

PAX REGIS

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The cover: Abbey and seminary communities gather with cultural historian, Sonny McHalsie, around the Totem Pole at St. Mary's Residential School to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Synod of 2021-2023

When he opened the current Synod on Oct 9, 2021, Pope Francis said, "the Synod is not a parliament or an opinion poll; the Synod is an ecclesial event and its protagonist is the Spirit. If the Spirit is not present there will be no Synod."

Our Holy Father's approach helps us appreciate the importance of the Synod. It testifies to his great faith in the Holy Spirit who is guiding the Church and is still active in her.

Commenting on the three terms, communion, participation and mission, that will typify the hoped-for process of the Synod the Holy Father voiced his hope that local Churches work towards the participation of all.

All the baptized are called to take part in the life and mission of the Church. Once more he anticipates for us an experience of the Church. We do not often approach the experience of the Church with the faith that this reality requires. A synod is an ecclesial work and event.

In 1985, at a time when the memory of the Vatican Council was becoming confused with many other current distractions, St. John Paul II convoked an Extraordinary Synod. The word "koinonia" or "communion", was recognized as the best word to describe the experience of the fathers at Vatican Council II. The Holy Father now extends this word beyond the Ordinary Synods of Bishops to include a Synodal process that embraces the whole Church.

To extract this word from its theological orbit the Holy Father outlined some of the risks we face in the pursuit of communion. He named three: formalism, intellectualism, and complacency. The first, he said, has to do with being satisfied with external issues and exterior appearances; the second, with likening the synod to a study group; and the third, with the attempt to apply old solutions to new problems.

In contrast, making a faith response to the Spirit would be for the Synod to look for opportunities to go beyond present Church structures to a more permanent synodal type of Church. He named three

opportunities: we must pause from our daily routines to stop and listen to God in prayer and adoration; we must listen to the hopes and the crises of faith of our brothers and sisters from around the world and finally we must revisit God's style of making a Church through drawing near to each other in compassion and tenderness.

In initiating this lengthy synodal process which engages the whole Church, the Holy Father is not attempting to create a new Church but prepare a different Church which responds to the needs of our times and to the needs of all.

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your Divine Love!



Ceramic of the Holy Spirit at the Holy Water font in the Abbey Church

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Father Placidus Sander, 1927-2021

Vincent Harold Sander (the eighth of eleven children) was born on March 10, 1927 in Tillamook, Oregon to Catholic parents, Leo Bernard Sander (from Moberly, MO) and Theresa Durrer (from Holbrook, OR). Leo was a farmer, and Theresa was a stay-at-home mom. Running a dairy and market gardening were the means to support a family of four girls and seven boys. Father Placidus' love of gardening, floral arranging and landscaping likely date to these family times. He also loved the outdoors, hiking and back-packing in the mountains, and swimming.

Father told of a time when he was a toddler and his father found him drowning in the milk-cooler water trough in the milk-house. Jolted into action, prophet-like, he fished out of the water a future Placidus, like the one whom Saints Benedict and Maurus had once saved from the lake below the Subiaco monastery of old!

Harold began his schooling in Sacred Heart Academy, which was run by the Sisters of St. Mary of the Valley, of Beaverton, OR. He completed grades one to eight with the Sisters. In grade five he began taking piano lessons. His lifelong love of singing and music was rooted in these early experiences.

In grade nine Harold began attending the Seminary at Mount Angel in 1941. After graduation, he continued with two years of Arts, pursuing schooling even through the summers, as required for deferment of military service.

