

PAX REGIS

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The cover: Pope Leo XIV tours St. Peter's Square prior to the inaugural Mass of his pontificate (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

Pope Leo XIV: Listening in the Jubilee of Hope

ON May 8, 2025, amid the solemn mourning that followed the death of Pope Francis, the Catholic Church opened a new chapter in hope and unity with the election and first appearance of Pope Leo XIV. In a deeply moving address from the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, the new pontiff offered his first "Urbi et Orbi" blessing, echoing the voice of the risen Christ: "Peace be with you!" Acknowledging the legacy of his beloved predecessor, Pope Francis—who had comforted and challenged the world with his unwavering call to mercy—Pope Leo XIV extended that same message of divine love and resilience, proclaiming, "God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail!"

In his second homily, delivered on May 11 in the sacred space of the Vatican Grottoes beneath St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo XIV centered his message on the profound importance of listening, particularly to the voice of the Good Shepherd. "My sheep listen to my voice, I know them and they follow me," he quoted from the Gospel, emphasizing that authentic discipleship begins with attentive listening. "How important it is to listen!" the Holy Father stressed, inviting the faithful to enter into genuine dialogue—first with the Lord through his Word, and then with one another. "Always listen to the Word of God," he urged, describing this practice as fundamental



On May 20, Abbot Alban Riley greets Pope Leo XIV at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Rome | Photo Credit: Vatican Media

to discerning God's call and building bridges of understanding without judgment or closed-mindedness.

This focus on listening as the cornerstone of spiritual life draws from the Church's richest traditions. Nearly fifteen centuries ago, Saint Benedict opened his influential Rule with the Latin imperative *Ausculata!*—Listen!—instructing monks to "listen with the ear of your heart."

As the Church celebrates the Jubilee of Hope in 2025, we encourage all our readers to this practice of deep listening which can become a pathway to renewal—hearing God's voice amid uncertainty, attending to the suffering with compassion, and discerning together the Spirit's guidance for a hope-filled future.

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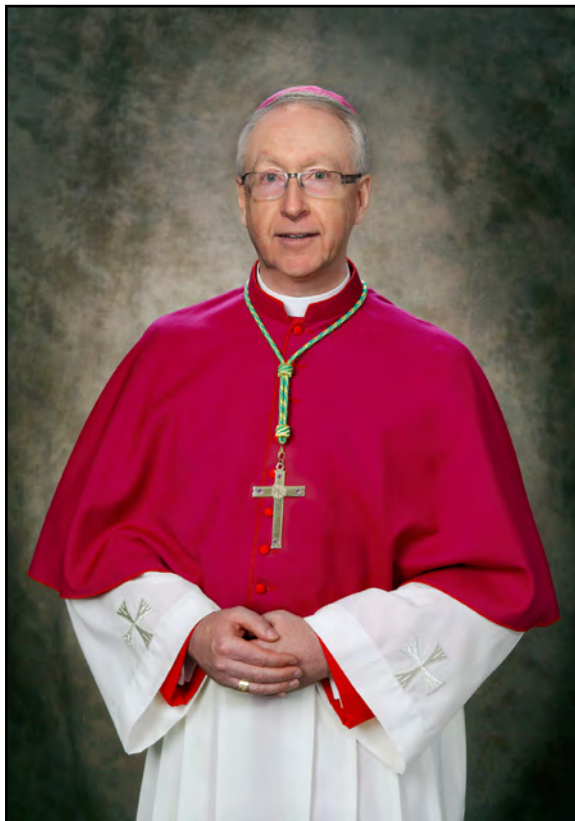
Archbishop Richard Smith: From Edmonton to Vancouver

by Charles Marple

I FIRST came to know Archbishop Richard Smith at the time of his installation as the Archbishop of Edmonton. As a father of eight children who drove a 15-seater van, I was asked to transport his family from the airport and to various events as the need arose. From my first encounter with Archbishop Smith's family, it became evident that our Archdiocese had been blessed with an exceptional person. His parents exemplified warmth and hospitality, even extending an invitation for my family of ten to stay at their home should we ever visit Halifax, Nova Scotia, responding to my concerns about our large family with "the more the merrier."

