the growth of the spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions of formation throughout their years in the Seminary.

Our annual report also celebrates the great work of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute and the many donors who support the mission of the EI. Established in 1968, the EI today has expanded to allow students to study wherever they are through new and improved technology – reaching those “where they are.”

Of course, none of what we do every day here at St. Mary's to form and prepare future priests is possible without your generosity and your commitment to St. Mary's and its mission. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the administration, faculty, staff, and seminarians of Saint Mary's, we thank you for that

support and for your faithful witness, which will bear much fruit for the good of our holy Church.

In gratitude,

Fr. Phillip J. Brown, P.S.S.



Fr. Ronald Witherup, P.S.S. and Fr. Phillip Brown, P.S.S. at the dedication of the new Blessed Michael J. McGivney Propaedeutic House of Formation on January 23, 2025. The portrait of Blessed Michael J. McGivney was a gift of Patrick E. Kelly, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus.

Class of 1975



Most Rev. David Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh

BISHOP DAVID ZUBIK was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh in 1975. He currently serves as Bishop of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is currently on the St. Mary's Seminary & University Board of Trustees.

How did your experience as a seminarian at Saint Mary's prepare you for priestly ministry?

I felt that Saint Mary's prepared me well for the priesthood academically, spiritually, pastorally, and humanly. Academics were quite challenging. My professors were outstanding. I was quite blessed to have an exceptional spiritual director with whom I met regularly and who impressed on my heart the utmost necessity of being a strong and prayerful leader. Given the wide range of parishes and institutions within the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the pastoral program at Saint Mary's was second to none. I was well prepared to step into the role of the pastoral team because of my training at Saint Mary's.

As a bishop who sends seminarians to Saint Mary's for service to the people of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, what aspects of the Seminary's formation program do you find beneficial?

The most outstanding portion of the current curriculum at Saint Mary's Seminary is the wide range of opportunities given to our seminarians for pastoral service. The supervision which oversees these pastoral experiences provides an outstanding learning experience for our seminarians. In addition, the academics continue to stretch the theological minds of our seminarians, helping them to be best prepared to be pastoral leaders in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. I am also pleased with the spiritual formation given to our students as well as the direction of human formation.



Bishop Zubik shares a smile with a student at the DePaul School for Hearing and Speech.

What do you most commonly hear from Pittsburgh seminarians about their experience at Saint Mary's?

Our students are quite honest about their appreciation for how well balanced the formation program is at Saint Mary's. They often comment about the academic formation and how they feel stretched in their learning process. They most often express their appreciation for the pastoral opportunities given them to serve in institutions as well as parishes within the archdiocese.



Bishop Zubik washes an inmate's feet on Holy Thursday at Allegheny County Jail.

If a fellow bishop considering where to send seminarians from his diocese for formation were to ask you about Saint Mary's, how would you respond?

Each time that I have been asked by a brother bishop about my decision to send students to Saint Mary's Seminary, my answer as both bishop and as an alumnus is based on my appreciation for how well balanced the formation programs at Saint Mary's are. I truly believe that Saint Mary's has continued to develop programs that help prepare priests for the present and the future.



One of the youngest members of the faithful high-fives Bishop Zubik after Mass.



Bishop Zubik and a young friend were all smiles after Easter Sunday Mass.

“The most outstanding portion of the current curriculum at Saint Mary's Seminary is the wide range of opportunities given to our seminarians for pastoral service.”

Read more about the men of St. Mary's here:



Class of 1989



Very Rev. Scott Jabo

FATHER SCOTT JABO was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Erie in 1989. He currently serves as Vocation Director for the Diocese of Erie and Rector at St. Mark Seminary in Erie.

In your capacity as a Director of Vocations and college seminary rector, what qualities most attract you about the current formation program at St. Mary's?

St. Mary's is forming and preparing priests to handle the challenges of today and tomorrow. When I speak with current seminarians and learn what is involved in their formation, I am pleased to know that St. Mary's has incorporated various approaches to meet the needs of the Church.

St. Mary's approaches formation as lifelong, providing formation opportunities for men after priesthood. How beneficial is that to you as a priest, knowing that the seminary continues to support you in your priesthood, including through new distance learning opportunities?

I am grateful that St. Mary's offers ongoing formation which otherwise might be difficult to obtain. With technology, such as online programs, forums and presentations, it can provide that formation remotely so that more priests can take advantage of ongoing formation without having to travel. These are opportunities to grow and deepen our personal faith so that we can be the most effective ministers for our people, which is what our people need and deserve.



