



HARVARD CATHOLIC

Magazine

WINTER 2018



CELEBRATING FATHER GEORGE



ANNUAL REPORT EDITION *Fiscal Year 2017*

IN THIS ISSUE

HARVARD CATHOLIC *Magazine*



Father Salzmann was on hand for Father Joe Keefe's first solemn Mass in the U.S., December 29, St. Bartholomew's Church, Needham, MA along with Will Clerx '14 (left) and Tom Keefe '16.

CHAPLAINS

Senior Chaplain

Rev. William T. Kelly, STD

Graduate and Professional Schools Chaplain

Rev. George S. Salzmann, OSFS

Undergraduate Chaplain

Rev. Mark W. Murphy, MD, MAT

EVkids Chaplain

Heather Angell, MA

STAFF

Director of Advancement

Douglas H. Zack

Director of Finance and Operations

Thomas Hogan

Administrative Coordinator and Executive Assistant

Nancy Nicolaou

Advancement Associate

Carol Sardo

Writer and Editor

Scott Wahle



29 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-6031
(617) 491-8400

info@harvardcatholic.org
www.harvardcatholic.org

MISSION STATEMENT

The Harvard Catholic Center invites students, faculty, alumni and the greater University community to grow into a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ through the Roman Catholic tradition of worship, inquiry, prayer and service to develop informed and compassionate individuals who use their intellectual and spiritual gifts for the benefit of the Church and the world.

14

2 News and Notes

4 EVkids - Harvard Students' Commitment to Service

6 Celebrating Father George Salzmann

14 "A Slice of Heaven" – Joe Keefe '04 Ordained

18 "Harvard Catholic Women – Enriching the World"

26 Annual Report of Contributors



VOCATIONS START AT HOME

Father Joe Keefe AB'04

Father Joseph Keefe '04, was ordained a priest of Opus Dei (known to members as “the Work”) earlier this year in Rome. Joe Keefe is one of 11 children born to Patti and John '70 Keefe, five of whom attended Harvard. In our continuing series about Harvard men and women in religious life, editor Scott Wahle spoke with Father Keefe about his vocation and the singular path to the priesthood for a member of Opus Dei.

“Joe was exposed to the graces of witnessing a generous marriage growing up. Joe breathed that atmosphere, and it led to his own vocation.”

Father Dave Cavanagh, AB '72
Opus Dei priest

**Patti and John AB '70 Keefe along with
Father Joe's sister, Emily Keefe Marcucci
AB '99 at the ordination, April 29, 2017,
Basilica de San Eugenio, Rome**

SW: A priestly vocation in Opus Dei may or may not spring from a commitment to be a numerary in Opus Dei. Can you explain?

Fr. Keefe: The vocation to the priesthood is the same across the different realities within the Church, since it is essentially a calling from God to share in the ministerial priesthood of Christ, and to act on behalf of the Church in the care of souls. But yes, you are right that the path of discernment to the priesthood for a member of Opus Dei is rather different than it might be for a diocesan seminarian or for someone in a religious order.

I am 35 years old right now, but I joined Opus Dei at the age of 18, as a celibate member (numerary), so from very early on I had already discerned my vocation of total self-giving to God in the middle of the world as a layman. At that time, the priesthood was not really on my radar; I was drawn more to Opus Dei's secular mission, which for me meant the sanctification of my work and a broad apostolate carried out among my peers, without distinguishing myself from them at all. I did my undergrad at Harvard in art history, and then worked for a couple of years in an architecture studio in New York City that specializes in historic restoration.

While I was working full-time in New York, I wrote our prelate (Bishop Javier Echeverria, who recently passed away), telling him that I would be willing to serve Opus Dei in whatever capacity was needed. Knowing that the Work asks some numeraries to start our apostolate in new countries, I told him I'd be up for that (mentioning Africa as an area of preference!). I also told him that I would be willing to have a go at the preparations necessary for priestly ordination, and discern that path, or stay put and continue my professional career (I had just been accepted to a doctoral program in art history at Columbia). So in a sense, God's gift of celibacy was allowing me to give Him a "blank check," to place myself in His hands, with full trust. It also felt like an adventure - I

could end up anywhere, doing just about anything!

SW: And the Bishop's response?

Fr. Keefe: Shortly thereafter, he invited me to move to Rome to start my studies in theology. And ten years later, with a doctorate in dogmatic theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, I received the diaconate from Bishop Javier in October, shortly before his passing. And now the priesthood...So I guess the path to becoming a priest in the Work isn't as linear as it might be in a diocesan seminary, and I think the reason for that is that numeraries aren't really discerning in the same way, since we have already committed ourselves definitively to a vocation which is rooted in apostolic celibacy. The priesthood for us is another way of serving God within the larger panorama of our mission in Opus Dei.

SW: How connected were you to the Catholic Center while at Harvard?

Fr. Keefe: I certainly had connections with the HCC as an undergrad, and still remain in contact with Father George (Salzmann), who has supported me through it all. I credit his prayers over these past 15 years! I have fond memories of daily Mass and Adoration at St. Paul's, as well as study breaks in the former student center. Many of my closest friendships were formed with kids from the Harvard Catholic Center, and we would have Rosary sessions or go out for crepes on Arrow Street. I lived in Adams House, so after daily Mass I would often invite people to breakfast in our dining hall.

