



PROFILES WRITTEN BY ARMANDO MACHADO, DAN PIETRAFESA, CHRISTIE L. CHICOINE AND JOHN WOODS PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

## They Answered the Call To Bring Christ to Others

*Cardinal Dolan to Ordain  
9 Priests at Cathedral May 26*

Graduates of the Class of 2018 from St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie will soon serve the faithful entrusted to their care as priests. Cardinal Dolan will ordain nine men at Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral Saturday, May 26, at 9 a.m. Five will serve as priests of the Archdiocese of New York and four are Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The ordination class includes Father Kareem Smith, who has been serving as a transitional deacon at St. Patrick's Cathedral; Father Carlos Limongi, who pursued priesthood studies at Theological College in Washington, D.C.; and Father Louis Masi, who studied at Pontifical North American College in Rome. From left: Father Osvaldo Hernandez; Father Angelus Montgomery, C.F.R.; Father Kareem Smith; Father Pierre Toussaint Guiteau, C.F.R.; Father Mark-Mary Maximilian Ames, C.F.R.; Father Michael Connolly; and Father Francesco Gavazzi, C.F.R.





## Father Michael Connolly

Father Connolly will celebrate his first Mass at his home parish, St. Augustine Church in Ossining, on Sunday, May 27, at noon. The homilist will be Father Robert M. Dunn, a former parochial vicar of St. Augustine parish and a mentor and friend of Father Connolly's.

### *'Missionary to Millennials' Thinks They Can Take It*

When Cardinal Dolan and talk show host and comedian Stephen Colbert appeared at Fordham University six years ago to discuss faith and humor, neither could know how the event encouraged then-Fordham student Michael Connolly to listen to a call deep within himself.

"We were all abuzz about it in the dorms, and getting ready to get on line and get our ticket," Father Connolly, now 25, recalled. Leading up to that, "all I heard was, 'Oh, I'm going to go see Colbert. Hey, are you going to go to Colbert?'"

"I found myself thinking, I'm going to see the Cardinal. Then I thought about that and was like, Why do I feel that way? I just had this reaction: no, I'm not going to see Colbert, I'm going to see the Cardinal, and then wondered, Whoa. Why?"

Once there, he saw the cardinal descend the lobby stairs and cheerfully greet people. "I just felt this complete joy come over me, because it just emanates from him. I thought, I have to have that joy."

He concedes that his devout practice of the faith, rooted in childhood, "took a backseat" freshman year of college, at Fordham's Lincoln Center campus. Despite all the fun he was having, "I just got to this point where I was so lonely, sad and empty."

"God gave me a graced conversion moment and I just could see how horribly dark I felt." Without thinking, he went to the chapel. He apologized to God and asked him to show him what he wanted him to do.

"At that point, it wasn't even necessarily priesthood. The first step was just coming back" to Church. "God

bringing me back was like getting to meet myself all over again."

Now, through the priesthood, "robed with Him as my armor, I can go back in and communicate that, and sort of be like a missionary to millennials," Father Connolly said.

"But what's so confusing for us millennials right now is that we're being told from everywhere else that there's no such thing as a mistake; whatever you feel like doing, that's what you should do, that's the truth, that's the good thing."

Millennials are owed much more credit than they're given. "We can take it, and, in fact, we want it," Father Connolly said. "We're not going to just fall apart if you tell me that there is such a thing as sin and poor choices. We want to know the truth."

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## Father Osvaldo Miguel Hernandez

Father Hernandez will celebrate his first Mass at St. Elizabeth's Church in Manhattan Sunday, May 27, at 3 p.m. Father Luis Saldaña, spiritual director at St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, will deliver the homily.



At age 18, in his native land, the Dominican Republic—those are the "when and where" answers to the question of Father Osvaldo Miguel Hernandez' decision to pursue the priesthood. Father Hernandez, now 30, is prepared to make that aspiration a reality.

"It was an invitation from my principal to attend a vocational retreat, and I had a personal encounter with God," said Father Hernandez as he described how the retreat cemented his decision to become a priest.

"I remember being in my room, in my parents' home in Santiago (in the Dominican Republic, before the retreat). I was confused, asking myself, 'What am I going to do?'"

Father Hernandez said his teenage confusion stemmed from facing the choice of whether to seek the path to the priesthood, or continue his relationship with his girlfriend and study to become an engineer. After

months of serious discernment, he decided on the priesthood and amicably broke up with his girlfriend, who supported his decision. He had been a choir member during high school, in the family's parish, San Pio X in Santiago, where he was born and raised.

When he was 19, his family immigrated to the United States, settling in Washington Heights in Manhattan and later in the Bronx. He worked to learn English, and held a job at a factory and later at a restaurant to help his family financially. His desire to seek the priesthood, which had begun to wane, was rekindled during a Catholic Charismatic Renewal gathering in the Bronx, when he was 21.

Father Hernandez, who was ordained a transitional deacon last November at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, where he has done his priestly formation, will celebrate his first Mass as a priest, in Spanish

and English, in Washington Heights, where many residents are originally from the Dominican Republic.

In 2009, he entered St. John Neumann College Seminary on the campus of St. Joseph's Seminary. He graduated from St. John's University in Queens in 2014, with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and minors in theology and Spanish.

"It is a calling, when you realize with certainty that God is calling you," Father Hernandez said of the priesthood. "You don't know how to describe it... We decide to do the will of God."

