

**ORDINANDI  
DINNER**



**“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.”**

Isaiah 43:1 -



March 24, 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*May Jesus and Mary be in your souls.*

On this joyful occasion of the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Ordinandi Dinner, I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to the Serrans throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto for so diligently organizing this evening's celebration. Your faithful service in promoting and nurturing vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life continues to be a tremendous blessing and a treasured gift to the Church. Through your fervent prayer, your enthusiastic encouragement, and your unceasing support, you have assisted many young men and women to hear and respond to the Lord's call. This annual gathering stands as a joyful sign of your devoted labour in the Lord's vineyard.

It is a profound source of both hope and consolation to celebrate our Ordinandi this evening. These generous young men, each one having answered the divine invitation with open and trusting hearts, are a tangible reminder to us all of the beauty and vitality of the priestly vocation in the life of the Church. Their "fiat" is a gift not only to the parishes and people they will one day serve, but to the entire archdiocesan community and indeed the Mystical Body of Christ.

As we rejoice in this moment of thanksgiving, I invite everyone present to renew and intensify our prayer for vocations. May the Lord of the harvest send many more labourers into his vineyard, and may the intercession of Our Lady, Mother of Priests and Saint Michael the Archangel, patron saint of our Archdiocese, guide and protect all who are discerning their calling.

Abundant blessings on our Ordinandi, the Serrans, and all who support this special and grace-filled evening.

Sincerely Yours in Jesus with Mary,

*† Frank Card. Leo*  
Frank Cardinal Leo

Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

# Celebration Program

- March 24, 2026 -

*Master of Ceremonies: Fr. Matthew McCarthy*

6:15 p.m. Please be seated

6:30 p.m. Welcome

6:40 p.m. Blessing by His Eminence  
Frank Cardinal Leo

- Introduction of Honoured Guests
- Priests celebrating their 25th, 50th & 60th Anniversary of Ordination
- Presentation of Spiritual Bouquet  
Connie Cristinziano, President,  
Toronto Archdiocesan Council of  
The Catholic Women's League

## Class of 2026

The Ordinandi from:  
St. Augustine's Seminary  
Redemptoris Mater Seminary



## Tonight's Menu

Spiced Olives, Brie Cheese, Hummus and Pate served with Pita Points

Penne Rigate with Basil Scented  
Tomato Sauce and Grated Parmigiano

Pan Seared Chicken Supreme, Red Wine and Mushroom Sauce

Oven Roasted Yukon Gold Potatoes and a Medley of Fresh Vegetables

Center Plate of Fine Pastries

Coffee and Tea

*For your dining pleasure a bottle of Red Wine and White Wine has been  
provided to your table through the generosity of **Cilento Wines**.*

*Additional wine may be purchased at the bar.*



**Serra international is formally recognized by the Holy See as the global lay apostolate for vocations in the Catholic Church.** It is a volunteer organization of 20,000 Catholic men and women of all ages, races, occupations and backgrounds with over 1109 clubs in 46 different countries.

### **The Serra Mission:**

- To foster and promote vocations to the ministerial priesthood in the Catholic Church as a particular vocation to service, and to support priests in their sacred ministry.
- To encourage and affirm vocations to consecrated religious life in the Catholic Church; and
- To assist its members to recognize and respond in their own lives to God's call to holiness in Jesus Christ and through the Holy Spirit.



**Become a promoter  
of Vocations  
You are invited to  
join SERRA  
Learn the many ways  
to participate and  
encourage Vocations**

# Assure the Holy Presence of Jesus in our lives and for future generations

## Toronto Downtown Serra Club

St. Basil's Church, **Toronto**

Nancy Crawford, President | [pandncrawford@rogers.com](mailto:pandncrawford@rogers.com)

## Toronto West Serra Club

Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza, **Etobicoke**

Marissa Perez Roldan, President | [mperezroldan@gmail.com](mailto:mperezroldan@gmail.com)

## Toronto Vaughan Serra Club

Basilicata Cultural Society, 28 Roytec Rd. Unit 15, **Woodbridge**

Mario Biscardi, President | [mariobiscardi@sympatico.ca](mailto:mariobiscardi@sympatico.ca)

## Durham Region Serra Club

St. Joseph the Worker Parish, **Oshawa**

Fred Tuccia, President | [fred\\_tuccia@yahoo.ca](mailto:fred_tuccia@yahoo.ca)

## Markham Scarborough Serra Club

Precious Blood Parish, 1737 Lawrence Ave. E., **Scarborough**

Samantha Koon, President | [skoon.smcs@gmail.com](mailto:skoon.smcs@gmail.com)