Blessing and dedication of the Michael J. McGivney Propaedeutic House of Formation on January 24, 2025. L-R: Samuel Ghering (Erie), Fr. David Renne, Vice-Rector of St. Mark Seminary, Archbishop William Lori, Tyler Smart (Erie), Fr. Scott Jabo. Sam and Tyler are seminarians in the Propaedeutic Program.

What aspects of St. Mary's separate it from other seminaries?

Being located in Baltimore, St. Mary's is in an area that is rich in both American and Catholic history. There are many historical sites where saints lived, walked and prayed, [something that is] a great asset to Baltimore and for the seminarians of St. Mary's to experience. In addition, there are challenging inner-city ministries, various hospital experiences, diverse parish opportunities, and so many other ways that challenge seminarians to grow, expand, and develop the skills necessary to minister effectively to the people of God.



Fr. Scott Jabo (front center) with the seminarians of St. Mark Seminary (Erie, PA) at St. Mark Seminary after a visit from Fr. Michael Ferrick (center), Rector of St. Peter Cathedral. Fr. Scott Jabo is the Rector of the Seminary; Fr. David Renne (pictured lower left), is the Vice-Rector of the Seminary.



Diocese of Erie ordination class of 1990 with Bishop Michael Murphy. Fr. Scott Jabo is in the upper right corner of the photo.

If a man considering priesthood and where to attend seminary asked you about your experiences with St. Mary's, how would you respond?

While every seminary has its own tradition and approach to formation, I would respond by saying that although no seminary is perfect and there is not a one-size-fits-all program of formation, I can share that my experience of seminary formation at St. Mary's Seminary challenged me to grow in my self-awareness, deepened my faith, helped me grow in my relationship with Jesus Christ, prepared me well for priesthood, and equipped me with the tools to be effective in my ministry as a Catholic priest.

"When I speak with current seminarians and learn what is involved in their formation, I am pleased to know that St. Mary's has incorporated various approaches to meet the needs of the Church of today and tomorrow... Formation is well thought out and is based on established principals and the Sulpician tradition of seminary formation."

Read more about the men of St. Mary's here:



Class of 2015



Fr. Francis Ouma

FATHER FRANCIS OUMA WAS ORDAINED A PRIEST OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE IN 2015. HE CURRENTLY SERVES AS PASTOR OF ST. PATRICK IN HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND.

How did your experience as a seminarian at Saint Mary's prepare you for priestly ministry?

St. Mary's Seminary offered me a wonderful formation experience that has been beneficial to my priesthood each and every day. The welcoming environment and pastoral focus has greatly influenced the way I minister to people, helping me to meet the people I serve where they currently are and to accompany them in their journey towards the Lord. The pastoral opportunities I received while in the seminary exposed me to a variety of ministries in parishes, hospitals, and community settings.

You attended the New Pastors' Program at the Center for Continuing Formation; what did you find most helpful from that experience?

The *New Pastor's Program* was very much eye opening to the vast resources that are offered to help make a pastor's ministry effective and efficient. The program featured many presenters from different fields of expertise, backgrounds, and charisms, which helped me as a new pastor to be more grounded in the inner workings of parish leadership. Perhaps the greatest thing I was reminded of by the program's presenters is that while there are many challenges that come across a pastor's desk, prayer, evangelization, delegation, and self care should never be ignored. Continuing formation beyond ordination is a privilege and a great advantage that St. Mary's offers. When one stops learning, one has stopped growing. Knowing that St. Mary's continues to offer formation opportunities is always a blessing. I also hope to take advantage of the Center for Continuing Formation's distance learning opportunities in the near future.



Fr. Ouma with the Obrecht family: Peggy, Charlie, Gilly, and Mary, at his priestly ordination, June 6, 2015.

How did St. Mary's help you navigate the challenges you have faced as a foreign-born priest?

As a foreign-born seminarian, having a faculty mentor who went through a similar experience was a great help. My faculty mentor the first three years was Fr. Hy Nguyen, who was originally from Vietnam. I also had great friends in the student body that helped me to not feel alone or like a stranger. The Seminary also encouraged us to share the unique things about our cultures. Having seminarians with different backgrounds, nationalities, and races definitely helped me to grow in my interactions with people from other cultures. Offering English learning opportunities was a big help, too, as it helped me with word pronunciation to become more understandable. Proper integration was also promoted by the Seminary. Even as a foreign-born student, I never felt singled out, but well-integrated into the full Seminary community.



