

PAX REGIS

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The cover: *Virgin and Child*, located in the south transept of the Abbey Church.

16th Century Carved Wooden Statue of the Virgin and Child Undergoes Restoration

A cherished late 16th-century sculpture depicting the Virgin Mary and Child has recently been restored, returning a beloved piece to its rightful place within the south transept of the abbey church.

The 140 cm tall sculpture depicts the Virgin Mary with a gentle expression, her head tilted slightly. She wears a flowing dress and cloak, and her hair is styled in soft waves. In her arms, she cradles a plump baby Jesus, adorned with youthful curls. The tender gestures between mother and child are particularly noteworthy, with the Christ Child's hand resting on a globe and Mary protectively touching his foot.

Unfortunately, before the abbey received the sculpture, it had suffered extensive damage, likely due to prolonged outdoor exposure. This resulted in the loss of almost all of the gesso, polychrome and gilding, revealing a very dry and whitish appearance.

Additionally, cracks had formed along the wood joints and a layer of dirt obscured the details. A previous amateur attempt to restore the Virgin's face and hair was identified.

The restoration process, meticulously carried

out by Ana Diaz-Drew, a European master gilder and restorer, involved a series of cleaning and stabilization techniques. First, a gentle mechanical cleaning removed surface dirt using soft brushes and a vacuum cleaner. Loose gesso fragments, a preparatory layer beneath the paint, were then secured using specialized adhesives. Following this, a more intensive chemical cleaning

was performed using a variety of solutions formulated with water, ammonia, and cleaning agents.

Once the cleaning was complete, Diaz-Drew focused on consolidating the wood itself. This crucial step involved applying rabbit skin glue to strengthen the wood and ensure its continued structural integrity; Mary's left hand was loose prior to the process. In areas with deeper cracks, the glue was injected for maximum effectiveness.

With the wood stabilized, the restoration process was finalized. This meticulous restoration breathes new life into

the 16th-century treasure. Once marred by time and exposure, the Virgin and Child sculpture can now be appreciated for its artistic merit and devotional significance, standing as a testament to both the beauty and resilience of religious art.





Commitment to Transparency and Healing:

A Joint Statement by Westminster Abbey, The Seminary of Christ the King, and the Archdiocese of Vancouver Regarding a Past Abuse Case

The following statement is made on behalf of Westminster Abbey, The Seminary of Christ the King and the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Over the past several years, we, Westminster Abbey, The Seminary of Christ the King and the Archdiocese of Vancouver, have been involved in litigation in relation to a civil action commenced by D.H., a former grade eight student of the minor seminary, arising from sexual abuse which occurred in the late 1970s by Fr. Placidus Sander, OSB, then Vice-Rector of the minor seminary. In striving for restorative justice, the Abbey, Seminary and Archdiocese reached a resolution of D.H.'s claim with a settlement on terms inclusive of the content of this statement. We will provide further transparency by publishing all documents we disclosed in this litigation. In so doing, and in response to hearing D.H.'s recount of the abuse and its impact on his life, we freely acknowledge and accept the credibility of D.H.'s claims of abuse by Fr. Placidus and the grievous harm he

has suffered and continues to suffer as a result.

We also acknowledge, with sadness and remorse, any failures in admitting D.H.'s credibility or appreciating the magnitude and gravity of the damage he experienced or experiences now. With regret for any actions we have taken or omitted to take which have caused D.H. additional pain and suffering, the Abbey, Seminary, and Archdiocese are deeply sorry and extend to D.H. our sincerest apologies. In the spirit of reconciliation by which we all seek to be made whole as individuals and a community, it is hoped the monetary and non-monetary terms of the settlement will serve as both penalty and remedy as part of the journey of healing.

We hope and pray that this resolution will continue the process of healing for everyone involved, including D.H. and his family. May this healing, begun at the root, extend to generations to come with ever deeper mutual understanding and a strong foundation in justice.

Richard Whalen – Volunteer Teacher

by Frater Matthias Park osb



remembered the young teacher's desire to work in Catholic schools. Richard resettled his young family in the Fraser Valley and would continue on at Notre Dame for thirty years teaching both religion and science.

