

Commencement

**Saint Mary Seminary
and Graduate School of Theology**



St Noel Parish
Willoughby Hills
May 8, 2025

*This program does not constitute verification of degrees.
It includes the names of students who are reasonably expected to
graduate at the time of printing. Only official transcripts from
Saint Mary Seminary Registrar's Office are verification of degree conferral*



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Chancellor's Message



Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in your formational and academic journey. It is with great joy that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each one of you on the occasion of your graduation from Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology.

This evening marks the culmination of years of prayer, study and perseverance. Your commitment and passion for learning and your ability to overcome challenges have not only shaped your individual experiences but have also contributed to the vibrant tapestry of our Church community.

As you embark on the next phase of your journey, I encourage you to carry with you the encounter you have had with the Word of God and the Church's Tradition and history. In the face of an ever-changing world, I share with you the responsibility to contribute to the building of God's Kingdom through your holiness of life and your ministry of love.

Tonight celebrate this momentous occasion with your family, friends, and fellow graduates, and take a moment to reflect on the grace of God that has brought you here and the Spirit-led possibilities that lie ahead.

Once again, congratulations on your accomplishments. I look forward to sharing with you the work and ministry that lies ahead.

May God bless you and those you love.

Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL

President's Message

Rev. Andrew B. Turner, STL, DMin



Dear Graduates,

In the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, the Council Fathers asserted the "universal call to holiness." They affirmed that all are called—ordained, married, and single—to one holiness described as a "perfection of charity" (LG #40). These words are appropriate tonight as we celebrate your commencement marking the completion of your graduate studies at Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology.

A degree earned from this Seminary is not merely an academic accomplishment. You have engaged in a complex process that has included the human, spiritual, and pastoral dimensions which led you to an encounter with Christ and to share in His holiness and charity to the world.

According to Saint Pope John Paul II, the "perfection of charity" is pursued by the exercise of one's ministry. For the priest, this flows from his participation in the saving ministry of Jesus Christ—"the source and spirit of his service and gift of self" (PDV #25). And for all the baptized, through a conscious living out in one's decisions and actions the Truth of Christ's love.

As you graduate, I pray that you may first preserve in your mind and heart a lasting desire for holiness. Then, assisted by the formation and education you have completed, go forth into parishes, schools, medical centers, and communities, striving for perfect charity. Pass on what you have learned and fill the world with Christ's love.

Faithfully in Christ,

Rev. Andrew B. Turner, STL, DMin
President-Rector

Commencement Speaker



Rev. Mark A. Latcovich, PhD



The Rev. Mark A. Latcovich was ordained in 1981 and served as parochial vicar at Saint Joseph Parish in Strongsville (1981-1985), Resurrection in Solon (1985-1990), Campus Minister at Ursuline College (1990-1992) and administrator of Saint Louis Parish (1992) until he was appointed to further graduate studies as well as the seminary faculty (1992) where he served in the posts of Dean of Students, Academic Dean, and Vice-Rector. Father Latcovich was appointed the first President-Rector of both diocesan seminaries in 2012: the 8th Rector of Borromeo Seminary and the 19th Rector of Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology. During his tenure as Academic Dean and President-Rector, Father Latcovich was responsible for the addition of the Doctor of Ministry and the Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degrees to the graduate academic program.

Fr. Latcovich holds a baccalaureate degree in English Literature from Borromeo Seminary and two master's degrees (M.Div. and MA) in theology from Saint Mary Seminary. He earned his doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Sociology with specializations in family studies. He served as President of the Midwest Association of Theological Schools and was on the Board of Commissioners for the Commission of Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada. He has coauthored several works on assessment and student learning outcomes and published several monographs.

In 2023 Father Latcovich was appointed Pastor of St. Ladislav Parish, Westlake

Order of Service



Introductory Rite

Processional/Hymn

Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning

F Gm F Gm F B \flat C B \flat F

1 Ho - ly Wis - dom, lamp of learn - ing, bless the light that rea - son lends.
2 Vine of truth, in you we flour - ish; by your grace we learn and grow.
3 Ho - ly God, the hope of na - tions, tune us toward your right - cious will,

F Gm F Dm Gm Dm Gm Am B \flat F

Teach us judg - ment as we kin - dle sparks of thought your Spir - it sends.
May the word of Christ a - mong us shape our life, our search to know,
as the sym - pho - ny of a - ges claims our best, our fin - est skill.

F Dm C F B \flat C Dm Am Dm Gm F B \flat

Sanc - ti - fy our search for knowl - edge and the truth that sets us free.
Joined to Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, may we help the church con - vey
Shape our search for peace and jus - tice through pro - phet - ic deed and word.