Father Hernandez's apostolic assignments included Jeanne Jugan Nursing Home in the Bronx, and the Westchester County Department of Correction in Valhalla. His summer parish assignments included Immaculate Conception parish in Tuckahoe, St. Patrick's parish in Yorktown Heights and Sacred Heart parish in

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### *Priestly Calling Led Him to Do God's Will*

## Priesthood's Draw Ruled Over Architecture

Father Carlos Limongi recalled being enthralled by the Communion line during Masses in his parish assignments as a seminarian. "There was something about seeing the people coming to receive Christ that encouraged me to continue in my journey, so I could also bring Christ to them," he said.

His call to the priesthood was gradual. Through a lay evangelization movement for the Hispanic community called Movimiento de Retiros Parroquiales Juan XXIII, which he joined at age 18, he was introduced to ministry and apostolic work.

"As I grew in the faith, I would go to Adoration and the typical prayer of someone trying to live a faithful Catholic life became my own: 'Lord, I'll go wherever you want me to go, I will do whatever you want me to do, I'll say whatever you want me to say.' It was in those moments of prayer where I first heard a voice in my heart say, 'Be a priest.'"

At first, he brushed the call aside. "I don't think I was ready because I still had plans to be a huge, famous New York architect," he explained.

A few years later, in 2012, a friend organized a silent retreat that included perpetual Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. "It was in this retreat where God spoke to me again and I couldn't deny it anymore," Father Limongi said. After-

ward, he reached out to the vocations director of the archdiocese. He entered the minor seminary, the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, Queens, in January 2013.

After completing his pre-theology coursework, he was sent to study theology at the Theological College in Washington, D.C., the national seminary of The Catholic University of America.

"After I was able to accept the call, it never went away, but part of me still stares at beautiful or interesting buildings when I see them," said Father Limongi, 34. "I still comment on design features with friends, so the architectural persona is still alive in me."

He holds a bachelor's degree in architectural technology from New York City College of Technology.

He has studied graphic design, and he likes to draw. "When I do human features, it allows me to focus on the details and see God's handiwork of creation. The contours of the hands, the depths of the eyes, the expressiveness of mouths, they speak of God's greatness in making everyone different and unique."

Born in Guayaquil, Ecuador, he is the youngest of six children of Barney and Jannette Limongi. He has three brothers: Barney Jr., Lisandro and Kevin, and two sisters: Veronica and Jill. He moved to New York with his family in 2003. He was 19. He became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. a decade later.

Father Limongi credits his family for forming

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### Father Carlos Limongi

Father Limongi will celebrate his first Mass at St. Anselm's Church, the Bronx, Sunday, May 27, at 2:30 p.m. The homilist will be Father Christopher Bethge, parochial vicar of Incarnation parish in Queens Village, Queens.



### Father Louis Masi

Father Masi will offer his first Mass at St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus Church in the Bronx Sunday, May 27, at 2:15 p.m. Father Robert Grippo, pastor of Annunciation-Our Lady of Fatima parish in Crestwood and a former longtime pastor of St. Theresa, will deliver the homily.

Father Louis Masi says the Lord has worked in "very ordinary ways" throughout his life, leaving "subtle signs that He was calling me to the priesthood."

He first expressed a desire to become a priest as a second-grader at St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus School in his home parish in the Bronx before giving the idea serious consideration while attending Jesuit-run Regis High School in Manhattan, where he cited encouragement from Father Anthony Andreassi, C.O., a priest of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, who taught history. "By his

example and our many conversations, he helped me to grow as a man of virtue and of prayer," Father Masi recalled.

In high school, he was greatly influenced by the writings of Pope Benedict XVI, and drew inspiration from the Holy Father's insistence that "Catholicism is fundamentally about an encounter with a Person, the Lord Jesus, who gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." As a senior, Father Masi decided to attend St. John Neumann college seminary, then on the grounds of St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

Father Masi's background would fill the boxes on a vocations director's checklist: practicing Catholic family with supportive parents; positive experiences with priests throughout his life; active personal faith driven by pastoral experiences and study; and a willingness to consider and pursue the priesthood.

Father Masi, 27, who has done his priesthood formation at Pontifical North American College in Rome for the past four years, said he hopes as a priest "to foster an authentic encounter between God and His people."

"There are many in the world whose hearts are restless and I hope to calm the rough waters of restless hearts by bringing Christ to others through the sacraments of love and mercy, especially the Eucharist and confession," he said.

Father Masi holds two degrees in philosophy from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., a bachelor's as well as a licentiate in philosophy, which he earned when he was enrolled at Theological College Seminary. He earned a bachelor of sacred theology from Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He holds a master's in Joseph Ratzinger Studies and Spirituality from the Pontifical Institute Augustinianum in Rome, where he is pursuing a licentiate in sacred theology.

Father Masi expects to have a summer assignment in the archdiocese before he returns to Rome for a

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*Seeking to Foster 'Authentic Encounter' With the Lord*



## *His Interest in Priesthood Began at a Young Age*

Father Kareem R. Smith first announced at the age of seven he wanted to become a priest. It seemed fitting.

His parents, Rickford and Yvonne Lewis Smith, raised him in a Bronx home with a deep Catholic faith, sending their son to St. Anthony's School in the Bronx and Blessed Sacrament High School in New Rochelle. His uncle, the late Father Floyd Grace, was a priest of the archdiocese, and his grandmother, Millicent Matthew-Grace, was a steady positive influence on his faith.

