STRONG ENROLLMENT OFFERS
WITNESS TO HOPE
My dear friends,

This year, the seminary community has chosen “Loving the Church” as our theme and focus.

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn preached the spiritual exercises for the Roman Curia and John Paul II in February of 1996 and that was the topic he chose for his points for reflection. He used as a basis or text for reflection the Catechism of the Catholic Church. And it is significant that the beloved Roman Pontiff, John Paul II, in “Pastores Dabo Vobis” recommended the study of the catechism to all seminarians so that they could acquire a global view of the doctrine of the faith.

The catechism helps our men grow stronger in the faith as men receptive to listen to our Mother, the Church: “As a mother who teaches her children to speak and so to understand and communicate, the Church our Mother teaches us the language of faith in order to introduce us to the understanding and life of faith.” (CCC 171)

Seminarians aspire to a sacred office – the office of priesthood. The charge, the duty, the role of this office is to preach, teach, and sanctify, acting in the person of Jesus Christ Himself. God calls men to service, priestly service. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI: “It is the audacity of God who entrusts Himself to human beings – who, conscious of our weaknesses, nonetheless considers man capable of acting and being present in his stead. This audacity of God is the true grandeur concealed in the word ‘priesthood.’”

And so as Cardinal Schönborn described it, men are now called to find the “place” to which our Lord is inviting them – the place where they will find “His rest.” For what is the Church if not living “communion with Jesus Christ”? The seminary is a community of life and love which will form men, mold them, and give them a heart after the heart of the Shepherd. All this happens so beautifully, so intimately here in the seminary, in the heart of our local Church. Here men live and experience what it truly means to be Church. Here they learn to love the Church!

A seminary, however, is more than a place, it is a significant time in the life of a follower of Jesus. Each moment of seminary life can be a loving experience of the presence of our Blessed Mother who introduces everyone to an encounter with Her Son Jesus in the silence of meditation, prayer, and fraternity. It is a true experience of Church. Our Lord and Savior Jesus, after calling those first apostles and before sending them out to preach, asked that they stay with Him. Time in the seminary is the actualization of that moment!

This year at The Saint Paul Seminary as we focus on the Church, as we learn to love this communion with the Lord, we will find ways to ponder deeply the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit that we have received, that He has breathed on His Church, that make us become incredible instruments of beauty, goodness, and truth.

And so we must open our hearts and lift them up! “sursum corda!”:
- to the Lord
- to the task of being Church
- to the call to love, joy, and cheerfulness in all we do.

As we begin again we look to Our Mother, Our Confidence, and we ask Her help to love the Church with the heart of a shepherd.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President
A particularly stirring passage of Luke (2:36-38) speaks of Anna, a prophetess in her advanced years, who is simply content to remain in the Temple of the Lord, praising and worshipping Him. Leroy Mulcahey, a faithful employee of The Saint Paul Seminary retiring after 43 years of service, has been content in much the same way.

One of eight children, Leroy grew up on a dairy farm in Janesville, Minn. (near Waseca), commencing his life of dedicated work and simple pleasures. He began doing dishes at The Saint Paul Seminary in 1967, later doing maintenance around campus. As necessary as the work of Mulcahey’s hands has been, the work of his heart really makes him an asset to the seminary community. He has an instinct and ability to keep his finger on the pulse of people, just through simple observation. An astute listener, he is somewhat of a litmus test for projecting pastoral effectiveness. Fr. Tom Margevičius, a close friend, repeated a comment heard years ago that still holds true: “You can tell if a seminarian will be a good priest if Leroy likes him.”

Mulcahey’s mild manner and characteristic smile have endeared him to generations of students and faculty. He has contributed to the Church as both a faithful member and a positive influence on hundreds of Catholic priests who went through formation at The Saint Paul Seminary. “On his days off, he’ll come in just to visit the staff, or even though he’s not required to, he’ll show up at prayer events or a Friday evening karaoke party,” Margevičius explained. “He enjoys his time here and we enjoy having him.”

