

*Previous Bulletin articles from the **Christian Service Commission (CSC)** have discussed a wide diversity of recipients of SSPP donations. Today the focus is on a continuing and pressing need of the worldwide Church, of our diocese, and of our own parish – supporting the institutions that train our Catholic priests of the future. A brief history and discussion of the mission of each of the four seminaries supported by direct SSPP CSC allocations will hopefully emphasize the importance of those donations to the future of the Catholic faith in each of our lives. It is often said that “Without priests, there is no Eucharist”. The four seminaries discussed below have had a profound influence on Ss. Peter and Paul parish as most of our Parochial Vicars and Pastors, for many years, have been educated at one or more of these institutions, including our current Pastor Fr. Milota. Please read on....*

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Founded in 1968, the **St. John Vianney College Seminary (SJV)** is affiliated with the University of St. Thomas (UST) in St. Paul, Minnesota. While pursuing programs leading to the Bachelor’s degree from UST, the seminarians are college students discerning possible vocations to the priesthood. They live together at the seminary building on the UST campus and along with their other college courses, receive a strong basis in philosophy and theology, spiritual direction and ample opportunity to explore their possible vocations. Their pre-theology training and coursework at SJV enables them to move on to a four year major seminary theology program as they pursue their eventual goal of ordination to the priesthood. Currently **Mr. James Guarascio** of Ss. Peter and Paul is a student at the St. John Vianney College Seminary, and our own **Fr. Steven Borello** will be moving there in late summer 2015 to serve as one of the spiritual directors for the 130 college men from some 27 different dioceses presently enrolled in the seminary program. Over 400 of St. John Vianney’s alumni have gone on to ordination to the priesthood.

The **Pontifical College Josephinum (PCJ)** was founded in 1888 by Monsignor Joseph Jessig who, because of the rapid growth of the US population, anticipated the need to train priests to serve the US’s large influx of German immigrants. In 1892 Pope Leo XIII designated this seminary as a “Pontifical” college directly linked to the Vatican. It is the only Pontifical seminary located outside of Italy and its Chancellor is the Papal Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. Financially independent from the Vatican, and from the Columbus, Ohio diocese where it is located, the PCJ is comprised of undergraduate and graduate programs of 4 years each along with a 2 year pre-theology program leading to a major seminary four year theology path to eventual ordination. **Mr. Kevin Glowiak** of SSPP is now enrolled in the PCJ two year pre-theology program. Over 1900 priests are numbered among the PCJ Alumni who have served or are serving in the priesthood throughout the United States and in some 18 foreign countries.

**The University of St. Mary of the Lake at Mundelein** includes in its mission, the “preparation of candidates for the diocesan priesthood, providing initial, post graduate and ongoing formation for priests and others involved in formal Church ministry.” Under the direction and auspices of the Chicago Archdiocese, it trains priests for Chicago as well as for some 33 dioceses in the US and other countries. Founded in 1844 by Bishop William Quarter as St. Mary’s College, it was the first institute of higher learning in Chicago organized under a state charter of education. Forced to close in 1866 because of financial difficulties, St. Mary’s was re-opened in 1921 by Cardinal George Mundelein under its original state charter. In 1961 Cardinal Meyer of Chicago opened a second campus seminary, Niles College, for the first two college years of its seminarians to be followed by six years of further education and priestly training at the Mundelein campus.

Cardinal Cody eventually affiliated all undergraduate and pre-theology education with Loyola University, and Niles College became “Niles College of Loyola University.” Niles College has subsequently become the St. Joseph College Seminary with its own new facility on the Loyola of Chicago campus. The Mundelein St. Mary of the Lake location became exclusively a graduate school campus. Some 210 students from 33 US dioceses and from many international dioceses are enrolled in that seminary’s four year Theology program leading to ordination. Among those current student seminarians is **Mr. Max Behna** of Ss. Peter and Paul.

**The Pontifical North American College (PNAC)** was founded in Rome by Pope Pius IX in 1859 to form seminarians for service as priests in the dioceses of the United States and elsewhere. It was first located in the Casa Santa Maria complex in central Rome near the Trevi fountain. Pope Leo XIII granted the seminary "Pontifical" status in 1884 and it was incorporated for legal purposes by a Special Act of the Maryland Assembly as the "American College of the Roman Catholic Church in America."

At the outbreak of World War II, Pope Pius XII temporarily closed all national seminaries in Italy, and sent the students home to their dioceses. After the war, the US Bishops received permission to reopen the seminary and authorized the construction of the new PNAC complex on the Janiculum Hill overlooking the Vatican on land they had owned since 1926. The new facilities were dedicated on October 14, 1953. The Casa Santa Maria and Casa O'Toole are still a part of the PNAC and serve to house ordained priests pursuing advanced learning and training in Rome. In January of 2015, an entirely new wing of the PNAC was opened and dedicated. It contains more classrooms, gathering spaces, administrative offices and liturgical practice chapels for the seminarians.

At this time, SSPP parish has one seminarian, **Deacon Paul Solomon**, at the North American College who will complete his Theology studies and be ordained to the priesthood in May of this year for the Joliet diocese. Our recent former Parochial Vicar, Fr. John Lovitsch, was educated at the PNAC as was our current pastor, Fr. Thomas Milota, who also served on the faculty of that seminary for three years when Cardinal (then Monsignor) Timothy Dolan was the seminary's Rector.