STRENGTH IN NUMBERS
Celebrating The New School Year
Dear Friends,

Archbishop John Ireland conducted a retreat for priests in France in the year 1900. During that retreat he noted that priests feel their inability to do much to cope “with the evil so widespread, so overwhelming.”

The Archbishop said:

“We live in days when more than any time in the past the priesthood is incumbent on us for the welfare of the world; in days when more than ever we need apostolic zeal for souls; in days when gigantic difficulties are growing larger and larger against the Church... Now more than ever each soldier must be a hero, each priest a saint and an apostle.”

Ireland admonished those priests not to lose heart, rather:

“You must come into touch with the world that is now. You must go to people...go out and seek souls... You must love souls and show your love... know your flock by name. If they decline, do not lose heart. Go a second time -- you do it for Jesus Christ.”

These marching orders spoken to priests then speak to us now as we form and prepare priests for service in this new millennium.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, in his pastoral letter on evangelization writes that the first movement of any evangelization originates not in a program but in a person: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus beckons us. The embrace of His love and the joy of His Gospel of new life are meant to be savored, cherished and shared.

Hence a priest’s first love and his first joy must be Jesus. His first and overriding ambition must be to discover and imitate the personality of the only true High Priest in the Church.

The second great joy for the priest is God’s people. When Jesus calls a priest to give his life in celibacy, He does not leave him lonely. Far from it! He shows him other loves besides His own. In fact, Jesus shares His own friends, His people’s love and care with His priests.

Priestly joy consists in offering to the Lord’s people gifts which no one can earn or purchase. These gifts do not originate in the talents or goodwill of the priest; they come from the Lord Himself.

This being so, priests and future priests must see the constant quest for intimate communion with Christ as their first duty. In the words of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, “Here and only here rests the secret of their true apostolic zeal.” It is in that intimate communion with Christ that they will find real joy. The joy that underlies a priest’s daily life is not a superficial happiness but rather a profound joy which arises from striving to be faithful to God’s will.

In this special Year of Faith that our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI invites us to celebrate, I ask you, dear friends, to pray for our seminarians. Pray that they will be good priests after the heart of the Shepherd. And pray that their quest for intimate communion with Jesus Christ will give them the courage they need to be near the fire proclaiming joy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

God bless you,
NUMBERS REMAIN HIGH AT THE SEMINARY

The celebration at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity continues! Our enrollment numbers are the highest they have been in 30 years. Counting 104 men at the beginning of 2012-2013, our growing numbers require additional residential space for the second year in a row. The work and prayers of the New Evangelization are beginning to bear fruit.

In addition to the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, bishops from 17 dioceses are sending their seminarians to study this year, including the Dioceses of La Crosse, Sioux Falls, Des Moines, Davenport, Duluth, St. Cloud, Fargo, New Ulm, Crookston, Rockford, Superior, Anchorage, Rapid City, Madison, St. Thomas-Virgin Islands, Kampala-Uganda, Kabale-Uganda and one religious order, Pro Ecclesia Sancta.

This is the first time Fargo seminarians have come to study at The Saint Paul Seminary. John Klocke, Theology I, settled in happily. “It is a blessing to receive formation in the part of the country in which I will serve one day,” he said. “I am impressed by the Teaching Parish Program, and I am excited to be mentored by a pastor throughout my years at The Saint Paul Seminary. The seminarians, faculty and staff have been very welcoming and I am quickly getting adjusted to the new community.”

Vice Rector Fr. Robert Pish reflects that numbers are just one of the noteworthy headlines this fall. “We are blessed that not only are we growing, we are growing with men who have strong character and a deep commitment to their faith,” he said. “The news is as much about the quality of men we have in formation as it is about the quantity.”

