



# The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri



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## From a Beautiful Beginning

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AS THE SEMINARIANS move into the newly constructed residence at Saint Philip's Seminary and as we prepare to begin teaching in the new classrooms, equipped with the technology we need for professional online instruction, all of us at the Oratory and the Seminary



are filled with a sense of relief and overwhelming gratitude.

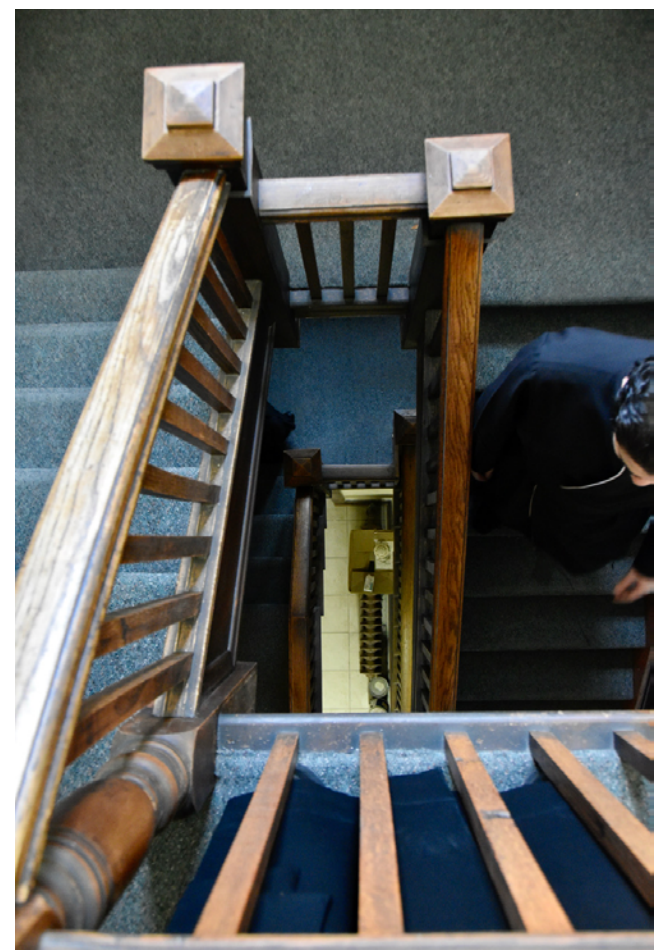
The relief is easy to explain. The process of planning and constructing a new seminary building has been a lengthy one; construction projects usually take longer than expected and involve complications, but few circumstances can match a world-wide pandemic for disruptive power! Those challenges, however, are now mainly behind us.

The gratitude is more complex. The support we have received from all over the world, from people like you – support that has made this project

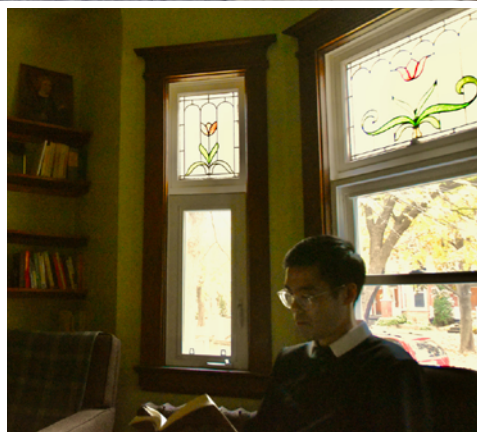
possible – is profoundly moving. We cannot look at the bricks on the walls or the tiles on the floor without realizing that these are all gifts, gifts to the Church through us, gifts to God through us. This building has been entrusted to us, to help us serve the Church as best we can, especially through the training of new priests throughout the world. This year we have the joy of having seminarians enrol for studies with us from four dioceses, an Eastern Rite Eparchy, four Oratories, and three different religious communities. The past two years have been exceptionally fruitful, with twenty-four of our students ordained to the priesthood around the world. This is an investment in the future of the Church in one of the most important ways possible, and it could not have been realized without your generosity.

Our new seminary building is connected with two older houses that are beautiful and filled with memories, for us and for the many seminarians who have lived and studied in them. They have become part of the history of Saint Philip's Seminary, a symbol of the work the Toronto Oratory has been doing for the formation of priests, a symbol that we want to maintain. These houses have served us well, but they are now in need of repair and renovation. The ground floors have been largely restored and remodelled as part of the present construction project, but the heating and cooling systems, the seminarian rooms, the flooring, the roof, and the bathrooms are in need of urgent attention. When all this is achieved, the entire Seminary complex will fulfill the government requirements concerning accessibility in schools – but, even more importantly, our buildings will have been modernized and be ready to serve the generations to come.

We ask you for your assistance in the final stage of the Oratory's Seminary project. Your support means so very much to us—and also to the young men sent to study with us. They are essential to the future of the Church, a future we have dedicated ourselves to fostering and educating. Please join with us in this endeavor. 🙏








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