

CHS Lecture • Bishop William Waltersheid

“Seminary Formation *Sub Umbra Petri*: A Historical Reflection on the Pontifical North American College”

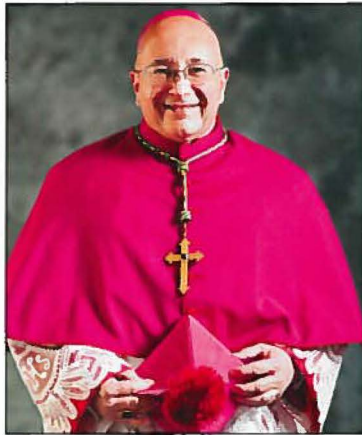
Sunday, October 26, 2 p.m.

O’Connor Hall at St. Paul Seminary in Crafton

Since the foundation of the Pontifical North American College in Rome during the reign of Blessed Pius IX, men from the United States have had the great privilege of being prepared for the priesthood in the very shadow of Peter (*sub umbra Petri*). Studying for the priesthood in Rome is not just a question of geography. Rather, it speaks of the reality of a spiritual, theological, historical, cultural and ecclesiological centeredness that praying, studying, and living so close to the Vicar of Christ on earth provides. Bishop Waltersheid will offer a historical reflection on the vitality of the program of the American seminary in Rome, its far-reaching effects on the life of the Church in the United States, and its importance for the future.

Most Reverend William John Waltersheid, Biography

Most Reverend William John Waltersheid was born on November 18, 1956 in Ashland, Pennsylvania, the son of the late William F. and Margaret M. (Deane) Waltersheid. He was baptized in St. Joseph Church in Locust



Pittsburgh Auxiliary Bishop William J. Waltersheid. Courtesy: Bishop Waltersheid.

Gap where he spent his childhood and early adult years. An only child, he lived with his parents and maternal grandfather. He was educated in the Mount Carmel Area School System and was given religious instruction by the Sisters of St. Felix of Cantalice (Felician Sisters) of Holy Spirit School in Mount Carmel. After having graduated high school in 1974, he worked in the health care field. He was graduated from the Pottsville Hospital School of Nursing in 1983. Bishop Waltersheid was very active in his home parish of St. Joseph in Locust Gap and taught CCD in neighboring parishes as an adult.

In 1985 he was accepted as a candidate for the seminary formation program of the Diocese of Harrisburg. He studied at St. John Seminary College in Brighton, Massachusetts and received a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Arts with a concentration in philosophy and classical languages. In 1988 Bishop Waltersheid was sent by the Most Reverend William H. Keeler to the Pontifical North American College in Rome for continued formation for the priesthood. He received a Bachelor’s Degree in Theology in 1991 from the Pontifical Gregorian University and a Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology from that same university in 1993. He was ordained a deacon in Rome on April 30, 1992 by His Eminence Pio Cardinal Laghi and a priest in Harrisburg on July 11, 1992 by the Most Reverend Nicholas C. Dattilo. He remained in Rome for further studies until 1995 when he returned to the Diocese of Harrisburg and was assigned as parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Parish in Steelton. In 1999 Father Waltersheid returned to Rome and served on the faculty of the Pontifical North American College until 2003. He served for one year as Director of Apostolic Works and then for three years as Vice Rector of the seminary. In June of 2003 he was appointed Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Carlisle. In June of 2006 he was appointed Diocesan Secretary for Clergy and Consecrated Life by the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades. On February 25, 2011 it was announced that His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Titular Bishop of California. He was consecrated on April 25, 2011.