The Journey of Lent

The journey of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends, not with the cross on Good Friday, but rather with the empty tomb on Easter morning. The joy of Christ’s resurrection is ultimately our final destination. But just as we are unable to transport ourselves automatically from one place to another, we cannot arrive at Easter without having first travelled the road of Lent. Our cooperation with God’s transformative grace along the way through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (acts of charity toward others) molds and fashions us so that our lives may be ever more conformed to the will of God.

Not all journeys are care-free vacations. Many are arduous and long, filled with obstacles, detours, delays, and unexpected turns in the road. Similarly, our Lenten journeys are not always smooth sailing. We struggle with weakness and temptation, a lack of will or loss of focus, which may potentially derail our efforts at faithful discipleship. During those times of trial, it is important that we remain on the path of conversion, keeping our hearts and minds fixed on the final destination, lest we lose sight of the goal or get discouraged and disheartened by the struggles we encounter en route. Entering fully into the season of Lent means committing (and recommitting) ourselves to the task of picking up our cross and following Christ to Calvary, filled with hope by the promise of a share in His resurrection.

We do not travel the Lenten road alone. Our brothers and sisters in Christ join us as fellow travelers on the pilgrimage of this season and of life. We welcome others as well on the journey, most especially those who might otherwise live without hope. Pope Francis, calls us to “bear witness to all those who

What’s New...

Based on a comparison of data covering the past five academic years, the School of Divinity has experienced an increase of 9 percent for student headcount and 20 percent in total graduate credits. Beginning with summer term intensive study, we welcomed Sister Mary Judith to begin work on a Master of Arts in Theology. She came to us from the Dominican Sisters in Ann Arbor, Mich. Megan Crain and Sarah DeCock with the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus will be spending summers here working toward Master of Arts in Religious Education degrees. Susanna Bolle and Mitch Mueller opted for an early start to their fall admissions to the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and Theology degrees, respectively. At our opening events of the academic year in September we were blessed to welcome two students into the Master of Arts in Theology program, Mitchell Mason and Claudia Roman-Jimenez, who many of you know as Gracie. Annie Kopacek and Michael Gross began degree program studies in the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program, and Matt Kruc joined the Master of Arts in Religious Education program. To add to those growing numbers, two students began their degree programs this spring; Whitney Anderson, Master of Arts in Theology, and Edward Burke in Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry.
**John Ireland Scholarship**

*Fides quaerens intellectum - faith seeking understanding*

Over the past five years, The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity has granted 14 full-tuition scholarships to graduating seniors from the University of St. Thomas through the John Ireland Scholarship Fund. We are pleased to announce that this opportunity will be extended to recent UST alumni for the 2014-2015 academic year. Eligible students include those who graduated in 2012 and 2013, in addition to those who will be graduating in 2014. Up to three full-tuition scholarships are granted annually. The deadline for consideration for this scholarship is April 15.

For more information about the John Ireland Scholarship, please contact:

Admissions Counselor Amy Burback:
(651) 962-5069 or amy.burback@stthomas.edu

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...live in material, moral, and spiritual destitution,” to reach out not only to those who lack basic human rights and needs, but also to those who no longer see meaning in life or who have turned away from God. Their lives are truly a Lent without Easter unless we lovingly share with them the Lord's message of mercy and hope; unless we invite them to travel with us on the path to Christ’s empty tomb.

Dr. Kenneth D. Snyder was recently named the Associate Dean of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and teaches “American Church History” (DVHS 605), an elective option in the M.A.T. and M.A.P.M. degree programs at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

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**The Evolving Theology of Creation**

On June 18-20, The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity will be sponsoring a conference on “The Evolving Theology of Creation,” another in a series of events which have focused upon the theological and philosophical foundations of the original vocation given to humanity: to till and to keep the earth (Genesis 2:15). “Past conferences on this theme have had a decidedly Thomistic emphasis,” Thompson noted. “This time the focus is more broadly historical, with special attention given to the early church.”

Father David Meconi, SJ, (Saint Louis University) will serve as the conference host and will also serve as the editor of the volume of essays which will emerge from the gathering. In addition, Robert Wilken will deliver one of the keynote addresses and Matthew Levering, Steven Long, and Joseph Tetlow, SJ will be among the presenters as well.

The conference builds upon the notion that while the questions surrounding the care of creation have taken on a special significance in contemporary culture, Catholic theological tradition has been somewhat late in participating in the conversations. “This year marks the 50th anniversary of The Wilderness Act,” Thompson said. “It is a landmark piece of legislation that helped establish one of our greatest cultural legacies.” As Americans, he noted, our commitment to wilderness preservation is a distinct cultural value. “But, as Catholics,” he continued, “the moment seems to be passing without any notice.” It was one of the reasons he decided to host the conversation at this time, he said. “The new evangelization calls for a renewed effort to bring the message of Christ to the culture,” Thompson recalled, “the many questions of the environment and our role within creation are just the right occasion for a new encounter with our ancient creed.”

The conference seeks to foster a deeper reflection upon what Benedict XVI often referred to as “the grammar of creation.” The event represents the third occasion at which scholars from around the world have reflected upon the importance of the theology of creation in the Church. A new Center for Theological Formation has been formed under the direction of Thompson, and will help serve to advance the mission of the school and its various institutes. The SPSSOD has been placed in a great position, Thompson noted, due to the leadership of Monsignor Aloysius Callaghan, Rector of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

PHOTO BY FATHER LAWRENCE LEW, O.P.
Preparing The Laity for Service to the Church and the World

As an undergraduate student Gina Bugliosi had the opportunity to study in Greece and Turkey with Dr. John Martens, associate professor of theology and director of MAT, and Dr. Paul Gavrilyuk, Aquinas Chair in Theology and Philosophy. Their coursework followed in the footsteps of the Apostle Paul. She returned from that experience knowing she wanted to pursue a career in theology. “Right away, my professors in the Theology Department encouraged me to consider The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity after graduation,” Gina recalls. “I thought I would take a break from school before graduate school, but then I learned about the Ireland Scholarship.”

“Gina was an ideal fit for this scholarship, making it possible for her to start her graduate work in theology in spring 2013,” Dean Thompson said. Prior to starting her coursework, Bugliosi participated as an intern at the Holy See Mission to the United Nations during the 67th session of the General Assembly. Through this experience, she could see her new dream come into focus: “It was great to see that what I had learned about Catholic social teaching in my theology classes, and what I was about to learn in graduate school, can be applied even at the global, political level.”

Today, she is focusing on as many classes as she can take, with the goal of finishing her degree in two-and-a-half years. Upon completion, she hopes to teach and perhaps pursue doctoral studies someday.

When asked why she chose The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, her answers were clear: “The School of Divinity offers the most comprehensive education of theology and Church teaching that I know of. It is important to me to have a solid foundation in the Catholic theological tradition. It is why I chose the program.”

What’s Next...

John Ireland Scholarship Application Deadline
April 15

Easter Banquet
April 23
RSVP required

Day of Recollection
May 10
“The Lay Minister and the New Evangelization”
Father Peter Williams

Cor Jesu
May 2, 8 p.m.
Adoration, Confession, Worship
St. Mary’s Chapel

Family Mass and Brunch
May 18, 10 a.m. Mass

Graduation
Saturday, May 24, 10 a.m.
Minneapolis Convention Center
God Calls ... We Respond

We want to hear from you!
Amy Burback / Graduate Admissions Counselor / amy.burback@stthomas.edu
(651) 962-5069 / www.stthomas.edu/spssod/called