

## **SEMINARIAN UPDATE – *SUMMER 2015***

To my St. Philip Neri parish family,

It is difficult to believe how fast two years have passed since I entered seminary! This past Saturday, the **Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary** hosted a Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation ceremony where I and over 30 of my classmates received a degree in Liberal Arts, Bachelors of Philosophy or Humanities. The Roman Catholic Church requires each seminarian to have a college degree or certification in philosophy before studying Theology.



*The entire – both College and Pre-Theology (philosophy) - 2015 Graduation Class of the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary*



*2015 Pre-Theology Graduation Class of the Pontifical College Josephinum*

The next step after Philosophy is *four years* of Theology! Based on how fast the *two years* of philosophy flew by, I have no doubt that Theology will fly by too! During the transition from the Philosophy and Theology programs, the Bishop and Director of Vocations have the choice to send the seminarian to study at a different seminary. The Diocese of Gaylord mainly sends to the **Josephinum in Columbus, OH** for both programs, but we also have recently expanded to **Mundelein Seminary outside of Chicago, IL** and the **North American College (NAC) in Rome**. Bishop Raica and Fr. Don Geyman gave me the opportunity to study in Rome for Theology, and I accepted.



*Aerial view of the Pontifical North American College (NAC) in Rome*

The **North American College** is still considered an American Seminary, it is just located in Rome right outside Vatican City. In total, there are **250 U.S. seminarians enrolled at the NAC** – about 65 in each class. Many different United States’ Diocese are represented in Rome – just from the Josephinum, 10 of 30 graduating men are attending the NAC this fall, representing 8 different diocese including Atlanta, Arlington, Ft. Wayne-South Bend, Gaylord, Lexington and Nashville. This is one of the largest classes of Josephinum men that will be attending the NAC in many years.



*Front view of the Pontifical Gregorian University*



*Large Classroom of the Pontifical Gregorian University*

I will be *living* (sleeping, eating, etc.) at the **NAC**, but I will take classes at the **Pontifical Gregorian University (aka “Greg”)**. There are three Theological Colleges that seminarians attend that are all within a 2 mile radius of the NAC: the Anglicum, Gregorian and Sante Croce (“Holy Cross”). I will be studying at the **Gregorian** for at least the first year. The other Gaylord Seminarians are currently studying at the **Angelicum**, but are still living at the NAC. They are all great colleges and have different specialties such as Sacred Scripture studies, Moral Theology, Canon Law and Sacrament Theology, just to name a few. Eventually, after consulting with Bishop Raica, I will be asked to earn one of these specific degrees based on the Diocese of Gaylord’s needs.

### My Summer in Lake Leelanau



*St. Mary of the Assumption in Lake Leelanau, MI – just 20 miles east on M-22. The St. Mary’s K-12 school has a student enrollment of almost 200.*

This summer, I am assigned to **St. Mary’s of the Assumption** in Lake Leelanau with Fr. Michael Janowski. I am excited to spend some time with the St. Mary’s students for the last part of their school year and serve the parishoners of Lake Leelanau. I am fortunate to be close to Empire, so I will be around St. Philip Neri as well. I leave on July 12<sup>th</sup> to Rome. I will be attending a 6-week **Italian Immersion** program in **Assisi, Italy** to start learning the Italian language – since all of my classes and examinations will be in Italian!



*A scenic view of Assisi, Italy and the chapel of St. Francis of Assisi. One of the many beautiful, small, scenic towns in the hills of Italy. I will be here for an Italian Immersion program for 6 weeks.*

**Thank you for all of your prayers!** I am so blessed for the strong support of my St. Philip Neri parish family. Please keep praying for my journey towards the Catholic Priesthood, as well as all of our 14 Diocese of Gaylord seminarians. Please especially pray for *Deacon Tyler Bischoff, Deacon Robert Pahlkotter, Ben Rexroat, Al Pillarelli, Scott Lawler, and Christopher Jarvis* who are all nearing their Priestly and Diaconate Ordinations this summer and fall.

May Mary our Mother continue to intercede for us and protect us, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide us, especially on this celebration of Pentecost this Sunday.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mitchel Roman  
Seminarian, 1<sup>st</sup> Theology  
Diocese of Gaylord, MI



*Graduation at the Josephinum with my Dad*