Though retiring from his work duties, Mulcahey remains a beloved and appreciated member of the seminary community.

“Leroy has been a witness to work as service to others,” said Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan in his remarks at Mulcahey’s retirement dinner. “For Leroy his work was more than a job; it was an apostolate.”

Sr. Germaine Mulcahey, Leroy Mulcahey and Delores Mulcahey enjoyed time together during the retirement celebration on Sept. 27.
SEMINARIANS OFFER VOCATION STORIES AT SERRA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Arthur Roraff, Pre-Theology II, spent his summer in his home diocese, the Archdiocese of Anchorage. For his final days there, he invited two seminarians from the lower 48 to join him for the Serra International Convention in Anchorage. In addition to supporting the convention, the seminarians shared their discernment stories with conference participants during a panel discussion.

Roraff is one of three seminarians in Alaska. Patrick Brosamer, also from the Archdiocese of Anchorage and a former student at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, joined T.J. McKenzie, Pre-Theology II, and James Peterson, Theology II, on the panel. “It was refreshing for us to see so many people excited about seminarians,” commented Roraff. Explaining that Alaska has three dioceses and about 60,000 Catholics, he noted that the convention was an “eye opening experience to Alaskans to see that so many people are excited about cultivating vocations. Hopefully it is a flicker that starts a fire in Alaska about encouraging men to consider priesthood.”

DEACON NAJARIAN JOINS FORMATION FACULTY

This fall, Deacon Stephen Najarian, M.D., was appointed associate director of pastoral formation. In this role he will spearhead and direct the Pastoral Formation Department which comprises a number of programs including the teaching parish program, a practicum of ministry to the sick, and the formation component of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program.

Deacon Najarian comes to this position with significant professional experience as a medical doctor; with rich pastoral experience in his diaconal service at The Church of Saint Charles Borromeo, Saint Anthony, Minn., and in the diaconate formation program for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisc.; and with life and familial experience as a husband and father.
RENOVATIONS REFLECT BRIGHT OUTLOOK

Stewardship, both of the Good News with which we have been entrusted and the resources given to us to prepare priests to proclaim it, is an important value held by the seminary community. This past summer, under the direction of project manager Lon Berg, several budgeted renovation projects were efficiently completed in order to welcome students back to campus this fall. More complex projects involved the power washing and tuckpointing of the chapel, administration building, and residence building exteriors. Smaller changes included indoor replacements of paint, carpet, and lighting.

These renovations, the first major repair tasks since the residence and administration buildings’ construction in 1988, were needed to maintain and preserve the structures, as well as to make a warmer environment for those who live and work here. In coming years, continued upgrades are projected for the courtyard, St. Olaf Room, and rooftops to continue the preservation process.

Fr. Christopher Beaudet, vice rector for administration, sees the recent work as a statement of stewardship and hope to the community: “These improvements send a clear message that the future is bright. We intend on being here for quite awhile.”
It's been 30 years since The Saint Paul Seminary experienced the enrollment it has this fall. Seminarians now number 92, 33 of whom for the first time settled into their surroundings in the shadow of the statue of St. Paul.

"It’s wonderful because it shows life and vitality and that’s what our Church especially needs to grow," Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan told a KARE 11 TV reporter, one of the many media outlets to cover the enrollment story. "The whole world and our local Church have been praying for more priests."

**DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, SHARED CALL**

When people ask “who are these men who are entering seminary?” the answer is at the same time complex and simple. One sentence cannot sum them up; they vary in age, education, race and experience, but they most certainly have one thing in common: a call from God to serve His people.

“Our new class of men come, literally, from all over the world,” said Fr. Robert Pish, vice rector for student affairs and chair of the admissions committee. The men are sponsored by eight dioceses in the U.S., as well as from the Archdiocese of Kampala in Uganda and the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. In addition to deepening and expanding relationships with U.S. dioceses, “our commitment to educating international seminarians continues and contributes to our growing student population,” remarked Fr. Pish.

