FORMING THE INTELLECT
IN SEARCH OF GOD’S TRUTH
FORMING MEN INTO THEOLOGIANS AT THE SERVICE OF GOD’S PEOPLE

My dear friends,

In keeping with our theme and focus for this year: “Loving the Church,” I want to highlight an essential pillar in the program for priestly formation, namely, intellectual formation.

A beautiful expression of the sentiments of those involved in this most important work is found in the words of a prayer:

“Lord, today again, I enter Your Word. Let me receive Your love as I study, teach, and write. May my time immersed in theology be a time of encounter with You and not simply time to think or explore. . .”

In the intimate priestly prayer for His first priests, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ prayed to His Father to keep them in love, to keep them from evil, and to consecrate them in truth.

The ministerial priesthood is a life in which a man tries his best to hear the Spirit and makes the presence of Christ felt in human affairs. Priests are called to lead a revolution—not a bloody one, but one that occurs when men are led to rediscover the meaning of love and its creative healing power. In all, the priest is to be a leader who listens, a teacher who is willing to learn, and a preacher who lives the Gospel.

The fathers of the Second Vatican Council were ever so insistent on affirming the intellectual dimension of a well-integrated priestly formation program. They realized that the teaching of theology is no mere academic enterprise for it must lead to an authentic formation toward prayer, communion, and pastoral action. It calls for real commitment to a personal discipline of reading and study.

Our focus for this year, “Loving the Church,” reminds us again and again that our seminarians are called to be consecrated in truth—truth in charity. And this implies respect for the human person!

In their priestly ministry, they must have the utmost respect for the conscience and reason of those whom they serve. At the same time, they must recognize that truth is not theirs, but rather truth is of God. They are called to proclaim the fullness of the Gospel and not soft sell the message. They must respect God’s people enough to give them the information, the teachings of the Church so that they can make informed decisions for themselves. To fail in this regard implies that they either do not believe the truth themselves or they feel that their people are not capable of handling the truth. Neither is acceptable! The priest must be a man of the truth, ready to arm the people of God with that same Gospel.

To you, our readers, I now invite you to find in the following pages the blessed work of priestly formation as it is lived out today at our Saint Paul Seminary. And to our seminarians preparing to be heralds of the Gospel, loving the Church, I offer the inspiring words of Pope Paul VI at the closing of the Second Vatican Council:

“The Church looks to you with confidence and with love. Rich with a long past ever living in her, and marching on toward human perfection in time and the ultimate destinies of history and of life, the Church is the real youth of the world. She possesses what constitutes

continued next page
FR. RANIERO CANTALAMESSA SPEAKS ON THE GIFT OF CELIBACY

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, OFMCap, was greeted with great enthusiasm during his visit to The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity on Nov. 1. Papal household preacher since his appointment by John Paul II in 1980, Fr. Cantalamessa has delivered homilies during Advent and Lent to two popes and their curia, as well as traveled extensively to speak to clergy and lay people worldwide. The seminarians found themselves surprised that despite his fame and renown, the Italian friar presented himself simply, allowing his message to take center stage. “It was really impressive and inspiring to see someone of that stature come across so humbly,” stated Melvin Kuhn, Theology I. “In addition to the content of his message, his personal nature was a good example.”

Speaking in St. Mary’s Chapel to seminarians of both The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary, Fr. Cantalamessa shed light on the virtue of celibacy, stressing its place and purpose in the Church. He also offered practical advice on how to cultivate celibacy in one’s own life, such as custody over one’s eyes: “Yes, God created the eyes, but he also created the eyelids to cover them.” Whereas celibacy is often seen as a negative restriction, the Capuchin priest emphasized it as a charism, a positive gift of God used to grow in greater union with Him, and a blessing to the Church.

"Look upon the Church and you will find in her the face of Christ, the genuine, humble, and wise Hero, the prophet of truth and love, the companion and friend of youth."

"It is in the name of Christ that we salute you . . ."

