

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

St. Louis, Missouri

Statement of Institutional Purpose

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, legally titled the St. Louis Roman Catholic Theological Seminary, is a not-for-profit corporation operated by the Archdiocese of St. Louis under the laws of the State of Missouri. It comprises **Kenrick School of Theology**, a four-year graduate and professional program that prepares men for ordination to the Roman Catholic priesthood, and **Cardinal Glennon College**, a four-year undergraduate program that prepares men for ordination studies at Kenrick or elsewhere. Founded in 1893, the seminary today continues a rich heritage of philosophical, theological, and priestly pastoral service, attentive to the needs of its constituencies, while cognizant of the challenges of contemporary evangelization.

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary is an accredited member of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) in the United States and Canada. Its Kenrick programs have been authorized by both agencies since 1973. Its Glennon program has been authorized by HLC since July 2008. (Note that ATS authorizes only graduate and post-graduate programs.)

Cardinal Glennon College operates a collaborative-model undergraduate formation program conjointly with the College of Philosophy and Letters of Saint Louis University. Seminary students complete two years of general education requirements at the University, and two years of philosophy and theology requirements at the seminary campus, culminating in the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy.

Cardinal Glennon College Mission Statement

Cardinal Glennon College is an undergraduate community of faith, formation, and learning that fosters in its students an integrated Christian maturity in four dimensions---human, spiritual, intellectual, and apostolic---and assists its students in their discernment of God's presence and call in their lives, especially the call to the priesthood of Jesus Christ.

The seminary experience is conceived on the whole as a continuation of the apostolic community gathered around Jesus, listening to his word, proceeding toward the Easter experience, awaiting the gift of the Spirit for the mission (see PPF 5th ed., n.7, quoting *Pastores Dabo Vobis*). More particularly, it is a cooperation with the grace of the Holy Spirit, by which seminary students make themselves available to the God who dwells in them and who transforms them into the very image of Jesus Christ the eternal High Priest (see PPF 5th ed., n. 68). Such a cooperation with grace entails above all that students take responsibility for their own formation and hold themselves accountable to one another, to the seminary, and to the Church.

Realization of Mission

The operation of the undergraduate program at Cardinal Glennon College entails the following elements:

- a competent and dedicated administration, faculty, and staff;
- a diversified student body recruited from a variety of constituencies;
- a structured environment of prayer, community life, and personal development;
- a graduated set of experiences in various apostolates;
- an integrated curriculum in the liberal arts, in philosophy, and in theology;
- a suitable library and information resources program;
- a state-of-the-art instructional technology program, with appropriate training;
- a set of faculty and student support services;
- a system of regular outcomes assessment, evaluation, and program revision;
- an effective and consultative system of governance, including a Board of Directors and a Board of Trustees;
- a continuously updated strategic plan;
- a commitment to institutional integrity at all levels of operations;
- a sound financial basis;
- a safe, comfortable, and attractive campus and plant;
- an ongoing collaboration with the other theological and educational agencies of the St. Louis area, especially with the College of Philosophy and Letters of Saint Louis University.

History of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary

I. Seminary Beginnings

Kenrick-Glennon Seminary traces its remote beginnings to the arrival of members of the Roman Province of the Congregation of the Mission, the Vincentians, in Perryville, Missouri, in 1818. In establishing Saint Mary's of the Barrens Seminary there, the Congregation of the Mission founded the first seminary west of the Mississippi River. The Vincentians had come at the request of Bishop Louis William Valentine DuBourg, Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas, which covered all of the sparsely settled territory of the recent Louisiana Purchase, as well as that of Florida and the eastern coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

In 1826, Pope Leo XII divided the enormous territory of the Diocese of Louisiana and the Floridas to establish two new dioceses, the Diocese of St. Louis and the Diocese of New Orleans. Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M., was appointed as Administrator of the two newly erected dioceses, and then the following year became first bishop of the Diocese of St. Louis, remaining for several additional years the administrator of New Orleans. The seminary students of the new Diocese of St. Louis shared the Vincentian facilities at Perryville until 1842. Its minor seminary students remained until 1858.

