

To my St. Philip Neri parish family,

Greetings from the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, OH! I heard that the snow has already made an appearance up North! We are getting close, but are still enjoying some nice brisk fall weather. It is difficult to believe that there are only 6 more weeks left in my Fall semester! Time is flying by!

In this letter, I included a few pictures that highlight some of the events at the Josephinum this Fall 2014 semester so far. I look forward to seeing you all around the Thanksgiving holiday. There will be an ordination for one of our own seminarians, Robert Pahlkotter, to the Transitional Diaconate on Saturday, November 29 at St. Mary's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Cathedral in Gaylord. All the Diocese of Gaylord seminarians will be in attendance and you are all welcome to come as well! This summer, God-willingly, Robert will then be ordained to the priesthood with his Tyler Bishoff.

The Holy Spirit is doing great things for vocations here in the Diocese of Gaylord. Thank you all for your continued prayers! I hope you enjoy the pictures! Below are more details for each of the pictures. God bless!

Your seminarian and brother in Christ,

Mitch  
Seminarian, Pontifical College Josephinum  
Diocese of Gaylord, MI  
Pre-Theology II

**Page 1:**

Starting on the Top Right: Highlights a few of my brother seminarians from the Josephinum who made the trip up North this summer. Including myself, three of the seminarians pictured are from our Diocese of Gaylord, Christ Jarvis and Brad Nursey. The other two seminarians are Will Nyce from the Diocese of Alexandria, VA and Max Landman from Diocese of Victoria, TX. At the Josephinum there are 33 different dioceses represented from around North America! We made a trip to the dunes and they all made it up the 450' hill!

Below that is a picture of my father and sister, Lance and Mackenzie, visiting me on the Fall Parent's Weekend. I am wearing my Pontifical Cassock which is the type of cassock you would see in the Vatican during liturgical events.

The picture on the bottom is the new "Our Lady of the Woods Grotto." The idea and founder of the grotto was Diocese of Gaylord seminarian Sean Farkas, from Immaculate Conception in Traverse City. He found an old house foundation in an area of woods behind the Josephinum that is quiet and peaceful. After many hours of landscaping and cleaning, we dedicated the grotto officially to Ann Maria Jessing - the mother of the Josephinum's founder, Monsignor Joseph Jessing.

The picture of me playing the trumpet was taken on the day of the Mudbowl, a major event of the year, which is a football game between the College Seminarians and Theology Seminarians. Due to a muscle strain, I was unable to play in the football game this year, but instead six seminarians decided to

start the first ever “Josephinum Pep Band” for the game! It was a lot of fun and the Theology won with a last minute touchdown!

**Page 2:**

*Top Picture:* Each seminarian has an “apostolic work assignment” in Columbus during the course of his studies. This year, I am helping out with youth ministry at St. Mary’s parish in Delaware, OH. For “All Souls Day” we put on a skit of the martyrdom of St. Lawrence. The saint of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D. was sentenced to death by fire. When put on the grill, he famously exclaimed, “I am done on this side, turn me over!” We had a great group of Josephinum seminarians that helped out. The two Gaylord seminarians to note are Ben Rexroat as the Roman Guard and Sean Farkas as St. Lawrence.

*Bottom Picture:* Each year the first and second year theologians are installed as either lectors or acolytes. Lectors, first year theologians, are commissioned to read the scriptures passages during morning and evening prayers as well as the daily masses. Acolytes, second year theologians, are commissioned to purify the vessels of Our Lord’s precious body and blood. These are major steps on a seminarian’s journey toward ordination to a Transitional Deacon in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year theology and ultimately his ordination to the priesthood the following year. The Diocese of Gaylord is blessed to have one more Lector, Sean Farkas, and two more Acolytes, Brad Nursey and Nick Cooper.