Now come to the age of sixty-six and ready for retirement, Richard decided to offer his services to the Seminary of Christ the King. Since 2014, "Mister Whalen" has taught science to our younger students and

When the Lord asked his Church to pray for more labourers for the harvest, perhaps he wasn't thinking only of priests. As many are aware, there is quite a shortage of teachers in our province, which consequently has reminded us of the value of these often-unsung labourers. Our gratitude then goes out to Richard Whalen, who for the past decade has selflessly assisted the Seminary in the field of science.

Richard began his educational vocation just after graduation in 1978 and has proceeded unswervingly, never looking aside from the plough. This journey began at a young age through an influential uncle who also happened to be a high school teacher. His admiration for his mentor, coupled with an innate interest in science, became a defining factor for the rest of his life. He earned his degree from Simon Fraser University, majoring in biochemistry. Yet finding no work among Catholic schools in the Vancouver area, or any schools for that matter, Richard went with his newly wed to teach at Booth Memorial Junior Secondary in Prince Rupert. After six years, Richard was offered a position at Notre Dame Secondary by Father Ian Stuart who

allowed Father Nicholas to pass on the torch. Until four years ago, Richard Whalen also served as a substitute teacher for Archbishop Carney Secondary.

Science or teaching has never been the end all for Richard. His Catholic faith has always been the deciding factor of his teaching career. Although gentle in speech, he is outspoken wherever matters of faith are concerned. We hope his time spent at our monastery and school provides a calming balm of peace and prayer, a counterpoint to the lively spirit of our active high school apostolate. Richard Whalen, thank you.

FORM OF BEQUESTS

I give, bequeath and devise to WESTMINSTER ABBEY LTD, Mission, BC, a corporation under the laws of British Columbia, the sum of \$..... to be used at the discretion of the Benedictines of Westminster Abbey for the building program and general benefit of the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC, Canada.

Major Seminary Diary



Altar serving on Palm Sunday



Seminarians and Bishop Stephen Hero

January

Tue 9: Happy New Year! After a restful Christmas break, the major seminarians returned for the second semester of the school year. May the Lord continue to bless the seven of us with an abundance of grace in discernment and study!

Fri 19: Undeterred by the relentless downpour that turned Sasquatch Mountain into a rain-soaked wonderland, both the major and minor seminarians went ahead with the annual ski trip. While the slopes weren't exactly ideal, everyone had a blast.

Wed 24: We welcomed Bishop Stephen Hero from the Diocese of Prince Albert, SK as the retreat master for our annual retreat. This was a silent retreat spanning until the 28. The theme of the retreat was "The Priesthood is the Love of the Sacred Heart of Christ." May our

hearts share the same beat as that of Christ's Sacred Heart!

February

Fri 9: Happy Lunar New Year of the Rabbit! To celebrate this occasion, we made a delicious Hot Pot with thinly sliced beef, seafood, and fresh vegetables. It was a wonderful night as we deepened our fraternal connections over a delicious meal together.

Mon 26: During their annual pastoral week, theology seminarians dived into the administrative realities of priestly ministry. They received presentations on church finances and stewardship, followed by visits to local families, youth programs, and a meeting with the Knights of Columbus. This immersive experience provided invaluable insights into the life of a priest.

March

Sat 2: This year, our community joined virtually the annual St. Joseph Seminary Ad Gentes Trivia Night, supporting their charitable cause. While we didn't take home the winning title, the night was filled with friendly competition. We built strong connections with fellow seminarians across Western Canada, making the experience truly special. We're already sharpening our trivia skills and can't wait to compete again next year!

Fri 15: Fueled by a spirit of brotherhood, some of our seminarians embarked on a special trip to St. Joseph Seminary, Edmonton, AB, where they enjoyed fellowship. As we cultivate a spirit of mutual encouragement and shared faith journeys, may this exchange pave the way for future collaboration between SCK and St. Joseph's,



Online Trivia Night with St. Joseph Seminary

enriching the educational and spiritual formation of all seminarians.

Sun 31: The Lord has risen, ALLELUIA!!! May the joy of the risen Lord be a light of hope for everyone! We are especially grateful for this Octave week of rest as we gear up for the final stretch of the school year.