Enrollment in the lay program remains strong as well. Seventy four graduate students are working within three different degree programs: 45 Masters of Arts in Theology (MAT); 18 Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministry

ON THE COVER
The seminarians from The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity gather around Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan to mark the 2012-2013 school year.

continued...
If you want people to stay as they are, tell them what they want to hear. If you want to improve them, tell them what they should know.” — Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen is perhaps best known for his work on national television and radio. “Life is Worth Living,” an ABC series that reached more than 30 million people weekly in the 1950s, would help earn him an Emmy and a Time magazine cover. Most recently he is hailed for making swift progress on the road to declared sainthood, pronounced venerable on June 28 after only four years of examination by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. His heroic life of virtue was, in part, learned and lived out at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, where Sheen was enrolled from 1917 to 1919, before he was ordained on Sept. 20, 1919 for the Diocese of Peoria, Illinois.

Msgr. William L. Baumgaertner, a 1946 alumnus of The Saint Paul Seminary, related the discipline of seminary life in the early to mid-1900s: “Seminary life is seminary life. However, there are slight differences depending on the customs of the time. When I [or Sheen] was in seminary, they wanted to know, ‘Are you strong enough? Do you have a good sense of the direction you’re going in? Are you ready to make some sacrifices for it?’ Those were real questions, so they tested you for it.”

It was then customary to spend a total of 12 years of preparation for the priesthood throughout high school, college and the major seminary.
As a most esteemed alumnus, Archbishop Sheen occasionally came back to visit the seminary and St. Mary’s Chapel while Msgr. Baumgaertner was rector in the 1970s. “He enjoyed stopping to say ‘hello’ and renew his own earliest years preparing for priesthood,” Baumgaertner said. “He always had a soft spot in his heart for The Saint Paul Seminary and let everyone know it. As Archbishop Sheen put it, ‘It was my foothold.’”

Archbishop Sheen shared some of his acquired wisdom about evangelization with the younger seminarians and Msgr. Baumgaertner during those visits. “He would talk about what his goals were and how he was trying to get the word of God clearly, firmly and fairly to people.”

Msgr. Baumgaertner most vividly remembers Archbishop Sheen as a man of God, both gracious and determined. “You could tell he was a person of great faith by the way he handled the subject. He made it very clear where he stood and he was there to help others, a rhythm that went through everything he did. He gave very generously of himself and taught us by example that you give yourself wholeheartedly – you don’t put conditions on your gifts.”

SEMINARIANS MAKE PILGRIMAGE TO MEXICO

Between the conclusion of the various summer formation programs and the start of the academic year, Vice Rector Fr. Robert Pish and 16 seminarians from The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity set out on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. This adventurous group was focused on visiting one of the holiest sites in North America. They were not disappointed.

Fr. Pish has led several groups of pilgrims to his favorite shrine on other occasions, but he and Mater Dei Pilgrimages had the same inspiration to lead a pilgrimage with seminarians. “I think it is so important to show our men the important role Our Lady of Guadalupe plays in our faith and in the evangelization of the New World,” he said.

Visiting the shrine and Mexico City was the purpose, but this hardy group of travelers took in much more. For seven days they made visits to the major seminaries in Mexico City and Puebla, as well as visiting the lesser known shrines of Our Lady of Good Remedy in Cholula and Our Lady of Ocotlan in Tlaxcala, an apparition of Our Blessed Mother that occurred 10 years after Our Lady of Guadalupe made herself present to St. Juan Diego.

Fr. Pish and the seminarians also made a visit to the Church of the Holy Family in Mexico City, the site where the remains of Blessed Miguel Augustine Pro are interred. Blessed Miguel Pro, beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1992, was a Jesuit martyr who was executed by the Mexican government in the 1920s when the Church in Mexico was persecuted and forced underground.

This was the first trip to Mexico for Robert Whitney, a seminarian from the Archdiocese of Anchorage. “The spiritual benefits we received were beyond number,” he said. “The extraordinary graces that flowed from the encounter with the holy places were tangible, not just at Our Lady of Guadalupe, but also at Tlaxcala, Our Lady of Ocotlan, and, at the close of our journey, especially the Shrine of Blessed Miguel Pro. It was truly inspirational.”
Amid a dynamic course load and international travel, the summer of 2012 brought the launch of a program called Evangelization in Action. Coordinated by Director of Pastoral Formation Fr. Allen Kuss, the eight-week program is intended to advance the New Evangelization and prepare for the Year of Faith. It brought Theology II seminarians to the sidewalks, paying door-to-door visits to registered Catholics, swinging by coffee shops and, for two intrepid young men, working a high-traffic mall.