Fr. Ouma with Archbishop Lori and Bishop Madden at his ordination on June 6, 2015.



Fr. Ouma celebrating Family Mass at St. Patrick Church in Havre de Grace, February 2023.



Fr. Ouma with the SoZo Children's Choir of Uganda at the Immaculate Conception School in Towson, April 2016.

"I have benefited from every moment of my formation at St. Mary's."

Read more about the men of St. Mary's here:





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

REVENUES FROM CURRENT OPERATIONS

Student Tuition and Fees	\$2,369,883
Gifts, Grants, Bequests and Donations (not including restricted gifts to other than current operations)	479,935
Contributed Services	174,575
Investment Income	5,881,421
Other Revenues	357,048
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,020,165
Total Revenues from Current Operations	\$10,283,027

EXPENDITURES

Instructional	\$3,648,403
Student Services	1,237,679
Library	376,905
Associated Archives	132,494
General Institutional	1,011,433
Administrative	1,338,748
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	966,615
Student Aid and Scholarships	1,155,122
Capital Campaign	52,395
Auxiliary Enterprises	135,151
Total Expenditures for Current Operations	\$10,054,945

With Gratitude



St. Mary's Seminary & University Community with Archbishop William Lori after the Mass of the Holy Spirit on August 28th, 2024.

Key

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

† Posthumously

- * Companies that participated in the 2024 Matching Gift Program
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Verizon Foundation*

Fr. Hy Nguyen, P.S.S., Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Dean of Seminarians, celebrated Mass on January 30th. Over 200 members of the local Vietnamese community joined St. Mary's seminarians and faculty for the Mass and a festive Lunar New Year celebration.





Alumnus Bishop James Ruggieri, Portland ME and Class of 1994, returned to preside at the Institution of Lectors and Acolytes on March 20th, 2025. Eleven men from seven dioceses were instituted as Lectors and eight men from five dioceses were instituted as Acolytes. Deacons (l-r) James Lancelotta (AOB) and Joseph Ryan (Syracuse).

**Restricted to Purchase Sound System
for Laubacher Hall**
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*An annual community life event with friendly competition and fun! Fr.
Maximilian Jaskowak, O.P., Instructor of Moral Theology, participated in the
bocce ball tournament on September 27th, 2024. Seminarian Jerson Ariza
(Baltimore) and Dr. John Macias are also pictured.*



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Commencement 2024, Fr. Brown and Dr. Matthew Dugandzic (Dean of the School of Theology) presented the Honorary Degree to Msgr. Paul McPartlan on May 9th, 2024.

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Alumni Day, October 24, 2024 – Young Alumni joined the festivities: (l-r) Fr. Luke Daghir (Erie, 2024) ; Fr. Brian Norris (Altoona-Johnstown, 2022), Fr. Evan Ponton (Baltimore, 2020), Fr. Zach Watson (Baltimore, 2024), Fr. James Gebhart (Wilmington, 2024), and Fr. Ben Daghir (Erie, 2022).





On November 22, 2024, St. Mary's celebrated the Mass of Candidacy for Holy Orders. Most Rev. Denis J. Madden, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, presided at the liturgy. Three men were received into Candidacy: (l-r) Evans Yongyee (Portland), John "Russ" Sullivan (Archdiocese of Baltimore), Bishop Madden, Fr. Brown, Msgr. Marc Caron (Diocese of Portland), and Ezekiel Yisi (Diocese of Portland).

Mrs. Elizabeth L. Visconage
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St. Mary's was one of sixteen seminaries from across the country to send a seminarian basketball team to participate in the 5th St. Francis de Sales Invitational at Sacred Heart Seminary in Milwaukee, WI in early March 2025. Fr. Brown was the team chaplain. (l-r) Matthew Selzer (Pittsburgh), Fr. Brown, Carlos Gonzales (Syracuse), Michael Selton (Baltimore), Tom Dzwonczyk (Scranton), Gianni Verginio (Syracuse), CJ Wild (Buffalo/Military Archdiocese), and Nicholas Wytiacz (Pittsburgh). Not pictured Neal McCaffrey (Richmond).



