

**ST. CECILIA HONORS RETIRED PRIESTS,
SEMINARIANS**

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On Saturday, September 13, the St. Cecilia Church Vocation Committee hosted its annual Retired Priests & Seminarians Appreciation Mass and Dinner. The evening began with the 5:00 pm Mass, which was presided over by Archbishop Emeritus Vlazny, with Fr. Jeff Eirvin, Archdiocese Vocations Director, serving as the homilist, and Dave Hammes as the Deacon. Retired Auxiliary Bishop Steiner, Msgr. Arthur Buxman, Fr. Pat McNamee, and Fr. Scott Vandehey served as concelebrants. Seminarians served as Mass servers, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, greeters, lectors and cantor. The Mass procession was led by Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

This annual event brings together parishioners, current diocesan seminarians and retired Archdiocesan Priests at Mass to celebrate, support and honor God’s Call to Service, those who have served and those who most recently have answered the Call to minister to God’s people. The Seminarians met and greeted the very parishioners for whom they could someday be associate priest or pastor. “This is a unique event,” said Fr. Eirvin. “Seminarians encounter parishioners on a pastoral level, and the event builds connections between young and retired priests.”

The dinner presented an opportunity for St. Cecilia to recognize the retired Archdiocesan priests for their service, and to provide a pastoral opportunity for the diocesan seminarians to become acquainted with these men in whose footsteps they hope to follow. “It’s a way to give back,” said Tom Eyer, Vocation Committee Chair. “It’s such an uplifting and rare experience to see this interaction between those who are newly called to the priesthood and those who have been in service for 40 or 50 years or more.”

Fr. Cary spoke from the perspective of the seminarians. “I still remember those years when I attended this annual event as a seminarian,” he said. “It has always been a joyful and inspiring gathering, seeing the future priests and the retired priests come together, sharing stories of ministry. It is very commendable how the Vocation Committee has increased awareness for us to actively pray and promote priestly and religious vocations within our parish family.”

St. Cecilia Former and Current Pastors (l to r):

Fr. Scott Vandehey,
Fr. Pat McNamee,
Fr. Cary Reniva



Row 1 (l to r): Fr. Cary, Fr. Mark Bentz, Jerome Jay, Rodrigo Paredes, Matthew Knight, Kurt Ziehlke, Fiacre Nduwayo, Bishop Kenneth Steiner, Joshua Keatley, Archbishop Sample, Fr. Jeff Eirvin, John Becerra, Arjie Garcia, Zani Pacanza, Randy Hoang

Row 2 (l to r): Stephen Cieslak, John Hesla, Blake Sheely, Dustin Busse, Msgr. Donald Buxman, Brent Crowe, Gerson Espinosa Velasco, Stephen Kenyon, Ethan Alano, Fr. Pat McNamee



Row 1 (l to r): Fr. Brendan Fleming, Chi-Nhan Vo, Gerson Espinosa Velasco, Zani Pacanza, Randy Hoang, Arjie Garcia, Kurt Ziehlke

Row 2 (l to r): Armando Hernandez, Daniel Rodriguez, Edgar Rivera, Bishop Kenneth Steiner, Matthew Knight, Archbishop Emeritus John Vlazny, Fr. Cary Reniva, Fr. Jeff Eirvin, Jerome Jay, John Becerra, Rodrigo Paredes

Row 3 (l to r): Msgr. Art Dernbach, Fr. Mark Bentz, Fr. Scott Vandehey, Fr. Pat McNamee, John Hesla, Msgr. Don Buxman, Blake Sheely, Fiacre Nduwayo, Scott Baier, Stephen Kenyon, Brent Crowe, Stephen Cieslak, Dustin Busse, Ethan Alano, Joshua Keatley

VOCATION COMMITTEE — We ask each parishioner to pray the following Petition to God:

“That Catholic mothers and fathers will help their children grow, become strong in their faith and filled with the wisdom of God by fostering openness to vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life among their families , ”
We pray to the Lord.