“It went very well,” Fr. Kuss said of the mall goers. “Shoppers were surprised that seminarians were out and about and engaging people.”

The program was based on a simple structure. Morning instruction examined the foundations of evangelization in Scripture, Church history, Vatican II and papal documents. It was an archdiocesan-wide effort, with priests coming in every week along with lay staff from various parishes. Together these visitors presented an instructive vision of what it looks like to evangelize to parishioners.

The afternoon was devoted to parish ministry. Some of the men pounded the pavement of St. Paul to meet as many registered members of Nativity of Our Lord and Lumen Christi as possible, the two parishes that participated in the Evangelization in Action program.

“Not knowing what or who to expect when the door opened up really helped me to put my trust in the Lord and to not be anxious about what may or may not happen,” said Peter Ly, “to allow the Holy Spirit to work through me and through the people who I encountered.”

Seminarians Peter Ly (left) and James Stiles visited Nativity of Our Lord and Lumen Christi parishioners in St. Paul as part of the Evangelization in Action summer program.
Hospitality and humanity poured forth. The seminarians were showered with offers of lemonade and cookies. They heard stories of spiritual growth and flipped through family photo albums. Some conversations happened on sidewalks during a break from yard work.

Seminarian John Powers learned the importance of being open and listening well. He often shared his vocation story and made a point to remark that he loves being Catholic. “We’re trying to invite people to rediscover what they already have, trying to get them to enter into it more fully,” Powers said. “It’s nothing invasive. It’s just helping people, by example, figure out who they are.” In turn, he added, it helped him better understand the partnership between the clergy and laity.

“Formation does not have an end. Formation for every priest continues.” – Fr. Allen Kuss

Fr. Kuss doesn’t underestimate the impact of these home visits. “I think the men had a larger impact than they were aware of and I think the people had a larger impact on the seminarians than they were aware of,” he said. He intends to refine the program and offer it again next summer to help seminarians evangelize and recognize areas for growth in their ministry.

**EVANGELIZATION ABROAD**
For the men who were not involved in Evangelization in Action in St. Paul, the classroom exodus allowed for expansive formation around the country and the world: visiting hospitals, nursing homes, farms and Native American reservations. There were also flights to Mexico, Venezuela, Rome and an inaugural trip to Korea, where three seminarians taught English, upon the request of Mokpo Catholic University’s president, Fr. Timothy Kim, a graduate of The Saint Paul Seminary.

“Formation does not have an end,” Fr. Kuss said of the packed summer months. “Formation for every priest continues.”

*Bishop Mariano José Parra Sandoval (front row, third from right) receives gifts from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis on behalf of these travelers: Fr. Tim Norris (left), James Peterson, Melvin Kuhn, Marcus Milless, Fr. Scott Carl, Blake Rozier, Michael Barsness, Marc Paveleglo, Timothy Lange, David Gockowski, Paul Shovelain, Fr. Gregory Schaffer, Kevin Manthey, Mitchell Bechtold and Adam Hamness.*
Blake Rozier, Theology III, had a similar insight this summer. “I’m realizing seminary is the place to build a foundation for that formation,” he said. “We’re called to formation our whole lives.” Spending time in Duluth, his home diocese, reminded Rozier what he is working toward by pushing through eight years of seminary studies. Interacting with 11- and 12-year-old boys at a vocation camp was a highlight, powerfully affirming his vocation. “I really feel that desire as a spiritual father, to lead these young people closer to Christ.”

It was a chance to put evangelization into action, which can manifest itself in subtle ways. “It amounts to those simple conversations you have with people, those daily interactions – opening a door for someone, smiling at somebody walking down the street and then hoping to enter into some deeper dialogue,” Rozier said.