## Serra Club of North Peel Region

St. Anne's Parish, 115 Vodden St. E., **Brampton**

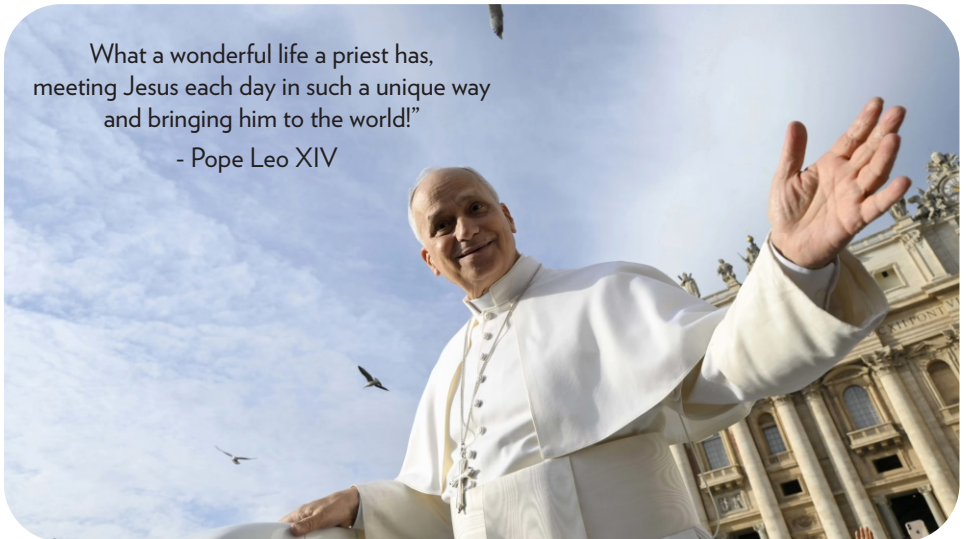
Carlos Abug, President | [carlq7@gmail.com](mailto:carlq7@gmail.com)

*For further information, please visit [www.serracanada.com](http://www.serracanada.com)*

## Vocations, Vocations, Vocations

What a wonderful life a priest has,  
meeting Jesus each day in such a unique way  
and bringing him to the world!"

- Pope Leo XIV





## 2026 Ordinandi DINNER COMMITTEE

**Chair of the Executive Committee:** Celeste Iacobelli

**Program Chair:** Jerry Hayes

**Finance Chair:** Mario Biscardi

**Youth Event Chair:** Lisa Malcolm

**Reception Chair:** Anthony Mangione

### **Executive Committee:**

Celeste Iacobelli, Fr. Matthew McCarthy, Fr. Janil Joseph Chakkiath, Mario Biscardi, Jerry Hayes, Anthony Mangione and Lisa Malcolm.

### **Ordinandi Dinner Committee:**

Fr. Scott Birchall, Fr. Tomasz Skibinski, Carlos Abug, Joe Gennaro, Evelyn Manalo, Maria Luz Manalo, Anna Mangione, Philomena Menezes, Emanuel Pires, Felisa and Fran Pulumbarit, Anthony Stanco, Dennis Wahking



## Ordinandi Dinner SPECIAL GUESTS

- His Eminence Frank Cardinal Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto
- His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop Emeritus of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Vincent Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Robert Kasun, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop John Boissonneau, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Ivan Camilleri, Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto
- Most Reverend Bishop Daniel Miehm, Diocese of Peterborough
- Most Reverend Bishop Bryan J. Bayda CSsR, Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church
- Msgr. A. Robert Nusca, President of St. Augustine's Seminary
- Rev. Scott Birchall, Rector, St. Augustine's Seminary
- Rev. Tomasz Skibinski, Rector, Redemptoris Mater Seminary
- Rev. Matthew McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto
- John Liston, Executive Director, Serra International
- Emanuele Costa, President, Serra International



Rev. Mr. Matteo  
**BERTOZZI**

Rev. Mr. Matteo Bertozzi, 31, Archdiocese of Toronto was born in Brescia, Italy, to deeply catholic parents. He is the fourth of ten children. Through his parents and through the Neocatechumenal Way he has received a strong catholic formation which accompanied him through the different stages of his life. During high school he became more and more interested in literature and planned to become a teacher or a playwright. However, during his last year of high school he sensed that the Lord was calling him for a more fulfilling vocation. Thanks to a strong experience at the world youth day in 2013 he realized that the Lord called him to follow him in the priesthood. In 2014, after a retreat in Porto San Giorgio, Italy, he was assigned to the Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in Toronto, which he joined at the end of October 2014. His time of formation in the Seminary has been a foundational experience through which he came to appreciate deeper and deeper the faithfulness of the Lord. This experience made him willing to serve the Lord in whatever mission he is going to give him.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- He played in a Rock n' Roll band during his high school years.
- He is a huge AC Milan fan.
- He has a younger brother in a Redemptoris Mater Missionary Seminary in Belgium.



**Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse**  
**CHOI**

Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi, 31, Archdiocese of Toronto, was born in Daejeon, South Korea. Together with his family, he immigrated to Canada in June of 2002. In grade 4, he enrolled in the 5-year arts program at Claude Watson School for the Arts, with a desire to pursue future programs in visual arts. During this time, he also regularly served as an altar server at St. Andrew Kim Catholic Church. When he was 12 years old, the first seed of his vocation was planted in his heart, having been inspired by the example of St. John Paul II. In 2017, having discerned that God may be calling him to the diocesan priesthood, he entered St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto. During his formation, he has been blessed to serve at various parishes, including Merciful Redeemer and St. Joseph the Worker, Oshawa. His nine years in seminary formation have been filled with many joys and blessings. Relying on the grace of God and his merciful love, he looks forward to serving the people of God in the Archdiocese of Toronto.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- I was born in South Korea. Yes, I listen to kpop and love Korean food.
- I love to draw! I still draw to this day and plan to do so in the future!
- I can speak 2 languages (English and Korean) and can speak a little bit of Spanish.



**Rev. Mr. Matthew**  
**TULIO**

Rev. Mr. Matthew Steven Tuanquin Tulio, 28, Archdiocese of Toronto, was born and raised in Toronto. He is the eldest of two, and has a younger sister. His parents are from the Philippines. He attended high school at St. John Paull II Catholic Secondary School in Scarborough, where he enjoyed running cross country and playing saxophone for jazz band. He finished his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto with a double major in Neuroscience and Environmental Biology and a minor in Classical Civilizations. His faith life began to develop after beginning to altar serve at his home parish, St. John XXIII. Through this, as well as his family's practices, he grew in his devotion to the Eucharist and Our Lady. It was during his time at the Newman Centre at UofT that he began to consider that the Lord may be inviting him to enter the seminary to discern the priesthood. He entered in fall 2019, after finishing his degree. He is grateful for his time in the seminary, and looks forward to serving God and His people in the parish.

### **3 FUN FACTS**

- I used to DJ.
- One summer in seminary I spent almost a month on mission trip with Salesians in Mongolia.
- I am a missionary at heart and have the desire to go all over the world announcing the love of God.



Rev. Mr. Victor Manuel  
**VALDÉS**

Rev. Mr. Victor Manuel Valdés, 34, Archdiocese of Toronto, was born in Toronto, the second child and first-born son of his parents, who are both from central and south America. His home parish is St. Aidan's in Scarborough, where he was a part of various ministries, such as the youth choir and youth group. He attended Brebeuf College High School, and he was there simultaneously with two other men who have been ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Toronto. He quickly got a job once he graduated high school. During this period he also did some volunteer work, where he discovered a love for helping people. God used this to show him his call to the priesthood. He responded by getting in touch with the vocation's director. He applied to the seminary in 2016 and entered that same year. The ten years he spent in St. Augustine's Seminary have formed him to be a man of Christ and His Church, and he is looking forward to serving the people of God as a priest of Jesus Christ.

High School - Brebeuf College School.

### 3 FUN FACTS

- Even though I was born in Canada, I was baptized in Panama
- My first word was “no”
- I was born with blond hair that darkened several years later

# DAILY TV MASS PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

JOIN US IN PRAYING  
FOR VOCATIONS  
APRIL 19 - 26, 2026



From April 19 to April 26, the National Catholic Broadcasting Council and the Serra Foundation of Canada will celebrate the Week of Daily TV Masses for Prayers for Vocations.

To include a name to be prayed for in our Prayer Intentions Book please scan the QR code. Names will not be read aloud at Mass.

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***Living with Christ* offers our prayers  
and congratulations to the 2026 ordinandi**

Rev. Mr. Matteo Bertozzi  
Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi  
Rev. Mr. Matthew Tulio  
Rev. Mr. Victor Manuel Valdés

**To show our appreciation, we are providing a year's  
complimentary subscription to each man.**

**Canada's companion to praying and living the Eucharist**

**Living  
with  
Christ**



ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
SEMINARY



CELEBRATING  
*113 Years*  
OF FORMING DISCIPLES



“The whole point of seminary, in addition to training men for the priesthood, is for both the Church and the seminarian to discern if there is a real call to ordination.”