Father Smith, 28, will remember his uncle and grandmother when he is with family at his ordination Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 26 and his first Mass at the Church of the Holy Rosary in the Bronx the next day. He will be using his uncle's chalice at his first Mass.

"(My first) Mass will be offered for my uncle and my grandmother. I will be thinking about them," Father Smith said.

Father Smith said St. Joseph's Seminary and his parish assignments, including ones at Assumption in Peekskill and St. Patrick's Cathedral, prepared him by offering extraordinary experiences. He said the seminary offered him lifelong friendships, and parishioners of Assumption served the parish and community because they knew they were being "Christ-like."

The St. Patrick's Cathedral staff offered something different because they were serving parishioners as well as visitors to America's Parish Church.

"Every single person you encounter is looking for something, and our role is to be present for them," Father Smith said. "It has to be a positive experience and we have to do everything that we can do when we encounter that person because who knows what they're going through and if what you say to them will effect them for the rest of their life."

Father Smith is looking to bring more young adults into parishes and to reach the children in the Catholic schools.

"Catholic schools have played such a tremendous role in my life," he said. "I had all lay teachers at St. Anthony's and they were all true Christians in every sense of the word. It wasn't a job. It was a vocation for them. That is an experience every child we encounter should have, a similar situation meeting others who are faith-filled who can help lead them to the faith by example."

Father Smith, who has a bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy from St. John's University, taught religion at John A. Coleman Catholic High School in Hurley during a year's break from the seminary.

"I came to first theology at the seminary and was having a difficult time. I came to the understanding with my spiritual director that this was

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## Father Kareem R. Smith

Father Smith will celebrate his first Mass at his parish growing up, Holy Rosary in the Bronx, Saturday, May 27, at 4 p.m. Father John Higgins, pastor of Holy Cross parish in the Bronx who served at Holy Rosary during Father Smith's youth, will be the homilist.



## Father Mark-Mary Maximilian Ames, C.F.R.

Father Ames will celebrate his first Mass at San Antonio parish in Anaheim Hills, Calif., Saturday, June 16, at 5 p.m. Father Seamus Glynn, the family's longtime pastor in Anaheim Hills, who is now retired, will deliver the homily.

Growing up in Southern California, Father Mark-Mary Maximilian Ames, C.F.R., attended Mass at San Antonio parish in Anaheim Hills, where his faith was nurtured by clergy and staff, along with his parents, Dennis and Brenda, who still live in the area.

"It is the church where I grew up," Father Ames said, "where my relationship with God and the vocation were nurtured... Like it takes a village to raise a child, it kind of takes a parish community to foster and nurture a vocation. There were many people, like Pam my youth minister, to my parents' influence, to my pastor. They were all playing a role."

Father Ames, 33, who has been a brother with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, added that he was 19 years old, a freshman in college, when he decided he wanted to seek joining the priesthood. "That's when I gave myself to the faith and became very serious about it," he said. "I was very inspired by Mother Teresa, and from her inspiration, I felt God calling me to be a missionary, to work with and serve the poorest of the poor."

He said he began learning more about his Catholic faith, in particular about reconciliation and all the sacraments. His desire to be a priest started to form, and his plans to major in business diminished. Later, he went on a yearlong mission to South Africa to teach math in a Zulu high school. "I was only 20 when I did it. It was part of my discernment, a chance for me to test it out."

As for his general view of the priesthood, Father Ames noted that God loves the world, and He wants people to continue the mission of Jesus, "of bringing salvation and bringing unity, bringing communion, bringing about healing, and...the Lord has given us the priesthood, as a particular way of continuing the mission of Jesus, of guiding, of feeding and saving."

Father Ames holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, and graduated from Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, Calif. His sister, Stacey Newman, lives in Anaheim.

His apostolic assignments included serving as assistant director of Padre Pio homeless shelter in the Bronx. He also did Friary House mission work in Comayagua, Honduras, for two years. "I loved the culture, the people, and the work," he said—and he serves as director of Catholic Underground, at the international site based in Manhattan.

Father Ames enjoys media evangelization, especially through music and videos, and he likes playing sports, especially basketball. He is fluent in Spanish, learning it in middle school, high school, college and later in Honduras. He entered the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in 2009 and professed first vows in 2011 and final vows in 2014 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan.

## *Franciscan Friar Says It Takes a Parish to Nurture a Vocation*



## Father Francesco Gavazzi, C.F.R.

Father Gavazzi will celebrate his first Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan Sunday, May 27, at 2 p.m. The homilist will be Father Emmanuel Mansford, C.F.R., the community's vocations director who resides at St. Joseph Friary in Harlem.

### *A Flashlight Pointed Him Toward Priesthood*

Just before he went to World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany, Francesco Gavazzi of Sydney, Australia, applied to Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, primarily to discern a vocation to the priesthood. "I wasn't sure whether I would get in or whether that's where I was being led," he said.

Flash forward to the pilgrim gift exchange in Marian Field at World Youth Day. Two random peers approached Francesco. He presented them with a toy koala from Australia. They gave him their gift and walked away. "It was wild," he recalled. "They had given me a little flashlight that said Franciscan University. I saw it as a sign."

A Redemptorist priest he met at his parish's mission in Sydney had told him a couple months earlier that

"God gives us just enough light to take the next step."

Francesco was accepted to Franciscan University and entered in January 2006.