Dm C F Dm Gm F B \flat C B \flat F

Come, il - lu - mine mind and spir - it joined in deep - est u - ni - ty.
wit - ness to the sav - ing gos - pel, bear - ing fruit of faith to - day.
Christ, con - duct us, set our rhy - thm, that God's praise be ev - er heard.

Words: Ruth Duck, 1947—
Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; harm. Rosalee Elser, 1925-2007
Words © 1996 The Pilgrim Press
Music harm. © 1980 Community of Christ

U.S.A.
8.7.8.7.D.
BEACH SPRING

Order of Service



Greeting

Opening prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading.....Romans 12:4-8

"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them."

Responsorial..... Psalm 117

Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 9-10a and c

Pro - claim his mar - vel - ous deeds to all the na - tions. ^{RC}

The musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of three measures. The first measure is in 6/8 time, the second in 3/8, and the third in 6/8. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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Gospel Mark 6:30-34

"...and he began to teach them many things."

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

Commencement Address.....Rev. Mark A. Latcovich, PhD

Conferral of Degrees

President's Remarks

Song of Praise: *Virgin of Love*

Final Blessing

Order of Service



Score

Virgin of Love

Fr. Bernard Finerty, OFM Cap

My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord, for -
e - ver He guides my days.
My soul does mag - ni - fy the Lord and holy,
ho - ly is His name.

1. Mary, refuge of sinners, our mother,
Mary, bearer of Jesus, our brother,
Open our hearts to your humble way,
Living in service to all:
Sharing our life and living each day,
List'ning to God's holy call,
Answering God's own call.

Refrain

2. Mary, comfort in sorrow, be near us.
Mary, mother of mercy, now hear us.
Sinless are you, yet sinners you love,
Drawing us close to your Son.
Turning our thoughts to our home above,
Keep us together as one.
Mother and children as one.

Refrain

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Candidates for the Degree

Doctor of Ministry



Miguel Feliciano Chavez

Sr. Vice President of Mission and Ministry
Sisters of Charity Health System
St. Paul Parish, North Canton

Project Title

*Sharing Charism – Fulfilling Mission:
Formation of Lay Collaborators in Sponsored Health
Care Outreach Ministries*



George P. Malec

Permanent Deacon
Director of Diaconal Formation
Parish Life Coordinator,
St. Anthony of Padua Parish,
Fairport Harbor

Project Title

*Strategic Components for a Five-Year
Post-Ordination Formation Program for
Permanent Deacons in the Diocese of Cleveland*

Candidates for the Degree

Master of Divinity



Ryan Michael Arto

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Francis de Sales Parish, Akron

Christopher Lawrence Cotone

Diocese of Cleveland, St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Heights

Anthony Aaron Donatelli

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Mary Parish, Hudson

James Jonathon Hawkins

Diocese of Cleveland, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wadsworth

Jeffrey LeVance Lindholm

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

James Alexander Parisi

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Hilary Parish, Fairlawn

Brian Matthew Peters

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

Kyle Jacob Rosser

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Peter Parish, Lorain

Travis David Seagraves

Diocese of Youngstown, St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, Warren

Candidates for the Degree



Master of Arts (Theology)

Christopher Lawrence Cotone

Diocese of Cleveland, St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Heights

The Spousal Love of the Celibate Priest

Anthony Aaron Donatelli

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Mary Parish, Hudson

Fr. Walter Ciszek's Practical Understanding of the Church's Liturgy:

A courageous model of how the mindset with which we engage our daily lives can be transformed by God's Providence

Abigail Mary Gresser

Director of Youth and Family Faith Formation,

St. Francis de Sales, Akron

Is It Possible to Use Social Media Virtuously? How Addictive Mechanisms

Favor a Deterministic View of Technology and Diminish Human Flourishing

James Jonathon Hawkins

Diocese of Cleveland, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Wadsworth

Exploring Priestly Human Formation through a Paradigm and Three Popes

Judith R. Liederbach

Executive Assistant to the Auxiliary Bishop

Lay Ecclesial Minister

St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

Covenant Old and New: The Fulfillment of Levitical Sacrificial Ritual in Christ

Jeffrey LeVance Lindholm

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

That they May Be One: toward an Integrated Pastoral Response to the Crisis in Adolescent Mental Health

Cheryl R. McBride

Middle School Youth Minister, St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

Empowered by Paul: Women Leaders in Paul's Churches, the Legend of Thecla, and Women's Leadership in the Patristic Church.