Over Archbishop Smith's 18-year tenure serving our Archdiocese,

we were blessed to have become good friends. Particularly memorable were the occasions when we welcomed him into our home to share meals and conversation.



Championing Faith and Family

As parents who homeschooled our children with a focus on living the liturgical year, my wife Jeri and I were invited to share our family's faith practices with the Regional Pastoral Council. Archbishop Smith's confidence in our witness led to our selection as representatives of the Edmonton Archdiocese at the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. His steadfast support of Catholic Family Ministries was evident

through his endorsement of annual Men's and Women's Conferences, as well as the Family Life Conference held yearly at the Lac St. Anne shrine.

A Shepherd's Heart for Life

Perhaps Archbishop Smith's most profound quality is his unwavering commitment to the sanctity of human life. This commitment manifests in his relationships with his priests, his guidance of his flock, and especially in his interactions with our daughter Mary.

Born at just 22 weeks gestation on December 24, 1998, Mary defied medical expectations and is now 26 years old. Though living with multiple disabilities requiring 24/7 care, she has been an extraordinary source of love and grace for our family. Living in the same neighbourhood as Archbishop Smith, we often encountered him during walks with Mary. His response to her was invariably one of genuine tenderness, love, and blessing. His first question upon seeing us was always, "How is Mary?"

Advocating for Dignity in Life and Death

When Canada debated legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying, Archbishop

Smith organized a five-part series titled "Every Life Matters" to articulate the value of human life from conception to natural death. These presentations, hosted across five parishes in the archdiocese and broadcast on *Salt and Light Television*, examined the potential consequences of legalizing euthanasia. Jeri and I were honored to contribute to this initiative by sharing our experiences in a session titled "I Don't Want to Suffer," where we discussed how our daughter Mary has been a blessing in our lives.

Pastoral Vision

Under Archbishop Smith's leadership, our archdiocese has embraced the 2024-2027 Pastoral Priorities focusing on Eucharistic Worship, Confident Witness, and Service to Marriage and Family.

As Archbishop Smith answers the call to his new role in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, we are grateful for the privilege of calling him both our spiritual leader and friend. While his departure brings sadness to our community, we are confident that God has great plans for both Archbishop Smith and the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

Ordinations 2025

THIS year two alumni of SCK were ordained to the priesthood.

Thomas The Hiep Truong's ordination as a priest for the Congregation of St. John the Baptist (CSJB) marks the realisation of a dream that began with his father, Peter The Hoang Truong, whose own aspirations for priesthood were thwarted by the closure of seminaries during Vietnam's communist regime. "My father, a former seminarian, was my first inspiration," says Fr Truong.

Born on November 25, 1989, in Buôn Ma Thuột city, Dak Lak, Vietnam, Fr Truong was immersed in a vibrant Catholic community from an early age. His hometown, home to two vibrant parishes serving thousands of faithful Catholics, provided fertile ground for his vocation through frequent Mass attendance and strong communal activities.

During his second year of college, Fr Truong

experienced a profound calling to the priesthood. His discernment path led him through formation with the Congregation of St. John the Baptist, taking him from Taiwan to the Philippines, and eventually to Canada in 2016, where he completed his philosophical and theological studies at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, B.C.

During his time as a seminarian, Fr Truong was immersed in catechetical instruction of youth and religious formation under his CSJB mentors. In his spare time, Father enjoys playing sports such as soccer, volleyball, and hockey, or spending time in the mountains hiking or skiing.

On January 11, 2025, Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, ordained Fr Truong at St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vancouver. In his heartfelt address, Fr Truong expressed gratitude to Archbishop Miller, the Congregation of St. John the Baptist, seminary formators, St. Francis



Fr Thomas The Hiep Truong CSJB

Xavier Parish, and the Vietnamese communities of St. Joseph's in Vancouver and St. Matthew's in Surrey.

He paid special tribute to his late father and to his mother, who was present virtually from Vietnam, acknowledging their pivotal roles in nurturing his faith.

"Mom, thank you for teaching me to pray and for stepping into Dad's role in shaping my faith," he said.

He also requested prayers for his continued faithfulness in his priestly ministry, aspiring to serve with a heart like Christ's—one that loves without measure. Fr Truong's Mass of thanksgiving was celebrated on January 12, 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Parish.

