



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REGIONAL SEMINARY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary Celebrates 2023 Commencement

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary joyfully celebrated its Commencement Ceremony on May 11, 2023, which concluded the 2022–2023 formation year. Faculty, staff, friends, and family gathered at St. Vincent Chapel to celebrate the accomplishments of the 35 graduates. Of the graduates, 12 seminarians were awarded the Master of Divinity and 8 earned the Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies). Also, 11 permanent deacon candidates and lay students received the Master of Arts (Theological Studies).

Additionally, one student received a certificate for completing the requirements for the Pre-Theology program and three received the Certificate in Diaconal Studies.

As part of the celebration, the event included opening remarks by Rector/President, Fr. Alfredo I. Hernández as well as Most Rev. Gregory J. Hartmayer, OFM Conv., Archbishop of Atlanta, who gave the commencement address. Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, presided over the ceremony.

“It is a precious gift to know the mind and the heart of Jesus. He is a sure guide for living our lives to the fullest. The challenge, of course, is to grapple with the reality that what the words and deeds of Jesus, the mind, and the heart of Jesus, put before us is in so many respects the very opposite of what our world believes. This should not discourage you; rather, you should welcome the challenge like the disciples did by staying close to the Lord who will give you strength and courage to proclaim the truth both in season and out of season,” said Archbishop Hartmayer.

He concluded his address with the following message to the graduates, “Our Lady will encourage you....and keep you close to her Divine Son. She is your Mother; she is our Mother. Stay close to her.”

Of the graduates, 11 seminarians will be ordained to the priesthood in the upcoming months, bringing the 10-year total of SVDP seminarians ordained to serve your parishes to 198 and over 660 since our opening. These new priests will be a sign of hope for the Church in fulfillment of the seminary’s ultimate mission to spread and share the joy of the Gospel with all.

Since our founding in 1963, we have been forming priests, permanent deacons, and laypersons for service to the Catholic Church. It is a privilege to be able to offer priestly formation for seminarians

from the seven dioceses of Florida as well as the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Dioceses of Beaumont, Charleston, Laz Cruces, Raleigh, Savannah, SyroMalabar (Diocese of St. Thomas in Chicago) and the Virgin Islands.

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St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary is located in Boynton Beach, FL and is an ATS-accredited school. It currently has a student population of over 118 seminarians. Since its foundation in 1963 it has formed over 650 priests who have gone on to serve in parishes across the state, the Southeast, and parts of the Caribbean.

St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary offers the following degrees: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts (Theological Studies), and Master of Arts (Philosophical Studies for Missionary Discipleship). SVDP is one of the only two bilingual seminaries in the US, with courses taught in English and Spanish.