



# S S P X

## Ad Orientem

Seminary Newsletter  
Issue Number 14 December 2015

# Things New and Old

Seminarians really enjoy Bishop Tissier's visits. They are captivated by his conferences and his sermons, by his energetic and interesting way of speaking. And so the Seminary was glad to receive Bishop Tissier for a few busy days in November. The Bishop's visit had several purposes. On the first day, the feast of St. John of the Cross, he celebrated his "40 years of priesthood and 70 years of age" with a solemn Pontifical Mass. Each evening he continued a series of lectures on the life of Archbishop Lefebvre that he has been presenting to the seminarians and priests, focusing chiefly on the events leading up to the episcopal consecrations of 1988. These talks allowed him to share the insights of one intimately involved in this pivotal event.

During the course of his visit, Bishop Tissier also preached a retreat to three subdeacons to prepare them to receive the order of deacon. He ordained them to the diaconate on

Saturday, November 28. This brings the number of deacons at the Seminary to seven.

The New Seminary Project is progressing steadily. With the installation of all the windows, the building is "dried in." This will allow for uninterrupted interior progress throughout the winter months. We are currently installing the slate roof and cladding the façade with beautiful brick. These elements reflect a traditional Virginian style and give the already impressive structure a unique beauty.

God's providence just granted us a great help in our efforts to relocate to Virginia in the fall of 2016, by means of a large donation of used but very good quality furniture. A generous benefactor from San Jose, California donated the beds, desks, and chairs for all the dormitory rooms. Along with these were donated a large number of chairs for the

refectory and classrooms, as well as equipment for the kitchen and laundry room.

There are so many things going on, so many activities, so many different endeavors. But they all have a single goal. A common thread runs through all these different actions, through the Bishop's lectures, through the preparations that were made for the ceremonies and the ordinations, through the work of building a new Seminary. People do not often think about the reasons for their actions. The puzzling thing about motives is that sometimes they prick us, and we tend to find that unpleasant. But all these various works really have the same goal: the glory of God and the salvation of souls. And that is the most important point of all. ❖



(Above) His Excellency delivers an invigorating sermon about the duties of the deacon. He admonished the ordinands with practical advice for their new state of life.

(Above top) Ordinands lie prostrate during the litany of the saints.

(Above) Bp. Tissier imposes his right hand while conferring the order of diaconate.





(Above) Progress on the roof continues. Slate, known to last for hundreds of years, was chosen for its durability.



(Above) Donated chairs, desks, and other supplies sat in a hotel parking lot before being shipped cross country.



(Below) Brick was obtained from neighboring North Carolina and is chiseled for a natural “rock-face” appearance. Combined with the natural slate roof, it will give the building a beautiful look which is traditional in Virginian architecture.





# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

SEMINARY

The Society of St. Pius X is an international priestly society of common life without vows, whose purpose is the priesthood and all that pertains to it.

St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary is an international seminary of the Society currently located in Minnesota. *Ad Orientem* chronicles life at the seminary and the construction of the new St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary in Virginia. To find out more about the project or to contribute, visit [newseminaryproject.org](http://newseminaryproject.org).

**St. Thomas Aquinas Seminary**

21077 Quarry Hill Road

Winona, MN 55987

(507) 454-8000

[webmaster@stas.org](mailto:webmaster@stas.org)

[info@newseminaryproject.org](http://info@newseminaryproject.org)