For Francesco, another pivotal takeaway from that World Youth Day was the fun and courteous disposition of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (CFRs) he encountered for the first time.

The catechetical site to which Francesco and his Sydney companions were assigned was facilitated by the CFRs. As he walked onto the grounds of the church, he was instantly struck by their presence. "I remember seeing one of them kneeling in prayer," he said, and "another one, with two guitars in his hand, get down on both knees and genuflect to the tabernacle."

He later thought, "If I really am being called to the priesthood, maybe I could live it this way."

On another occasion, the World Youth Day pilgrims were chatting among themselves while waiting for the next event outside a church. One of the CFRs ushered them inside the church and said, "The bishop is about to speak."

"His respect and love for the bishop was evident," said Father Gavazzi, 34, who entered the Renewal Friars in 2006 and made final vows in 2011.

"I came away with this combination of these guys who seemed to really enjoy life—there was joy in them and there was something youthful and normal about them—but they also seemed to really love God, the Church, Our Lady, the Eucharist,

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## Father Pierre Toussaint Guiteau, C.F.R.

Father Guiteau will celebrate first Mass at his home parish, Our Holy Redeemer Church in Freeport, Sunday, June 3, at 5 p.m. Father Joseph Fitzgerald, his spiritual adviser and vocations director of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will be the homilist.



Father Pierre Toussaint Guiteau, C.F.R., realized as a student at Ave Maria University in Florida he could be giving more.

"I was a happy-go-lucky guy but knew deep down there was something more I could be doing and giving," Father Guiteau said. "It started to click for me that my life is more than just myself. It could be this beautiful gift for God and what he wants me to do."

After graduating from Ave Maria with a bachelor's degree in economics, he entered the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in 2008 and professed final vows in 2013.

Father Guiteau, 32, knew about the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal because his sister, Dominique Seraphin, who is 11 years older, was a Franciscan Sister of the Renewal for two years.

"I visited the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal before my senior year of college," Father Guiteau said. "I walked into the friary and I felt I was

at home. It was something where I knew the Lord was asking me to try this life out to see if this is what he wanted me to do. Ever since I entered, there is no place I would rather be."

Father Guiteau remembered another aspect of his weekend vocation visit.

"They were sitting around the table and conversation turned to normal things like sports and video games. It was if I lived there and I was coming back from a long journey," he said.

Sports are a big part of Father Guiteau's life. He grew up in Freeport, Long Island, and attended St. Christopher's School in Baldwin and Kellenberg Memorial High School in Uniondale, where he played basketball and baseball. When he returns home to visit his parents, Clotaire and Florence Guiteau, he spends time with his dad watching his favorite teams, the Mets, Giants and Knicks.

Father Guiteau, who is of Haitian descent, worked on missions in

Haiti, including one to assist Haitians after the earthquake in 2010. He would return to Haiti with the friars to bring medical supplies, build homes and visit with his relatives, when time permitted.

"It was a joy to be there," the friar said. "These people have nothing and are able to be happy and joyful amidst their suffering. It was a reality check for me in how I live as a friar or a normal person in New York."

Father Guiteau's family will be present at his ordination Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. "Pierre Toussaint is buried in the crypt at St. Patrick's Cathedral. It'll be super special to be ordained where my patron is buried. It'll be very moving for me," he said.

Father Guiteau is being assigned to the St. Francis Youth Center in the Bronx.

"The community gives your assignments based on your capabilities and gifts. I love working with the youth and I love playing sports," he said.

### *Sports-minded Friar Enjoys Working With Youth*





## Father Angelus Montgomery, C.F.R.

Father Montgomery will celebrate his first Mass at North American Martyrs parish in Lincoln, Neb., Sunday, June 10, at 2:30 p.m. Father John Haugen, who was Father Montgomery's spiritual director in college, will deliver the homily. Father Haugen is pastor of Emmaus Pastorate parish in Dubuque, Iowa.

Father Angelus Montgomery, C.F.R., was in a hurry when he sat down to chat with Catholic New York for this article. "I got 15 minutes...I'm filming today with my twin brother, he's also a CFR priest. We have a show on EWTN. I told him I'd be down around 1:30," Father Montgomery noted as he quickly took a seat inside a large meeting room last month at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie.

Such is the life of a busy brother from the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal—in a hurry to the spread the Good News, using his God-given media talents. It was early in the afternoon, Thursday, April 19. The show airs Sundays; in fact, it's called Sunday Night Prime (8 p.m. ET). One of his co-hosts is Father Innocent Montgomery, C.F.R., of the Bronx, who was ordained two years ago, and with whom Father Montgomery is a triplet

together with their sister, Katie Havlat. The three have an older brother, Bob. They were born in Wichita, Kan., and are the children of Richard and LuAnne Montgomery of Kansas City, Kan. Their childhood parish was St. John the Apostle in Lincoln, Neb.

"I was in college when I had my experience in what God was calling me to do—and I prayerfully discerned a cultivated religious life and priesthood," Father Montgomery, 33, said in discussing his decision to become a priest. "It was in my junior year...I began to have a deeper relationship with the Lord, offering myself to the Lord. It was the radical example of the saints that really inspired me to live a radical life, like St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Francis. They were really amazing models of being concentrated to God in religious life."

Additionally, Father Montgomery

noted, "We had amazing influences of priests in our life when we lived in Nebraska, our pastors and assistant pastors, and our teachers in high school." Regarding his thoughts about his future priesthood, he said, "The priests are with the people and can relate to the people, and bring God to them."