April

Sat 20: Vancouver Mysteries turned Sports Day into an unforgettable adventure! The



Albert Remoroza: winner of the oratory contest on March 24



Playing Spikeball in the Gym

seminarians raced through downtown Vancouver, deciphering cryptic clues to foil a tech mogul's plot to disrupt the city's power grid. Laughter, teamwork, and a dash of adrenaline made this a Sports Day to remember!

prayer and guidance. As we transition into summer, let us continue to be inspired by St. Joseph's model of faithfulness in prayer and work. Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable break! *Pax Domini sit semper vobiscum.*

May

Wed 1: Happy Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, patron saint of laborers! We ended a busy exam week and a grace-filled school year on a high note, celebrating the patronal saint of the Abbey with the monks and high school seminarians. We shared a delicious noon meal together. We thank the Lord for a wonderful year, and for our brother seminarians, the faculty members, benefactors, and everyone who supported us through



Tiny hike up Mount Mary Ann

Minor Seminary Diary



Thomas Cardinal Collins chats with seminarians after the common meal with the western Canadian Bishops

January

Thu 11: Bishops from across western Canada arrived on January 8th to begin their annual retreat led by Thomas Cardinal Collins. Seminarians had the opportunity to meet their own bishops, as well as those from other dioceses, who offered a friendly barrage of invitations and suggestions to join their dioceses. The minor seminarians were also fortunate to meet with a smaller group of bishops and hear about their journeys to the episcopate. The camaraderie amongst the bishops was palpable, evident in their playful teasing all the while demonstrating a clear love for Christ and each other, a sign of the Holy Spirit's presence.

The next day, the community held a common meal with all the bishops in honour of His Eminence Cardinal Collins. We enjoyed a sumptuous feast, as is always the case at such an event. The leaders of Christ's Church on earth sat and ate alongside the young seeds that will hopefully one day blossom into the Church's future harvest.

Fri 19: From Pete's Pass to Angel's Kitchen, the minor seminarians, along with Father Anthony and some other daring chaperones, carved (or tumbled) down every ski run Sasquatch

Mountain Resort had to offer. Father Caesarius, a seasoned veteran of downhill skiing, could not restrain himself from indulging, at least a little, in strutting his stuff and effectively putting the all too arrogant youth of the Minor Seminary in their place. A steaming pot of chili prepared by Br. Joshua fueled the group through the day, renewing their vigour for the remaining hours on the slopes. As the day came to a close, we returned home tired but content, thankful for the experience, which, in Father Anthony's words, was "drizzly and wet, but still fun."

February

Sat 3: Spurred on by their enthusiasm for "The Chosen," their favorite show about Jesus, the seminarians embarked on a trip to the theatre. Eager to catch the first three episodes of Season 4, most of them walked from the seminary. Though expecting to arrive late, they found themselves with a half hour to spare. To fill the time, they explored the nearby stores before leisurely making their way to the Mission Cineplex. Popcorn in hand, they settled into their seats, ready to immerse themselves in the show. The captivating episodes left a lasting impression, and as they



Br Isidore and seminarians visiting the H. R. MacMillan Space Centre on February 13



Minor seminarians sporting the new SCK merchandise

returned to the seminary, their minds buzzed with the themes and scenes they had just witnessed. Sleep, for some, proved elusive that night.

Wed 14: The seminarians approached Lent with fervour, looking forward to a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This year, most opted for fewer but more focused commitments rather than a long list of resolutions. Lent flew by, filled with many graces and blessings.

March

Thu 7: The Speech Arts Festival arrived, bringing dread to the unprepared seminarians. Rushed memorization and speech writing became the norm in the days leading up to the competition. This year's festival was divided into two dates. The first day featured, as Jean-Paul Lefebvre described them, "the boring events", while the second date on May 3 comprised the more enjoyable duologues and Shakespearean performances. The first day was stressful, with many pounding hearts and forgotten lines. However, some shone through, such as Theodore Vance with his prepared speech, or Brayden Hoffman with his highly praised impromptu speech. Unfortunately, the Grade 9s did not receive any

podium finishes or A's in any of the four events (i.e. Bible Prepared and Memorised, Impromptu and Prepared Speech), much to their disappointment. Despite the initial let down, they remained eager for the anticipated Set Poetry, Shakespearean monologues, and duologue portions of the festival on the second day.

