



My name is Erick Gonzalez, I'm 24 years old, and I'm at the beginning of my fifth year in the seminary. So far, this year in the Holy Land has been, like no other in my life. I see that God brought me to the Holy Land for my first year of Itinerancy to show me one thing—his love for me. It has also been a time like no other because of the rhythm with which we live here in the Domus Galilaeae. We

are constantly working and praying, we pretty much live a monastic life here and the one rule that we follow is *Ora et Labora*. Every day I am called to serve, to give my life and my time, to die to myself, to my plans, and my desires. Through the services that I do, cleaning pilgrims rooms—from the bedrooms to the bathrooms—or folding hundreds of linens every day, or serving as a waiter at dinner time for the pilgrims in the restaurant—I find myself happy...happy because the one I'm serving is Jesus Christ. In fact, amidst all the things that we do here in this house, I could say that there is not much time to myself. Yet, strange as it might seem, it is in serving and in giving of myself that I find myself happiest. Here I have discovered something very important, one could say a jewel of life, rather, a pearl: doing God's will, and not my own, gives me joy like no other. Besides learning how to serve and donating oneself through

MY EXPERIENCE IN ISRAEL

service, there are many things in the Holy Land that have made me see the love of God for me personally in my life. One thing in particular are the holy sites we get to visit here, sights that I though I'd never see, places where the Word of God comes to life, not just in the past 2,000 years ago, but also today in my own life. To be able to see that the Scriptures are alive, that there are real places where they took place, where Jesus set his foot, walked, preached, died, and resurrected, is an incomparable gift. Nevertheless, these are but a few gifts that I can share, that God, in His goodness and mercy, is giving me the opportunity to experience—I who have been (for much of my life) ungrateful and spoiled brat. By and large God brings me to His land just to tell me: "Erick, I love you."

P.S. Please pray for me.



Save the Date!

JUNE 14, 2015

REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY 6TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER
HONORING FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE JAMES MADISON PROGRAM IN
AMERICAN IDEALS AND INSTITUTIONS AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Professor Robert P. George

FOR INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS

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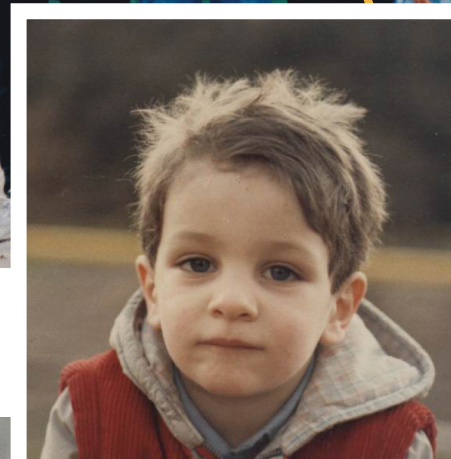
Redemptoris Mater

Newsletter of the Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Boston



© Special thanks to Gregory L. Tracy in this newsletter which was fully designed by our seminarians.

Andrew is



a Deacon!





Dear Friends

Another year, another semester! We are happy to send you a copy of our seminary's latest newsletter.

First of all, we are still glowing with gratitude to God for the recent diaconal ordination of Andrea (Andrew) Filippucci, together with four other men, for the Archdiocese of Boston. Andrew was especially honored to have his mother and brother join him together with his community from Immaculate Conception Parish in Marlborough. In case you missed it, Cardinal Seán speaks about the ordination in his blog (www.cardinaleansblog.org/2015/01/16).

Even as some seminarians prepare to leave the seminary through ordination, join me in welcoming four new men to our seminary: Paolo Strudthoff is from Rome, Italy; Jose Ignacio Montero is from the Dominican Republic; Gustavo Neitzke is from Brazil; and Diego Valdez is from Boulder, Colorado.

Last summer our seminary had the unique grace to fulfill one of the dreams of Blessed Pope Paul VI, who hoped that every seminarian before ordination should spend some time in Israel, praying, studying, and visiting the holy sites connected to the mysteries of the life of our Lord. May the graces of this time in the "land of the Lord" renew in us love for God's Word and give us a greater appreciation for the mystery of the Incarnation.

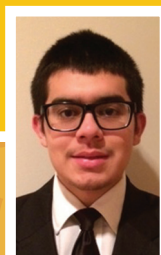
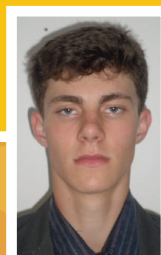
Among the seven seminarians currently in the itinerancy, we asked Erick Gonzalez to share with us his experience of the past few months in the Holy Land.

Finally, I am happy to announce that our seminary's annual **Gala Dinner will be held on June 14, 2015**, at the Four Points by Sheraton, in Norwood. Just three months before Pope Francis is scheduled to visit the United States, **we will honor Professor Robert P. George**, the founding director of the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University. Please reserve the date and plan to join us as Professor George, one of the most renowned Catholic scholars in the United States, leads us on a reflection on the role and the mission of the Christian family in contemporary society.

In Christ,

Fr. Antonio F. Medeiros

New Seminarians: Jose Ignacio, Gustavo Neitzke, Diego Valdez, Paolo Strudthoff



Making a Statement for Life! Seminarians join pilgrims from Boston and across the U.S. at the 2015 annual March for Life, in Washington D.C.



September 2014. Seminarians help prepare a parish mission in St. Tarcisius Church, Framingham.



December 2014. Cardinal Seán joins seminary community for Vespers and solemn blessing of the Nativity Scene.

AUGUST 2014 -
PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND



JANUARY 10, 2015 -

ANDREW'S DIACONAL ORDINATION,
RECEPTION, AND SERVICE AT FIRST MASS