Father Montgomery has a bachelor's degree in communications from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and a certificate in pre-theology from St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward, Neb. He entered the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in 2009, and made first vows in 2011 and final vows in 2014 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan. His apostolic assignments included the CFR Youth Center in the Bronx, St. Anthony's homeless shelter in the Bronx and

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## Example of the Saints Prepared Him to Live a 'Radical' Life

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## Father Louis Masi

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*Pictured: Fr. Louis Masi (second from right) after his ordination as a transitional deacon last year at St. Peter's Basilica, joined by 2018-2019 Regis interim principal Rev. Anthony D. Andreassi, CO (left), and 2009 Regis classmates Alex Nevitt (Diocese of Paterson seminarian, second from left) and James Simmons (right).*



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## Connolly...

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Born in Sleepy Hollow, the second of John and Ruthann Connolly's three sons is the brother of John Jr., 28, and Brian, 24.

"I've grown up in very supportive, faithful family," Father Connolly said. "A very important highlight of my family is my brother John, who has cerebral palsy. He's taught me so much about enduring all kinds of suffering with joy and faith and hope, and even with gratitude.

"I've also learned firsthand you don't simply minister to a person with special needs; around that person is a whole family, a whole network of people who are affected by that situation...It's definitely taught me compassion and patience."

He graduated from St. Augustine School in Ossining and John F. Kennedy Catholic High School in Somers. At church, he was a lector beginning at age 7 and an altar server at age 11.

While a student Fordham, he entered the college seminary formation program in Douglaston, Queens, in 2013. After earning a bachelor's in philosophy from Fordham, he entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie in 2014.

## Hernandez...

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Monroe. He has been on mission trips to Mexico, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. He enjoys singing, playing the guitar and sharing time with friends.

He is the son of Osvaldo Antonio Hernandez and Miguelina Hernandez Marte, who live in the Bronx. He has a brother, Andy Gabriel Hernandez, and two sisters, Osvalina Felicia Hernandez and Angelina Silberia Hernandez.

## Limongi...

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him in the faith. "Growing up, I remember always seeing my dad never get out of bed without praying first. Same thing happened before going to bed. When I was about 6 years old, all six kids and two parents got together every Friday night and read passages from the Bible. It was my first introduction to the Scriptures, and it made me think about Christ, and His love for the Church, which we were a part of."

His family's home parish in New York was initially Incarnation in the Washington Heights section of Manhattan and is now Sacred Heart of Jesus in Manhattan. He has close ties to St. Anselm parish, the Bronx, where he attended Mass as part of Movement John XXIII. At his suggestion and with the pastor's permission, a chapter was begun at Sacred Heart.

## Masi...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

year to complete the licentiate.

Listening to fellow seminarians at North American College from dioceses across the United States helps him to understand "the bond that priests everywhere share through their sacred ordination."

"The men in the house encourage and challenge each other to grow in virtue and holiness."

A native of the Bronx, Father Masi was raised in a Catholic family active at St. Theresa's parish. His parents, Louis and Angelina Masi, stressed Catholic education and have been supportive of his vocation. His mother belongs to a weekly group that prays for priests and seminarians. He has one sister, Christina.

Father Masi said the Eucharist is at the "very foundation of my life." In high school, he would

**READY TO SERVE**—The library at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie has been a good resource for graduates of the Class of 2018. From left: Father Kareem Smith, Father Pierre Toussaint Guiteau, C.F.R., Father Francesco Gavazzi, C.F.R., Father Michael Connolly, Father Osvaldo Hernandez, Father Angelus Montgomery, C.F.R., and Father Mark-Mary Maximilian Ames, C.F.R.

spend a few minutes each day before the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. "It was in the silence...I was able to hear the Lord's call, and it is in the silence before His True Presence that I continue to be filled with His grace."

## Smith...

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a great time for me to take a break and I wanted to sit in the pew again and pray to see if I was being called back," Father Smith said.

"I was very happy at Coleman. It was a great year. At the end of it, it became very clear to me as much as I loved this and I could happily do this, God was inviting me to the priesthood."

## Gavazzi...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

prayer and the poor. That was, like, everything."

What drew Father Gavazzi to the priesthood is his desire to relay to those entrusted to his care something retired Pope Benedict has said: "Don't be afraid to let Christ into your life because he takes nothing away from what makes life beautiful, free and great."

Father Gavazzi plays the guitar and, in rare spare time, surfs. "I feel free, alive, refreshed," he said of riding the waves. "It's just a gift to kind of play in God's creation. You have to wait and receive what the ocean gives, and respect it. There's a certain harmony between the surfer and the ocean. When those things come together, it's really beautiful."

Born in Belmont, New South Wales, Australia, he is the oldest of six children of Paul and Kathryn Gavazzi of Sydney. He is the twin of brother Alexander and has another brother and three sisters.

He attended Catholic grade school and high school in Sydney, and was an altar server. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Macquarie University in Sydney and later studied theology at Franciscan University.

He will report to St. Fidelis Friary in Canning Town on London's East End after ordination.

## Montgomery...

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the Westchester County Department of Correction in Valhalla. His summer parish assignments included St. Crispin Friary and Spanish school in Guatemala. He likes to read, exercise, keep up with current events and cook for fellow Friars of the Renewal.