From the Rector continued

the strength and the charm of youth, that is to say the ability to rejoice with what is beginning, to give oneself unreservedly, to renew one’s self and to set out again for new conquests.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President

Fr. Cantalamessa received a statue of Our Lady of Confidence from Msgr. Callaghan in appreciation for his visit to the seminary.

In this concise but powerful statement, John Paul II summed up the end toward which the life of a priest is ordered. All that happens in formation moves a seminarian closer to bringing the good news of salvation to God’s people. Gaining a deeper knowledge of the “divine mysteries,” however, is much more than an academic exercise.

“I articulate to faculty that one of the aims of their teaching is to lead men to prayer,” said Fr. Jeff Huard, director of spiritual formation.

FORMING THE INTELLECT TOWARD DISCERNMENT OF TRUTH
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity’s formation program is guided by the Program of Priestly Formation (PPF) issued by the U.S. bishops and built upon John Paul II’s 1992 apostolic exhortation Pastores dabo vobis (I Will Give you Shepherds). The PPF outlines four pillars of formation: spiritual, pastoral, intellectual and human. These areas of formation, while distinct, build on and influence one another.

Elements of intellectual formation are integrated with all aspects of formation. “The overall goal of every stage of seminary formation is to prepare a candidate who is widely knowledgeable about the human condition, deeply engaged in a process of understanding divine revelation, and adequately skilled in communicating his knowledge to as many people as possible.” PPF no. 138

“For the salvation of their brothers and sisters, they should seek an ever deeper knowledge of the divine mysteries.” Pastores dabo vobis, no. 51
Clearly, intellectual formation goes well beyond mastery of a particular subject matter. “It is a matter of developing the spiritual capacity of man,” reflected Dr. Christopher Thompson, academic dean. While students do develop skills needed to analyze and understand philosophical and theological scholarship that spans centuries, intellectual formation “recognizes the fundamental search for truth that is played out in the lives of each and every man or woman, priest or lay. Ultimately, this search for truth culminates in the encounter with the person of Jesus Christ.”

SEEKING TRUTH IN A WORLD THAT SEEKS NONE
Seminarians are not immune to the challenges of our times; they come to seminary impacted in some way by the culture of relativism and skepticism that marks our current age. “I am amazed at how thoughtful these men are given the challenges of our culture,” said Dr. Thompson. “No doubt, God’s grace is at work in the lives of those who answer His call to priesthood.”

In the PPF, the U.S. bishops acknowledged this cultural reality and emphasized the urgent need to provide seminarians a philosophical grounding that reflects the truth of Christ:

“…many [seminarians] bring with them the limitations of the culture’s understanding of the human person as well as the limitations of a philosophical milieu that is suspicious of enduring, absolute moral values and objective truths. Unless these candidates are grounded in an adequate philosophical and theological anthropology, they will struggle to make sense of their theological studies and its application in pastoral practice.”

“Our seminarians come to us with a deep enthusiasm for the faith and openness to being formed,” observed Dr. Thompson. “Our role, as faculty, is to form the capacity of each man to seek the truth and transcend the conditions of materiality, penetrating to the depths of the meaning of things, of truth, of existence and God.”

BUILDING THE HOUSE ON A SOLID FOUNDATION
To ensure seminarians have sufficient grounding in philosophy prior to graduate studies in theology, men are required to enter seminary with an undergraduate major or minor in philosophy or theology or complete the pre-theology program. The importance of the philosophy requirements cannot be underestimated. John Paul II pointed out in Fides et Ratio (On the Relationship between Faith and Reason) that the “study of philosophy is fundamental and indispensable to the structure of theological studies and to the formation of candidates for the priesthood. It is not by chance that the curriculum of theological studies is preceded by a time of special study of philosophy.”