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 Rev. John R. Yonkovig

Members of the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus Council made a pilgrimage to Washington, DC where they celebrated Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and visited the St. John Paul II Shrine, the Dominican House of Studies, and the Monastery of the Holy Land in America (location of the photo). (l-r) C.J. Wild (Buffalo/Military Archdiocese), Matt Selzer (Pittsburgh), Eric Gianforcaro (Wilmington), Carlos Gonzalez (Syracuse) Rev. Maximilian Jaskowak, O.P., Nick Wytiaz (Pittsburgh), Rev. Mr. Nathan Zhang (Diocese of Zhaoxian).





Msgr. Richard Bozzelli (SMSU 1993) received the Robert F. Leavitt Award for Excellence in Pastoral Leadership at Alumni Day, October 24, 2024. Very Rev. Daniel Moore, P.S.S., Sulpician Provincial, Fr. Robert F. Leavitt, P.S.S., President Rector (1980–2007) and Fr. Brown with Msgr. Bozzelli after the Alumni Day banquet.

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(up to \$99)

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SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY ENDOWMENTS

St. Mary's students and faculty are provided with financial aid through individuals, parishes, corporations and dioceses. Funds can be designated for general scholarship endowment or for specific programs.

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PROGRAM SUPPORT GRANT RECIPIENTS

ENDOWMENT SEMINARY PROGRAMS AND ENDOWED FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

ENDOWMENT FOR THE NAGOT FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Grant recipient 2023-2024

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Rev. Dennis J. Billy, C.Ss.R.
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ENDOWMENT FOR THE SULPICIAN EDUCATIONAL FUND

Grant recipients 2023-2024

Rev. Phillip J. Brown, P.S.S.
Rev. Msgr. Fredrik Hansen, P.S.S.
(cand.)
Rev. Paul A. Maillet, P.S.S.
Rev. Hy Nguyen, P.S.S.

UNRESTRICTED INSTITUTIONAL FUND

A complete list of burses is available upon request from the Office of Institutional Advancement. Income assists St. Mary's in meeting academic and formational expenses for the School of Theology.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the gifts listed in the 2024 Annual Report. Please notify the Advancement Department at 410-864-4264 or ccarr@stmarys.edu if you notice any discrepancies or have any questions.



Youth Theological Studies Class of 2024

YOUTH THEOLOGICAL STUDIES AT ST. MARY'S

In 1999, thanks to a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment, St. Mary's Seminary established its Youth Theological Studies Program. The program enables high school juniors to study college-level theology for 15 weeks in the fall and earn three college credits transferable into any university program. The program was permanently endowed through the generosity of the late Mrs. Anne M. Pinkard and renamed The Pinkard Scholars Program in her honor in 2005. Rev. Phillip J. Brown, P.S.S., President Rector, teaches the course on Wednesday evenings. This innovative program is directed by Mrs. Patricia LeNoir. In December 2024 the following students completed the program:

Brandon Yoon	Gilman
Anna Davis	Mercy High School
Erin Peck	The Catholic High School
Maia Te	The Catholic High School
Jackson Armacost	Gilman
Noah Lawrence	Gilman
Jay Salovaara	Gilman
Tamia Langham	Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School
Toni Tan	The Catholic High School
Tristan Fabyan	Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School

St. Mary's was one of a select number of seminaries awarded a supplemental grant for the Youth Theological Studies Program from the Lilly Endowment. This grant helps to sustain outstanding programs originally funded by the Lilly Endowment.

PRIESTLY FORMATION RETURNS TO PACA STREET

On January 23rd 2025, at 600 North Paca Street in Baltimore, the Blessed Michael J. McGivney House of Propaedeutic Formation was formally dedicated and blessed by Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore. Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, was present as well, having given the Sulpician Province permission previously to name the new initiative after their founder, Fr. McGivney, an esteemed alumnus of St. Mary's on Paca Street, 1873-1877.



Very Rev. Daniel Moore, P.S.S., Provincial Superior, Archbishop Lori, Mr. Kelly and Fr. Shawn Gould, P.S.S., Director, with the portrait of Blessed Michael J. McGivney.



St. Mary's trustees Gino Gemignani, Sulpician Representative for the project and Tyler Tate, President of Lewis Contractors with Fr. Moore at the dedication.

ENDOWED FACULTY CHAIRS AND PROGRAMS

*St. Mary's is grateful to the following benefactors
for generously endowing these chairs and programs.*

The Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation for the
Henry J. and Marion I. Knott Chair in Homiletics

Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Fisher † for the
Richard and Barbara Fisher Chair in Moral Theology
Held by Peter Paul Seaton, Ph.L., Ph.D.

