

FR. ISRAEL J. RODRIGUEZ'S EXPERIENCE AND MINISTRY



My name is Fr. Israel J. Rodriguez and I come originally from Spain. I was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Boston on May 23, 2009, and I am currently assigned to the Immaculate Conception Parish in Marlborough, MA. My formation at Redemptoris Mater Seminary has helped me tremendously in my path to becoming a

Christian disciple and a priest. One of the characteristic features of our formation is to share in the life of a small Christian community of lay people (the Neocatechumenal Way community) that follows an itinerary of faith for the rediscovery of baptism within the parish. This community of regular, ordinary people (couples, youth, elderly, etc...) has helped me greatly in my own conversion and faith. Even as a priest I see it as a blessing, both personally and in my ministry. I am also grateful for the emphasis on the "missionary spirit" in our formation and for the two years that I spent in mission (in the Holy Land and in Washington DC). These experiences have enkindled in me a missionary zeal and the desire to spend my life at the service of the New Evangelization, concretely now through the pastoral work of the celebration of the Eucharist, preaching, hearing confessions, visiting the sick, etc., and through

the evangelizing effort to reach the far away. In the last few months, together with another priest of my parish, we have begun an experience of evangelization going door to door visiting people who have fallen away from Church. This experience so far has been very rewarding: apart from giving us an opportunity to announce to them the love of God, it also enables us to invite them to rediscover the faith by returning to the Church, where they can experience first hand the love of God and the power of his grace.



New Year's Eve at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross with Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley



"I wish to invite the Church to renew her missionary commitment... For missionary activity renews the Church, revitalizes faith and Christian identity... Faith is strengthened when it is given to others!... God is opening before the Church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel... No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: To proclaim Christ to all peoples."

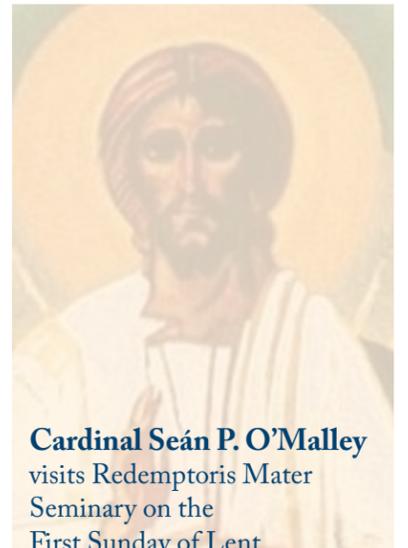
(Redemptoris Missio, John Paul II)



Redemptoris Mater

NEWSLETTER OF THE REDEMPTORIS MATER SEMINARY OF BOSTON

"...I SHALL TAKE YOU FROM AMONG THE NATIONS AND GATHER YOU TOGETHER FROM ALL THE FOREIGN COUNTRIES..." Ez 36:24



Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley visits Redemptoris Mater Seminary on the First Sunday of Lent



September 2009, Porto San Giorgio, Italy. Cardinal Seán together with, (from left) Carmen Hernandez, Fr. Mario Pezzi and Kiko Argüello (International Team for the Neocatechumenal Way), Fr. Medeiros, and Fr. Hennessey, welcome the new seminarians: Przemysław and Maciej from Poland, Paolo from Florida, and Fernando from Nicaragua.

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On May 23, 2009, Fr. Israel J. Rodriguez, the first priest formed at Redemptoris Mater Seminary, was ordained by Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley. **Read about his experience on PAGE 4**



Dear Friends

It is a pleasure to send you the first edition of Redemptoris Mater Seminary of Boston's Newsletter. We are still celebrating the arrival of the four new seminarians that were assigned to our seminary last September: Fernando Vivas, from Nicaragua; Maciej Araszkiwicz and Przemyslaw Kasprzak from Poland; and Paolo Benigni, from Miami, Florida. They were especially honored that Cardinal Seán and Fr. Dan Hennessey, Vocations Director for the Archdiocese of Boston, travelled all the way to Porto San Giorgio, Italy, to welcome them. They arrived recently and are already fully engaged in their studies. In case you missed it, you can read about it at www.cardinaleansblog.org/2009/09/

This year we started what we hope will become a yearly tradition of bringing the seminary Christmas Choir to some parishes in the Archdiocese. Then we joined Cardinal Seán at Holy Cross Cathedral to celebrate New Year's Eve and soon thereafter was time to travel to Washington D.C. for the annual March for Life. During this time of Lent, various catecheses are starting in parishes throughout the Archdiocese: St. Tarcisius, in Framingham, Holy Cross Cathedral, in Boston, Immaculate Conception, in Revere, and others after Easter. The seminarians are directly engaged in preparing the ground for these catecheses, sometimes visiting people



door to door, sometimes going through the streets, stopping people to announce to them the love of God and to propose the beauty of our faith.

Fr. Israel Rodriguez, the first priest ordained from our seminary, shares with us a little bit about his experience as a newly ordained priest.

To the many priests and friends who visit our seminary, we are deeply grateful, not just for the opportunity to share our life with them, but for the graces that each of them brings into our House. Finally I would like to inform you that we are planning our first Gala Dinner for this coming May. Soon I will be sending you more information about this important event for the life of the seminary and I hope that you will join us for this occasion.

With best wishes of God's abundant blessings on you and your family during this holy season of Lent,

Fr. Antonio F. Medeiros, Rector

THE FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On December 13th, 2009, the seminarians gave a Christmas concert at the parish of Immaculate Conception, in Revere (a second one had to be cancelled due to a snow storm!). The international nature of our seminary was also reflected in the repertoire of the songs that we sang, including some traditional Christmas carols in English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Latin.

The audience participated in some of the classic carols while some of the children also joined by singing along and even making choreographed hand motions that they had learned at school for a couple of the songs. After much work, the concert was a great experience for all of us, hopefully turning into a yearly tradition that will grow with the arrival of new seminarians from different nations.



The Seminarians NATIONS OF ORIGIN OF THE SEMINARIANS

UNITED STATES	4	
COSTA RICA	1	
ITALY	3	
HONDURAS	1	
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1	
MEXICO	1	
NICARAGUA	1	
POLAND	2	
BRAZIL	2	

MARCH FOR LIFE 2010 – WASHINGTON D.C.

