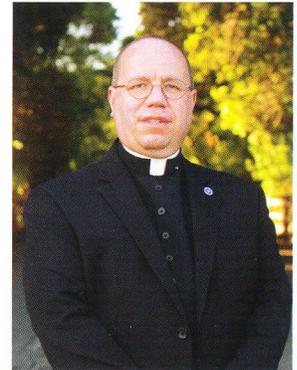


PRESIDENT-RECTOR

Rev. Gladstone H. Stevens, PSS

Rev. Gladstone H. Stevens, PSS, received his PhD in Systematic Theology from Marquette University. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Louisville in 2000 and has been with the Society of St. Sulpice since 2002. He taught Systematic Theology and Philosophy for six years and served as Vice Rector and France Merrick University Chair at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore MD. He served as Vice Rector and Academic Dean, Dean of Men and now as the President-Rector of St. Patrick's Seminary & University.



The theme of this edition of the Patrician is gratitude. The departure of the Sulpicians is certainly an occasion of great sadness and the circumstances that led to this decision have been painful. Be that as it may, it is not our wish to leave this school which we love in a spirit of bitterness and recrimination. One hundred and eighteen years of service can only be honored by being grateful.

What is gratitude? Is it a feeling or a disposition? I think it must go deeper than that. Sacred Scripture teaches us that everything was created simply as a free expression of God's infinite goodness. In addition, all things are sustained in being and are redeemed solely by reason of the boundless love of God. Thus, from a faith perspective, grace is the most fundamental fact of existence. It is only through grace that we live, move, and have our being. Because this is so, gratitude is the primary creaturely obligation. It is only in thanksgiving that we humans can express the primary truth of life.

I have been at St. Patrick for nine years serving in a variety of capacities. I have experienced many wonderful things but I have also had my share of frustration and sadness. What has been constant,

however, is the opportunity to minister and live out my priesthood. The students have been a constant joy and inspiration to me. I can honestly say these are the finest young men I have ever known. My collaboration with my faculty colleagues and the staff has been immensely rewarding. I have also been privileged to be a part of the Nativity, St. Denis, and Our Lady of the Wayside parishes, and the Poor Clares, Missionaries of Charity, and Sacred Heart communities. The Order of Malta was gracious enough to make me a chaplain. Many other parishes and dioceses have invited me to speak and lead retreats. What this time allowed me to do was share the Word of God and whenever one is given that chance, the only proper response is gratitude.

So, let me just say a "thank you" to all of you who have been a part of my life at St. Patrick's.

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