Charles Fitzpatrick, Pre-Theology I, knows well the truth in John Paul II’s words. “You can’t build a house on sand and expect it to stand firm,” reflected Fitzpatrick. While his undergraduate degree in journalism and lived experience as a probation officer will have a positive impact on his priestly ministry, he knows that his work in the pre-theology program is integral to a deep mastery of his future theological studies.
Fitzpatrick and his fellow 23 pre-theology program seminarians spend up to two years studying philosophy and theology. In addition to a full schedule of courses offered both at the seminary and the University of St. Thomas, seminarians participate in the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute.

**FIRST AND FOREMOST, CHARITY**
Formation in moral theology holds many of the answers regarding the challenges of culture faced by those preparing to serve the Church as priests and lay leaders. “Moral theology is about a life of charity in relationship with God, myself and neighbor,” said Fr. Peter Laird, adjunct professor of moral theology.

Dr. Robert Kennedy, professor of both Catholic studies and business who teaches the Catholic social tradition at the seminary, also emphasizes the prominence of charity in the moral life. “In studying the Catholic social tradition it becomes clear that charity holds a place of primacy in the Church; justice by itself is not enough.”

Both Fr. Laird and Dr. Kennedy are rigorous in their commitment to ensuring that students are able to articulate what the Church teaches and why. Their courses incorporate important Church documents – Vatican II, papal encyclicals – and scripture. But their work with students goes well beyond this.

“As priests, these men will cultivate in the laity a love of and desire for the Church’s social tradition,” remarked Kennedy. “I help them see that animating the laity to witness to these values - in the workplace, at school, in the public arena – can have a transformative effect on culture.”

“Students must come to respect what it means to be human,” said Fr. Laird. “As priests, these men will be in a truly privileged position when they counsel people regarding the moral life. I help them understand this privilege and see the truth that lingers even in experiences that have gone awry.”

**KNOWLEDGE FOR THE SAKE OF GOD’S PEOPLE**
The PPF is clear about the pastoral inclination of intellectual formation: “…this knowledge is not simply for personal possession but is destined to be shared in the community of faith…[it] has an apostolic and missionary purpose and finality.”

In his first semester at the seminary, Paul Shovelain, Theology I, experienced the pastoral application of his classroom work. “After class I would visit my ailing great uncle at the hospice and minister to him,” said Shovelain. As other relatives gathered, discussions generated questions about scripture and tradition, which Shovelain was able to answer. “God was clearly at work here,” Shovelain observed. “One of my theology classes last semester was exploring scripture and tradition at exactly the time that I was visiting with my relatives.”
Dear friends,

Our year at The Saint Paul Seminary was filled with many blessings! Marked by a number of significant milestones, it was most notable in its celebration with the Church universal of the Year for Priests. And while every year is a year for priests in a seminary, Pope Benedict’s proclamation offered the community a special time of prayer and reflection on the gift of the priesthood.

Again this year, we experienced an increase in seminarian enrollment. We began the year with 75 men from 14 dioceses and one institute of consecrated life, including men from Ghana and Peru. Throughout the year, seminarians had the opportunity to grow in their love of God and the Church through prayer, liturgy, academic studies, personal experiences and spiritual direction. In the spring, 11 men from five dioceses were ordained to the priesthood and began their life of service to God’s people. As summer turned to fall, we prepared for our largest enrollment in 30 years with 92 seminarians from 16 dioceses and one institute of consecrated life.

Sixty-eight lay people and religious studied in our graduate programs this past year. They are a diverse group in age, profession and ministry opportunities but are united in their desire for rigorous, faithful theological formation. Lay people continue strong participation in the Archdiocese. Harry Flynn, Coadjutor Bishop, is one seminarian who graduated from the fall, 120 students received their certificates of completion. Currently, 211 lay people are enrolled in the institute.

The following report documents the many highlights of the past year. The beautiful rhythm of seminary life is punctuated by the time of passage toward ordination: candidacy, vocation, auxiliaries and decrees. Throughout the year, the community was enriched by the witness of visiting scholars who shared their insights on swing, evangelization and the Theological perspective on environmental. And the concerts, of course, when the hundreds from five decades received enrollment as priests-forever.