In June of 1946 Harold travelled to

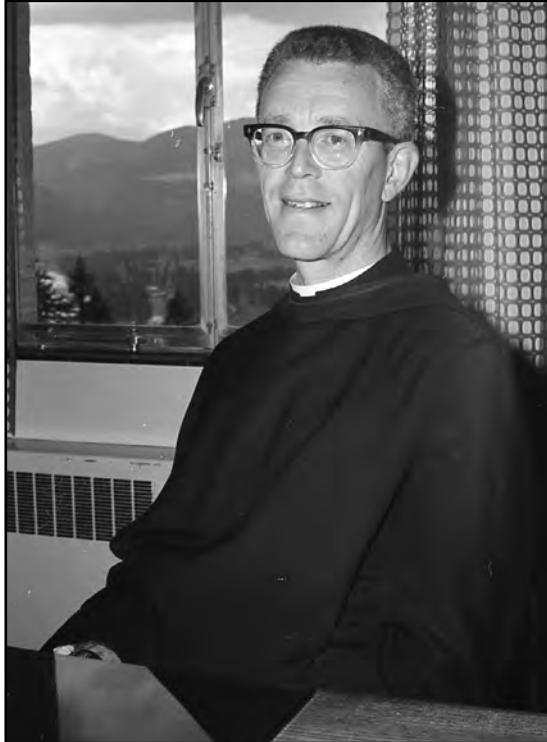
Westminster Priory in Burnaby, BC, to visit his brother, Fr. Timothy, who was there at the time. In his words, "I fell in love with the whole pioneering situation and wrote to Abbot Thomas [of Mount Angel] to ask that I might enter the monastery with the intention of becoming a member of the community at Westminster."

After he made temporary profession at Mount Angel on September 8, 1947 as Frater Placidus, Abbot Thomas took him up to the priory on September 17. There he did two more years of philosophy and he learned a simple method of accompanying chant from Fr. Luke Eberle who was rector of the seminary at the time. Thus, in these years he was able to help out on the organ and in the schola.

On September 12, 1950 he made solemn vows. Then after completing his theological studies at Mount Angel (1949-1952) he immediately

left for Sant'Anselmo in Rome to obtain his Licentiate in Sacred Theology. The impact on him of two years in Rome was very significant: being steeped in liturgical theology with Fr. Cipriano Vagaggini; being opened to the expanse of the Universal Church (he had a lifelong zeal for keeping up with the Magisterium and the Holy Father); growing in an appreciation of culture and, in particular, of Gregorian chant because of his visit to Solesmes with Dom J. Gajard, OSB. He would later teach chant for many years and would direct the monastic schola until 2016.

Four years after his return in 1954, he began





**Fr. Placidus and his brothers
(Fr. Bernard and Fr. Timothy)**

teaching dogmatic theology at the Seminary of Christ the King. Counselling and working with people were a big part of his life and his genuine compassion made a lasting impact on many people. Over the next forty years he helped form many generations of diocesan priests. Among his own younger confreres, he is remembered for imparting a zest for the Vatican II documents and the current concerns of the Holy Father. To the monastic community, he bequeathed his own personal synthesis of doing *lectio* in the light of the Eucharist. He also loved to go to the root of biblical, historical and liturgical questions.

For many years, he was the cheery face of the monastery at the door of the guesthouse on Sunday afternoons. His ringing greeting made one feel welcome at once. This welcoming warmth is remembered by many alumni who would come back and visit with him in his latter years. Another frequent service was assisting men in the 5th step of the Alcoholics Anonymous program.

Father Placidus regularly referred to Mother Teresa who said, “Whenever I meet someone in need, it’s really Jesus in his most distressing disguise.” Father acknowledged that he was able to meet others in their woundedness since he had been forced to come to a deep sense of his own human weakness as well as the ways that other

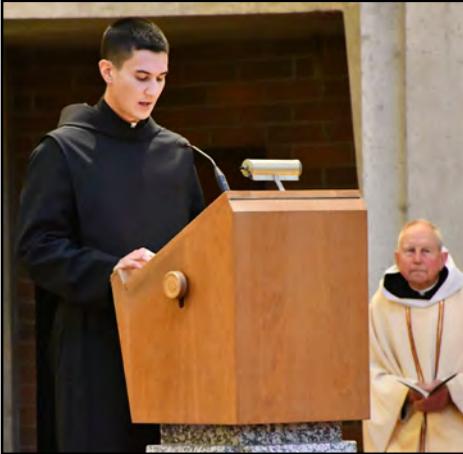
people had been hurt by his own actions. He saw himself as a sinner in need of God’s mercy.

Father Placidus humbly accepted reduced responsibilities when this became necessary; yet he began a no less active but more hidden phase of his monastic service. After taking a Foodsafe course, he helped out regularly in the kitchen. For years after, even when in declining health, he helped with peeling vegetables, making beds in the guesthouse, and cleaning, washing and ironing napkins. He never lost his characteristic openness to God, being present to the person and task at hand, with a ready smile, and willing to help in any way he could. Even as his sight was failing in the last few years, on his walker in the morning he had his Greek-Latin New Testament for his morning meditation. He passed to the Lord very swiftly on Friday, October 15 after breakfast, surrounded by three of his confreres.