The new men range in age from 22 to 58, with an average age of 28. Four are converts to the Catholic Church. Eighteen of the men enter having completed the required philosophical studies while other come with degrees in a wide range of areas including business, law, TV production, economics and criminology.
THE JOURNEY TOWARD ANSWERING THE CALL

God calls men in His time and place. Three of the new seminarians share the experience of God’s call at an early age. Where they part ways is how and when they answered.

Joseph Kirembwe, Theology I, grew up in Uganda, the youngest of eight children. From childhood, he desired to become a priest. “I admired priests so I served as an altar boy,” recalled Kirembwe, 33. “I wanted to go to minor seminary but we could not afford it.” Instead, he attended a teaching program and became a math and science teacher.

After teaching for three years, Kirembwe’s prayers were answered when he was admitted to major seminary in 2005. Upon completion of his philosophy studies and a required pastoral year, his vocations director asked him to prepare the application for admission to The Saint Paul Seminary. “Thank God I was admitted to study here,” said Kirembwe. “I am so grateful for the scholarship to do my theological studies in the U.S.”

“I decided to be a priest when I was a kid but then got off on other things,” said Melvin Kuhn, Theology I. Kuhn grew up on a dairy farm in Illinois and graduated from University of Illinois with a degree in dairy science. He worked for a poultry company in Iowa and, later, the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Maryland. All the while his desire to deepen his knowledge of the Catholic faith grew. He began reading books on various aspects of Catholic thought and when he moved to Maryland, the bookstore at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. became his favorite destination in the city.

As his intellectual commitment to the faith deepened, Kuhn’s spiritual life was enriched. Daily Mass, the rosary and holy hour led him to acknowledge that “Okay, it’s time to go. I know that this is what I’m supposed to do.” At the age of 43, Kuhn entered Holy Apostles Seminary in Connecticut to complete his pre-theology work.

Melvin Kuhn (second from right in back row) stood with his brother seminarians before Msgr. Callaghan during the admission to candidacy rites.
Kuhn, 45, is sponsored by the Diocese of Sioux Falls and sees God’s wisdom in the interesting path he took toward answering the call to priesthood. While he sometimes wonders what it would have been like to enter seminary earlier in life, Kuhn summed up his thoughts in this way: “God writes straight on crooked lines.”

One of the youngest new seminarians from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Marcus Milless, 22, studied at St. John Vianney College Seminary before entering The Saint Paul Seminary. Although he had thought about priesthood from a young age, his desire for priestly service grew after working with kids with physical and mental disabilities during his high school years.

“My older brother Mitch also had an influence on my decision to enter seminary,” said Milless, Theology I. "His brother had been in seminary for a few years and would bring his seminarian friends to the Milless home for dinner. I would tease them that we killed the fattened calf whenever Mitch came for dinner. I teased because I wanted to lead the type of life they were living as seminarians, a life radically surrendered to Jesus Christ," reflected Milless. "I knew that God was also calling me to priesthood but I had not yet answered ‘yes’."

In his final year of college seminary, Milless was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma. "This affirmed in me even more that God was calling me to give my life in service of Him," said Milless, who is now in remission from the disease.

A WITNESS TO HOPE
When enrollment increases, the natural response is to ask “why?”

“A number of factors contribute to the joyful situation we’re in – our house is full” remarked Fr. Pish. Across the country, more men are answering God’s call to the priesthood. Specific to The Saint Paul Seminary, though, is the “robust program of formation that bishops desire for their future priests.” Fr. Pish noted that the teaching parish program and study abroad opportunities in Venezuela, Jerusalem and Rome are among the best in the country. “We are blessed to have the support necessary to offer this breadth of formation opportunities.”

