



# Sacred Heart

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HIGHLIGHTS ■ Fall Semester 2024



# Forming Evangelizing Disciples

*From the President-Rector of Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology*

## Real Solutions for Today's Church



**Sacred Heart is known for innovation and adaptability, we recognize new challenges and the changing needs of the Catholic Church in America.** Today's Church is diverse. Men and Women with vocational and pastoral hearts respond to God's call for more priests, deacons, and lay ministers. Every potential minister comes with a unique educational background and experience. Both those deeply involved in their local ministry and those called to serve from other countries benefit from ongoing formation.

**We offer programs that make a positive difference in parishes!** What ongoing formation do *your* diverse ministers need, so that they and their parish communities can grow and thrive?

### ENGLISH AND CULTURE STUDIES PROGRAM

- **Clear Pronunciation** (accent modification) *personalized* for each student and available 100% online
- **Core English** (reading, writing, grammar, oral communication) beginner to advanced
- **Graduate-level English** (preparation for Theology programs)

### PASTORAL STUDIES FOR MINISTRY IN AMERICA

- **Pastoral Communication**
- **Pastoral Formation** (Preaching, Sacramental Rites)
- **Parish Administration**

### THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

- Master of Divinity as well as Master of Arts degrees (Scripture or Systematic Theology)
- Cor Unum evening and weekend Master of Arts classes and cohorts created for laity
- Preaching Conferences, Dehon Lectures, The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies, and Pilgrimages

***"Preparing evangelizing disciples through specialized formation to conform our world to the Heart of Christ"*** is at the center of all that we do. Please let us know how we can be of help!

Yours in the Heart of Christ,  
*Very Rev. Thomas P. Cassidy, SCJ*

***On the cover:*** His Eminence, Christophe Cardinal Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., presided over Holy Mass with the Institution to the Ministry of Acolyte (*page 3*).





## 2024-2025 Academic Year Opens with Holy Mass, Rector Installation, and Dinner Celebration

The SHSST community gathered for Holy Mass and the installation of the Very Rev. Thomas P. Cassidy, SCJ, as Interim President-Rector. The celebration continued with prayers of thanksgiving over dinner, lively introductions, and joy-filled conversation.



## Cardinal Pierre Confers the Ministry of Acolyte

His Eminence, Christophe Cardinal Pierre, apostolic nuncio to the U.S., was the presider at Holy Mass and conferred the Institution to the Ministry of Acolyte to Mr. Didier Buwani, seminarian from the Diocese of Lexington. The entire SHSST community appreciates the nuncio's ongoing partnership and trust.





# Extending Impactful Invitations

## Catholic Seminaries Discuss Assessment Together

SHST hosted keynote speaker Fr. Jorge Torres of the USCCB, as well as leaders from the Association of Theological Schools and 15 Catholic seminaries, for a workshop entitled “Riding the Assessment Cycle in light of the PPF6.” Discussions focused on the assessment of both seminarians and formation programs. After receiving input from the workshop, ATS is revising An Assessment Workbook for Roman Catholic Seminaries. This event was made possible by the Pathways for Tomorrow grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

## National Eucharistic Pilgrims Pray at Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart had the privilege of hosting the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. Pilgrims arrived in the Sacred Heart Chapel at midday for Adoration. After the Benediction, Fr. Henry Nguyen, SCJ, led the procession through the seminary grounds and then continued onward to St. Martin of Tours parish in Franklin.





# High School Students Enjoy ECS Multicultural Mass

Students from three Catholic high schools experienced a meaningful presentation of languages, songs, and cultures from ten different countries at SHSST's Multicultural Mass. Thanks to the Catholic clergy and laity in our English and Culture Studies Program (ECS) who participated in the Mass, the visiting high school students could witness a celebration of the global Catholic Church.

During our all-school lunch following the Mass, priests from the ECS program shared stories about their home countries with the high school students. We are grateful for a generous grant from the Catholic Community Foundation, that made this program for these students possible.







# Ministering to Another Culture

## Catholic Vocations Come to America

International priests, brothers, sisters, and seminarians leave their home countries where vocations are abundant to participate in the theologically centered English and Culture Studies Program (ECS) at SHSST. Some advanced ECS students go on to assist American ministries while they are in the United States. In response to common challenges they face (such as pronunciation or cultural differences), Sacred Heart offers impactful courses to help them thrive.

### Clear Pronunciation for American Listeners

SHSST has the tools and the experienced faculty to teach pronunciation skills so that clergy can become clearly understood. Our Accent Modification Course, which is *personalized* for each student, is available 100% online.

### Celebrating Sacramental Rites and Preaching in American Culture

The cultural norms for celebrating sacraments such as funerals vary from one country to another. International clergy can also learn new pastoral formation skills, techniques, and cultural gestures that will resonate with American parishioners.





## Seminarians Prepare for Ministry within Hispanic Communities

Sacred Heart offers a Hispanic Ministry Preparation Program that not only offers a Pastoral Spanish Language Program, but also includes Pastoral Formation exploring Hispanic presence, devotional practices, preaching, and field placement.

During Almuerzo seminarians practice speaking Spanish and even play games using Spanish terms, making learning an enjoyable community activity.



