



Subdeacons to be ordained to the diaconate are presented to the bishop.



Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais preaches on various aspects of the priests' future apostolate and how they are linked with the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Bishop de Mallerais raises Rev. Mr. James Trummer to the diaconate.



Society Sisters and Franciscans Sisters prayerfully watch the ceremony.



The Manutergium is tied around the new priest's consecrated hands.



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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Men after His own Heart

An overcast sky shrouded the Seminary grounds as eight young men followed in procession to the Ordinations tent. It was the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Our Lord, in His merciful designs, was about to associate these candidates more closely to His own eternal and high priesthood.

On that Friday, June 12, His Excellency Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais raised four men to the priesthood of Our Lord Jesus Christ and likewise four to the diaconate in Winona, Minnesota.

The ordinands had just finished a retreat preached by Father Davide Pagliarani, the Rector of Our Lady Co-Redemptrix Seminary in La Reja, Argentina. Thanks to the recollected atmosphere of the previous week, their faces reflected peace and a quiet firmness. Father Pagliarani had prepared them well.

First the deacons, then the priests were raised to their new dignities. As if in response, the sun appeared from behind the cloud cover and brightened the atmosphere.

All four of the newly-ordained priests have been assigned within the U. S. District. Father Stephen Reid will be sent to the Priory in Post Falls, Idaho, the second-largest in the United States. The growing priory and school of Walton, Kentucky awaits Father Michael Brown, while the priory in Sanford, Florida will soon welcome Father Thomas Brooks. Father Dylan Flanery will be stationed in Nicholville, New York.

Inside, we have included short biographies of each of the newly-ordained priests. These provide a glimpse into the new priests' diverse personalities, while exposing various elements of their common formation.



(Below) Father Michael Brown of St. Mary's, Kansas.



Rev. Fr. Michael Brown

Fr. Brown is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When he was three years old, his family settled in St. Mary's, Kansas. Father attended both St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's College before entering the Seminary.

At his First Holy Communion, Fr. Brown began to consider a vocation. Advised by the parish priest to ask Our Lord for any grace he wanted, he asked to become a priest. He grew in this desire, not only through frequent contact with priests, but also by serving at the altar—and at St. Mary's he could always find ceremonies to serve. He attended Ordinations at the Seminary a few times, but the decisive moment came during an Ignatian retreat which he followed while attending college. He decided to offer his life to God as a priest of the Society. Three years later, his older sister followed him, joining the Sisters of the SSPX.

Father emphasizes that, at the Seminary, he received a formation that re-oriented his life. He discovered that, although he had received a good Catholic education, he was still affected by the world's spirit. The Seminary brought home to him that, if God is the source and goal of everything, and if we depend entirely on Him, then our self-centeredness must disappear. Only then can we orient our life around God. This is the spirit of adoration, and the spirit of the liturgy, in which we unite with Christ adoring and giving glory to His Father. It is not something that we can learn or acquire by our own efforts; it is a spirit that we must receive—and this requires humility, docility and generosity. ❖

Rev. Fr. Stephen Reid

Fr. Reid was born in Scottsdale, Arizona and is the younger of two children. His family, never staying still for long, moved successively to Canada, then back to Arizona, then to North Carolina, and finally again to Arizona.

It was in Raleigh, North Carolina that Father and his family began to attend the Traditional Mass. Fr. Reid remembers a striking incident there. The priest was preaching a sermon on vocations; he turned suddenly to the servers (among whom was the future Fr. Reid) and told them that, since the Church needs priests, they needed to “step up.” Sometime later, when an art workshop was offered at the Seminary, Father attended. Contrary to his initial fears, he enjoyed the experience immensely, and the idea of a vocation began to seem like a real possibility. Fr. Reid spent his last two years of high school at Notre Dame de La Salette Boys' Academy. He attributes his perseverance at the Seminary to the disciplined formation he received at La Salette. It was there that he made the decision to pursue his vocation.

Looking back on his seven years at the Seminary, Father marvels at the great gifts which seminarians receive. “You don't realize it until after it is over, but the way you think has completely changed. Fr. le Roux's spiritual conferences really show you the way things truly are.” Foremost among the notions that Fr. le Roux inculcates is the concept of Fatherhood, or the passing on of what has been received. “The key is openness, docility, willingness to be formed; if you are willing to hear and receive what someone else has to teach you, then you yourself can receive the gift of Fatherhood and be a Father to others.” ❖

(Below) Father Stephen Reid of Phoenix, Arizona.



(Above) Ordinands prostrate during the Litany of the Saints.



(Below) Ordinands receive imposition of hands from all the priests present.



Rev. Fr. Thomas Brooks

Fr. Brooks grew up in Elk Grove, California. His family attended the Traditional Mass at St. Michael's, a mission chapel in the suburbs of Sacramento. Fr. Brooks went to a number of local schools for his elementary and high school education. His interests were mathematics and tennis; he also enjoyed volunteer work, helping with youth baseball and tutoring the fifth-graders in his mother's class.

In his early youth, like many boys, Fr. Brooks felt an attraction to the priesthood, but it was in high school that the desire solidified; from a vague inclination, it became a determining influence. This was due primarily to the boys' camps at St. Aloysius Gonzaga, the priory and retreat house in Los Gatos, California. These camps, which Fr. Brooks attended every summer for four years, put him in close proximity to priests and seminarians and helped him to form a more accurate, lifelike image of what a priestly vocation entails. At the same time, he began to give more serious thought to his future. If the Christian life is all about serving God, he reasoned, and all the rest is merely details, why not choose a state of life in which one achieves this goal as directly as possible? Why not cut right to the essential? Following this line of questions, Fr. Brooks visited the Seminary, made up his mind to enter, and never looked back. ❖

(Above right) Father Thomas Brooks makes the promise of fidelity.



Rev. Fr. Dylan Flanery

Fr. Flanery comes from St. Louis, Missouri. His family came to Tradition at approximately the time that Father was born. Fr. Flanery attended grade school at Queen of the Holy Rosary Academy, which kept him in close proximity with priests and the sacraments. He then spent his last three years of high school at Notre Dame de La Salette Boys' Academy. During those years at La Salette he was deeply impressed with the necessity of following God's will as manifested by one's superiors, instead of doing one's own will. Over the summers he gleaned valuable experience from his summer jobs, coming into contact with many people less fortunate than himself, people without the faith. He reflected on the terrible emptiness of a life in which one does not seek joy in God, but tries vainly to find it in creatures.



At the Seminary, Father often returned to the thought that man is profoundly in need of the mercy of God. This mercy is to be found even in the commandments. Too many are those who find them burdensome, seeing in the commandments only prohibitions seeming to restrict the search for happiness. This false perspective would vanish, if men could see the purpose of those prohibitions. They are based upon something very great that God has given us – which He does not want us to lose, but rather wishes to increase within us. In His mercy, God gives commandments, not to oppress us, but to protect His precious gift in us. The spiritual formation that Fr. Flanery received at the Seminary enabled him to discern this and gave him the desire to impart this same perspective to others. ❖