Many people beyond the seminary campus took note of the strong enrollment, including radio and TV stations in the Upper Midwest. Newspapers throughout the country carried the story. One reporter commented, “When a positive story emerges during this time of bad news, we are excited to cover it.”
Msgr. Callaghan pointed out in the KARE 11 TV story how these seminarians offer a witness of hope for the future of our Church and society. "At a time when both in our country and in the world there’s a certain unsettled... how would you say difficulty or turbulence that’s gnawing at the very heart of what society is. Here are men that really want to tell them what’s really at the heart of this society."

New seminarian John Wehrly, Pre-Theology II, was featured in a Star Tribune story about the experience of entering the seminary.

Photo credit - Star Tribune/Minneapolis-St.Paul 2010

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SEMINARIANS: WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?
92 seminarians from 16 dioceses and 1 institute of consecrated life

- St. Paul and Minneapolis: 40
- Sioux Falls: 11
- Saint Cloud: 8
- Rockford: 7
- Duluth: 5
- Des Moines: 4
- Navrongo-Bolgatanga, Ghana: 4
- Kampala, Uganda: 2
- Pro Ecclesia Sancta, Peru: 2
- Rapid City: 2
- Anchorage: 1
- Crookston: 1
- Davenport: 1
- La Crosse: 1
- Memphis: 1
- New Ulm: 1
- St. Thomas Virgin Islands: 1

Msgr. Callaghan and the 33 new seminarians.
Good news continues in the lay formation programs offered by The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. Fall semester began with 62 lay and religious students enrolled in three graduate theology programs: MA in theology; MA in pastoral ministry; and MA in religious education.

In addition, the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute, now in its third year, has experienced strong growth in participation. Following graduation of its first class of 126 last May, 236 people began or continued their studies in this two-year program on Sept. 13.

Some of the 18 new lay students gathered for a photo before Mass opening the school year. From left: Brandon Wanless, Erin Perlmutter, Nicole Bettini, Brantly Millegan, Jen Smeby, Daniel P. Sullivan, Natalie Senko, David Haggard and Callie Knudslien

Students attended Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel to mark the beginning of the catechetical institute’s program year.
ARCHBISHOP NIENSTEDT PRESIDES AT OPENING MASS

The seminary’s long-standing tradition of Gaudeamus opening Mass and banquet marked the beginning of the new school year. Seminarians, new lay students and staff witnessed the faculty’s oath of fidelity and profession of faith during Mass. Then, all gathered at the Binz Refectory for a wonderful meal.

Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan presided at the opening Mass marking the third year of the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute. On Sept. 13, returning students from the Class of St. John Vianney were joined by new students in the Class of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; 236 people are enrolled in the two classes.

The highlight of the Mass was the oath of fidelity ceremony during which the institute’s instructors pledge fidelity to the Magisterium in their teaching. Following Mass, students and faculty gathered for a reception followed by the opening session.

Priest and lay faculty pledged fidelity to the Church’s teachings during the institute’s opening Mass.
SEMINARIANS PRESENTED TO BISHOP PICHÉ FOR CANDIDACY TO HOLY ORDERS

On Sept. 23, 18 seminarians were admitted as candidates for holy orders by Bishop Lee Piché, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Before a seminarian is ordained to either the diaconate or priesthood, he must be formally admitted as a candidate for holy orders. In this ceremony at the beginning of a seminarian’s major seminary enrollment, the bishop hears each seminarian express his willingness to be ordained and accept the obligations that follow from the declaration.

Seminarians surrounded Bishop Lee Piché (center), Bishop John LeVoir of the Diocese of New Ulm and Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan following the admission of the seminarians to candidacy for holy orders.
Serrans from the Twin Cities and St. Cloud gathered at the seminary on Sept. 20 to show their support for seminarians during the annual Serran steak fry. This long-standing tradition brings together Serrans, seminarians, faculty and staff to celebrate vocations.

John Drees, Theology II, Bonnie and Bob Conroy, and Paul Haverstock, Pre-Theology I, enjoyed conversation on their way into the Binz for dinner.