Fri 22: The seminary hockey season was in full swing when we were gifted with a trip to the Mission Rec Centre where we slipped and slid on the polished ice. After we skated down to the Centre on roller blades and geared up to head onto the rink, it was soon evident that the transition from concrete to ice was quite a challenge for some and an impossibility for others. We were honored to play with the rock-solid hockey veteran Dr. Stephen Ogden, who generously provided an extra hour of ice-time for the grateful seminarians. Some of the cockier hockey players, such as Maxime Boudreau, were given a humbling by Dr. Ogden's blunt body checks and blunter comments. After much blood,



Br Maximus studying Church History with Grade 10s

sweat, and tears, the worn out seminarians were drooling for a scrumptious meal of pizza, ice cream and loads of junk food; a perfect way to finish off a great day.

Sun 24: The graces of Holy Week filled the hearts of the minor seminarians, as Palm Sunday kicked off our final countdown to the Passion, death, and resurrection of our Lord. There was much time for silent meditation throughout that week of tears, fasting, and prayer. In fact, some were surprised by the sudden contemplation and reverence of the typically boisterous minor seminarians, as they felt the weight of Lent's culmination. A general sense of fulfillment settled amongst the seminarians. As Marko Banić aptly described it, "my soul wept throughout the entirety of Christ's passion, but by the time I reached the

Abbey's beautiful Easter Vigil liturgy all I could utter was WOW." Father Caesarius' stirring organ piece concluding the Vigil sent the exuberant seminarians back to their families for a long-awaited week of rest and reconnection.

April

Mon 15: It is a blessing to have Our Lady of Fatima here at the Abbey! As a part of a pilgrimage, a statue of Our Lady was making its way around the archdiocese and we are grateful that Our Lady was able to pass by our seminary! Please continue to intercede for us Most Blessed Virgin!

Fri 26-Sun 28: Some things, such as hospitality, require a woman's touch. The minor seminarians experienced this firsthand during their annual

trip to the Dominican nuns in Squamish. There, they were wonderfully taken care of, materially and spiritually, by the nuns. God is just, however, and so the minor seminarians were able to return the favour on Saturday as they chopped wood, dug ditches, and performed other tasks of which the sisters were in need. After a hard day's work, anticipation for Sunday's leisure time grew. However, their hopes for a relaxing day

were dashed by the rain. Undeterred, some seminarians embarked on a hike to the source of the rushing waterfall that supplies H₂O to the monastery, a mountaintop lake. Others chose to climb the cascade itself. A highlight of the weekend was a surprisingly relaxed Q&A session with the nuns, which somehow ended with some in-depth questions about soap! Despite a few bumps and bruises, all the seminarians



Our Lady of Fatima Statue

returned with a greater sense of peace and reverence.

May

Fri 3: What is the common denominator between pistols and swords, singing and dancing, Rumpelstiltskin and Hamlet? Speech Arts is back, and this time with much more excitement and enthusiasm on the part of the seminarians. It started with the Set Lyric Poetry and led up to the Duologues, with Shakespearean Monologues sandwiched in between. The unanimous highlight was the Duologues, which Theodore Vance and Samuel Donegan won as they performed "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" written by Studio C. There were also some great musical performances amongst the impressive



Dr Stephen Ogden and minor seminarians take on Robert Mustard, a teacher of Yoshinkan Aikido

class, a book about a British man who seeks discipline in life by joining an Aikido dojo in Japan. One of the Senseis in the book is Mustard, so meeting him in person was a truly unique experience. Contrary to expectations he was easy-going and funny. He showed us numerous Aikido moves which, although they looked fake, were nevertheless real, which made it all the more awesome. He then taught us some moves such as how to debilitate someone with a handshake. All in all it was a really neat experience and a great way to skip our morning classes!

acts, such as “The Other Side” from *The Greatest Showman*, “Love is an Open Door” from *Frozen*, and “Life is Fun” by ‘OddIsOut’ and ‘Boyinaband.’ Time flies when you’re having fun and, despite the disappointment of others, the festival was over before they knew it. Despite their earlier enthusiasm onstage, poets and actors alike welcomed a chance to relax and recharge. The competition nerves that had gripped them all since morning had finally faded.