Fr Truong's ordination stands as a testament to resilience, faith, and the enduring power of familial inspiration.



Peter Dai Nguyen was born on July 6, 1991, in the Vinh Diocese of Vietnam. He grew up in a devout Catholic family of rice farmers, the third

of six children. One of his younger siblings is also a religious sister in Vietnam. His upbringing in a rural, faith-filled environment left a deep impression on him. From an early age, he was immersed in the Catholic faith, attending daily Mass before school and praying the Rosary every day with his family. His family and community, including an uncle who was a Franciscan brother and an aunt who was a religious sister, strongly influenced his spiritual development.

Although he attended a public school where he encountered diverse religious beliefs, particularly Buddhism, his Catholic identity remained strong. After high school, he moved to Saigon to pursue university studies and later served for a year in the mission diocese of Kon Tum, teaching high school and first-year university students among the mountain communities. It was also around this time that Peter became involved for three years in a university-based discernment group, exploring vocations with the Franciscans, Benedictines, Dominicans, and the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).



Fr Peter Dai Nguyen

While considering the latter, a university friend, then a seminarian at St. Joseph Seminary in Edmonton, introduced him to missionary work in Canada within the Diocese of St. Paul. Through a priest in the Diocese of St. Paul, he was later connected with Bishop Mark Hagemoen, then Bishop of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. After months of correspondence, Bishop Mark invited and sponsored him to Canada.

He arrived in Yellowknife on September 4, 2014, and spent two years learning English and adapting to the culture and Indigenous communities. In 2016, he entered the Seminary of Christ the King as a seminarian for the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith, completing

his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy in 2020. He went on to St. Joseph Seminary, completing his theological studies in 2025.

Peter was ordained a deacon on June 13, 2024, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 2025, at St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral in Yellowknife by Bishop Jon Hansen CSSR. Both his parents and many friends, especially from the local Vietnamese community, were in attendance for this special celebration. Fr Peter Dai Nguyen is known for his missionary zeal, particularly for the Indigenous peoples of Northern Canada. We wish him many fruitful years in the Lord's harvest.

Major Seminary Diary



Vancouver seminarians with Archbishop J. Michael Miller csb

November

Sun 24: Christ is King! The feast reminds us of the motto on the seminary's coat of arms: *Cui Servire Regnare Est* (To Serve Him is to Reign). Recently, Fr Caesarius had a large wall decal of this emblem printed, which now hangs in the major seminary recreation room.

December

Sun 8: We gathered for the Annual Advent

Program. Those in the arts program performed a short, adapted skit titled "The Greatest Story Ever Told." It starred John Krump, who played the role of Fr Caesarius. Judging from the abundance of laughter, it was well received.

January

Fri 10: The relics of St. Jean de Brébeuf and St. Kateri Tekakwitha visited Westminster Abbey! These memorable moments of prayer before the relic of his skull provided much

food for thought and prepared us well for our upcoming retreat.

Sat 18: Leaving thoughts of papers and duties behind, we took this evening for community bonding at the nearby Mission pool. This provided the space to let go of stress, have good conversations, and simply enjoy one another's company.

Tues 28-Sun Feb 2: Praise God! This year's retreat was incredible! Fr John O'Brien sj visited SCK and, though battling a flu, heroically shared with us many Ignatian principles and stories that will shape each seminarian's discernment for years. The five full days of silence provided the opportunity for prayer, meditation, and some much-needed rest with the Lord. Each seminarian seemed to take this intimate time of retreat very seriously, as we all saw very little of one another outside of meal time.

February

Thur 6-Fri 7: With a mix of trepidation and enthusiasm, the philosophers embarked upon the seminary ski trip with Manning Park as the destination. The four theologians resolutely stayed behind to attend Fr Nick Meisl's Scripture class. The hours in the car and on the slopes attempting black diamond runs deepened our



Seminarians serving at a diocesan event

experience of adventure and fellowship while filling each of us with wonder and awe.

Sat 22: This year, several of the major seminarians have been practising change ringing with the monks in their majestic hilltop bell tower. Br Joshua, the tower captain, invited several bellringers from Vancouver, Seattle and Calgary to instruct us on the finer points of

bellringing. After an exhilarating three hours of ringing, we joined the monks for Vespers before gathering for our annual Hot Pot dinner. Members of the Social Committee helped prepare a spectacular spread. This was soon followed by an impromptu Karaoke evening.