We are deeply grateful to you, our supporters, for your essential part in our mission: educate and form men as priests and religious who are set apart to serve the Church. Let us continue to pray that God will bless our seminarians and students as they grow in their love for Jesus and prepare to share his Good News!

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Seminarian Financial Summary
Operating Results for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

The seminary’s financial situation remains solid, due in large part to the generosity of so many committed donors. Our sustaining fund provides consistent operating support while the “Fight for the Shepherd” endowment campaign is transforming the seminary into a premier formation program for future priests and lay leaders alike.

For the past three years, annual fundraising efforts have exceeded established goals, driving an increasing number of benefactors to support the work of priests and lay formation. Unrestricted estate gifts, which had previously been used to support annual operations, are now being designated as capital sources of aid and used for ongoing maintenance and capital improvements projects.

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The Board of Trustees expresses its gratitude to the Saint Paul Seminary’s many donors, including those who elected to support the seminary’s $850,000 fundraising goal this past year for significant improvement projects.

The Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, S.T.D.
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

The Saint Paul Seminary
Board of Trustees
University of St. Thomas

Annual Report
2009-2010

The Saint Paul Seminary
The seminary’s 27th annual golf tournament raised $157,700.

The opening Mass and oath of fidelity marked the beginning of the school year, welcoming 20 new seminarians and 8 new lay students.

Women’s Auxiliary hosted 140 women for an Advise meeting of reflection.

Three lay students were awarded the new John Ireland Scholarship, which is given to UST graduating seniors for full-time graduate studies in theology.

Internationally-known ecumenism scholar, Msgr. John Radano, was welcomed as scholar-in-residence.

Distinguished Alumni Award was given to Fr. Francis Pouliot ’58 and honorary alumnus Bill Reiling.

The seminary’s 27th annual golf tournament raised $157,700.

Eleven men from five dioceses were ordained to the priesthood.

More than 400 people gathered for the annual Friends Mass and Breakfast.

The Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute graduated its first class of 126 students.

Seminarians of The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary held the fifth annual St. Charles Borromeo Wooleek, spending 80 hours in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

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Nineteen men of Theology II were instituted as acolytes by Bishop John Kinney of the Diocese of St. Cloud.

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Bishops, seminary formators and vocation directors gathered at the seminary for a national conference on the new evangelization.

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The seminary’s 27th annual golf tournament raised $157,700.
Shovelain entered The Saint Paul Seminary this fall after completing his undergraduate work at Saint John Vianney College Seminary. He is grateful for the philosophical formation he received during his undergraduate years. He credits his course in metaphysics, one of his favorites, as helping him see the connection between philosophy and theology: “I could tell there was something deeper than just the philosophy; it was clearer than any other classes that philosophy is not an end in itself but leads to theology.”

As Shovelain and his brother seminarians engage divine revelation in their theological studies, they become more aware of the power of prayer in assisting their understanding of God’s truths. “My early morning holy hour, a habit formed at Saint John Vianney, helps me internalize all that I’m learning,” said Shovelain.

Fr. Huard affirmed the importance of prayer, and particularly Eucharistic adoration. He pointed to John Paul II and his important witness in the lives of so many seminarians. “He would take two to three hours a day in front of the Blessed Sacrament, doing his study and writing in the presence of our Lord,” remarked Fr. Huard. “He showed us that intellectual formation gives way to adoration.”

With the growing number of lay students enrolled in The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity’s graduate programs in theology, faculty and students alike have expressed interest in spending time outside the classroom engaging in theological discussions. Dr. John Martens, Master of Arts in theology program director, took the lead and began planning what eventually will be three gatherings a semester of budding lay theologians.

“We hope to make progress in three areas,” said Martens. With student input, Martens plans to gather students to explore Church documents and theological texts; offer students the opportunity to share their research; and develop a community grounded in shared beliefs.