- Rev. Mr. Valdes, Class of 2026





## Thank you for your generous support!

Your financial gift will help reduce the material costs of the formation of our future priests; the annual fees per Seminarian are approximately \$35,000 and this does not fully cover the actual costs.

Through your kindness, you enable us to continue to respond to our Lord's invitation to train priests, deacons, and lay ministers who will bring His message of love, hope, and forgiveness to our families, parishes and future generations.

Learn how to support the Seminary:  
[staugustines.on.ca/donate](https://staugustines.on.ca/donate)





ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
SEMINARY

## PROGRAMS



PRIESTLY  
FORMATION



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St. Augustine's Seminary offers a wide variety of programs  
for the catholic community.  
Visit. [www.staugustines.on.ca](http://www.staugustines.on.ca) for more information



## Fr. Matt McCarthy

### The call to serve begins with the Lord's guidance

Fr. Matthew McCarthy takes his cue from the Lord Himself for his guiding principles as he continues to journey as Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Toronto.

"I am hoping that my commitment to prayer and intimacy with God the Father will bear much fruit," said McCarthy.

Helping individuals discern a call to the priesthood or religious life is a key responsibility. McCarthy and his team will offer vocation-related retreats and programs such as the Come-and-See weekend at St. Augustine's Seminary.

Those discerning a call to religious life will also learn how to enrich their prayer life.

"It's true that we can pray to God in all times and places, but if you're serious about having an authentic connection with the Lord, go to where He shows up," said McCarthy.

"Every tabernacle contains the presence of the same Christ who called the first apostles. It's no wonder why many vocations were 'figured out' in the context of Mass or silent prayer before Christ's presence in the tabernacle. He is ready and waiting to speak to you there."

McCarthy understands he has big shoes to fill, taking over from Fr. Chris Lemieux and his other predecessors who have helped shape vocations in the archdiocese. He hopes he can exhibit their dedication in accompanying individuals' spiritual journey and, most of all, their love of the Lord and His people.



## Vocations Programs

### COME & SEE

In the Fall and Winter of each year, the Office of Vocations offers single men, aged 18+, an opportunity to visit St. Augustine's Seminary for a weekend retreat of communal prayer, fellowship, and time to discern the Lord's vocation for their lives.

Please contact our Office to inquire about upcoming retreats.



### Online Discernment Groups

Offered twice a year for both men and women, these book studies are meant to give individuals valuable tools to discern both their vocation, and daily decisions people make through the course of their lives. Please contact our Office to inquire about any upcoming series.

*Groups meet online via Zoom*



### ASSOCIATES:

#### PRE-SEMINARY FORMATION PROGRAM

The Associates bi-weekly program is the primary discernment group for men considering diocesan priesthood in the Archdiocese of Toronto, and has been active for the last three decades.



Register online at [www.vocationstoronto.ca](http://www.vocationstoronto.ca)



HOLY HOUR FOR  
**VOCATIONS**



Scan the QR Code for Suggested  
Outline for Adoration and Holy Hour

# Congratulations to those priests celebrating their 50th & 60th Anniversary of their Priestly Ordinations

## **25th Anniversary**

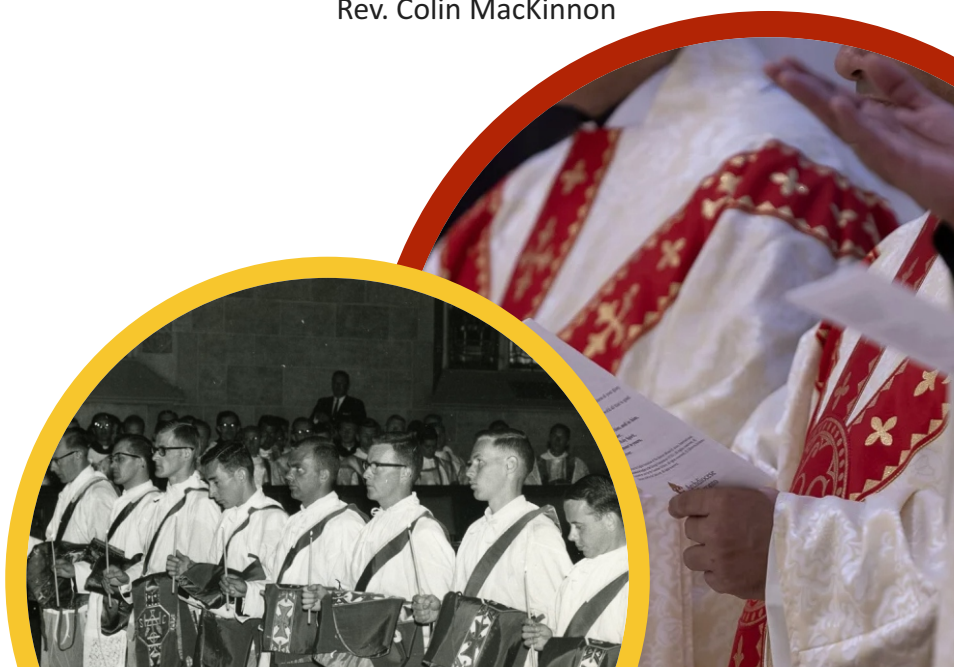
Rev. Ali Derek Raymond  
Rev. Chung Frederick Yon Ho  
Rev. Perri Boniface Carmelo  
Rev. Serrano Fernando Zamora