March

Sun 9: Let it be known far and wide that on this day, the major seminarians have reclaimed the basketball trophy from the minor seminarians! Paul Vo scored the winning



Majors reclaim the basketball trophy from the minors

basket with 20 seconds left on the clock! Final score: 31-30.

Fri 21: On this Saint Benedict's feast day, we saw the spontaneity that SCK is capable of. All three communities—the minors, the majors, and the monks—assembled for a friendly volleyball tournament while the rain poured down into puddles in the parking lot.

Sat 22: Each seminarian was blessed to meet with Archbishop J. Michael Miller CSB to soak in his wisdom and insight one last time. We are grateful for all he has done for us, and we look forward to welcoming Archbishop Richard Smith this coming May.

Sat 29: The seminary auction was a huge hit this year, particularly because the prize feature was an original carving by Br Joseph depicting Jesus rescuing Peter from the waves.

Sun 30: Our annual Oratory Contest unfolded magnificently, featuring compelling speeches on the importance of memorisation, the power of positive talk, prayer, disagreeing well, and our attitude towards the homeless. Jacob Klaponski won the Oratory Contest.

April

Tues 1: Today we finished the refectory reading of Walter J. Ciszek's incredible book

With God in Russia, the true story of a priest in the gulags.

Fri 4: We were honoured to host the Catholic Pacific College students for a Holy Hour in the guesthouse chapel, followed by a time of shared fellowship at Mission Springs pub.

Sat 5: Without a doubt, this year's sports day embodied the spirit of SCK. We began the day with indoor games and a scavenger hunt. This was followed by javelin, target practice, jousting, and the epic timed climb of our very own Mission Wall-E! After a dunk in Mary Lake, we all enjoyed a relaxing evening around a fire.

Sat 19: During the Easter Triduum, the seminarians were joined by several alumni and friends, including Alexandre Légère, who has generously visited the seminary several times this year to cut our hair. Over the years, many seminarians have stated that nowhere but at the abbey does one experience the Triduum so deeply. This year was no exception. At the end of this school year, we thank God for His many gifts and trials, but especially for His grace, without which we can do nothing. *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam!*



Affirmation Night: At year's end, major seminarians gathered at a viewpoint overlooking the Fraser Valley to celebrate and acknowledge each other's qualities and achievements.



Relics of the Jesuit martyrs of North America

Minor Seminary Diary

January

Thur 9: During their annual retreat at the Abbey, the Bishops graced our minors' recreation room after supper. Seminarians gathered eagerly to meet Archbishop Emeritus Terance Prendergast sj, Archbishop J. Michael Miller csb of Vancouver, Bishop Michal Kwiatkowski of the Eparchy of New Westminster, Bishop William McGrattan of Calgary, and Bishop Stephen Hero of Prince Albert. The bishops shared inspiring stories of their journeys from seminary formation to episcopal ordination. "They were so casual, approachable, and easy to relate to," Mang reminisced. The bishops' candid sharing and wisdom created a memorable evening that will continue to inspire our vocational journeys.

Fri 10: Westminster Abbey was blessed with the presence of first-class relics of Saints Jean de Brébeuf and Kateri Tekakwitha, displayed reverently in the abbey church for veneration by the monastic community and seminarians. Fr John O'Brien sj, the devoted custodian accompanying these treasures, provided a moving account of St. Jean de Brébeuf's and his companions' martyrdom. Seminarians were privileged to touch Rosaries and holy cards to these sacred relics, which included the completely preserved skull of St. Jean de Brébeuf. "Actually

seeing the parts of a real saint, not just bones of a normal person, was quite powerful" Marko reflected. These holy relics undoubtedly brought special graces to our communities.

Tues 21: The long-anticipated namesday of Fr Abbot Alban arrived with great festivity. The highlight was a splendid communal luncheon with monks, major seminarians, faculty, and guests. The celebration began with a beautiful motet sung by the monastic schola, followed by grace. A sumptuous feast of succulent steak, creamy mashed potatoes, and fresh green beans delighted everyone present. The meal concluded with ice cream and biscuits for dessert. Both minor and major seminarians presented spiritual bouquets and heartfelt addresses through their respective presidents. Fr Abbot responded with words of appreciation, a brief speech and a toast before closing the celebration with prayer. The minor seminarians then flew off to the hockey court to enjoy the rest of their free afternoon.