A monk tries to live, when all is said and done, in the perspective of his death and eternal life. He also becomes more aware of the lights and shadows that shape his life and ministry; Father Placidus was realistic about the fact that, although many people counted him as a grace in their lives, not everyone had such a positive experience of him. He responded to this hard truth by embracing a deep conversion of life with gratitude and faith. He always appreciated the reformed funeral liturgy for its twofold focus on hope in the Resurrection and intercession for the dead. It is with this in mind that Father is entrusted into the merciful hands of our Risen Lord. May he rest in peace.



Solemn Profession



“Behold, I have come” were the words of Psalm 39:8-9, which Brother Joshua chose to be the text for a newly composed sacred motet celebrating his solemn profession to monastic life on September 5. “Behold, I have come.” Taking the courageous step of committing himself to the monastic life “for good”, it must be said that this step was many years in the making. In fact, from the moment of his conception, God called Br. Joshua to put down his roots in the “school of the Lord’s service” (Holy Rule, Prologue).

The fourth of nine children, Brother Joshua, whose baptismal name was Caleb, was born May 2, 1997 to John and Mia Rosario. Growing up in a practising Catholic family, Caleb had become familiar with the monastic life from an early age as his parents lived in Mission prior to his birth.

In the fall of 2011, Caleb entered the Seminary of Christ the King with his older brother,

Dominic. Through his teenage years, the desire for monastic life grew. But at the same time, he felt the draw of the world, that it had something to offer. To be sure, God had not disappointed him but what the world offered seemed to be as good as what God was offering him. In his own words, “I wanted a job and making money, having free time and doing what I want, the possibility of getting married. Why continue in the seminary...I think I will be happy out there.”

In Grade 12, Caleb continued to experience the battle between God and the world wrestling inside him. On the one hand, he felt a call to the monastic life, but there was something still unresolved in that draw from the world. After graduation, having completed four years in the high school seminary, he chose to ground himself in his family life. Living at home, Caleb found work on a ranch and a lumber mill and laboured as a landscaper. He also bought his own truck



and fostered various pastimes such as fiddling, attending square dances, and starting up a youth choir in his local parish.

Around Easter 2016, Caleb decided to come back down to the monastery for a visit. He contacted the vocation director, Father Caesarius. Encouraged to surrender his life to God, Caleb walked away from this visit with the determination to plunge into the deep realizing the best dreams are the ones that God gives us. On 14 August, he entered the community as a postulant, reminding himself: “if I didn’t want to suffer I would have stayed in the world.” This period of formation presented a recurring question: “why has God chosen me?” Battling with God’s choice and his own reluctance, Caleb gradually came to see by faith that God’s will was more than the dreams the world offered him: “Why would I ever doubt God? God had given me so much. He had never let me down.”

A year later he became a Novice, a time in which he threw himself into the Benedictine charism. In 2018 he made simple profession, receiving the name Joshua, after the Old Testament Patriarch.

While bringing joy to the monastic community through his love of culture, music, acting and poetry, not to mention his love of English Change Ringing, Brother Joshua edifies his brothers by his dedication to the monastic way of life,



prayer and *lectio divina*. While reserved in his demeanor, Brother Joshua’s dry sense of humor is a welcome gift.

It is no wonder why Brother Joshua chose the words of Psalm 39 to express his response to the Lord’s gift: “Behold, I have come.” May this Word of God carry Brother Joshua forward in fidelity to the end!