## Nine Priests Celebrating Their Golden Jubilees

**N**ine priests of the archdiocese are marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination this year. Cardinal Dolan celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving with them at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 16.

Cardinal Terence Cooke ordained seven of the jubilarians at St. Patrick's Cathedral June 1, 1968. Father John Fanning was ordained Dec. 20 1968 in Rome, where he completed his studies for the priesthood. Father John Borzuchowski was ordained in his native Poland June 9, 1968, and was later incardinated into the archdiocese.

**Father John Borzuchowski** retired from Immaculate Conception, Kingston, where he had served as administrator, 2015-2016, and pastor, 1991-2015. He was parochial vicar of St. John's, Goshen, 1987-1991; St. John the Evangelist, Beacon, 1980-1987; St. Francis, Newburgh, 1978-1980, and St. Joseph's, Florida, 1975-1978. Ordained in Warsaw, Poland, he was incardinated into the archdiocese in 1984.

**Father William Brogan** retired last year after serving eight years as parochial vicar at St. Raymond, the Bronx. He also served at St. Margaret, Pearl River, and Immaculate Conception, Woodbourne.

**Msgr. Charles P. Coen** served as pastor at St. Christopher, Red Hook, from 1986 until his retirement in 2008. He was named a monsignor in 2006. He was parochial vicar of St. Joseph-St. Thomas, Staten Island, 1976-1986, and St. Paul, Staten Island, 1968-1976. He had a summer assignment at Incarnation, Manhattan, 1968.

**Father John E. Fanning** most recently served at the Metropolitan Tribunal after teaching at St. Joseph's Regional Seminary in India for six months in 1992. While with the Metropolitan Tribunal, he was a consultant for priest personnel, 1995-2001, and he served as a judge with the Metropolitan Tribunal,



CHRIS SHERIDAN

**50 YEARS**—Priests celebrating their golden anniversaries join Cardinal Dolan after Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 16. They are, from left: Msgr. Patrick McCahill, Msgr. Frank Pugliese, Father William Brogan, Cardinal Dolan, Msgr. Charles Coen and Father Peter Meehan.

1984-1986 and 1988-1992. He was administrator of St. James, Milton, 1987 and served in the Tribunal, 1979-1984. He taught at Cardinal Hayes High School, 1971-1977, and was parochial vicar of Guardian Angel, Manhattan, 1970-1971, and Annunciation, Crestwood, 1969-1970.

**Msgr. Patrick P. McCahill** has served as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Good Counsel-St. Thomas More parish since 2015 and as director of the archdiocesan deaf center since 1990. He served St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Manhattan, as pastor, 1993-2015, and administrator, 1980-1993. He was as-

## Seven Priests Celebrating Their Silver Jubilees

**S**even priests of the archdiocese are marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their ordination this year. Cardinal Dolan celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving with them at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 16.

Cardinal John O'Connor ordained four of the jubilarians May 15, 1993 at St. Patrick's Cathedral. The other three jubilarians—Father Jacob Thumma, Father Osvaldo Franklin and Father Michael O'Leary—were ordained in their native countries and later were incardinated into the archdiocese.

**Father William Damroth** has served as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi parish, Newburgh, since 2016, and temporary administrator of Sacred Heart, Newburgh, since last August. (The merger of the two parishes was announced in February, effective July 1.) He was administrator at St. Francis of Assisi, 2015-2016. At St. Francis of Assisi, Mount Kisco, he was temporary administrator, 2014-2015, and parochial vicar, 2011-2014. He was parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception, Stony Point, 2010-2011, and he served as temporary administrator, 2006-2010, and parochial vicar, 2006, at Our Lady Queen of Peace, Staten Island. He was administrator of Infant Saviour, Pine Bush, 2004-2006, and served as parochial vicar of Annunciation, Crestwood, 1998-2004; Sacred Heart, Newburgh, 1996-1998; and

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CHRIS SHERIDAN

**25 YEARS**—Priests celebrating their silver anniversaries join Cardinal Dolan after Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral May 16. They are, from left: Father Thomas Lutz, Father William Damroth, Cardinal Dolan, Father Jacob Thumma and Father Osvaldo Franklin.



## 50 Years...

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sistant director of the Apostolate for the Deaf, 1969-1990, and parochial vicar of St. Mary's, Manhattan, 1968-1969. He was the recipient of the Father David Walsh Person of the Year Award from the National Catholic Office for the Deaf in 2014. He was named a monsignor in 1995.

**Father Peter Meehan** retired last year after serving two years as parochial vicar of Our Saviour-St. Stephen and Our Lady of the Scapular and the Chapel of Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Manhattan. He was pastor of Our Lady of the Rosary, Manhattan, 1999-2015, and St. Emeric, Manhattan, 1987-1999. He was administrator of St. Mary's Haverstraw, 1986-1987, and served in the University Apostolate for 14 years as chaplain of the College of Mount St. Vincent, NYU and Bronx Community College. He was parochial vicar of St. Teresa's, Manhattan, and St. John, the Bronx.

**Father Edward M. O'Reilly** served as a chaplain for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1996-2008, and the U.S. Army, 1977-1996. With the Army, he was stationed in New Jersey, California, Louisiana, Alabama, Korea and Germany. He was parochial vicar of St. Mary of the Assumption, Staten Island, 1974-1977; St. Ann, Ossining, 1970-1974; St. Joseph, Wurtsboro, 1969, and Immaculate Conception, Tarrytown, 1968-1969.