Tues 7: We knew we were in for a treat when we welcomed the Aikido master, Robert Mustard, into our gym. The Grade 11s read “Angry White Pyjamas” for Dr. Ogden’s English

Thu 9: As the seminarians rolled out of bed at 4:30 a.m., we prepared ourselves for a long, fun and adventuresome day in Victoria, BC. We quickly loaded onto the bus and made our way to the ferry. On the bus we prayed Morning Prayer and wolfed down a delicious breakfast of muffins and croissants. We got to the ferry and as soon as we boarded, the seminarians scattered to explore every nook and cranny of the boat. We arrived at the ferry terminal on Vancouver Island at 8:30 a.m. and then took a one hour bus ride to get to Victoria. Our first stop was a short documentary film titled “Deep Sky” about the new James Webb Space Telescope. The movie’s final credits rolled,



and we bolted for Mass. It was a fifteen-minute walk, and we only had fifteen minutes to make it. Thankfully Bishop Gary Gordon began the service five minutes behind schedule. Mass was full and after having been nourished by the Body of Christ, we went to Centennial Park to have a nourishing lunch of mustard-oozing sandwiches, Rice Krispies and Wagon Wheels. At 1:45 p.m. all those participating in the March for Life assembled and began the walk to the Legislative Assembly. The seminarians were honoured to be selected as the banner bearers at the head of the March. After some arguing about how to carry the banner, the seminarians decided they were going to sing Marian hymns and Taizé chants, making the March a very beautiful and moving experience. On the steps of the Legislative Assembly we heard many powerful testimonies and went away feeling refreshed and ready to fight for life. Unfortunately, a logistical issue arose as the group's designated bus was mistakenly

claimed by another party. While a replacement was secured, the delay resulted in us missing the intended ferry. As a result, the return to the seminary was postponed until 9:00 p.m. Hungry after our busy day, the seminarians quickly ate a late supper before heading to bed.

**SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING
HIGH SCHOOL VOCATION LIVE-IN**

July 6-7, 2024

**Seminary of Christ the King
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Mission, B.C., Canada
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Bell Ringing

by Brendan Choy

Grade 12

Strolling across the parking lot towards the abbey church for Sunday Mass, one can hear the majestic peal resounding deep from within the grey 168 ft belltower overlooking the Fraser Valley. The delightful, melodic strain of music floats up from a series of 'heavy metal' bells, ranging from 485 to 2360 lbs, which are rung daily by the monks of Westminster Abbey. Last year, several of the minor seminarians were privileged to learn this wonderful art through the generosity and initiative of the tower captain, Br. Joshua. Passing many a post-Sunday Vespers and school day evening in the belltower with the captain, they picked up slowly but surely the handling, rope sight, and theory involved in competently ringing a bell. By the end of the 2022-23 school year, two of the cohort were ringing the Plain Bob method cheerily along with the monks in the wee hours of the morning before Mass.

Summer break arrived along with unrelenting waves of scorching heat; however, they were not formidable enough to prevent a mixed group of



current seminarians and alumni from embarking on an excursion in July to the belltower at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. Gathered in the tower with some of the regular ringers, they had a very enjoyable time experimenting with the 8 bells (which were much smoother than those of the Abbey).

The beginners executed their first pulls under the watchful guidance of the Vancouver tower captain, Eve Munns, while the more experienced focused on honing their personal skills with the other bells. The

seminarians' fun time at the belltower was further augmented by the copious amounts of varied chocolates laid enticingly on a table. We extend our apologies for forcing the Vancouver ringers to replenish their sugary stocks much sooner than normal.

The beginning of the school year 2023-24 brought along a fresh cohort of minor seminarians,

eager to learn the tradition of bellringing. Br. Joshua was most gracious in assuming his role once more as mentor to both the beginners and a few old-timers who remained. As the newcomers acquired the basics of rope-handling technique, the two veterans advanced in their ringing skills

and knowledge of various methods, to the point of comfortably ringing more sophisticated methods every day with their monastic comrades. Despite some setbacks, most notably the grievous loss of many

practices due to scheduling complications, this year's ringing season was very enjoyable for all its participants. We are very grateful for this wonderful opportunity to glorify God, as well as build camaraderie among ourselves and with the monks and gain some extra muscles. Thanks especially to Brother Joshua for his time and patience!