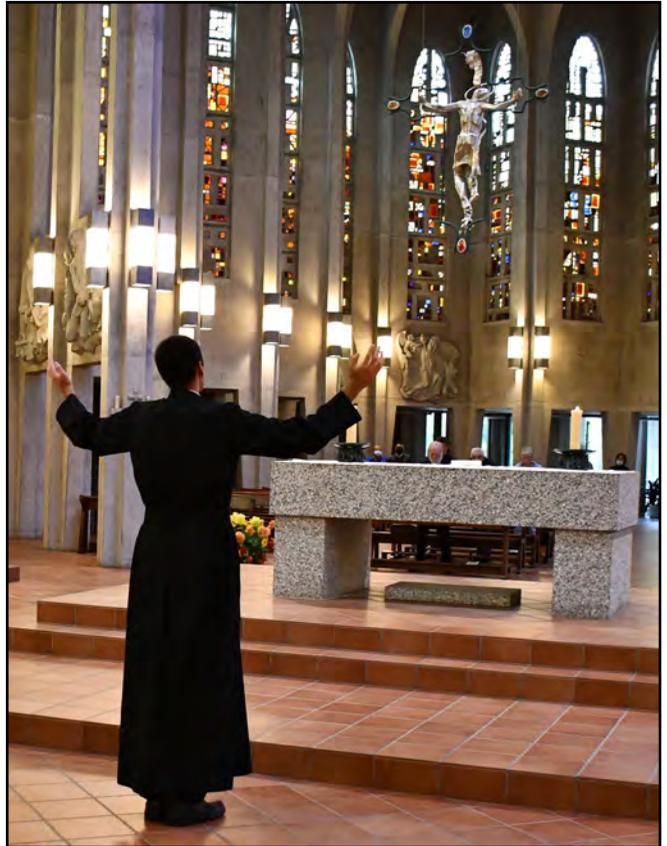
Br. Joshua and his family

Simple Profession

On September 8 during the celebration of Mass, David Park made his simple vows and received a new name: Matthias. In the Gospel passage for the feast of this apostle, the words of Jesus resound strongly, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you” (John 15:16). In a way these words became incarnate in the life of Frater Matthias as he promised stability in the community, fidelity to the monastic way of life, and obedience for a period of three years.

The early years of monastic formation are steeped in this belonging to Christ. To be a monk is to be chosen by Christ. To be chosen is to be a missionary of Christ. In fact, Frater Matthias first heard Christ’s choice of him for the monastic vocation after attending the high school of the Seminary of Christ the King (2012-2016).

One could say that Frater Matthias became familiar with the Abbey from birth. His father, Doug, and one of his uncles, Father Joseph, became monks themselves. Doug discontinued after simple profession to follow his vocation to the married life and Father Joseph went on to make solemn vows.



Frater Matthias praying “Uphold me, O Lord”

Born on February 10, 1998 as the second youngest child of Doug and Carmela Park, Frater Matthias developed close relationships with his parents and three siblings, which became the foundation for a love of community life.

Having entered the monastery in 2018, Frater Matthias continues to make a gift of himself through hobbies and amusements that arise in the ordinary rhythm of monastic life: as art, gardening, book-binding, bell-ringing, and carving pumpkins, to name a few.

As Frater sang the *Suscipe* (“Uphold me, O Lord”) before the altar with open arms, he thought “I can’t believe God actually called me; here I am!” May the community continue to uphold him with its prayers, so that all together we may open wide the doors to Christ.



Frater Matthias and his family



Priestly Ordinations

Chrysostom Mijinke, O.P. was ordained as a Dominican priest by Archbishop S. J. Cordileone in San Francisco on June 5th. Because of the COVID pandemic, only his mother, brother and aunt could attend the ordination in person.

Born in Langley in 1985 and baptized Christopher, Mijinke attended St Catherine's Elementary in Langley, Holy Cross Secondary in Surrey, and graduated from St John Brébeuf Secondary in Abbotsford. He entered Christ the King Seminary in 2004 and graduated with a BA in 2008.

After working in his father's restaurant Christopher moved to Canmore, AB and worked in restaurants in summer and on oil rigs in winter. He attended the Dominican University College in Ottawa in 2012, then the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in Berkeley, California from 2015-21. He received an MA in Philosophy in 2018, and an M.Div. in 2021. In 2019-2020 he attended the Pontifical University of St Thomas (the Angelicum) in Rome. He made his first profession of vows in 2014, taking the name

Chrysostom.

He offered his first Mass at St Dominic's Church, Benicia, CA. It was here that he did his internship and participated in all levels of work:



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.

visiting kids in the elementary school, youth ministry, RCIA, adult formation, and hospital ministry.