Deacon Cole Kracke, Theology IV, T.J. McKenzie, Pre-Theology II, and Jeannette Howe during dinner.
“Silver and gold we have not, but what we do have, we give you in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Act 3:6)

This summer on July 1 at Holy Trinity Church in South St. Paul a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Rose Witzke. As generous supporters of the seminary, the Witzke family has been a great blessing to our efforts. In talking to Walt, Rose’s husband, during the visitation prior to the funeral, I learned that their association with us also provided a meaningful blessing to Rose during her final hours.

I first met Walt when he called out of the blue four years earlier. He had learned of the seminary’s endowment campaign through an article in The Catholic Spirit and wanted to contribute to the effort. After carefully reviewing their situation, the Witzkes were able to make a substantial gift to the campaign through a charitable gift annuity. For many reasons, their gift was one of the more remarkable ones received during the campaign.

This first encounter led to several more during which I came to know and admire the Witzkes’ simple yet profound generosity. On one of these occasions, in recognition of their contributions, Msgr. Callaghan presented Walt with a statue of Our Lady of Confidence whose life size original adorns one of the niches in St. Mary’s Chapel at The Saint Paul Seminary.

As Rose was unable to attend, Walt placed the statue in her room at the assisted care facility where she was staying. In Rose’s final hours, her niece, Mary, brought the statue to Rose’s bedside while they prayed the rosary. As I heard the story of her final passage recounted, I was moved to learn how the statue, our simple expression of gratitude, had been a significant means of comfort and strength at a very important moment.

Expressing thanks makes a difference. That is why each day as the seminary community gathers around the Lord’s Table, we give thanks for you, our benefactors and pray for your intentions.
Sr. Mary Christine Athans, BVM, professor emerita, had a chapter published in *Reclaiming Catholicism: Treasures Old and New* (New York: Orbis Press, 2010) titled “Father Charles E. Coughlin: ‘The Radio Priest.’” The book explores perspectives, personalities and practices of the pre-Vatican II church with all their assets and liabilities by mostly well-known theologians and historians in a readable and substantive way from each author’s personal perspective. She also reviewed *Pilgrims to the Northland: The Archdiocese of St. Paul, 1840-1962* (Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame, 2009) by Father Marvin O’Connell in the recent issue of Theological Studies (June 2010).

On May 28, Fr. Andrew Cozzens delivered a paper at the 2010 Seminar for Diocesan Vocation Directors, Priestly Formators and Bishops sponsored by the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Mich. The paper, based on his doctoral dissertation, was entitled: “The Priest as a Living Image of Jesus Christ The Bridegroom of the Church through the Evangelical Counsels.” He also gave a day of recollection for priests and seminarians of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisc., held at the Cor Jesu Oratory of the Institute of St. Joseph in Boyd, Wisc. His two talks focused on the topic of “Meeting the Spiritual Challenges of the Diocesan Priesthood Today.”

Fr. Jeff Huard and Fr. John Klockeman attended a conference in Detroit from July 19-23 presented by Gerry Rauch of Annunciation Institute entitled: “Formation in Theological and Cardinal Virtues.” Seminary formators and spiritual directors from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and The Saint Paul Seminary were in attendance. The conference examined incorporating Catholic teaching about the theological and cardinal virtues into the seminary formation process.

Excerpts from Dr. David Jenkins’ October 2006 organ recital performance at UST’s Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas were featured on the Pipedreams radio program distributed on Sept. 13. Music of Nielsen, Bach, and Voorhaar were included in the broadcast. Pipedreams is a nationally syndicated radio program produced by American Public Radio which features music of the king of instruments.


In July, a chapter by Sr. Schuth, “The Importance of Performance Evaluation of Seminarians and Priests for Effective Parish Ministry”, was published in *Best Practices in Catholic Church Ministry Performance Management*. The book, edited by Charles Zech, was based on a conference of the same name held at The Catholic University of America.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Fr. Melvin J. Blais ‘43  
William A. Brown ‘94  
Msgr. John P. Sankovitz ‘47
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<td>GRADUATE STUDIES INFORMATION NIGHT</td>
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