Br Joshua teaching bell ringing to minor seminarians

Camping on Burke Mountain

by Dominic Lefebvre

Grade 9



On the Friday afternoon of February 2, we (the Grade 9s including Fr. Caesarius, Br. Bartholomew, Mr. Spoeth and Mr. Dick) left on a camping trip to Burke Mountain. We wanted to cover as much distance as we possibly could by driving and we almost drove the whole way. But we had to stop because the road was getting rocky, as if the road itself was trying to obstruct us. We had to walk the rest of the way, which was about a 5 minute hike.

Once we arrived at the cabin that we were staying in, Br. Bartholomew explained the rules of the cabin and then let us in. After praying Vespers we all sat around the table and played telephone while waiting for the food. Following that, we hung out for a short period, and while the adults were praying Vigils, the rest of us went to bed.

After we woke up, celebrated Mass and ate breakfast we set out on a hike to a lake. The walk was long, strenuous and full of snow, small rivers, and moist grass. No one made it out without aquariums in his shoes, but it was all worth it once we finally reached the lake. The lake was covered with ice and fog concealing the true view of the lake but we arrived there just in time to see the sun shoot its rays through the fog slowly fading away, revealing a glittering ice lake

surrounded by enormous hills.

Despite the snowy trek and damp boots, the breathtaking sunrise over the frozen lake capped off our adventure perfectly. This camping trip was a reminder that even challenging journeys can lead to moments of pure wonder.



With the Brothers



Fr Pablo Santa Maria (right) visits with Fr Leo in Rome

Every studious Christian taught by the Church Fathers knows that numbers have meaning. A good number of months ago, the monks of Westminster had this lesson of meaningful numbers, technically known as *numerology*, drilled into them by Cassiodorus' *Commentary on the Psalms*. The lesson was to make its import felt.

It was March 21, the solemnity of the passing of our Holy Father Benedict. All seemed to be in good order; the celebrants were vesting for Vespers, the thurifer was lighting the charcoals, the tower bells were ringing their rounds and, the number sixty-two was silently sitting above the choir stalls. But for all its modesty, that number sixty-two could not escape the ever-vigilant eyes of the Prior. Now Fr. Prior keenly perceived that that number sixty-two was asking for trouble.

How so? Well, within the present context, it was intolerably out of place. Solemnity aside, it was also Thursday of

the Fifth Week of Lent and that number sixty-two indicated the rather unLenten hymn, "Alleluia, Sing to Jesus" by William C. Dix. Rightly assuming that Fra. Athanasius, the assistant organist, had intended to put up the number sixty-one for the hymn "For All the Saints" by William W. How, Fr. Prior made the necessary correction and good order was restored. Or so it seemed.

The solemn ceremony flowed smoothly under the watchful eyes of our assistant master of ceremonies. But when the singers raised their voices in song with heartfelt thanksgiving for all the saints, panic struck. Something had escaped the notice of Fr. Prior and Fra. Athanasius.

Neatly nestled within the text of hymn sixty-one were some "alleluias". And those unexpected unLenten alleluias were relentlessly approaching. Throwing caution to the wind, Fr. Prior boldly decided that now was the time for *epikeia*, so he sounded forth the alleluias without skipping a beat (*epikeia* is the prudential principle whereby a law may be relaxed to accommodate for particular circumstances). Meanwhile the



Br Benedict and Br Luke



Br Emeric celebrates 60 years of monastic profession

majority of the assembly died away, safely opting to follow the letter of the law with regards to Roman Catholic Lenten devotion.

The first verse was over but more was still to come. Strong came the voices. Then hush went the choir as Fr. Prior generously praised the Lord with tuneful accord.

Weeks later, the liturgical assembly had another go at William W. How's hymn. This time it was May 1, solemnity of St. Joseph the Worker, patron of Westminster Abbey. The celebration happily landed on Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Easter so the Alleluias rang without restraint. In his homily, Fr. Abbot spoke succinctly of the irony of having a day off for the celebration of St. Joseph the Worker. Ironic, but fitting. Just as hope for the Resurrection breaks into Lent while the marks of Lent persist into the Easter season, so the rhythm of work and prayer flow into one another, bound up as they are in the great mystery of God who goes on working while He is ever at rest.