He enjoys outdoor activities and backpacking with young student Dominicans on three or four night trips through the Oregon wilderness. He has been assigned to the University of Washington Newman Center in Seattle this year.

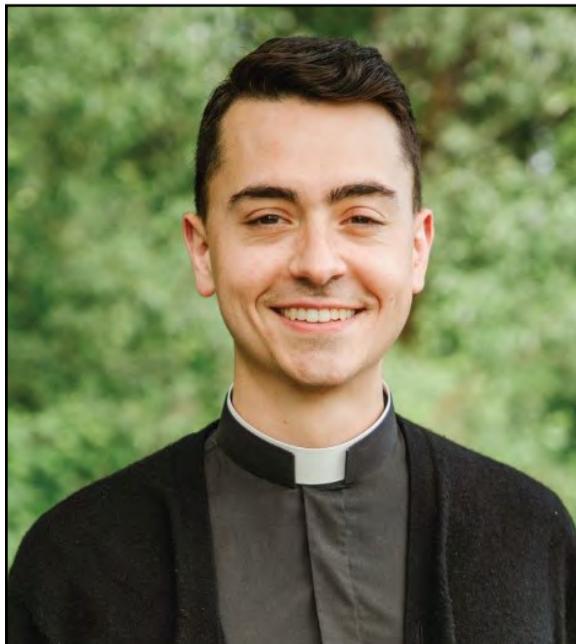
Raffaele Salvino was ordained to the priesthood on July 3rd by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver. He finished six years of pre-theology and theology studies at SCK in 2020 and was assigned to St Matthew's Parish in Surrey, where he offered his first Mass after his ordination.

He was born in 1991 in East Vancouver and baptized at St Francis of Assisi Parish. He attended Prince of Wales Secondary and then UBC where he obtained a BA in English Literature, with a Minor in Italian Studies.

While in high school and university, Raffaele worked part-time in an Italian grocery store. During the summers he served as a missionary with Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), first in Ottawa (2011) and then in Uganda in 2012.

He enjoys cycling, reading, cooking and hockey.

He grew up in Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, staffed by the Scalabrini Fathers. "Father Richard Zanotti and Fr. Eduardo Quintero CS were both joyful priests who modeled for me the deep vocational satisfaction found in parochial ministry."



Father Raffaele didn't grow up expecting to become a priest but came to the vocation gradually as his family also slowly gained a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith together.

Their journey together took them from skipping Mass so they could watch World Cup games to making Mass a priority on Sundays and praying before meals. "When God called me to the seminary, it was like the natural continuation of the trend that God had been taking my family on recently," he said.

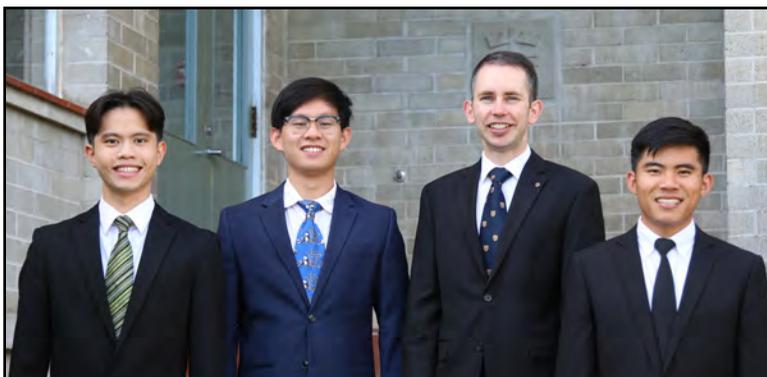
We wish both Father Chrysostom and Father Raffaele many happy years in the Lord's vineyard.

Major Seminary Diary

September 2021

Thu 9: The Major seminarians returned from either their summer vacation or their parish placements, received their new rooms and settled in. Masks will be used in public spaces for the first week.

Sat 11: For supper we barbecued burgers and hot-dogs outside the majors' rec room and celebrated the beginning



Major seminary student executive: Kuan Tsai, Solomon Nguyen, Matthew Bellerive, Patrick Le

of the new seminary year. This year we have 16 Major seminarians living in the residence.

Thu 16: Masks are no longer required and the Majors moved into their choir stalls.

