

# St. John Paul II Theological Seminary November Newsletter

Issue N. 3

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*In everything, give  
thanks. (1 Thes 5:18)*

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Dear friends,

As we enter this season of gratitude, we pause to reflect on the blessings, progress, and relationships that have shaped our journey this year. Thanksgiving invites us to recognize God as the Author of every good thing and appreciate the goodness around us. The St. John Paul II Seminary community is grateful for all that God has done for us at the beginning of this school year through the generosity of our benefactors. Below are some highlights of the first two months of this year of formation.

## Novena for our benefactors

The nine days leading to the feast of our Patron Saint, Pope Saint John Paul II, were days of prayer for the benefactors of our house of priestly formation. From October 13 through October 22, we offered the following prayer at the end every Mass: *Lord God, source of all perfect gifts, we bless You and praise You for who You are. We also thank You for all the benefactors, known and anonymous, of our seminary. The investment of their time, talents and treasure allows for the smooth functioning of our house of priestly formation. Their generosity reflects Your goodness and providence for us. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of St. John Paul II, our Patron Saint, we entrust all our benefactors to your divine mercy. Grant them your boundless grace. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ Your Son, who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.*



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*“Every good and perfect gift is from above.”  
(James 1:17)*

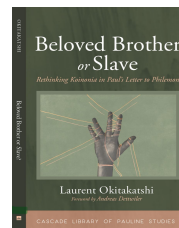
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## Thankful for the donations received from our American benefactors

Many friends of Father Laurent Okitakatshi, the President-Rector, gave generously towards the major projects underway this year at the Seminary: the renovation of our sanitation system, the renovation of our Chapel, the construction of a Marian Grotto, and the acquisition of Starlink for internet connection. We sincerely thank everyone who sent a donation to Woshasha for Congo on behalf of our house of formation. We encourage anyone who is still willing to contribute toward the same projects to please visit [www.woshasha.com](http://www.woshasha.com) or send their donation to Paul Heschmeyer, the president of the nonprofit, Woshasha for Congo. Please make the check payable to Woshasha for Congo with the memo: Fr. Laurent’s seminary, and mail it to Paul Heschmeyer at 1111 West Bannister Rd, Kansas City, MO 64114. Contacts: 816-726-3678; [phesch@gmail.com](mailto:phesch@gmail.com). All donations are tax deductible.



## The publication and presentation of Fr. Laurent’s new book



Fr. Laurent Okitakatshi presented to the Seminary community his newly published book entitled: *Beloved Brother or Slave? Rethinking Koinonia in Paul's Letter to Philemon*. He gave a conference during which he explained the content of his book, a revised version of his doctoral dissertation. The book is available for purchase on the publisher’s website (wipf&Stock) and on Amazon.



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*“Thanks be to God  
for His indescribable  
gift” (2 Cor 9:15)*

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## Grateful for 18 new seminarians and 2 additional priest formators

This year, our seminary received 18 new seminarians and 2 priests. Fr. Jules Ossombo is serving as Professor of Dogmatic Theology and Spiritual Director, and Fr. Pascal Tshombokongo teaches Liturgy, in addition to his responsibilities as the Academic Dean. The total of seminarians for this year is 73, representing 9 different dioceses.





## The Ordination of five Deacons and two priests

In the diocese of Kole, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, five seminarians were ordained deacons and two deacons were ordained priests. These new deacons and priests are graduates from our seminary (classes of 2024 and 2025).



*Happy Thanksgiving to all our American friends and benefactors! May God continue to shower you and your loved ones with His choicest blessings. We continue to pray for you here at the Seminary and humbly ask that you pray for us as well!*