

*Alumni Milestone:
Two Vietnamese Ordinations and a Winnipeg Mini-Reunion*

I proudly attended the ordinations of two St. Peter's seminarians in St. Boniface on May 31 and June 1, 2019: **John Baptiste Nguyen** to the Diaconate, and **Peter Lê Văn Ngũ** to the Priesthood ('19). It was a Vietnamese Feast in every way: deep faith rooted in the sacrifice of leaving their native country, formal attire worthy of royalty, jubilant music and symbolic dancing, and meals with mounds of delicious courses. There was an adroit juggling of Vietnamese, French and English in all of the celebrations, helped by overheads, so that everyone was included. Our rector, **Fr. Steve Wlusek** ('86) presented each of the two ordinandi at the outset of their ordination ceremonies in a wonderfully personal manner, even with a touch of humour. (This *never* happened in the old days!) We were also blessed with the attendance of **Fr. Pio Beorchia** ('94), our seminary vice-rector, and **Fr. John Pirt** ('88), **Fr. Grayson Hope** ('17) and **Fr. David Avila** ('17), and **Fr. Paul Kim** ('17), classmates, and friends of the ordinandi. Absolute joy from the Holy Spirit permeated us all.

Fr. Joe Tran (2000) generously drove me all over Winnipeg for the various functions. He is still as joyful, zealous and insightful as he was in the seminary. Also staying with us at a wonderful Vietnamese family, Minh and Hiep Mac and her 90 year old mother, was **Fr. John Nguyen** ('97), still as quiet and compassionate as ever. Both priests are members of the diocese of St. Boniface, soon to be joined by four more Vietnamese vocations.



(Left to right: Fr. Richard Arsenault, Fr. Robert Polz, Msgr. Stan Jaworski, Fr. Dominic Yuen, Fr. Paul Tinguely, Fr. Michel Nault, Fr. Mike Prieur, Fr. Michael Wollbaum)

However, there was icing on the cake for me after these marvelous celebrations. My one e-mail to **Fr. Richard Arsenault** ('89) orchestrated a wonderful mini-reunion of seven alumni members on **Monday, June 3** at the downtown Winnipeg Keg Restaurant. I was delighted to see **Msgr. Stan Jaworski** (56), still spry and active in his 91st year. *Everyone* had a good word about his indefatigable ministry. He faithfully attended our Alumni Reunions in London, booking a red-eye flight, arriving at 3:00 a.m., shouting at my front window on the second floor, "Mickey! Open the doors!"

Fr. Michael Wollbaum ('96) is deepening his pastoral spirit by pursuing the degree in Ministry of Evangelization at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. **Fr. Michel Nault** ('95) still has his charismatic smile and wit to boot. **Fr. Robert Polz** ('88) sports a distinguished beard to accompany his ongoing liturgical and musical talents. **Fr. Dominic Yuen** ('95) continues to support the Seminary Foundation generously by channeling designated charity funds our way. **Fr. Paul Tinguely** ('85) radiates his quiet, gentle sense of joyful humour, generously serving seniors in a home with his home-grown vegetables.

I reserve my final comments for my organizing host, **Fr. Richard Arsenault** ('89). Together on Monday, we toured the National Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, a "must-see" for everyone's bucket list. He continues to manifest his childlike, faith-filled wonder and awe as he adroitly continues his Moderator of the Curia duties heading into his 24th year. **Fr. John Comiskey** ('81) has a lot of catching up in his parallel work in London in this post. During the day, we had no trouble filling in the time remembering the daring exploits of Group A, especially in imitating the traits of the faculty!

I announced that the Alumni Association was going good for the meal, since it was a true reunion, something that is provided for by our annual dues. Fr. Richard generously donated the wine and hors d'oeuvres as we toasted our shared priesthood. A hearty "*Ad multos annos*" rang out at the Keg that evening! Our Alumni Association is alive and well!

Fr. Mike Prieur ('65)
Treasurer, Alumni Association.