Sat 25: Some of the major seminarians hiked Mount Saint Benedict, a local mountain east of Stave Lake. It would appear that late September is a fruitful time for finding wild mushrooms and many of us joined in Patrick's enthusiasm for these fascinating fungal finds. We had a great view from the top thanks to the good conditions.

Wed 29: Today we celebrated Father Abbot's namesday. We enjoyed a full community meal with the monastic, minor seminary, and major seminary communities all sharing dinner together. Some of the majors helped by serving for the meal.

October 2021

Fri 1: Today, in the spirit of Truth & Reconciliation, we visited the former St Mary's Indian Residential School. Albert (Sonny) McHalsie was the tour guide. He shared many stories with our group, which consisted of the Major Seminary and monastic communities.

Sun 3: The major seminarians joined the minors and other activists for an hour of witnessing to the sanctity of human life by holding signs along Lougheed Highway in Mission. Our attendance turned out to be

providential because we were able to share our signs with other supporters.

Fri 8: Most of the seminarians left in the afternoon for the Thanksgiving home weekend.

Mon 11: Seminarians returned in the evening from the Thanksgiving home weekend.

Sun 17: Today the Arts seminarians had their first meeting to start planning their contribution to the Advent Program. This year we have ten men in Arts and the help of Brother Joshua.

Fri 29: Many of the major seminarians left after Vespers today to attend a diocesan young adult event, "Fire in the Valley". There was a live band, fish tacos, and yes, campfires. Many of us were able to catch up with some of our friends from outside of the seminary as well as make some new acquaintances.



Cultural historian, Sonny McHalsie, shares the story of St. Mary's Residential School

Minor Seminary Diary

September 2021

Wed 8: The 2021-2022 school year began by welcoming thirty-five boys, including four from Washington State, into the seminary. We had a Parents' Day, with Mass at 10am, potluck lunch, and talks in the afternoon out on the east side of the Minor Seminary, by Jason and Amber Cummings, Odilia Choy, Father Peter, Father Abbot and Brother Maximus. The grade 12s took the seminarians and their siblings on a

tour of the monastery grounds carefully dodging the cow droppings scattered on the farm and on the hillside.

Sun 12: A number of alumni came up to play road hockey against the monks, who defeated them 8 - 3. A good time was had by all.

Thu 23-Sun 26: Leaving at the end of Thursday afternoon math class, the grade 12s, Dominic, Jayden, Sam, Gus, and Charlie along with Fr Abbot and Br Joseph drove out in the direction

of Clearwater River, near Wells Gray Park. A few hours later they stepped out at the beginning of the hike down to the cabin where they were to stay. While on their way down to camp, everyone took a part in carrying several large heavy frames that would soon become the new out-house. Unfortunately, they could not go horse-riding, as the company was not operating during COVID times. Later in the trip they hiked Trophy Mountain and, upon reaching the top, split apart allowing an hour of quiet contemplation

for all. Sunday evening, the grade twelves returned, unpacked, and prepared for school the following day.

Fri 24: Accompanied by Fr. Caesarius and Br. Maximus, the grade 8s and 9s set off to a camping spot just off Sylvester Road to camp for the night. The weather was clear and sunny. Although it was a long hike in, the group reached their destination, eventually made a fire, and prepared food. Darkness came quickly so they lay down to sleep under the stars by the fire. After an amazing day of outside fun and an intense multi team game of Capture the Flag Saturday, they hiked back, returning just after 4pm.

Wed 29: Father Abbot's namesday was celebrated today so the minors had no classes. Dominic Campbell, Theo, and Ben Johns started an ultimate frisbee game today which drew many of the minors to play on the upper field in the rain. Ultimate has become a well-loved

sport and most Sunday afternoons some boys will play on the often wet, slippery grass on fields below the seminary buildings.

October 2021

Fri 1: Today the seminarians walked down the hill to St Mary's Residential School to personally

foster Truth and Reconciliation. When the minor seminarians and a selection of monks reached the school, Albert (Sonny) McHalsie from Chilliwack gave us a tour of the old school buildings. This outing gave the minors a chance

to learn more about First Nations' traditions and beliefs, as well as a difficult part of our country's history. We ate a hearty feast of Tuna sandwiches, fresh pickles, and kombucha before everyone walked back to enjoy the rest of the day.