The France–Merrick Foundation for the
France–Merrick University Chair in Theology
Held by Rev. Robert F. Leavitt, P.S.S., S.T.D.

and

The Rev. Robert F. Leavitt, P.S.S., Distinguished Service
Chair in Theology
Held by Rev. Dennis Billy, C.Ss.R.

Mrs. Dorothy W. Bunting †,
The Bunting Family Foundation,
Mr. and Mrs. George L. Bunting, Jr. and
Ms. Mary Catherine Bunting for the
Bunting Family Chair in Old Testament

The Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States for the
Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology
Held by Michael J. Gorman, Ph.D.

Mary Catherine Bunting Foundation for the
Rev. Richard T. Lawrence Director of Pastoral Formation
(new endowment from the Campaign for St. Mary's)
Held by Leelamma Sebastian

Anonymous and

Rev. William J. Lee, P.S.S. † for the
Cwiekowski Endowment for Systematic Theology

Rev. Thomas J. Donaghy † for the Donaghy Fund

Mr. Joseph Keelty † for the Joseph Keelty Endowment

Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Meisel † for the Meisel Homiletics Fund

Rev. Thomas R. Ulshafer, P.S.S. for the
Drs. Thomas and Chloe Ulshafer Endowment
for Continuing Formation

A Special Celebration

March 19, 2025

St. Mary's welcomed back Bishop Fredrik Hansen, newly ordained Coadjutor Bishop of Oslo, for a special celebration. Bishop Hansen, former faculty member, Dean of Seminarians, and Sulpician Candidate, presided at a Pontifical Mass celebrating the Feast of St. Joseph followed by a festive reception with the seminarian community and guests on March 19th, 2025.

"My time at St. Mary's Seminary and University were among the very best of years of my priesthood. It was an honor to serve alongside so many committed staff, professors, and priest formators in the advancement of priestly formation. To the seminarians I repeat my encouragement: Pray! It is the alpha and omega of the priestly life and the foundation of ministry."



The concelebrants express their gratitude to Bishop Hansen.



(l-r) Fr. Brown, Archbishop Lori, Bishop Hansen, Cardinal Christophe Pierre (Apostolic Nuncio to the United States) and Very Rev. Daniel Moore, P.S.S., Sulpician Provincial.



Long-time faculty member Dr. Michael Gorman receives a blessing from his former faculty colleague, Bishop Hansen.



Seminarians Eric Gianforcaro (Wilmington) and Russ Sullivan (AOB) served as Acolytes, C.J. Wild (Buffalo and Military Services) was one of the Masters of Ceremonies and Rev. Mr. Tom Dzwonczyk (Scranton) served as Deacon for the Mass.



Bishop Hansen with (l-r) seminarians Jerson Ariza (AOB), Jan Carlo Perez (Scranton), Director of Pastoral Formation Leelamma Sebastian, and recent alumnus Fr. Lenin Suarez (Class of 2024, Archdiocese of Baltimore).



St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute

Seeking wisdom. Nourishing faith. Engaging community.

EXPANDING COMMUNITY AND IMPACT



E.I. students and alums in front of the Temple of Apollo in Corinth in April 2024. From L to R: Barbara Kittrell, Fr. Evan Ponton, Rev. Andy Nagel, Steve Johnson, Christine Garrison, Linda Swallow, Janice Holsonbake, Dr. Michael Gorman, Harry Chou, Rev. Randy Cooper.

Over the past year, the reach and the breadth of St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute's influence was especially evident. Whether it was faculty going out to teach and learn, or far flung students coming here or zooming in to join our live classes, this was a year when we especially celebrated the EI's expanded mission of serving "Baltimore and beyond," and we especially noted how much that expanded mission is enriching our learning community.

The enriched composition of our learning community was evident at graduation last May. This graduating class included the first students to complete their entire degree remotely, as well as others who began their studies in Baltimore, but completed them in other

states or countries. The graduates live in Baltimore, the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia, as well as Tennessee, New York, Canada (British Columbia), and Kenya (not to mention two Baltimore graduates were born on other continents). Our graduating class shows what is increasingly true in our classrooms: the learning community represents the global church in the best sense of the word. And these graduates are already using their education in their current ministries, including college ministry in an urban setting, catechesis with neuro-atypical children, medical missionary work, and more.

The educational engagement of our faculty and students has also stretched around the globe. In April,



Dr. Anthony Hunt was inducted into the Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College.