Last semester, MAT student Kyle Sellnow presented his research about images of childhood in Paul’s letters. “Kyle’s presentation was enlightening to all of us and a good rehearsal for the presentation of his paper at an ethics conference at Notre Dame last fall,” said Martens.
**BISHOP AMOS INSTITUTES ACOLYTES**

In an important step in the life of a seminarian, 12 men from Theology II were instituted to the ministry of acolyte. The ceremony, which took place in St. Mary’s Chapel on Oct. 12, was presided over by Bishop Martin Amos of the Diocese of Davenport. As acolytes, the newly appointed men take on greater responsibility in both caring for the Blessed Sacrament and assisting the celebrating priest or deacon at the altar.

**RECTORS’ BOWL 2010: PLAY HARD, PRAY HARD**

On the fair night of Oct. 16, over 200 seminarians from both The Saint Paul Seminary “Sons of Thunder” and the Saint John Vianney “Jaxx” faced off with fierce, yet friendly rivalry on the University of St. Thomas football field. After going into halftime leading 7-6, The Saint Paul Seminary saw their lead overtaken and left behind with a final score of 34-7 in the Jaxx’s favor, mainly due to SJV’s stellar defensive line. The game was closer than the score would reflect, however, with both sides striving for every rush, block, touch, and pass. After the game, the teams gathered for prayer and a blessing given by Archbishop John Nienstedt. Seminarians look forward to the annual event as an opportunity to celebrate family, friends, and the brotherhood of Catholic men in formation for the priesthood.

**IRELAND MEMORIAL LECTURE STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY**

Dr. John Martens, associate professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas and Master of Arts in theology program director at the School of Divinity, delivered the Ireland Memorial Lecture on Oct. 18. The lecture, entitled “The Child in the Family of God,” examined Jesus’ teachings on the welcome that should be extended to children, especially in regards to their role in both the early and contemporary Church. In addition, Martens addressed Jesus’ and St. Paul’s philosophy of all people united as children of God, particularly within the Church family.

*Dr. John Martens*
Friends Gather for Rector’s Dinner

On Oct. 28, a capacity crowd of 285 gathered at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul for the fifth annual Rector’s Dinner. The event, planned by the Women’s Auxiliary, brought together friends, old and new. All had the opportunity to learn more about the seminary and hear the vocations stories of Brian Park, Theology II and Blake Rozier, Theology I.

Seminarians Participate in Sixth Annual Borromeo Weekend

More than 200 seminarians from The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary dedicated the weekend of Nov. 5-7 to worship, social time and 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration. Now in its sixth year and under the patronage of St. Charles Borromeo, patron saint of seminarians, the weekend provided an opportunity to foster fraternity between the two seminaries.

Priests, seminarians and students walked in procession through campus with the Blessed Sacrament.
This issue of Oracle explores the many ways that intellectual formation prepares men to serve the Church. In unique ways, the priestly formation program at The Saint Paul Seminary seeks to provide opportunities to bring classroom teaching alive, allowing seminarians to grasp more fully the scope of the mission of the universal Church and to arm themselves with experiences that will make them better able to inspire and form those they will serve as priests.

In January, three classes of seminarians traveled abroad as part of their formation. While the transitional deacons of Theology IV immersed themselves in the universal mission of the Church in Rome, the men of Theology III were in the Holy Land, studying scriptural preaching in the places where Jesus lived and preached. This year the Theology II class also had the chance to go abroad, meeting with scholars at Oxford to examine the preaching and teaching of Blessed John Henry Newman.

The idea behind these study abroad programs isn’t simply to give the seminarians an international cultural experience, though this is certainly one result. The main reason for this unusual curriculum is to deepen and strengthen the academic rigor of the courses taken during J-term. Imagine how important it is for a seminarian to learn about an international apostolate in the morning and then meet the leaders of that apostolate and tour their headquarters in the afternoon. Think of how powerful it must be to study the Word of God in the very place where the Word was made flesh, walked and dwelt among us. Consider how much more alive the preaching and teaching of a future priest would be if he could study under leading experts on the life of one of the greatest orators of the 19th century and visit the places he lived.