Tues 28-Sun Feb 2: As the final school bell echoed on Thursday afternoon, our community entered into sacred silence for our annual retreat. Throughout the seminary halls, one could observe seminarians navigating the delicate balance of activity and silence—playing board games, billiards, or communicating



Ski trip to Manning Park

through handwritten notes. This atmosphere of recollection prepared our hearts and minds for the spiritual conferences delivered by Fr Abbot Alban, who offered reflections on the Scripture readings leading to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

February

Thur 6-Fri 7: This year's winter excursion to Manning Park Ski Resort featured an enhanced overnight format. Departing after lunch on Thursday with snow gear packed, we traveled to Manning Park where we settled into comfortable cabins. Staying overnight was a welcome alternative to our usual same-day bus journey. After exploring our accommodations, we gathered for Vespers, enjoyed Br Joshua's delicious potato dinner, and retired early. Friday morning began with Holy

Mass followed by a quick breakfast before heading to the slopes. Transportation was graciously provided by several seminarians' parents, for which we were deeply grateful. Br Joshua ensured we had abundant provisions—particularly appreciated by the ravenous senior cabin housing grades 11 and 12. "Unlimited popcorn, with Br Joshua. It was the BEST!" Noah R. recalled. Though we briefly lost our way en-route to the resort, Mr. Chan's navigation skills quickly restored our course. Perfect skiing conditions blessed us with bright sunshine tempered by cool mountain breezes. By unanimous agreement among all seminarians—even the majors concurred—this excursion surpassed all previous ski trips.

March

Mon 31: After a sweaty bus ride to Vancouver, we arrived at Corpus Christi College for a tour led by Anthony McDaniel, an SCK alumnus. He guided us through classrooms, the library, and the chapel where we paused for Midday Prayer. Frater Novice Pedro then led us across the expansive UBC campus, showcasing its diverse facilities. Our tour included a refreshing lunch stop at the Rose Garden and attendance at a baroque performance of "The Fairy Queen" at the Roy Barnett Recital Hall, where exceptional musicians and vocalists enchanted us with their artistry. Later, we explored a geological exhibit featuring magnificent gemstones and mineral specimens. During this visit, Brayden,

SEMINARY OF CHRIST THE KING HIGH SCHOOL VOCATION LIVE-IN

July 5-6, 2025

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still looking at the many crystals and geodes, was drawn to a resonant sound echoing from a stairwell, discovering a spontaneous choir of seminarians singing “Te Joseph” at the summit of the stairs. Our campus exploration continued with an impromptu Frisbee game on a verdant field. The day concluded with a visit to the UBC bookstore. Some of the seminarians had begged Fr Anthony to have a look and maybe purchase some goods. We ended the day with a goodbye to our alumnus and a farewell to UBC.

April

Fri 4-Sun 6: As the final class bell rang Friday afternoon, we burst from the dorms with overstuffed bags and descended eagerly to the waiting bus in the parking lot. The familiar journey took a promising turn when we veered off the main highway, winding closer to the majestic mountains and misty bogs of Squamish. Anticipation filled the air as we approached the Dominican nuns’ convent—a weekend “retreat” we’d been looking forward to all semester.

The nuns greeted us with warm smiles and open arms, genuinely delighted by our arrival. They knew we came ready to work, and we were equally enthusiastic to help their community. After settling into our quarters, joining them for Vespers, and enjoying a hearty dinner, we retired for the night, gathering strength for the labour ahead.



Workbee at the Dominican Nuns in Squamish



Fabian: minor seminary “therapeutic” rabbit

The morning hours flew by in a flurry of productive work, our bodies in constant motion until it was time to gather in the chapel for midday prayer. Afterwards, the nuns rewarded our efforts with a magnificent feast: steaming rice, savory pork curry, and roasted squash. Br Bartholomew, with his characteristic insistence on appreciation, announced that dessert was contingent upon clean plates. “I ate a bi-jillion pieces of squash,” Noah R. recounted. “It was all worth it for the cookies.”

