



A close-up of Fr. Reid Hennick (above) and a group photo (below) show the ordinands kneeling before the bishop after offering themselves as candidates for the priesthood.



(Above) The bishop imposes hands on Fr. Paul-Isaac Franks. This ceremonial action constitutes the matter of the sacrament. (Below) The ordinands process out from the tent as consecrated priests.



(Below) Fr. James Trummer looks into the eyes of the bishop and makes a promise of obedience.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS SEMINARY

The Society of St. Pius X is an international priestly society of common life without vows, whose purpose is the priesthood and all that pertains to it.

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary is an international seminary of the Society currently located in Minnesota. *Ad Orientem* chronicles the life at the seminary and the construction of the new St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Virginia. To find out more about the project or to contribute, visit newseminaryproject.org.

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Ad Orientem

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The End of an Era

This past ordination ceremony, which took place on Friday June 3, was the last to be held by St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Winona, Minnesota. The next ordinations will be at the new Seminary in Buckingham County, Virginia; and so these last ordinations, as well as the events surrounding them, were particularly special.

Things began on Thursday evening, when Fr. Jurgen Wegner, superior of the United States District, offered a Votive Mass of the Holy Ghost for the twenty-fifth anniversary of his priestly ordination. After Mass the celebration continued in the Seminary's refectory with a banquet for priests and religious sponsored by the District. Fr. Wegner received a few gifts from the priests and delivered a short address. Fr. Dominique Bourmaud finished the evening with a slideshow about the past, present, and future of STAS, for which he provided a commentary.

Friday morning was a time of high excitement. The bell rang out joyfully as the line of priests, seminarians, and religious wound its way through the sunshine and entered the cool dimness of the large tent. His Excellency Bishop Alfonso de Galarreta ordained seven new priests and nine new deacons in a ceremony that lasted four hours and twenty minutes. The crowd of faithful present was estimated between 3,000 and 3,500.

Late Friday evening devotions were held in the ordination tent in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. A candle-lit procession had been planned but was canceled because of a storm. As the rain poured and thunder roared, two cantors led the Litany of Loreto and Fr. Yves le Roux guided all present in a meditation on the Blessed Virgin Mary. Hundreds of faithful participated, their candles glowing in the darkness.

Saturday morning saw hundreds more, this time attending the first Masses of the newly ordained priests and crowding around afterwards to kiss the priests' hands and receive their first blessings. At noon a representative of a local business was asked to draw the winning ticket for the Seminary's Cadillac Giveaway. The lucky winner was a lady from Post Falls, Idaho.

Things soon quieted down as the faithful returned to their homes and the new priests began to leave for short vacations before beginning their apostolates. Silence settled on the Seminary once again. The last of the Winona ordinations came to a close.✽



(Above) His Excellency anoints the hands of Fr. Francis Palmquist to sanctify them for offering of the Holy Sacrifice.

(Below) Fr. Patrick Kimball processes to the tent carrying his chasuble and ordination candle.

(Above) Rev. Mr. Jonathan Kopec receives the diaconal stole from the hands of the bishop.

(Below) Fr. Andrew Dwyer bestows his first blessing upon his father.



(Above) Over ninety priests impose their hands upon the ordinands. By this ceremonial action, they show their approval of the bishop's choice to ordain these men as priests.



(Above) Fr. Andrew Dwyer's consecrated hands are bound with the manutergium.



(Above) Bishop de Galarreta preaches on the priesthood and the crisis in the Church.

(Below) The ordinands lie prostrate during the Litany of the Saints.



(Above) The office of the deacon is to minister at the altar, to baptize, and to preach.

(Below) The bishop invests Fr. Brandon Haenny with the chasuble.

(Below) His Excellency incenses the altar cross during the ordination Mass.