Two of these study abroad programs were made possible by designated endowments established in connection with the I Will Give You Shepherds campaign. John and Sue Morrison created the Rome Studies Fund because of their own experience in Rome and because they understood the importance of this experience for future priests. The trip to England for the Theology II class was made possible by the Archbishop Harry Flynn Institute for Homiletics. This fund was established by the Gerald and Henrietta Rauenhorst Foundation and the Opus Philanthropic Group because they saw the need to strengthen the seminary’s ability to train good preachers and because they knew the importance of securing the program with long-term dedicated resources.

Thoughtful generosity, regardless of the amount given, makes an impact in the life of an institution. In the case of the seminary, the impact is strengthening the formation of future leaders, lay and ordained. This makes for a better seminary which in turn, makes for a better Church, which in turn, makes for a better society.
FACULTY NOTES

Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan directed the Diocese of Charlotte Annual Priests’ Retreat, Oct. 4-8, 2010, at Living Waters Catholic Reflection Center in Maggie Valley, NC.

Dr. Christopher Thompson was appointed to the board of directors and serves as secretary of National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The organization provides spiritual, educational and advocacy assistance, helping rural people shape their futures and lead lives of dignity.

Dr. Christian Washburn, a member of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue, attended a meeting of the group in Washington DC where, on Oct. 17, they approved by unanimous consent the dialogue’s final report on “The Hope of Eternal Life.” The 65-page report represents the fruit of the dialogue’s four-and-a-half-year study. It explores issues related to the Christian’s life beyond death, such as the communion of saints, resurrection of the dead, and final judgment, as well as historically divisive issues such as purgatory, indulgences, and prayers for the dead.

Also a member of the International Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, Dr. Washburn attended its plenary meeting in Regensburg, Germany, Oct. 22-29, 2010.


Dr. David Jenkins performed two solo organ recitals this fall: Oct. 4 on the Noack organ in St. Mary’s Chapel, and on Nov. 23 in the lunchtime recital series at St. Louis King of France Church in St. Paul.


In October, Fr. Christopher Beaudet joined Msgr. Joseph Panderson, Defender of the Bond for the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in Rome, to co-present a workshop entitled: “Defending the Bond Today: the Role of the Defender of the Bond in Dignitas Connubii” at the annual Canon Law Society of America convention in Buffalo, NY.

Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF presented a conference on “Parishes in Collaboration: A National and Archdiocesan Perspective” for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Oct. 27-29, 2010, at three sites. The presentation included a national backdrop to collaboration for parish pastors and staffs, focusing on obstacles, uncertainties and successes of parishes working collaboratively.

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. Patrick R. Riley ‘48
APR. 7  PUBLIC DECLARATION FOR DIACONATE, THEOLOGY III  5:00 P.M.
        St. Mary’s Chapel

APR. 8  SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST: STATIONS OF THE CROSS  7:00 P.M.
        The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale
        St. Mary’s Chapel

APR. 10 FRIENDS MASS AND BREAKFAST 10:00 A.M.
        St. Mary’s Chapel

APR. 14 RECTOR’S COUNCIL DINNER

APR. 18 ARCHBISHOP IRELAND MEMORIAL LECTURE  7:30 P.M.
        Fr. Marvin O’Connell ’56
        O’Shaughnessy Educational Center Auditorium, University of St. Thomas

APR. 28 PUBLIC DECLARATION FOR THE PRIESTHOOD, THEOLOGY IV  5:00 P.M.
        St. Mary’s Chapel

MAY 1  FRIENDS MASS AND BREAKFAST 10:00 A.M.
        St. Mary’s Chapel

MAY 7  ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE, THEOLOGY III  10:00 A.M.
        Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

-For more information on any of these events, please call 651-962-5050