Rejuvenated by both food and fellowship, we returned to our assignments with renewed vigour. As the afternoon sun climbed higher, its intensity eventually drove us to seek relief. We scattered in small groups across the grounds—most heading to the cool, clear stream where we bathed with the handcrafted soap of Sr Imelda Marie, while the more adventurous among us discovered a waterfall that delivered the most exhilarating natural shower imaginable.

The day concluded with Vespers and a peaceful night of gratitude and reflection. Many of us agreed that the



Tableau of 5th Station of the Cross: Simon helps Jesus carry the Cross

most breathtaking moment was waking to the sun illuminating the mountain landscape, visible through the chapel's magnificent picture window—nature's cathedral framing God's creation. Throughout our stay, the nuns' joy in hosting us was palpable, expressed repeatedly in both words and generous acts of kindness.

Thur 10: Under Magistra Palczynski's guidance, students embarked on a special Stations of the Cross project integrating Latin studies with spiritual devotion. Eleventh and twelfth-grade students translated Latin texts into English and prepared readings for each station. Tenth-grade students joined the upperclassmen in reading their assigned stations, while ninth-grade students (with two tenth-graders) created tableau representations of each scene. After thorough preparation in Latin classes, our community gathered in the dining room to pray the "living" Stations together.

Thur 17-Sun 20: This year's Triduum observance featured innovative approaches to deepen our liturgical participation:

On Holy Thursday, Fr Anthony gathered everyone in the recreation room for a "living lectio" prior to the liturgy. During this meaningful exercise, we washed one another's feet while listening to the Gospel narrative of Christ's humble service.

Good Friday brought a reflective assignment as each student composed a meditation on a specific Station of the Cross. These thoughtful

reflections were later displayed along the outdoor Stations path for visiting pilgrims to read and contemplate.

Holy Saturday morning featured Br Joseph's instructional session in the study hall, where he explained the symbolism and creation of the Paschal candle. His playing of the Exultet recording, sung by Fr Caesarius, inspired us as we designed our own candles with meaningful Christian symbols in preparation for the Easter Vigil celebration.



Grade 12 grads

With the Brothers



Southward view of the Cheam Range from the top of Mount Barr

HARROWING fields, spreading fertilizer and manure, serving as MC during the Triduum liturgies, fixing fences, plowing the garden, and informing Fr Prior about upcoming rhubarb harvests have all kept Br John busy enough; nevertheless, he still found time both to go camping up Widgeon Creek with Br Joseph and the grade elevens and to lead an Easter expedition up Mount Barr with Br Bartholomew, Frater Athanasius, Frater Charles, and Novice Pedro. The strenuous climb paid off with breathtaking views of the Cheam Range while the daring descent concluded with a welcome dip in Wahleach Lake.

Br Luke recounts watching *Field of Dreams* at Easter with three of the brethren. The inspiring film was followed by a great and humorous discussion well suited to the Jubilee Year of Hope. Brother has also recommitted to learning how to play bridge with intermittent success. He has found his participation in our Prayer and Work Committee to be particularly fulfilling as our community continues to discern the particular mission God has for us in the world of today.

The necessities of nature sometimes make discernment abundantly clear. The aging minor seminary washrooms are a case in point. While Fr Anthony leads a campaign to fund the renovation, Br Bartholomew has been reducing costs with creative ideas and monastic labour. He constructed a

metal slide outside one of the windows so that the demolition crew could neatly dispose of rubble down the slide and into a dumpster bin. Frater Athanasius joined Br Joseph and him one morning for some demolition and was delighted to discover the ancient notes of a former seminarian hidden within a brick wall. The notes held valuable information about his garden nemesis, the cabbage moth.



Br John prays before the relics of the Jesuit martyrs

A BENEDICTINE EDUCATION FUND

originally established during our 50th anniversary celebration, continues to support the education of our young monks in the major seminary, their advanced degree studies, and faculty development. As we mark our 85th anniversary, this enduring fund remains vital to our educational mission. Contributions would be much appreciated at this time to:

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Frater Charles successfully completed his third year of Arts. And no matter what setbacks arise, he is diligently preparing the flower gardens with the help of Novice Manuel and Novice Pedro. He had seeded some marigolds in the Bartimaeus stairwell in February only to discover that the soil had frozen stiff one day. Surprised, he gave the seedlings a dash of warm water which turned some plants to mush and did nothing to thaw the frosty earth. Fortunately, the fittest plants did survive the ordeal and are happily taking root in the flower beds. When Frater Charles asked Fr Joseph about how the soil could possibly have frozen indoors, Father

let him know that the heating system had failed in the stairwell.