Meanwhile, the nine transitional deacons from the seminary devoted themselves to summer placements for 10 weeks: serving parishes, assisting pastors, ministering to parishioners, visiting the sick, celebrating at baptisms and assisting with funerals. Some men were in the city, others in suburbs or more rural areas, and one served internationally.

Indeed, passport stamps were acquired by many seminarians. Paul Shovelain, Theology III, was one of nine men who studied Spanish in Guadalajara, Mexico, for eight weeks this summer: four hours of one-on-one tutoring each morning and two in the afternoon. It enabled the St. Michael, Minnesota, native to eliminate some of his Midwestern accent and filled him with a desire to one day celebrate Mass in both languages.

After leaving Mexico, the seminarians headed to Venezuela, where they were able to put their refined language skills into practice and experience the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis’ mission parish of Jesucristo Resucitado. The young men...
learned a lot watching Fr. Greg Schaffer minister to the locals, Catholics with urgent needs, scarce income and ample joy.

When he reflects on his summer travels, Shovelain is struck by the spiritual growth they spurred. He finds himself reciting the antiphon at their first Mass in Mexico, an apt summary of any evangelist’s charge: “Look for the Lord with all your heart.”

Seminarians James Carrico (left), Christopher Weber and Matthew Shireman conduct an English camp orientation at Mokpo Catholic University, interviewing three students at a time to gauge their speaking skills.

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS**

**SEMINARIANS DESCRIBE THEIR SUMMER FORMATION:**

**Chris Weber, Pre-Theology II, on teaching in South Korea:**

“The trip was an incredible opportunity to hear the Lord speaking to me in some very new and profound ways. I saw Christ in the people we worked with and in the hospitality extended to us. We talk a lot about how the priest is uniquely configured to Christ. Formation, in my experience, is about being formed into the kind of man who sees the world through the eyes of Christ. My time in Korea was an opportunity to learn to do just that.”

**Deacon James Peterson on experiencing the mission parish Jesucristo Resucitado in Venezuela:**

“In spite of material poverty, high levels of unemployment, problems with drugs and crime and other negative forces at work, there was a refreshingly joyful and generous approach to life in San Felix. I made several visits to homebound members of the parish who had stark living conditions – at times no more than a small cinder block home – and they would selflessly offer a glass of juice or some food with a heartwarming smile. Spiritually, the experience had a profound impact on me. I have a deeper dependence on the gracious goodness of our Heavenly Father.”

**Mark Pavlak, Theology I, on participating in the Spiritual Pastoral Ministry program:**

“One of the hardest parts was getting used to meeting the patients where they are at in their spiritual lives. I had some patients who were Catholics and daily communicants while others had left the Church. I had very faithful Protestant patients and patients who barely believed in any God. I never knew what I was going to encounter. I feel one giant step closer to the priesthood. When I spent time in the hospice ward at the hospital, I spoke with one gentleman about how he felt being near death. He responded, ‘Well, I’m not too comfortable with it.’ This visit and every visit with him after that focused on preparing him for what he was soon going to experience.”
SEMINARIANS OF SUMMERS PAST

The summer bustle at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity is a far cry from the lull that marked decades past, when seminarians closed their books and took up summer jobs, a welcome switch from mental rigors to physical exertion.

“We were pretty much on our own,” said a Class of 1957 graduate, who spent his summer months as a seminarian reading meters for an electric company. “In those days you could make enough money in the summertime to pay your college tuition.”

As the seventh of 13 kids, Fr. Francis Pouliot ’58 spent his summer months at his family farm outside Loretto, Minnesota: 80 acres of corn, oats and alfalfa occupied by cows, pigs and chickens. “I would go back to the farm and get those softened hands calloused again,” Fr. Pouliot said.

The seminarian rose at 5:30 am to milk cows, then do field work and use the baler. By the end of each summer, he lost about 20 pounds, which he typically regained by Thanksgiving back at the seminary.

Being pulled by a team of horses on those hilly fields brought the risk of tipping over, which happened several times. “I really learned how to use the perfect Act of Contrition, because it was dangerous,” Fr. Pouliot said with a chuckle.

