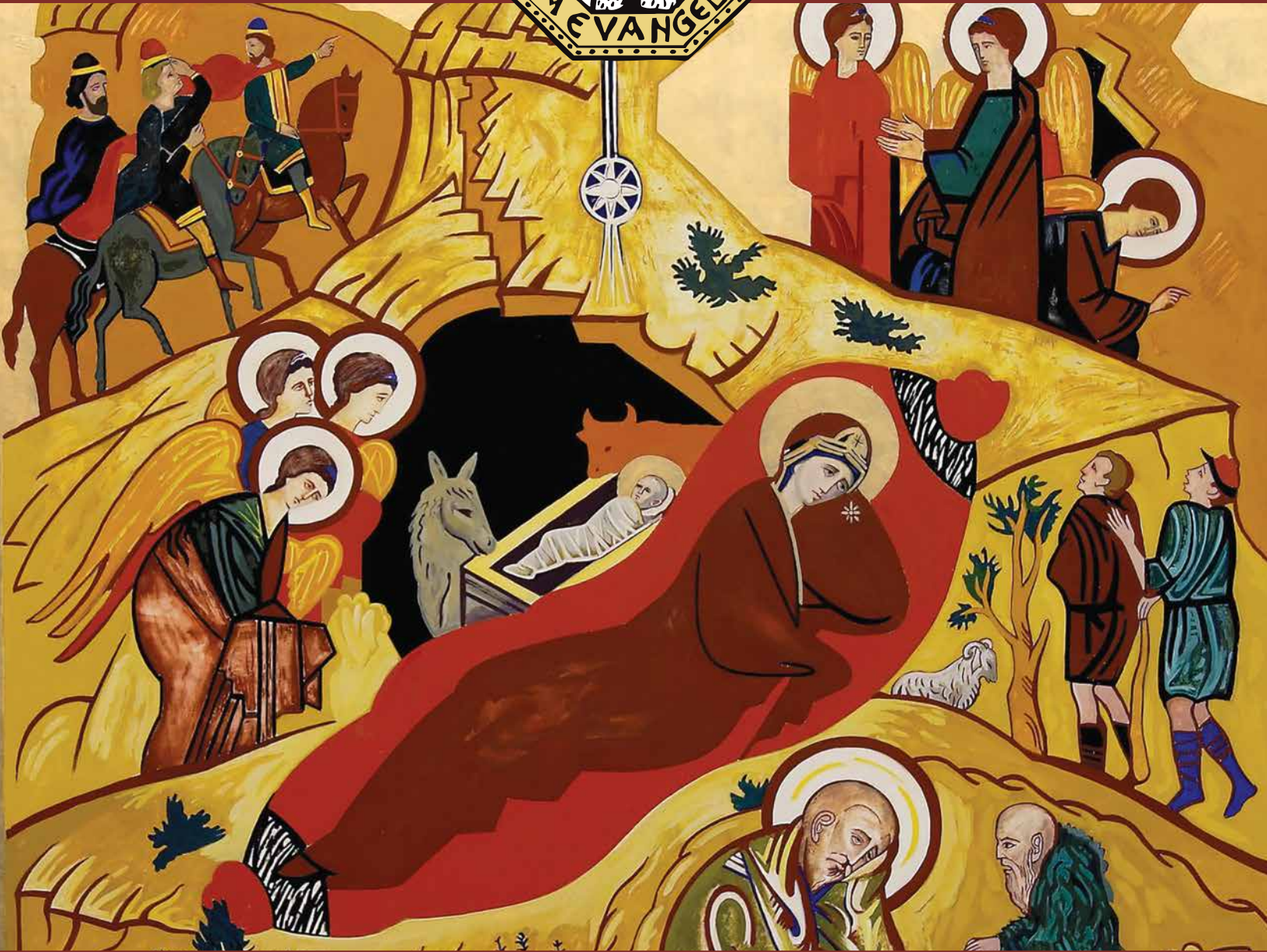


REDEMPTORIS MATER
MISSIONARY SEMINARY
ARCHDIOCESE of TORONTO



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Merry Christmas & Blessed New Year

“When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy!”

TITUS 3:4-5

“The Word became a man and walked by our side; and He does this out of love”

POPE FRANCIS, 4 AUGUST 2023, LISBON, PORTUGAL

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



It is with humble and grateful heart that we can witness the truth of the words of St. Paul to Titus. At the end of this year, we can only bless the Lord for having walked along our side, and for bestowing on us abundance of graces, not because of our merits, but out of His unconditional love for all of us.

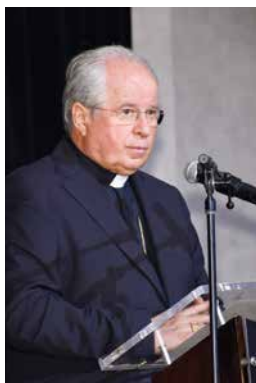
As you know, we celebrated this year the 25th Anniversary of the institution of our Seminary. We are exceedingly marvelled and grateful for everything that the Lord has done for us along these years, where we have constantly witnessed His faithful providence, also thank to your generous and loving support.