Elmbrook, the center of Opus Dei near campus, was obviously the hub of my spiritual life. I lived there my junior and senior years. But most of my day was spent on



Father Joe's nieces, Tabitha (L) and June (R) are all smiles, seeing their uncle at the ordination reception.



The Harvard connection on hand for the ordination (l-r): Michael Marcucci, '98; John Keefe Sr., '70; Jim Schultz, HLS '11; Fr. Joseph Keefe, '04, John Keefe '01, Tom Keefe '16, Helen Keefe '11, Emily Keefe Marcucci '99

campus, and much of my interior journey was enriched through times of prayer at St. Paul's Church and through camaraderie with other Catholics in classes, meals, etc. One big thing I learned while an undergrad was the need to "give reason" to my faith, considering the position of people who put into question even the most basic tenets of my life, which then led me to return to the books to seek deeper understanding. I credit some very dear friendships with non-Catholic and non-Christian guys for strengthening my faith through their questions and personal concerns. Those friends have endured to this day, and two of them even made the trek out to Rome for the ordination!

SW: Did you think about being a priest someday when you were a child?

Fr. Keefe: There were certainly moments when, as a child, I thought about the priesthood. My parents instilled in us a love and reverence for priests at a very early age. Every Saturday we would go to a nearby parish for confessions with an older Opus Dei priest (Father Dick Rieman). Even for us kids who were too little to actually go to confession, my mom would encourage us to "duck into the box" and simply chat with the priest, about whatever we wanted. We

had a grand old time, especially since Father Dick would always make us laugh with his jokes. All of this was establishing a kind of "family culture" that helped us to build up confidence in the priest, and see the sacrament as something attractive, joyful, deeply merciful and consoling. Another memory: both my maternal and paternal grandfathers must have intuited the priesthood in me well before I did, since they would each often ask me as a young child if I ever thought of being one. They were planting a seed.

SW: What was the ordination like? Can you believe the faculties you now have?

Fr. Keefe: The ordination and the first solemn Mass, in the words of my mother, were "a slice of heaven." The sacrament itself is deeply mysterious. In complete silence, the Bishop laid his hands on my head, as the entire people of God invoked the Holy Spirit. In that moment, I could almost physically feel the Paraclete marking me with that indelible seal of the priesthood. And the very idea of celebrating Mass, acting in persona Christi, lending the Son of God my hands and voice as He carries out the Sacrifice of our Redemption... it still gives me chills, and I am now doing it every day. I often ask Jesus that I may never

grow accustomed to this miracle that takes place before me. And I also turn to Our Lady with that spiritual communion I learned in the Work: "I wish my Lord to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most Holy Mother received you, with the spirit and the fervor of the saints."

SW: The Keefes are a Harvard family if ever there was one. And your dad tells me everyone made it to the ordination!

Fr. Keefe: It was an incredible joy beyond words to have my entire family present for the event. I have 10 siblings, six in-laws, and 22 nieces and nephews. Needless to say, it's very hard for us to all get together. This was the first time in six years that we all made it!

And yes, we do have a fierce Harvard connection, perhaps even record-breaking. My father is Class of '70, and of the 11 children, five of us are graduates of Harvard College (Emily '99, John '01, myself '04, Helen '11, and Tom '16). Add in Emily's husband Michael Marcucci ('98) and my sister Molly's husband Jim Schultz (Harvard Law, '11), and you've got a party!

We are a singing family, and for Joey's first Mass, my brother John headed up the sibling choir that provided the music. One of the songs we sang during communion was Thomas Tallis' "If Ye Love Me." It's one that we've sung at a lot of our family weddings, and the text is a portion of Jesus' final discourse at the Last Supper with his disciples, making it especially appropriate for the occasion of Joey's first Mass: 'If ye love me, keep my commandment. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter, to abide with you forever, the Spirit of Truth.'

Helen Keefe '11, Joe's sister

Joe was always an extremely cheerful, happy person...he had a way of connecting with people of all ages. More than once when he was in middle school, a mother would come up to me and say 'Oh, Mr. Keefe, you don't know me, but my little girl isn't one of the popular kids, and Joe treats my daughter as one of the popular ones. It makes her feel special.'

John Keefe '70, Joe's father

Joe is the product of a normal family; he was exposed to the graces of witnessing a generous marriage growing up. As Saint Josemaría Escrivá (the founder of Opus Dei) would say, more than 90 percent of a person's vocation is from our parents. Joe breathed that atmosphere, and it led to his own vocation."

Opus Dei priest Father Dave Cavanagh '72 knew Joe's parents when Patti and John were dating at Harvard

I met Father Joe when he was just "Joe." He was assigned to be the director of the older boys at Leadership Camp Texas, a camp for boys grades 5-8 that focuses on all the fun that is summer camp along with the development of virtues and a natural sense of piety. For a Yankee, he was pretty hardy – running up and down the Texas Hill Country trails in 100 degree heat. I fondly recall his excellent singing voice and his huge toothy smile. The boys were drawn to him by his cheerfulness and sense of meeting others where they are, as if each was the most important person in the world. These will be excellent foundations for his priestly vocation, as they are excellent reflections of Christ. *Ipse Christus*. I'm grateful for his friendship and his vocation.

Tim Belton, MBA '94, Bellaire, Texas



All of Father Joe's siblings (11) and their spouses (6) attended the ordination at the Basilica de San Eugenio, Rome, April 29, 2017.