After lunch, the grade 10s left with Fr. Leo for their camping trip to Mount Saint Benedict; Mr. Lornie joining the group on the hike. One highlight that stood out was the Mass Fr. Leo



Minor seminary student executive: Alarick Alfredo-Sorto, Dominic Cummings, Andrew Lornie



Evening band practice (L to R): Jacob Klaponski, Brendan Choy, Damien Quinn, Jonnie Traub

celebrated on the top of the mountain. The good food and clear skies created the best environment for a great experience. Many conversations were struck up on the trip. For some it was good just to talk to each other and with Mr. Lornie and their formator, Fr. Leo.

Sun 3: Instead of doing *Lectio* in groups this afternoon, the high school students were driven by local families and Br. Maximus in the "monk mobile" to participate in the Mission Life Chain to stand up for the unborn. Holding signs and saying prayers, the minors surprisingly received a greater number of honks and thumbs up from passing drivers than in previous years.

Fri 8-Mon 11: This weekend the minors experienced their first homeweekend in almost two years. For many it was the first home-weekend in our time being seminarians so it was good to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving with our families. Coming back Monday evening, the minors prepared for the first term exams that they started the next day. Soccer, although not everyone's favorite sport, was the main activity for PE in the first term. Over the first few weeks, the Minor Seminary watched both the first and second season of *The Chosen* together and thor-

oughly enjoyed them.

Fri 22- Sun 24: With Fr. Peter, Fr. Leo, and Br. Bartholomew the minors packed into the bus and left shortly after Friday lunch headed for Queen of Peace Monastery in Squamish. It was a rainy, cloudy weekend. After unpacking we joined the Dominican nuns for Vespers and later Compline. On Saturday we spent hours clearing brush, digging a trench, cutting down trees, feeding piles of brush to two large fires, and chopping and stacking wood. In the evening we were given the chance to have a question and answer session with the Sisters. Time was also set aside for prayer or spiritual reading in the nuns' beautiful chapel. While on the long bus ride back, a few seminarians enjoyed a well-earned nap.

Sun 31: We had our first Parents' Day and the minors performed two band pieces including one from the Lord of the Rings soundtrack for our families. Jacob, Dominic Campbell, Anthony, and Israel acted out a scene from George Bernard Shaw's *Saint Joan*. Though the nights are growing longer and the days shorter, we continue to learn, to work, and to pray on our hilltop home.

With the Brothers

Sunrise. Sunset. Sunrise. Sunset. Swiftly flow the days. Seedlings turn overnight to sunflowers, blossoming even as we gaze ... Perhaps you are familiar with this song from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Well, whether he's on the roof or in the house there's naught like a bell-ringing fiddler to brighten up the rapid rounds of daily life and Br. Joshua fits the role to a tee. He had several confreres attempt a couple of quarter peals in the bell tower with near success. He now has a group accompanying him on the fiddle at Saturday evening recreations. Guitarists Fr. Abbot and Br. Maximus, pianist Fra. Athanasius, and self-teaching mandolinist Postulant Agostino all have a hard time keeping up with Brother's zeal and alacrity. Brother Joshua has also started to train some minor seminarians



Frater Novice Isaac and Postulant Agostino

in the art of fiddling.

The great violinist and composer Antonio Vivaldi once painted a quaint bucolic scene of a sleeping goatherd and his dog in the second movement of his well-known concerto *Spring*.



Br. Paschasius

Amidst the gently rustling leaves evoked by the violinists comes the pleasant two-note “woof, woof” of the viola as a soothing lyrical melody glides along. Well, Br. Emeric will attest there are no such quaint bucolic scenes down at the barn. Our new dog Blue has too much energy for gentle woofs. He would much rather chase cows. The cows, on the other hand, have too much appetite to peaceably wander the pastures. They would much rather break into the vegetable garden. Thankfully, many fruits and vegetables had already been harvested before the cows did

their damage. The garden did exceptionally well this year under Fra. Athanasius’ and Br. John’s watchful care. Of special note were the delicious melons and cantaloupes. Our profuse supply of cloth COVID masks was gainfully repurposed to make little supportive hammocks for these delectable fruits.