In 1842, the diocesan Major Seminary acquired an identity of its own. Bishop Rosati's successor, Bishop Peter Richard Kenrick (who became Archbishop Kenrick when St. Louis was elevated to an Archdiocese in 1847) transferred his students to St. Louis. He entrusted them to a Vincentian house on Carroll Street, in the Soulard area of south St. Louis. The Vincentian house was opened in a group of temporary buildings later called Bishop's Row. A year and a half later, in response to deep privations at the site, Bishop Kenrick relocated the tiny Seminary one block away, in the Vincentian-owned Soulard Mansion on Decatur Street. This building, which stood next to the new Saint Vincent Church, served as the third home of the Diocesan Seminary, until 1848. In that same year Archbishop Kenrick opened a seminary in Carondelet, a village south of Saint Louis, later annexed to the city. The Carondelet Seminary, located approximately two blocks northwest of the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Saint Joseph, was administered by four rectors of the Archdiocesan clergy until 1857. At that time, the Vincentian Community resumed their previous role of direction, now at the new site.

In the fall of 1858, the Second Provincial Council of Saint Louis made a new determination for the seminary. By way of experiment, another Vincentian institute, St. Vincent's College, in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, was to serve as a regional seminary. The entire Archdiocesan Seminary thus transferred to Cape Girardeau, the Major seminary moving from Carondelet, the Minor Seminary from Perryville. The dream of a regional seminary, however, was not to prosper as the hostilities of the Civil War ensued.

Although no major battles of that war took place near Cape Girardeau, there were enough military maneuvers to cause concern. Enrollment dropped, and Archbishop Kenrick began to send students to other locations, in addition to Cape Girardeau: Saint Francis Seminary, in Milwaukee; Saint Mary's Seminary, in Baltimore; and the North American College, in Rome.

II. Kenrick Seminary, founded in 1893

On September 21, 1893, Archbishop John J. Kain, Coadjutor Archbishop of St. Louis who succeeded Archbishop Kenrick, presided at the re-opening of the philosophy and theology departments of the Archdiocesan Seminary in St. Louis. The new Seminary, located in a former convent of the Visitation Nuns, at 19th Street and Cass Avenue in Saint Louis, was the first site to bear the name Kenrick Seminary. The Seminary was once again entrusted to the direction of the Vincentian Community. In September 1900, Archbishop Kain also re-established the Minor Seminary, Kenrick Preparatory Seminary, and located it at the Cass Avenue Building.

In 1915, as the Cass Avenue facilities proved inadequate, Archbishop Kain's successor, Archbishop John J. Glennon (created a Cardinal in 1946) opened the second Kenrick Seminary, located on Kenrick Road in an unincorporated area of St. Louis County known at the time as Glennon Park. Archbishop Glennon formally dedicated the new Kenrick on April 27, 1916. The building housed both the philosophy and theology departments.

As the second Kenrick Seminary building opened, the Minor Seminary moved to a new location at 4244 Washington Avenue. In 1927, a tornado did extensive damage at this location. While plans were made for a new structure at a new site, the Minor seminary found temporary housing at St. Bridget's parish, on Jefferson Avenue and Stoddard Street.

In 1931, the first Saint Louis Preparatory Seminary, the present Kenrick-Glennon Seminary building, opened on the same spacious grounds as the second Kenrick Seminary. This facility housed the last two years of high school and four full years of college. The first two years of high school were reinstated at the refurbished Washington Avenue location, known as the Cathedral Latin School. The Seminary was conducted by members of the Archdiocesan clergy.

In 1947, Cardinal Glennon's successor, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter (who was created a Cardinal in 1961), closed the Latin School, and established six-year programs in the two Archdiocesan Seminaries. The Prep thus comprised four years of high school and two years of college, while Kenrick comprised two years of college and four years of theology.

In 1957, Archbishop Ritter opened a new facility for the high school at 5200 Shrewsbury Avenue, on the same spacious grounds as Kenrick and the old Prep. Simultaneously, he effected a division of the Archdiocesan seminary system into three separate institutions. The new Prep was a four-year high school. The old Prep became a four-year college, known as Cardinal Glennon College. Kenrick Seminary continued as a four-year theologate. Cardinal Glennon College received full accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1961.

The late 1950's and the early 1960's were boom years for vocational recruitment. By 1964, better than five hundred students crowded the small Prep high school facility in Shrewsbury. In response, in 1965, Cardinal Ritter created yet another Archdiocesan high school seminary, in north Saint Louis County.

Saint Louis Preparatory Seminary North (its counterpart in Shrewsbury was subsequently called Prep South) was administered by members of the Archdiocesan clergy. It held its first classes in the basement

of the old Sacred Heart School building on North Jefferson Street in Florissant. Prep North, unlike its counterpart, Prep South, accepted non-seminary students, who formed a major part of its student body.