On Saturday afternoons, when the weather is clement and no other work is pressing, Br Maximus guides a group of seminarians up Mount Mary-Ann to hammer, drill, and split the granite rock while dreaming of a future grotto for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The mountain has been hard to dent and the group jokes that by the time the project is complete, they will all be old men needing to be pushed up in wheelchairs to attend the blessing.

Br Isidore persists with his manifold tasks of monastic living from mopping floors and cooking breakfast to filing books in the library and welcoming guests as afternoon porter. He delivered an excellent Lenten conference on hope making good use of his extensive repertoire of literary characters to illustrate this theological virtue. With his eyes set on the hope of eternal rest, Br Emeric continues his faithful service where possible—greeting guests, washing eggs, or interceding for many dear souls.

Br Paschasius has also been putting his smile to good use in our guesthouse. After 32 years of dedicated service, Fr Mark has finally handed over his guestmaster's hat to him. Improvements are already in the works such as a revised guest information book. Further, Br Paschasius began assisting Fr Anthony and Frater Athanasius in the finance office, bringing a wealth of experience to bolster our efforts of stewardship.

The temporary kitchen project has been moving forward thanks to Fr Joseph's dedicated work. It has a professional look about it. The plan is to have it fully operational once the minor seminarians return home for summer so that renovations on the old kitchen may commence.



Br Maximus teaching archery to the minor seminarians

Aided by the unflagging Br Benedict, Br Joshua continues to cook up substantial and tasty fare in the kitchen while also overseeing sacristy supplies and training bell-ringers. The training has borne much fruit. For example, as soon as he heard “Habemus papam!” on the eighth of May, Brother rushed to the tower to ring out his joy and was soon joined by well-trained monks and seminarians excited for the opportunity to miss a class. All ten bells sounded forth in jubilation to the method of Bob Royal. The community then watched the news expectantly until Pope Leo XIV came out and delivered his welcome message of Easter peace.



Br Paschasius: our new Guestmaster & Business Manager

Alumnitems

Alumni who are celebrating their silver jubilees of priestly ordination this year include: **Bishop Stephen Hero** '94, Bishop of Prince Albert, SK since 2021; **Fr Teodosy Kraychuk** '94, who is at Madonna House in Combermere, ON; **Fr Hien Minh Nguyen** '00 in Vancouver; **Fr Matthew Linh To** '00 in Vancouver; **Fr Matthew Cong Nguyen** '93 in Prince Albert, SK; **Fr Joseph Dung Tran** '93 in St. Boniface, MB. To all our jubilarians we wish: *Ad multos annos!*

New pastoral appointments in the Vancouver archdiocese, effective July 10, include: Parochial Vicars: **Fr Richard Conlin** '20, to St. Matthew's, Surrey; **Fr Patrick Le** '22, to Corpus Christi, Vancouver; **Fr Felix Min** '19, to Assumption Parish, Port Coquitlam; **Fr Raffaele Salvino** '20 to St. Joseph's, Langley.

Phong (James) Bui, SCK class of 1990-1992 writes: “I was ordained a permanent deacon on February 14, 2025 for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas. I've been married to Siany Hamzah for 25 years and have a seventeen-year-old daughter. I've been working as a social worker since 2001 and my wife runs a family restaurant. My parents and my brother's family also live nearby. I am serving at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish in Houston as a deacon through several assignments: preaching, marriage preparation, annulments, baptizing children, witnessing marriages without Mass, and funeral liturgies.”

Fathers **John Tritschler**, **Ron Thompson**, **James Hughes**, **Nicolas Tumbelaka**, and **Edward Ram**, lay vice-president of the SCK Alumni Association came for Mass and lunch on May 1st. Because of the Covid pandemic, this was the first SCK Clergy Reunion in several years.



Requiescant in Pace

John Schlosser '56 died in Kelowna on May 16, 2021.