We have been blessed to celebrate this joyful anniversary with many of you in two awesome events: on **March 19th**, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of Canada and of the Seminaries, we celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Clare Parish in Woodbridge, presided by His Excellency John A. Boissonneau, the Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.



On **April 28th** we held our 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner, honoured by the presence, among the others, of the new Archbishop of Toronto, His Grace Francis Leo, and of the Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, His Grace Ivan Jurkovič. Both events were attended by many of you, dear Brothers and Sisters, who have walked besides us through these 25 years. We are sure that you all rejoiced with us for the beauty of the work of the Lord! More pictures available at rmmstoronto.org/news.



*His Grace Ivan Jurkovič,
Apostolic Nuncio to Canada*



*His Grace Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto
(with Fr. Tomasz Skibinski)*



Fr. Paul Pearson, Bp. Héctor Vila, Bp. John Boissonneau



On **May 13th**, at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto, deacons **Carlos Alberto Torres Marquez** and **Mirko Ljuba** were ordained to the priesthood by His Grace Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto. With them, we have now 27 priests ordained from our Seminary since the beginning, another sign of the faithfulness of the Lord, who always provides shepherds for His people. Fr. Carlos has been appointed as Associate Pastor at St. John Chrysostom Parish in Newmarket, while Fr. Mirko is Associate Pastor at St. Clare Parish in Woodbridge.



After the end-of-the-year, on **June 9th**, the Seminary visited the Apostolic Nunciature and were received by His Grace Ivan Jurkovič and Msgr. Antons Prikulis.



At the beginning of **August**, most of us at the Seminary were able to participate in the **World Youth Day**, which took place in Lisbon, Portugal. It has been a great joy to share our faith with more than a million youth from all over the world, and to be consoled and encouraged by His Holiness, Pope Francis. We cannot forget his words of exhortation to follow Our Lord Jesus Christ, who alone "has the words of eternal life for us, he reveals that God is our Father, that God

is love.” This is our mission, dear Brothers and Sisters, which is also our joy: to bring this love of God, shown to us in Jesus Christ, to everyone in the world, and especially to those who are suffering and in distress, or have lost hope in the midst of life’s troubles and anguishes.



At the international vocational meeting of the youth from the Neocatechumenal Way, held in Lisbon the day after the closing Mass of the World Youth Day presided by Pope Francis, we witnessed the amazing power of the Holy Spirit, who has inspired thousands of young boys and girls to respond to God’s call, and to offer their availability to give their lives to the Lord, either in the priesthood or in other forms of consecrated life.



In the month of September, in the annual gathering of the new candidates for the Redemptoris Mater Seminaries, held in Porto San Giorgio (Italy), we have received two new seminarians for Toronto, both coming from the United States: Ariel Cepeda from New York, and Juampablo Melendez from Chicago. Currently, therefore, we have eleven seminarians in formation, seven of whom are in the house. Matteo Bertozzi is doing his pastoral year of internship at St. Mary of the Angels’ Parish, while the other three are in mission in different parts of the world: Lucas Castro is evangelizing with a team of the Neocatechumenal Way in the Philippines; Abraham De Paz is serving at the Domus Galilaeae in Israel; Francesco Buttitta is ministering in a Parish in Chilliwack, B.C., in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.



In the last months we have been doing some renovations in our chapel, dining room, and some guest rooms, because of the damage caused by a leak from a burst hot water pipe. We are grateful for your generous help, which allows us also to face these situations in order to keep our place always beautiful and welcoming. Please keep on supporting us with your prayers and your financial donations, in the measure of your possibilities. Rest assured of our constant prayers for all of you and your dear ones.

As the great Solemnity of Christmas and the end of the calendar year are approaching, may the kindness and love of our Lord appear in your lives and in the lives of your families and friends! May His glory shine forth on you as He walks with you along the paths of your journeys, knowing that He is besides you and, as Pope Francis told the youth in Lisbon last summer, He knows and shares your joys, sorrows, successes, and failures, never tired of encouraging you: “Have no fear, take heart! Do not be afraid!”

May the joy and the peace of the newborn Messiah be poured upon you and your dear ones, and may His blessings and the protection of His Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Star of the New Evangelization, accompany you throughout this time and the whole New Year!

Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, rector

Fr. Antonello Murgia, spiritual father

Seminarians



We cordially invite you to our

**22nd Annual Fundraising Dinner
on Friday, April 19, 2024.**

It will take place at Paramount EventSpace
in Woodbridge. The tickets will be ready for
purchase by Christmas!

rmms22dinner.eventbrite.ca

rmmstoronto.org