He revisited academic lessons from the past year, including metaphysics, logic, theology and epistemology. The summer break served a valuable purpose, he said. “It would bring me down to earth. At the seminary we lived a much more spiritual life in the abstract, whereas at the farm, this is God working through nature, and we were able to communicate with Him that way, and it was beautiful.”

Meanwhile, his brother seminarians in the city worked at breweries like Grainbelt in Northeast Minneapolis and Hamm’s on the East Side of St. Paul. Other seminarians cleaned rooms in The Saint Paul Seminary, which then hosted the annual summer retreat for all archdiocesan priests.

Still others found parish work. Fr. Rinaldo Custodio ’62 worked at the boys youth program at Ascension parish in Minneapolis. Afterwards he painted the school or rectory. Fr. Custodio also spent time at the archdiocesan education center in the James J. Hill house, where he packed books and prepared shipments. Of course, he said, the summer also allowed for some good old-fashioned “loafing.”
The summer of 2012 was an eventful one for 25-year-old Kristopher Falkena: He became a graduate student and a father. A resident of Hospers, Iowa, located in the northwest part of the state, and shop manager at Fred’s Plumbing & Heating, a family business, Falkena rejoiced in both milestones.

He had been seeking a respected master’s of theology program in the Midwest and did all his research about The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity online. His first time on campus was his first day of class: Monday, June 4. He was able to take an intensive two-week course, Theology of the Church, taught by Dr. Christian Washburn. The structure was ideal for someone who lives out of state and wanted to make the most of a visit to St. Paul. “It worked out very well for us,” he said. “I very much appreciate the set-up.”

The seminary hosted Falkena and his wife, Rosalie, who was 8 months pregnant at the time. The rural-dwelling couple felt right at home at St. Thomas, a sensation they didn’t expect for a capital city. “I was impressed with all the open space and trees,” Falkena said. As to the class itself, Falkena was blown away. “After the first day, I told my wife I felt like a sponge that had just had an ocean dumped on it. The level of learning was very high.”

Falkena earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies in 2008 and then taught religion at a Catholic high school. During that time he yearned to probe deeper into the riches of Catholicism. Being a part of The Saint Paul Seminary is an answer to that hope, allowing him to study with future priests and lay leaders. “That way I know I’ll be right in line with where the future Church will be.”

Falkena plans to take advantage of the seminary’s hybrid courses built around online learning, beginning this fall with the Old Testament. He’s prepared to make weekly commutes up north during other semesters. In the future Falkena would like to teach, passing on his newfound knowledge. His first pupil will likely be his cherished newborn son, Gabriel, born in July.

Recruitment Coordinator Brandon Wanless said Falkena is an example of how the seminary’s graduate offerings open up in the summer months. The concentrated two-week summer courses were initially developed to allow members of religious orders to visit in the summer, especially those who teach during the school year but seek a higher degree, such as the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus from New Ulm, who are required to earn a master’s. The classes attracted a wide range of students, Wanless said: some who were looking to accelerate their degree and others, like Falkena, who live out of town. In sum, Wanless said, it was a fruitful summer. “A lot of good things happened. It’s a quieter formation.”
FACULTY PREPARE FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

The full-time faculty of The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity gathered at the Gainey Conference Center in Owatonna Aug. 27 and 28 for a faculty workshop. This annual tradition, which is held a week before the seminarians and students return to the classroom, is an important time for the faculty to pray together, to build fellowship and to prepare for the new school year.

At the workshop Dr. Christian Washburn, Assistant Professor of Theology, and Fr. Allen R. Kuss, Director of Pastoral Formation, led a conversation about Matthew Kelly’s *Rediscover Catholicism: A Spiritual Guide to Living with Passion and Purpose* (Beacon Publishing 2010). Kelly’s book provided the basis for a discussion of the way that the seminary can help to better prepare seminarians to participate in the New Evangelization. The faculty also discussed the various ways that a concern for evangelization can be integrated into the four pillars of priestly formation – pastoral, intellectual, spiritual and human.

