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May 2022

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Dear Friends of Holy Cross Seminary,

Greetings of joy and peace of the Risen Lord.

Our office manager has been reminding me to write something for the Seminary newsletter. This being my first message for the newsletter, I was not sure what to write and thus her constant reminders!

Well, you may be wondering what are we up to? We are well into the second term of the 1st semester. As a community we had time to get to know each other and put our perspectives together. As a formation community to help young men preparing to minister in New Zealand as priests, our goal is to create an environment for and help the seminarians to be holy, to have orthodoxy in theology and to be good leaders. The Vatican Congregation for the Clergy has produced an updated document to guide the holistic formation of Seminarians. It emphasizes integration of the human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral qualities of the seminarians to serve and to build the community as future priests. The formation staff accompanies them and helps them to be good people (human formation), able to read and interpret the signs of the times under the influence of the Word of God (intellectual formation), to have the heart of the Good Shepherd (spiritual formation) that goes out to the flock leading them to the good pastures (pastoral formation).

Thank you for praying for us and helping us in many ways.
When you are around Ponsonby, drop in. We can find a spare cuppa!

God bless.
Fr. Mathew Vadakkevettuvazhiyil—Rector

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✝ Te Kupenga graduation ceremony June 10th
- ✝ Mid Year Retreat for seminarians in Tauranga 28th of June to 3rd of July.
- ✝ Start of Semester two on 25th July.
- ✝ Vocation Directors Meeting at Seminary 22nd & 23rd of August.
- ✝ Blessing of the remediated seminary buildings, Saturday 5th November

ORDINATIONS

- ✝ Monty Bamford - Christchurch Diocese 16th of July—St Mary's Pro-Cathedral



THE HAPPINESS OF JESUS

Unfortunately the Gospels do not give us any clear information about the physical features of Jesus, or his personality. However I have always felt that he must have been a happy person.

He was often accused of dining with sinners and other social outcasts. One gets the impression that he was fun to be with, and good company over a meal.

At the Last Supper [John 15] he urges his closest friends to remain in his love and to keep his commandments 'so that my own joy may be in you, and your joy be complete'.

I once heard the path to holiness, which we are all encouraged to walk, described as 'Our Journey into Joy'. St Paul in Galatians 5:22 lists the fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, reliability and self-control.

A person who is filled with the Spirit, or 'filled with God', is a very attractive figure, and I am sure that Jesus was this par excellence.

We know about his wacky humour. Did he warn people not to criticize the speck in their neighbour's eye and ignore the plank in their own while chuckling with his listeners over the absurdity of the image? And similarly when saying it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven? The message is just as clear if presented with kindly laughter and perhaps even more effective.

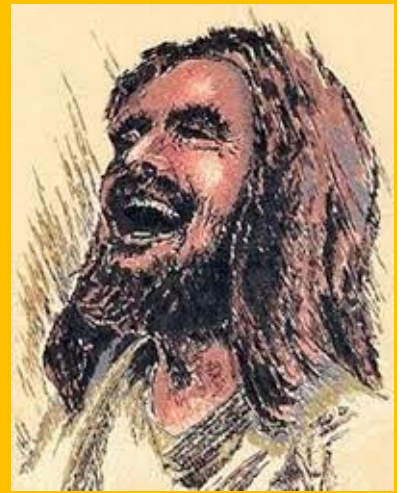
Was Jesus chuckling gently in that awkward passage [Mark 7:26f] where he challenges the pagan Syrophenician woman in Tyre about throwing the children's food to the house-dogs? Did she realise he was teasing her, and was she perhaps laughing herself with her repartee about the house-dogs still eating the scraps under the table? Did she know already that he would certainly heal her little girl?

Pope Francis, soon after his election, reminded us of the Joy of the Gospel. In one of his homely images he noted that a 'sourpuss' could never be a very compelling evangelist.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta was reputed to have said that one needed a 'cheerful disposition' to become one of her Missionaries of Charity. She said the last thing the poor needed was a visit from 'a couple of gloomy nuns'.

One of my late friends used to have a small image of Jesus laughing in his lounge. I have often felt that God must have a wonderful sense of humour, and I suspect it is a trait His Son also shared.

Bishop Pat Dunn DD



Alfred Tong, + Paul Martin, Adam Kirkeby and Monty Bamford

Diaconate
Ordination
on
02/10/2021
St Mary's
Pro-
Cathedral
Christchurch
Arch-Bishop
Paul Martin
Celebrant



First Years

Vaka, Tung
Joseph &
Bob after a
hard day of
study



Emilio Capin - Wellington Archdiocese 3rd Year Seminarian

The most rewarding part of being a seminarian is serving God and serving others. Life in the seminary is quite different but fulfilling. Amidst all the challenges, I find true happiness within. My daily devotion to our blessed Mother has strengthened me, and adoration of the blessed sacrament helps me grow.