## Culture Fair Offers a Global Experience of the Church

Within the group of 23 students that participated in the English and Culture Studies (ECS) Summer Session, 16 languages and 12 countries were represented. At the close of the session, the ECS students prepared a Culture Fair to engage administrators, faculty, staff, and students in conversation with colorful displays about their home countries. Putting their newly improved English and pronunciation skills to good use, each ECS student shared their own cultural customs, music, history, and cuisines from around the world for the SHSST community to enjoy.





# Inspiring Hearts & Minds

## Seminarians are Called to Candidacy

The Very Rev. Thomas P. Cassidy, SCJ, President-Rector of SHSST, called five seminarians to Candidacy for Holy Orders during Mass at Sacred Heart. Congratulations to the following men who publicly declared their intention to continue their path toward Holy Orders (first as deacons and later as priests): Zachary Arnold, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee; Didier Buwani, Diocese of Lexington; Alfonso Pizano, Jr., Diocese of Davenport; Gerald Przekora, Diocese of Gaylord; and Noah Townsend, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee.

## M.A. Laity in Cor Unum Put Faith into Action

Students in their second year of Cor Unum (SHSST's M.A. program created for laity) spend Apostolic Saturdays with their cohort applying the theology learned in the classroom through community serve. One Apostolic Saturday they served Milwaukee's homeless and hurting at "Mr. Bob's Under the Bridge," which fosters a community of compassion and friendship by providing necessities, guidance, and hope.





# The Lux Center Director Creates New Initiatives

With a mission to foster understanding and mutual respect, The Lux Center for Catholic-Jewish Studies promotes meaningful conversations on faith, culture, and values, inviting clergy, scholars, and community members to explore both commonalities and distinctions. By engaging in discussions on sacred texts, traditions, and contemporary issues, the Center aims to strengthen the relationship between Catholics and Jews, fostering collaboration in areas that impact both communities and enrich society at large.

Under the leadership of a new director, Liran Gerassi, The Lux Center delivered engaging talks, workshops, and events for seminarians, faculty, and staff including the following: Hebrew Word of the Week, History of the Land of Israel, Jewish-American Life, The Hebrew Calendar, Celebration of the Torah, Sects of Judaism, Hanukkah Presentation, “Bagels with Lux” Monthly Breakfasts, Hebrew Classes, seminary guests at synagogues and the Jewish Community Center, and a Lux United soccer team.







# Fostering our Dehonian Charism

## Dehon Lecture Focuses on the Work of Charity in the Church

Robert G. Kennedy, Ph.D., Professor of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas, gave this year's Dehon Lecture entitled "The Work of the Church is Charity." He explored three main points: why charity ought to be the foundation of the Church's work in the world, what this suggests for pastoral ministry in the social arena, and how our perspective on current issues might be modified if viewed through the lens of charity. Both the lecture and response by Dr. James Stroud, SHSST Associate Professor of Moral Theology, led to fruitful dialogue and a robust Q&A with faculty and seminarians.

To watch online please visit:

- Part 1, Dehon Lecture - <https://youtu.be/RSdL0LbhJO8>
- Part 2, Response, Q&A - <https://youtu.be/kfTnKlgRaos>







## Charism Nurtures Community

Days of Recollection allowed administrators, faculty, students, and staff to step outside of their daily responsibilities to simply focus on prayer and quiet reflection surrounding meaningful presentations. This semester's topics were:

- "From Self to God" with Rev. Angel Anaya, Associate Director for Formation Programs
- "Priests, Prophets, Kings After the Lord's Own Heart: Meditations for Aspiring Priests on the Lives of Moses & David" with Fr. John Paul Mitchell, Lecturer of Scripture Studies



## Dehonian Spirituality Enriches Faculty and Staff

Fr. Andrzej Sudol, SCJ, S.T.L., D.Min., presented two colloquiums for the continuing enrichment of seminary faculty and staff. The first focused on interculturality in the Church. The second explored Fr. Leo John Dehon's gradual conversion and close relationship with God in the process of reforming his religious congregation and charism.

Fr. Andrzej took first vows with the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1990 and wrote his doctoral thesis on interculturality and formation. He is a member of SHSST's Board of Directors as well as the pastor of nearby St. Martin of Tours Parish.





# Supporting Our Mission

Visit [shsst.edu/support-us](https://shsst.edu/support-us)

The Priests of the Sacred Heart not only support Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology as one of their apostolates, but they also help people who are less fortunate across the globe through their social action and outreach. With your ongoing support, the Priests of the Sacred Heart can share the joy of Christ's divine love, continue to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart, and offer comfort to those who rely on these ministries.



It is also possible to make a gift to Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology specifically with a general donation; a gift to support seminarians, lay ministers, or Catholic-Jewish dialogue; or by donating your time and talent as a volunteer. Please join us as we work to ***Conform Our World to the Heart of Christ.***

## Get involved as alumni

Would you like to join our new **Alumni Association**, serve on an **advisory board**, or come back to **preside and/or preach** in our Main Chapel? The alumni association is free for our graduates to join! Simply email your contact information to Rachel Allison at [rallison@shsst.edu](mailto:rallison@shsst.edu).

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**YOUR SEMINARY:** *Specialized formation for a universal Church*