The melding of Easter hope and Lenten pain was particularly apparent this year in the making of the Paschal candle. Br. Isidore was charged with handing on this noble art to the novices. He chose the method of trial and error. As the novices eagerly set the string, they unwittingly damaged the mold so that Br. Isidore's first pour went straight through all over the boot-room floor. After a makeshift fix, the second pour followed suit. Third time's the charm. Br. Isidore now let the novices pour the candle and the final result was nearly flawless.

Young people these days are highly sensitive to condescension, so Brother's humble approach was just the thing to encourage those novices. Indeed, they were so filled with enthusiasm that when Brother handed over a template for the candle's inscriptions, the novices eagerly developed their own design rich in theological reflection.

That was not the end of the wax work however. The next job was a fitting Lenten endeavour, that of purification. After an hour of trying to get the wax through the purifier, Fra. Nov. Charles



Br Emeric's 60th anniversary celebration (L to R): Br Bartholomew, Novice Charles, Br John, Frater Charles, Postulant Manuel



Visit of Apostolic Nuncio on February 17 (L to R): Abbot Alban, Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič and Archbishop J. Michael Miller csb

decided to go ask Br. Joseph for some assistance. He was obviously sold by Br. Isidore's method of trial and error; an unattended purifier, like the number sixty-two in Lent, is asking for trouble.

Within five minutes of inattention, the hot melted wax finally broke through the clog that had initially formed when the wax made contact with the cold machine. As a result, our boot room floor was waxed once more. Third time's the charm. This time the wax was gushing out liberally as many pounds of pressure pushed it through the machine, covering the floor with a thick coat and pouring down the drain. It took days to clean up. The catastrophe caused older confreres to reminisce of past catastrophic encounters between wax and the boot-room floor. There is nothing new under the sun. Indeed, marks on the aged floor and walls make it known that young people don't know how to make messes like they used to. But those are tales for another time.

Some of the aged infrastructure and outdated customs of Westminster Abbey have been begging for renewal, so the brothers have been responding with alms of time and talent. For instance, Br. Bartholomew and Br. John have done much to clean up the barn area. Br. Joshua reorganized the kitchen layout and brought a mini-freezer to the sacristy to preserve unconsecrated hosts. A rigmarole of miscommunications and misjudgments beset the ordering of new guesthouse linens but a sufficient supply

of double-sheets should soon be here to ease the angst of the bed-makers. Over in the church, the holy water font was brought back into operation for the Easter Vigil and the five-hundred year old wooden statue of Our Lady cleaned and preserved by our good friend Ana Diaz Drew. Meanwhile, our aged confreres Br. Emeric and Br. Benedict are eagerly awaiting the day when they will kick the bucket and be renewed forever. Psalm sixty-two says it best: "O God, you are my God, for you I long, for you my soul is

thirsting." Every studious Christian taught by the Church Fathers shares this noble sentiment and knows that his days are meaningfully numbered, for "in the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us." Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Frater Athanasius is ordained Deacon on May 10 by the Most Reverend J. Michael Miller csb

Alumnitems



Celebrating Alumni Day on May 20

Two of our alumni have their silver jubilees of ordination this spring: Fathers **Eugenio Aloisio '94** and **Joseph Hieu Nguyen '89**, both of whom are in the Vancouver Archdiocese. To both of our jubilarians, we wish *Ad multos annos!*

Changes in the archdiocese, effective July 11, include, as pastor:

Father **Joseph Hieu Nguyen**, to St Theresa's, Burnaby. As assistant pastors: Fathers **Peter Ha '00**, St Andrew's, Vancouver; **Rodney Nootbos '10**, St Michael's, Burnaby; **Nicolas Tumbelaka '06**, to Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver.

Sam Frketich '57 writes:

I attended SCK for my high school grades, 1953–1957. Service was important to me, so where do I go now, having left the Seminary. It was teaching. My first year was in Pemberton, 1960. From there to Port Alberni as teacher at Smith Memorial Catholic School, then Principal at Ucluelet Secondary, and back to the School Board Office as Assistant Superintendent until retirement in 2002. Lots of years. Not all pensionable, however, as the eight years at Smith Memorial did not provide such. Following retirement, and for the next 13 years, I had the good fortune to continue working part-time by supervising student teachers for Vancouver Island University and University of Victoria. So, fully retired at age 75 in 2015. But it did not

last as I was contacted by UVic last year. Would I like to work with five Indigenous Teacher Candidates who were completing their final nine-week practicum for their B.Ed. Indigenous Language Revitalization Degree? Yes – though it meant some long drives, from Parksville to Port Alberni one day and to Ucluelet/Tofino another day each week. Then yet again, a call. Just this past month of April, I supervised five Indigenous students completing a short three-week practicum as part of a UVic diploma program. Will it end at age 84? I hope not as I really enjoy the work!

