



S S P X



Ad Orientem

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Planting for the Future

The month of May marks a milestone for the new seminary in Virginia. After numerous delays due to the harsh winter and torrential spring, we have completed the core and shell phase of the main building. Roof trusses, covered with a first layer of plywood and tarpaper, now shelter the entire structure.

Without any pause, work commenced on the final phase when workers began placing the second layer of plywood on the roof's surface which will then be crowned by slate. Delivery of the slate is scheduled for June 8.

During the bid process for the final phase, it was determined that, for a minimal upcharge, the entire facade of the main building could be clad with brick. This option was chosen since brick is the tried and tested form of construction in Virginia, adding perennial durability to the

beautiful design. With the help of our friends at Our Lady of Guadalupe Monastery, we are finalizing the selection of the color scheme so that both brick and windows may be purchased soon.

Trusting in God's providence and your continued generosity, we hope to have the slate, brick, and windows installed before next winter. This would allow the finish work on the interior to proceed throughout the winter and spring with the hope of moving the seminary to its new home in 2016.

Already planting for the future, Father Kenneth Dean, the superior of the Brothers' Novitiate, brought a work crew of nine brothers, novices, and postulants to Virginia during the two weeks after Easter. The team repaired breaches in the cattle fence and made strategic improvements to

the already formidable deer fence which seminarians constructed last summer. This fence will keep at a respectful distance the deer who will soon be taking a keen interest in the 116 apple trees planted by the brothers to launch the Seminary's orchard. ✧

(Right) Overhead aerial photograph of progress on the roof.

(Below) Father Dean directs the brothers in their work on the fences. Loose fence wires were tightened while additional lines were added to increase the overall height.



(Above right) Rock-hard soil had to be removed to prepare fertile root space for each tree.

(Below) Long rows of newly planted saplings reveal the vast extent of the brothers' labor.





(Above) His Excellency Bishop Fellay, during one of his frequent visits to the project, surveys the latest progress of the recently completed core and shell.



(Above) Standing with Fr. Reuter within the seminary's library tower, Br. Bernard, O.S.B. offers various layout and finishing suggestions for the interior space.

(Below) This high-altitude photograph reveals the imposing presence of the seminary on the surrounding landscape. Since this picture was taken, the refectory roof has been completed.





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 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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