**Father James O'Shaughnessy** has continued to reside at Cardinal Spellman High School, the Bronx, where he served as a faculty member, from

1978 until his retirement in 2015. He was parochial vicar of Our Lady of Refuge, 1972-1977, and Holy Rosary, 1968-1972, both in the Bronx.

**Msgr. Frank Pugliese** has served as Archbishop's Delegate to the Tribunal for the cause of beautification and canonization of Servant of God Father Vincent Capodanno, M.M., since 2013. He served as vicar general of the Archdiocese for Military Services, 2009-2013, and chaplain in the U.S. Navy, 1986-1991 and 1992-2008. He was parochial vicar of St. Frances of Rome, the Bronx, 1991-1992; Blessed Sacrament, New Rochelle, 1976-1987; St. Mary of the Assumption, Katonah, 1975-1976; and St. Stanislaus, Pleasant Valley, 1968-1975.

## 25 Years...

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Christ the King, Yonkers, 1993-1996.

**Father Andrew Florez** most recently served on the faculty of John F. Kennedy Catholic High School, Somers. He was administrator of Sacred Heart parish, Mount Vernon, 2013-2015, and pastor of St. Peter's, Rosendale, 2001-2013. He served as parochial vicar of St. Mary's, Washingtonville, 1995-2001, and St. Frances de Chantal, the Bronx, 1993-1995.

**Father Osvaldo Franklin** has served as pastor since 2011 of Our Lady of Fatima Portuguese parish, Yonkers, where he was administrator, 1999-2011. He was ordained in his native Angola, Africa, Aug. 1, 1993, and was incardinated into the archdiocese in 2005.

**Father Philip J. Kelly** has served as pastor of St.

Francis de Sales, Manhattan, since 2011. He served at St. Joseph of the Holy Family, Harlem, as pastor, 1999-2011, and administrator, 1997-1999. He was parochial vicar of Ascension, Manhattan, 1993-1997.

**Father Thomas Lutz** has been on the faculty of Our Lady of Lourdes High School, Poughkeepsie, since July. He was pastor of St. Augustine, Highland, 2011-2017, and Sacred Heart, Patterson, 2005-2011, where he was administrator, 2004-2005. He was parochial vicar of St. Augustine, 1996-2004; St. Francis of Assisi, Newburgh, 1995-1996; and St. Mary's, Marlboro, 1993-1995.

**Father Michael O'Leary** most recently has been covering emergencies in a hospital apostolate at St. Luke's-Cornwall Hospital and the Kaplan Family Hospice Residence, both in Newburgh. Before that, he served in the Fraternity of St. Peter, 2008-2012. He was parochial vicar of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Manhattan, 2005-2008; St. Margaret of Cortona, the Bronx, 2004-2005; Holy Name of Jesus, Valhalla, 2001-2004; SS. John and Paul, Larchmont, 1998-2001; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford, 1997-1998. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Dublin in his native Ireland June 17, 1993, and incardinated into the Archdiocese of New York in 2004.

**Father Jacob Thumma** has served as pastor of St. Sylvester, Staten Island, since 2009. He was parochial vicar of St. Theresa of the Infant Jesus, the Bronx, 2007-2009; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Staten Island, 2002-2007; and St. Aedan, Pearl River, 1999-2002. He was ordained in his native India March 24, 1993, and was incardinated into the archdiocese in 2009.

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# Congratulations Father Connolly

**Congratulations on your ordination into the Priesthood. The Kennedy Catholic community could not be more proud of your commitment to our faith and the Catholic institution. We are so excited to see how you help others in their spiritual journey and we wish you much success and happiness as you enter this new chapter in your life with God.**

**With love, the Kennedy Catholic Community**





## Priests Find Keys to Better Preaching May Be as Close as Fellow Priests

Father Stephen Norton, the pastor of St. Benedict parish in the Bronx, was preaching a couple of weeks ago on the Sixth Sunday of Easter from John's Gospel. ("I am the vine, you are the branches.")

He spoke about the truism that April showers bring May flowers, an image to which most people can relate this rainy spring, calling his parishioners to summon thoughts of the flower boxes outside their windows and the spring cleanups they were undertaking in their yards. "The Easter season in our spiritual lives is time to do a little spring cleaning," he said.

"We need to be rooted in the Mass Sunday after Sunday," Father Norton said.

This homily drew a lot of reaction, with much of it coming not from his parishioners, but from a cohort of fellow preachers.

Father Norton is one of eight priests of the archdiocese who are completing a one-year Preaching Academy conducted by the Marten Program in Homiletics of the University of Notre Dame.

The eight priests are Msgr. Leslie Ivers, director of ongoing priestly formation in the archdiocese; Father Antonio Almonte, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish, Manhattan; Father Donald Baker, pastor of St. Monica-St. Elizabeth of Hungary and St. Stephen of Hungary, Manhattan; Father Vincent Druding, parochial vicar, Holy Cross, the Bronx; Father Richard Gill, pastor of St. Lawrence O'Toole, Brewster, and Sacred Heart, Patterson; Father Lino Gonsalves, parochial vicar, Our Lady of Victory and St. Andrew, Manhattan; Father Robert Norris, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Elmsford; and Father Norton.

Six of the priests were present for the cohort's most recent meeting, which took place at Maryknoll May 16. The group's normal meeting spot was St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie.