Dr. Michael Gorman led a study tour “In the Footsteps of Paul and John” for 37 people, including a number of EI alums, current students, and their friends. In that same month, the Rev. Dr. C. Anthony Hunt travelled to Morehouse College in Atlanta to be inducted into the Martin Luther King, Jr., Collegium of Scholars. Over the summer, Dean Laytham travelled to Istanbul, both to visit holy historical sites like the Hagia Sophia, and to teach theology virtually to a

group of Russian Methodist seminarians. While in Alaska with family, DMin Director Jason Poling got to visit our most remote DMin student, who serves at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole, Alaska. In the fall, a student who took her first class in the EI from Zambia (Miracles MiniQuest with Dr. Pat Fosarelli) was back home in Baltimore taking classes onsite. Later that fall, one of our DMin students was invited to preach for a live Christian internet TV station based in Pakistan.

It was also a year that witnessed the significant contribution that our excellent, ecumenical education makes to the ministry in an incredible breadth of ecclesial traditions. Most visibly last year were alums from various communities who were ordained or commissioned for various ministerial roles in their churches: a brother and sister were ordained as itinerating elders, one in the Baltimore Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and the other the Washington Conference. A husband and wife were both ordained vocational deacons in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, and another alum a transitional deacon. One alum was ordained as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, another as

Teaching Team Pastor at Damascus Road Community Church, another ordained an elder in the United Methodist Church, and a current DMin student installed as pastor of Second Presbyterian Church.

The EI’s mission to foster ecumenical theological understanding in the wider community also reached into Baltimore and well beyond. Our annual Dunning Lecture by Dr. Peter Casarella on “Mary & the Holy Spirit: Pastoral Paradigms & Ecumenical Challenges” was a lively evening engaging the topic from various global points of view, including Jerusalem, Mexico, the United States, and more. With the largest on-site attendance since 2019, and folks joining online from around the world, it was an ecumenical and cosmopolitan conversation. The EI contributed to faith seeking understanding in hospitals and care facilities through summer completion of CONNECT, our certificate program in faith, health and medicine (which included chaplains, physicians, and nurses from area medical centers). Funded by a grant from the Patterson Memorial Association, the Ecumenical Institute provided a series of workshops on trauma-informed intergenerational ministry for United Methodists in Maryland and beyond. And we finished the year with a book talk by Dr. Pat Fosarelli about her newest publication summarizing her study of children’s questions for God.

E.I. students and their fellow pilgrims holding a prayer service in an ancient rock-church in Cappadocia, Turkey (photo: Harry Chou)



With Gratitude

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE

HERITAGE SOCIETY

These important friends have made a lasting commitment to St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute through their estate plans.

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Mr. Charles J. Buckler
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Ms. Betty Kansler
Mrs. Jane D. Marfizo
Mr. James P. McDonald
Ms. Sandra Lee Michocki
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Rev. Dr. Jason Poling
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ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE RESTRICTED GIFTS

Restricted to St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute's Endowment Fund
New Hope Community Church

Restricted to Bishop Doll Scholarship

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In honor of Rev. Dr. Jason Poling

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Rev. Dr. John M. Hayes

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Restricted to Patterson-Baltimore Metro Fund

Patterson Memorial Association



*Dr. Fosarelli celebrates the release of her book *Why Can't There Be Peace in the World?* with two M.A. in Christian Ministries students, Wanda Johnson (left) and James Johnson (right).*

Restricted to the Dunning Lecture
Society of St. Sulpice, Province of the United States

Restricted to Dean's Discretion
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wiese

UNRESTRICTED GIFTS

Unrestricted giving through St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute's Annual Fund is a partnership in outstanding formation and education. Funds are used for scholarships, to maintain vital faculty and research programs, and to strengthen the library and formation resources. Donors for fiscal year 2024 are recognized for their contributions at several levels of giving.

EI LEADER'S CLUB

(\$5,000 – \$9,999)

Mr. Jerry and Rev. Michelle Rader

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(\$1,000 – \$4,999)

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Dr. Jason Poling (left) visits D.Min. student Heather Pariera Kimmerling and her pastor at St. Nicholas Parish in North Pole, Alaska.



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Dr. Pat Fosarelli and Dr. Deborah Haskins offer a workshop on "Trauma-Informed Care for Young People & their Families" for local United Methodists with funding from the Patterson Memorial Association.





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