Keith Jones '64 writes:

I am now 78 and am still practicing law in Prince George and area. I have been married after the death of my first wife, for 25 years and we have eight children, ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren. I still remember fondly the years I



Alumni (L to R): Sam Frketich, Edward Ram and Abbot Alban



Alumni Day

spent at SCK and I visit frequently any time I'm in the area. I am very hopeful that we can make it [to the All-alumni Reunion]

Robert Fuller '88 writes:

My wife Mary and I are still living in Galway, Ireland; Our eldest daughter Sara recently returned from Canada having been there since 2019. Daniel has just finished medical school. Aisling and Miriam both still in college.

I'm still working in software, but I'm taking a part-time college course in agriculture at the moment, so in the future I could remain useful.

Christopher Bryde '03 writes:

I retired from the U.S. Marines after losing my legs below the knee because of an IED in Afghanistan. Since leaving the Marines, I have spent my time between charity work, education, & fishing.

I graduated from Portland Community College in 2019 with an Associate's Degree in Science & an Associate's Degree in General Studies with a Focus Award in Creative Writing (both with honors recognition). That year, I was accepted into St. Mary's University Twickenham London (the oldest Catholic university in the United Kingdom) and moved to England. In 2022, I completed a BA Honours in Creative & Professional Writing (with a First Class). In 2023, I completed an MA in Creative Writing: First Novel (with

Distinction). Also, in 2023, I married a British woman, Laura, and started my PhD at St. Mary's.

I volunteer at the university as the Postgraduate Vice-President, Fishing Society President, Wheelchair Rugby League President, and various other roles. I recently finished my first novel - a fiction based on my experience in the

Marines & Afghanistan - and am now working on the sequel.

Olivier Coutant '16 writes:

My wife Anna Coutant (nee Marquard) and I were married two years ago on April 23rd, 2022. We are expecting our first child (a boy) August 29th, 2024. I moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2017 and have been working at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church for going on seven years: first as director of youth and young adult ministry, and now as director of liturgy and communications since 2023.

Oscar Laurence '21 writes:

I have been elected as the President of the Catholic Pacific College Student Association (CPCSA) for the upcoming academic year. I am also starting a pro-life internship with



Alumni

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WESTMINSTER ABBEY
SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING
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Grade 12 grads (L to R): Brendan Choy, Dominic Campbell, Xavier Banić, Aby Vandanath, Anthony McDaniel

the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform (CCBR) this summer, where I will be doing activism and producing historical material for their organization.

Michael Anhel '23 writes:

I graduated from the high school seminary last year. I can offer a bit of interesting information about myself; I have started taking boxing classes, in hopes of putting them to use defending myself, family, and the faith. I also plan to join the CCBR next year for an annual pro-life summer internship held in Calgary and in other provinces across Canada. To do this I must fundraise \$4,000 for the organization beforehand. To make this happen me and my Ukrainian grandmother are to make a whole lot of homemade perogies, which I will sell at whatever events I can, whether it's at markets, craft fairs, or even in the church parking lot.

Requiescant in pace:

John R. Benson '63 died on November 23, 2022 and was buried from St Peter's Parish in New Westminster.

David Smith, former candidate in the monastic community, died on October 4, 2023 in Regina, SK.

Bill Attebery, former teacher at SCK, died on January 5, 2024 in Bellingham, WA.

Patrick Cash, brother-in-law of Fr. Mark Osb, died on February 17, 2024 in Ladner, BC.

Thomas Widdowson '45 died on April 14, 2024 in Victoria BC. He was one of the world's authorities on seaweeds, attaining his PhD in biology from UBC.

Ian Donahue '79 died on May 4, 2024 also in Victoria, BC.

Bill Fletcher '67 died on May 17, 2024 in Rocky Mountain House, AB.