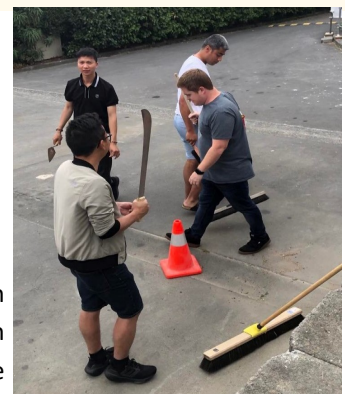
As a young boy, I admired the priests in my parish and wished to be like them when I grew up. I also was a great fan of the Pope, who later became Saint John Paul II. As a youth, I was moved by his words: "Jesus is present in the Eucharist to be met, loved, received and consoled." I grew to love the Eucharist. As a child, I pretended that I was a priest celebrating Mass, using blankets as my vestment and a biscuit for communion. My brothers and sisters laughed at me, but that did not take away my joy, and I wished that I would become a priest one day.

I had many friends in college and university and got involved in many programs and activities, but I did not feel satisfied, although my life was full. I was longing for something I did not quite understand. I started reading at Mass and became a parish youth leader. I tried different jobs and took opportunities as they came along. I was a teacher and office worker, and eventually, I went back to study and train as a nurse. I wanted to serve people and worked in a poor government hospital, caring for the underprivileged. I found happiness in serving and thought that perhaps this was what I had been searching for, but there was still something missing. I was still longing for peace.

Finally, I started to explore the possibility of becoming a priest. I found happiness, and serving people was a special gift that I could share. However, the calling greatly impacted me to follow my deepest desire that I know would fulfil my happiness. I am now in Holy Cross Seminary in Auckland to fulfil my dreams. I believe that I can share more of what God wants me to do being a Seminarian as I have this deep Love and Faith in Him. I pray fervently that God will hear me and make me be one of his servants one day.



Start of year Mass
then picnic at
Cornwall Park



Students on
Friday afternoon
Maintenance



NEW HUMAN FORMATOR—FR DAVID DOWLING

I am a priest of the Archdiocese of Wellington and have worked in parish ministry since my ordination in 2007. In mid-January I arrived at Holy Cross Seminary to take on the role of Human Formator. I received a warm welcome when I arrived in Auckland. What I had heard about Aucklanders is not true. There are some wonderful people here! Also, many parks and tracks for walking, cycling, and enjoying the outdoors.

Human formation is the foundation of all priestly formation. Every seminarian is challenged to develop his personality, having Christ as his model. He is encouraged and supported to shape his personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge to lead others to Christ. Human formation helps seminarians to cultivate qualities that are important for ministry, such as being open and kind, courteous, generous, hospitable, prudent and discrete, affirming and encouraging. Attention to these and other important qualities helps seminarians to develop their capacity to relate to others in a warm and friendly way. The formation programme provides a solid basis for their spiritual life and nurtures a greater self-awareness for personal growth.

I coordinate the human formation programme in collaboration with the other formation staff and the Rector. I also have oversight of the First Year formation programme, and enjoy working with our three first year seminarians. It is wonderful to see them growing and developing as they strive to have the heart and mind of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Helping to form future priests can be demanding at times but it is a great privilege to be part of the seminary community and a member of the formation team.



Our two accommodation blocks have been completed and look fantastic! They are warm, dry and quieter. The staff accommodation has been greatly improved from what they had previously.

The main admin block is still under shrink wrap and there's quite a bit of work to go before completion. We will have new external cladding, windows and roof.

Our makeshift dining room, kitchen and staff offices has worked out for this year but it will be great to be back to normal in 2023.



To all those who support Holy Cross Seminary, through prayer, supporting students in their pastoral placements and for those who support us financially. With your support we can train seminarians to be the future priests of New Zealand. We remember you all, in our prayers for all benefactors.

Annual Seminary Appeal

Each year the fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday and is designated as the 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations'. A special collection is taken up in parishes across all the dioceses on this Sunday; it is the main source of income for the training of seminarians in New Zealand.

Individual Donations

Individual donations made directly to Holy Cross Seminary greatly aid necessary funding for staffing and student education, formation, accommodation, teaching and administration needs and costs. Such donations are very appreciated and gratefully received.

Online Donations to:

Holy Cross Seminary Ponsonby

Bank Account - 06 0199 0093928 00

Please include 'Donation' as reference and your name and send us an email so we can send you a receipt.