Candidates for the Degree



Master of Arts (Theology)

James Alexander Parisi

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Hilary Parish, Fairlawn

Consecrated with Jesus to God for the Salvation of All:

A Moral, Magisterial, and Sainly View of Diocesan Priestly Holiness

Brian Matthew Peters

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Raphael Parish, Bay Village

The Three-fold Channel by which the Word of God Reaches Us:

Henri de Lubac and Seminary Formation

Kyle Jacob Rosser

Diocese of Cleveland, St. Peter Parish, Lorain

Be Clothed in Charity: A Renewed Theology and Spirituality of the Chasuble

Travis David Seagraves

Diocese of Youngstown, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Burton

Not Minding that it Hurts: How the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Transforms Failure into a Graced Encounter with Christ

Candidates for the Degree

Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry



Thomas P. Bizon

Permanent Deacon

St. James, St. Clement, and St. Luke Parishes, Lakewood

Robert John Blackburn

Permanent Deacon

St. Basil the Great Parish, Brecksville

Scott Albert Cerrito

Permanent Deacon

St. Francis Xavier Parish, Medina

Michael J. Costantini

Permanent Deacon

St. Barnabas Parish, Northfield

Andrew J. Davis

Permanent Deacon

St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Akron

Christopher J. DePenti

Permanent Deacon

St. Augustine Parish, Cleveland

Michael Hayes, Jr.

Permanent Deacon

Ecumenical/Interfaith Ministry

St. Christopher Parish, Rocky River

Parish Life, Young Adult Ministry

Matthew John Lawler

Permanent Deacon

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Cleveland

Edward J. Linsky

Permanent Deacon

Holy Spirit Parish, Garfield Heights

Candidates for the Degree

Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry



Christopher Michael Loxterman

Permanent Deacon
St. John Vianney Parish, Mentor

Francisco A. Miranda

Permanent Deacon
St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Cleveland

John Vincent Nelson, Sr.

Permanent Deacon
Immaculate Conception Parish, Willoughby

Richard Anthony Prayson

Permanent Deacon
Assignment announced May 3, 2025

Darrel Thomas Sherman

Permanent Deacon
St. Peter and St. Julie Billiart Parishes, North Ridgeville

Thomas Anthony Shetina

Permanent Deacon
St. John of the Cross, Euclid

Jeffrey Edward Stutzman

Permanent Deacon
Assignment announced May 3, 2025

Mark Thomas Tomecko

Permanent Deacon
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Medina
Director of Mission and Formation, Holy Name High School

John L. Zarbo

Permanent Deacon
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Fairport Harbor

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Assistant Professor of Liturgical Music

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Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture



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Assistant Professor of Liturgical-Sacramental Theology

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Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology,

Director of Research Methodology – Doctor of Ministry Degree Program

Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Cleveland.

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Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology, Diaconal Ministry

Luke Brown, LPC

Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Counseling

Sacred Heart Counseling

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Adjunct Faculty - Pastoral Theology, Homiletics

Pastor, St. Hilary Parish, Fairlawn, Ohio

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Adjunct Faculty – Systematic Theology, Liturgical-Sacramental Theology

Pastor, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Girard, PA

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Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology – Diaconal Ministry

St. Bernard Parish, St. Mary Parish, Akron, Ohio

Rev. Thomas Dragga, DMin

Adjunct Faculty – Homiletics

Pastor, Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, Solon, Ohio

Director, Office of Ongoing Formation for Clergy



Mary Patricia Frey, DMin

*Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology
Doctor of Ministry Degree Program Director
Diaconal Ministry, Evangelization and Catechesis
Pastoral Associate, Divine Word, Kirtland, Ohio*

Rev. Eric Garris, MDiv, MA

*Adjunct Faculty – Homiletics
Vocation Director, Diocese of Cleveland*

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*Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology
Delegate for Ecumenical and Interfaith Affairs, Diocese of Cleveland
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*Adjunct Faculty – Canon Law
Tribunal, Diocese of Youngstown
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Diocesan Director for the Permanent Diaconate, Diocese of Youngstown*

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*Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology – Diaconal Ministry
Director, Permanent Diaconate Formation
Parish Life Coordinator, St. Anthony Parish, Fairport Harbor*

Rev. John P. McNulty, DMin

*Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology, Homiletics
St. Luke Parish, Lakewood*

Rev. Daniel F. Schlegel, DMin (Cand)

*Adjunct Faculty – Pastoral Theology, Homiletics
Pastor, St. Raphael Parish, Westlake*

Rev. George Smiga, STD

Biblical Studies – Homiletics

Lynette Tait, J.C.L.