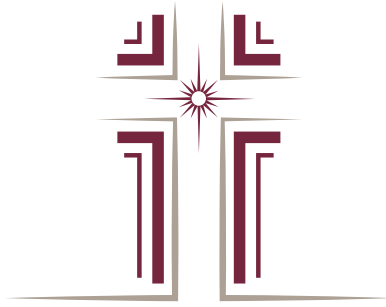
## **50th Anniversary**

Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Bordonaro, C.H.H.  
Rev. Msgr. Gregory Choi, C.H.H.  
Rev. Paolos Fessehaye Beraki  
Rev. David Edward Bollo  
Rev. Andrzej Glaba

## **60th Anniversary**

Rev. Gianni Carparelli  
Rev. George S. Galea  
Rev. Wilfried Lenius  
Rev. Colin MacKinnon





CATHOLIC & CEMETERIES  
FUNERAL SERVICES  
ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO

**“Well done my good and faithful servant,  
come and share your Master’s happiness!”**

Lord God, You chose our brothers to serve Your people as priests and to share the joys and burdens of their lives. Look with mercy on them and give them the reward of their labours, the fullness of life promised to those who preach Your Holy Gospel.

In loving memory of our beloved priests who have gone to their eternal home.

Rev. James P. Adams

Rev. Dominic Quyen Bui

Rev. (Thomas) Gregory Chisholm

Rev. Richard McKnight

Rev. Vitaliano Papais

Rev. Msgr. Mariano Francis Polito P.H.

Rev. Msgr. Eduardo Resendes P.H.

Rev. Scott R. Young



### **2026 Ordinandi Class**

**l to r** - Rev. Mr. Matthew Tulio, Rev. Mr. Matteo Bertozzi,  
Rev. Mr. Victor Manuel Valdés, Rev. Mr. Moonjun Alphonse Choi



### **Ordinandi Dinner Platinum Sponsor:**

Catholic Cemeteries & Funeral Services, Archdiocese of Toronto

### **Ordinandi Youth Event Platinum Sponsor:**

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### **Sponsor of the Ordinandi Gifts:**

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Merciful Redeemer Parish, Rev. James (Seamus) Hogan

Serra Foundation of Canada (JP Savage, President)

St. Barnabas Parish, Scarborough, Rev. Hansoo Park, Pastor

St. Patrick's Parish, Markham, Rev. Frank Portelli, Pastor

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- In Loving Memory of Mila Manalo and Sophie Manalo from the Manalo sisters
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- Arthur Peters
- Pina and Vince Primucci
- Marissa Perez Roldan
- Gwen Schulte-Albert
- Serra Club of Markham-Scarborough - Travelling Chalice Program at Precious Blood Parish, Scarborough
- Serra Club of Markham-Scarborough - Samantha Koon, President
- Marian Shaw
- Anne Simon
- Grace Sojerido
- Antonia Tabaniag
- Nauman Tariq
- Mimma and Pat Tremamunno
- Vietnamese Martyrs Parish (Fr Joseph Tran, Pastor)
- Grace Sojerido
- Claudette Wilson





## Serra Prayer for Vocations

**O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner  
but rather that he be converted and live  
grant we beseech You  
through the intercession of the Blessed Mary  
ever Virgin, St. Joseph her spouse  
Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints  
an increase of labourers for your Church  
fellow labourers with Christ  
to spend and consume themselves for souls  
through the same Jesus Christ Your Son  
Who lives and reigns with You  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God forever and ever. Amen.**

The priesthood is where the human meets the Divine. Not only does our God love us so much that He became man through the Incarnation and gave His entire being to us through the Cross, but He also left us tangible ways of uniting with Him on earth.