In 1966, as part of the reform of seminaries mandated by the Second Vatican Council, Cardinal Ritter authorized Kenrick Seminary to enter an experimental arrangement with the Saint Louis University Divinity School. Kenrick students, having first finished two years of study at the Seminary, and still retaining residence there, were to take classes and earn degrees at the Divinity School. The arrangement, however, for a variety of reasons, proved unsatisfactory. In 1970, under Cardinal Ritter's successor, John Joseph Cardinal Carberry, it was discontinued. In 1973, a reconstituted freestanding Kenrick Seminary received full accreditation, both from the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The year 1980 saw the sale of two extensive, mostly-wooded portions of the three-seminary campus to the Cardinal Ritter Institute and to private developers. As a result, the former seminary property is today the site of an Archdiocesan nursing facility and two apartment complexes for the elderly, as well as the site of numerous private homes, apartments, condominiums, and a small shopping plaza.

III. Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, consolidated in 1987

In September 1986, Cardinal Carberry's successor, Archbishop John L. May, after wide consultation, made the determination to consolidate the seminary system of the Archdiocese. In the spring of 1987, Kenrick Seminary moved from its location on Kenrick Road to the Cardinal Glennon College building on Glennon Drive to become the present Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. In the process, Kenrick retained its status as a freestanding school of theology. In 1987 Cardinal Glennon College closed its freestanding undergraduate program and established a collaborative-model program in conjunction with the College of Philosophy and Letters at Saint Louis University. College and pre-theology seminary students attended Saint Louis University for classes but resided at the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary campus, where they received their formation.

As part of the same consolidation of the Archdiocesan system, Saint Louis Preparatory Seminary North was closed in the spring of 1987. The two high school seminaries were amalgamated that fall at the facility in Shrewsbury, known once again simply as the Saint Louis Preparatory Seminary. Even this measure, however, could not stop the spiral of mounting costs and decreasing enrollment. In January 1991, Archbishop May reluctantly announced the closing of the high school seminary to take place that May.

After extensive renovation of the Kenrick-Glennon Seminary building, the New Start (as Archbishop May called the entire program of consolidation) was in place by September 1, 1987. A Board of Trustees for Kenrick-Glennon Seminary began formal operation on October 11, 1988.

In the spring of 1995, Archbishop Justin Rigali (appointed Archbishop of Philadelphia and created a Cardinal in 2003) announced that after 177 years of collaboration between the Vincentian Community and the Archdiocese in administering the Seminary, the Archdiocese would henceforth assume full responsibility. The Vincentian Community for its part indicated that it would continue to make personnel available for certain positions in the Seminary faculty.

In January, 2004, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke was installed as Archbishop of St. Louis and soon thereafter met with Seminary administrators to begin discussion about returning the philosophy program to the Seminary to benefit college and pre-theology seminarians. The proposal to have the undergraduate and graduate programs under the same institution of accreditation was wholeheartedly received by Archbishop Burke, who requested a serious inquiry into its feasibility. In 2005 meetings were held with Seminary administrators and officials of Saint Louis University to determine how best to facilitate a new collaboration. The proposal was made to operate a collaborative-model undergraduate formation program conjointly with the College of Philosophy and Letters of Saint Louis University. Seminary students would complete two years of general education requirements at the University and two years of philosophy and all theology requirements at the Seminary. The first two years of intellectual formation would focus upon the general classes of a liberal arts education as outlined in the *Program for Priestly Formation*. The final two years would focus upon the study of philosophy, culminating in the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy awarded by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

On December 14, 2005, a special meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to discuss the new proposal. With the approval of Archbishop Burke and the Board of Trustees, the Administrators of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary were authorized to present a formal proposal to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Extensive time and effort was given to create the goals and objectives of the new program of study, including the hiring of philosophy faculty. On July 3, 2008, the Higher Learning Commission authorized Kenrick-Glennon Seminary to extend accreditation to include the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. College and pre-theology seminarians who successfully completed their studies in May, 2009, were the first class to be awarded the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from Cardinal Glennon College of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis, the Board of Trustees, and the Seminary administration, faculty and staff remain fully committed to the mission of Kenrick-Glennon Seminary to provide men with a community of faith, formation and learning for discernment and formation for the priesthood of Jesus Christ.