*Adjunct Faculty - Diaconal Ministry, Canon Law
Judge and Defender of the Bond Tribunal*

Most Rev. Michael G. Woost, STL

*Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland Diocese of Cleveland
Associate Professor of Liturgical-Sacramental Theology*



Academic Regalia

The academic regalia worn during the commencement ceremonies is a relic of the clothing worn by students and professors in medieval times in Europe. The scholars of the different universities, dressed daily in special garments, consistent with the custom of merchants and professionals such as doctors and lawyers who dressed in special working garments.

The cap, known as the mortarboard, is adorned with a tassel, a black one for the person who has earned an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree; a gold one for the person who has earned a doctorate or is a governing officer of an educational institution.

The gown is usually black and is cut in three different ways to emphasize the degree earned by the wearer. Long pointed sleeves distinguish the associate's and bachelor's gowns from the master's and doctor's gowns. The master's gown has sleeves that are sewn on the ends and have a hook on one side. The doctor's gown has very full sleeves on which horizontal chevrons are sewn.

The hood is the most colorful element of the attire. It is worn on the back suspended from the shoulders with a band that crosses in front of the neck. The shortest hood is worn by those who have earned an associate's degree. The bachelor's hood is three feet long, the master's three and one-half feet long and the doctor's four feet long. The inner lining is made with the fabric of the colors of the institution granting the degree. The color of the border indicates the field of specialty in which the degree is earned. Scarlet is the color for a degree in Theology.

The Presidential Chain of Office

The presidential collar, or chain of office, bears the shield of the seminary surrounded by the inscription: "*Seminarium Sanctae Mariae Cleveland*".

Mace

The mace symbolizes the seminary's governing authority and is present only when the president and governing body are in attendance. The mace signifies the proceedings have official sanction.

The processional mace was commissioned by Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology to celebrate its Sesquicentennial Anniversary. The mace was designed and carved by Timothy C. Riffle in cherry wood and gilt with 24K gold leaf. The two inlays of the Saint Mary Coat of Arms of opaque and translucent enamel and 24K gold and silver in the Cloisonné style were grafted by Pamela Argenstieri.



Coat of Arms

Blazon

Quarterly Azure and Ermine, a cross quarterly Or and Gules, in the first and fourth quarters two barrulets wavy Argent.

Significance

The Arms of St. Mary Seminary are quartered with the basic colors and quarters of the Arms of Pope Pius IX, during whose pontificate the seminary was founded. The two silver (white) wavy barrulets in the first and fourth quarters commemorate the first parish in the Diocese of Cleveland, St. Mary of the Lake, and honor the present dedication of the seminary. The ermine spots in the second and third quarters are derived from the Arms of the Diocese of Cleveland and are symbolic of the seminary as a diocesan theologate. The quartered cross in gold and red symbolizes the truths that are central to theology and honors the founder of the seminary, Louis Amadeus Rappe, first Bishop of Cleveland, who bore a gold cross on his Arms. The present development of the seminary owes much to Archbishop Joseph Schrembs, fifth Bishop of Cleveland, whose Arms were tintured blue, gold and silver. Historical research has shown the diocesan seminary was, for a very short time, dedicated to St. Francis de Sales, the colors of whose Arms were blue, gold, and red. By a happy coincidence, the Arms of Saint Mary Seminary incorporate these colors.

Accreditation

Founded 1848, Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

Incorporated: State of Ohio (1968)

Ohio Department of Higher Education (1968)

Authorization to grant degrees in the State of Ohio

ATS

Association of Theological Schools

The Commission on Accrediting (1969)

HLC

Higher Learning Commission

Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the
North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (1981)



Acknowledgments

Rev. Christopher Trenta, SLL, Director of Liturgy
Professor Agnieszka Bieniek, MA, DMin (cand)
Director of Liturgical Music
Craig Ziobert, Organist

Mr. Philip Guban, Operations Officer,
Center for Pastoral Leadership

St. Noel Parish Community and Staff,
Rev. Terrence M. Grachanin, Pastor
Brian Myers, Livestream Technician
Randal Henning, General Manager
and Executive Chef, St. Noel Banquet Center
X Press Printing Services. Inc., Alan Semethy

Ten10 Design, Joseph Zulantz

Chris' Creations, Chris Amos, Florist

Photography, Renata Courey

Oak Hall Cap and Gown, Curtis Sholl

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*Preparing men for the Roman Catholic priesthood
in the Diocese of Cleveland and
serving as a center for advanced theological education*