Despite Fr. Prior’s tireless efforts to facilitate order in our chanting and labours, occasions inevitably arise when a confrere or two get out of sync. For example, when Br. Bartholomew needed help to prepare for a concrete pour down at the barn, he missed the instruction to gather his recruits from among the bean pickers. It meant that some of the brothers, including Fra. Novice Isaac and Br. Isidore, had to add a coda to their work day. However, all was still completed in due time and the soggy sections down at the barn were significantly reduced by the new concrete pads. Br. Bartholomew and company have also been busy constructing firewalls in the attics and cupboards in the sacristies.

Meanwhile, Fr. Joseph, Br. Joseph, and many junior monks completed the renewal of the receiving entrance courtyard well before the atmospheric rivers of November broke their banks. The formerly problematic area now drains well.

Over in the potato room, some fruit flies were singing a different tune after Br. Benedict gave them a spray of some fast-acting bug-killer while muttering “O death, where is your sting?” Brother and the rest of the kitchen workers have little chance to miss a beat with the tight monastic schedule but they always manage to produce



Cleaning out the old storage sacristy (L to R): Br. Bartholomew, Br. Joseph, Fr. Leo



Fr. Dunstan (helped by Br. John) painting monochrome on the upper cloister stations of the cross

excellent meals on time.

This past summer, Br. Luke and Br. Paschasius joined many of the monks in taking an online formation course from the St. Luke's Institute. This is just the beginning of a long term plan to renew the way we do formation.

Our new recruit, Postulant Jonathan, has joined the polyphonic singers. The zealous members have been practising their Christmas carols since September! One of their pieces is the Polish carol *Bóg sie rodzi*. Fra. Matthias, who has begun first Arts this year, was thankfully able to ask our new volunteer teacher Margaret for help with the pronunciation. It was a good thing too, since she informed us that the last verse (which we had

sung in the past) is actually a rousing assertion of Polish nationalism rather than a sharing of Christmas tidings.

In his recent catecheses on prayer, Pope Francis likened prayer to a musical staff on which the melody of our lives is written. Without the staff, the notes would be incomprehensible and the melody lost. No matter how swiftly the days flow by, the brothers' life of prayer gives meaning to all their work. It enables them to interpret everything by the love of God and to harmonize the little melodies of their lives with the great melody that is the life of Christ. We will sing forever of your love, O Lord, for your love endures forever.



Newly renovated work sacristy

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Alumniems

Ronald Junk '62 of Ottawa came by the seminary on August 22nd and had a delightful visit with some of the monastic community. He is retired from working for Corrections Canada.

Brother **Frank Sharma** of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, OCD, '13 made his solemn profession of vows as a Carmelite in Rome on September 18th. He belongs to the Karnataka-Goa Carmelite Provincialate of Bangalore, India. He visited the abbey on November 19th.

Lucas Tillotson '19 made simple profession of vows at Silverstream Priory in Ireland on September 29, taking the name of Br. Aelred Maria, OSB.

A good number of alumni attended the recent funeral at the abbey on October 27th. There were at least 18 priests concelebrating, not counting our priest monks. Fortunately the rain held off and we had the reception outside the guesthouse. Alumni of the seminary who came the furthest include **Bruce Gysel '76** from Canmore Alberta, and his son-in-law, **Mark Pollock '04**, from Airdrie, Alberta. Father **François Beyrouti '93** of the Melkite Eastern Catholic Church came from

California by way of North Vancouver, where he was visiting his parents. Father **Terry Brock '88**, Vicar General of the Prince George diocese, came from Prince Rupert.



Br. Frank Sharma of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, OCD

Manor, New Westminster, on September 28, 2021.

Requiescant in pace:

Joan McKinnon died in Victoria on June 3. She had been our secretary-receptionist for many years in the 1990s.

Roger Ducharme, grandfather of Brothers Joseph, Bartholomew and Thomas Bruneau, OSB, died on July 2nd in Maple Ridge, BC.

Ralph Folino '65 died in New Westminster on July 12th.

David Henry '76 died in New York on July 21st of melanoma.

William Pember-ton '03 died in Margaree, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia on August 20. He leaves his wife Mary (O'Brien) and six children.

Lester Roberge '57 died at Royal City