Robert John Tyrrell '65 died in Victoria on August 31, 2024. He was the founder of Orca Books in Victoria in 1984.

Roy Flandez Roca Sr., brother of Br Paschasius OSB died in Vancouver on December 25, 2024.

Darren E. Porter '77 died in Digby, Nova Scotia on Dec. 31, 2024. He had been principal of schools in Manitoba & Nova Scotia.

John B. McDonald IV died in Victoria on January 10, 2025. He was in the seminary from 1972-75.

Rafael Melendez Duke died in Victoria February 4, 2025. He was born in El Salvador in 1930 and came to the Victoria area in 1942. He attended SCK from 1952-55.

Norman Dumont, the brother of Fr Mark OSB died in Vancouver on February 15.

Fr Nicholas Boomars '68 died in Delta, BC on May 4, 2025.

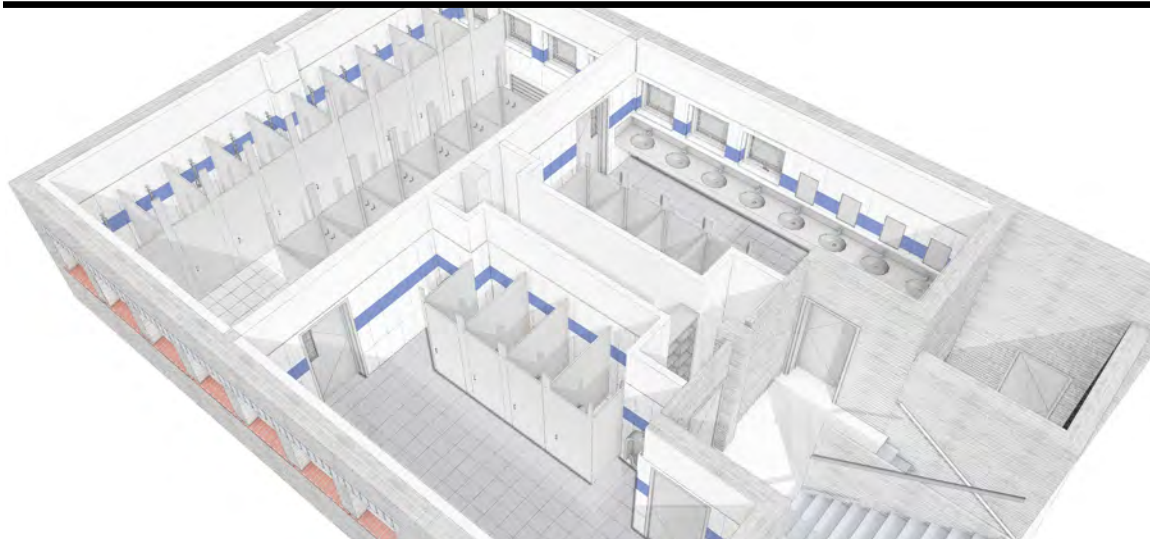
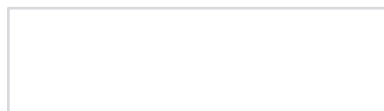
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SCK High School Infrastructure Renovation Project

We seek your support as we renovate the SCK washrooms and showers, a practical improvement that will make a meaningful difference in our educational environment.

Current Challenges:

- Deteriorating plumbing system
- Ageing bathroom facilities
- Inadequate ventilation system
- Shower facilities that lack appropriate privacy

Proposed Solutions:

- Complete replacement of plumbing infrastructure
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- Traditional

Payment Options:

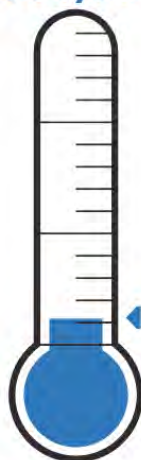
EFT, Cash, or Cheque

Please indicate "SCK washroom renovation" in the memo/notes section of your donation. Make cheques payable to "Westminster Abbey." First time donor, include mailing address.

For additional information, contact us at (604) 826-8975 or projects@westminsterabbey.ca

We are heartily grateful to our benefactors for supporting this project.

COST:
\$700,000



Raised
\$58,000

COMPLETION DATE:
SEPTEMBER 2025