Each month, the priests meet in person to review a Sunday homily of one or two of the members, which have been previously recorded on video and sent to Notre Dame, so that it can be viewed on a laptop computer during their meeting.

The critiques are thorough, raising issues of theme, form and delivery style, to name a few. The comments are a mix of positive and negative assessments, along with tips and personal anecdotes from the priests' own experiences, all delivered to help their fellow priest improve his preaching.

Msgr. Ivers started by saying that he thought Father Norton "carried through his theme from beginning to end." He gave him high marks for animation and his connection with parishioners.

Father Druding shared a thought about the "rootedness" expressed by Father Norton, saying that this time of year when religious education classes are ending and parish life is beginning to ebb before the summer is a good time to emphasize that point.

Father Almonte spoke about Father Norton's attempt to balance his intellectual insights with his passion for the Gospel. He encouraged him "to go where people's hearts are...Don't lose the passion."

Father Norris said Father Norton evoked "beauti-



MARIA R. BASTONE

**PREACHERS ALL**—Archdiocesan priests share a laugh at their May 16 meeting in the South American Room at the Maryknoll Seminary building in Ossining. Facing the camera from left are Father Vincent Druding, Father Lino Gonsalves and Msgr. Leslie Ivers. With their backs to the camera from left are Father Robert Norris, Father Antonio Almonte and Father Stephen Norton.

ful" images in the homily, which he called "theologically wonderful," but felt that it was "less concrete than I was looking for."

Near the end of the discussion, the priests chimed in with more general comments about the challenges of keeping passion and freshness in a homily, even at the late Mass on Sunday. "I try to remember that it's my second or third Mass, but it's not theirs," Msgr. Ivers said of parishioners.

The homilists also receive a feedback form with specific comments from a coach on the Preaching Academy staff related to how the homilist moved the will and touched the heart of their listeners. The feedback also discusses delivery and ability to convey a single theme, among other things.

Two times during the year the priests had their homilies reviewed by a professional homiletician, forming the basis for an in-depth discussion.

Msgr. Ivers said he first learned about the Preaching Academy when its director, Father Michael Connors, C.S.C., spoke at the annual archdiocesan pastors' convention in Spring Lake, N.J., two years ago.

The priests of the Archdiocese of New York were among the first participants in the program, which officially began this academic year. Two other groups from the Diocese of Kalamazoo, Mich., are also participating.

The remaining session will be conducted at the University of Notre Dame in June. The cohort groups also met for four days in Tampa, Fla., in January.

The program is free for individual priests, with

Notre Dame picking up the costs of instruction with the backing of the Lilly Endowment. The travel costs of New York priests are covered by a grant from the archdiocese funded by a donor's gift to Cardinal Dolan earmarked for improving homilies.

"They are a fairly diverse group, in personality and background," said Father Connors in describing the New York priests. "It adds to the richness of the process."

The program is not remedial in nature, nor do participants have to be accomplished preachers, Father Connors said. The most important attribute is a sincere interest in preaching, and a desire for improvement, he added.

"I salute them. A priest's life is busy," Father Connors told CNY in a phone interview. "We're also grateful for the archdiocese's support."

The priests themselves are grateful for the support from Notre Dame and their fellow priests and parishioners. Msgr. Ivers said he hopes that New York will be able to have another group participate in the Preaching Academy in the 2019-2020 year.

Father Gonsalves said his participation has helped him to concentrate more on the Scriptures with an eye toward making them "personal" for his parishioners. "I've put more energy into that part of it," he said. The increased feedback he has received from them tells him that he is on the right track.

Father Druding said, "It's good for people to know that priests are taking this seriously, to be better homilists."





PHOTOS BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

**ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY CONVOCATION**—Clockwise, from top left: Members of the class of 2018 read from their programs during St. Joseph's Seminary's convocation ceremony in Dunwoodie May 11. The class of 2018 gathers for a group photo outside the seminary's main entrance. Thirty-five people, including 11 seminarians to be ordained as priests this spring, comprise this year's class. Graduates assemble inside the seminary chapel. Bishop John Barres of Rockville Centre, who delivered the convocation address, congratulates Stephen McClernan. Matthew Surico receives his degree from Msgr. Peter Vaccari, seminary rector.



## Cathedral Seminary Honors Five From Archdiocese

The convocation for the class of 2018 of Cathedral Seminary House of Formation took place May 12 at Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, Queens. Five of the 10 men receiving bachelor's degrees from St. John's and Fordham universities and master's from St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, are from the archdiocese. St. John's also awarded a pre-theology certificate and a completion of language studies program.

**CLASS OF 2018**—Right, the five graduates from the Archdiocese of New York, from left—Gabrielius C. Banevicius, St. Mary's, Washingtonville; Danny F. Dilone, St. Barnabas, the Bronx; Carlos A. Germosen, St. Peter-St. Denis, Yonkers; Jonathan H. Castro, Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Manhattan; and Collins M. Ashu, St. Lucy, the Bronx—stand with Father George Sears, rector of Cathedral Seminary House of Formation and a priest of the archdiocese. Inset, a cake congratulates the class of 2018. Bottom left, Dilone, left, and Banevicius process into the chapel for graduation. Bottom right, Germosen, who received a bachelor's degree from St. John's, stands with Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros, left, and Auxiliary Bishop James Massa, both of the Diocese of Brooklyn.



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