Dr. Kenneth Snyder, meanwhile, offered an important presentation on the current status of the seminary’s ongoing assessment activity. The faculty examined data gathered on the Master’s of Divinity degree program and identified areas of the formation process that warranted further discussion and possible revisions. The entire seminary community will also be involved this year in the preparation of an institutional self-study as part of a comprehensive evaluation by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools.

In retrospect, the two-day workshop was productive. Fr. Kuss stressed the importance of bringing the faculty together annually in order to benefit our future priests. “We represent a diverse group of specialties and gifts,” he said. “Each one is used to form the future leadership of the body of Christ.”

As the Church focuses on the Year of Faith, the faculty was energized to help prepare future priests to share their faith with the world. Noting that the formation of the faculty directly correlates with the formation of the seminarians, Dr. Washburn said, “Seminary faculty serve the ministry of the priest, and thereby the whole people of God in a unique way.”

LET US REJOICE! OPENING MASS BEGINS NEW SCHOOL YEAR


The opening Mass, a long-standing tradition at the seminary, is full of meaning and commitment. The highlight of the opening Mass, the Oath of Fidelity ceremony, involves each faculty member making a profession of faith, signing an Oath of Fidelity to the Church’s teaching and presenting this oath to the Archbishop. Following Mass, all gathered for a celebratory banquet at the Binz Refectory.
While the seminarians worked hard during their summer formation programs in many different locations, the seminary opened its doors to outside groups in a true spirit of Catholic hospitality. The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity welcomed guests from the Classes of 1957 and 1962, St. Paul’s Outreach-School of the New Evangelization and the Lay Missionaries of Charity, to name a few. Two Brothers of Hope from Tallahassee, Florida, continued their graduate work while living at the seminary, as well as two Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The first two weeks in June are reserved each year for the Certification Program in Church Business Administration. Ranging in content from property and office management to the theology and ethics of Church administration, this is an interdenominational, accredited certification program that is recognized nationally under the direction of Dr. Charlotte Berres, CSJ. The seminary was full this year, with 40 attendees from five states and one foreign country representing nine denominations. With the majority serving as Church business administrators, other professions represented included pastors and associate pastors, financial officers, directors of operations, business managers and youth coordinators.

Including the individuals and smaller groups who were welcomed throughout the summer, the total number of guests during the summer months numbered more than 300. The spirit of hospitality is alive and well at the seminary.
Seven young people were confirmed and two received their First Holy Communion at the sixth annual Mass for Persons with disAbilities on Sept. 9 in St. Mary’s Chapel. The event included a pre-Mass sing-a-long with the Franciscan Brothers of Peace and a reception following Mass. The families of the confirmants and communicants are also treated as special guests.

Jean Stolpestad, Director of the Archdiocesan Office of Marriage, Family and Life, which sponsored the gathering, described it as a family affair. “The event shows that, not only in our nuclear family, but in the family of the Church, all have an important role,” she said. “Everyone is welcomed with great dignity. It shows how love and faith can overcome human weakness, the difficulties that we all encounter.”

These young people come to receive the sacraments to declare their identity in Christ and the Church after taking many classes to prepare. For the last four years Deacon Sean Curtan, Coordinator of Outreach to Persons with disAbilities, and his wife, Joan, have played an integral part in teaching and mentoring them with the help of the candidates’ parents. Deacon Curtan stressed how rewarding the work has been. “We get more out of the ministry than we can possibly put in because of these beautiful people and their families,” he said. “The open arms of the seminary and the seminarians are also great gifts, as well as the presence of Bishop Piché.”

Seminarians and a group of local girl scouts who had helped during candidate preparation classes assisted celebrant Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piché during the Mass. “The Mass for Persons with disAbilities exudes the joy of the Lord, the joy of faith, and the joy of being human,” said Deacon Leonard Andrie, a Theology IV seminarian.

It is a special annual gathering, said Mary Catherine McGraw from the Diocese of New Ulm, who served as a lector and attends the Mass every year with her mom, Megan. “We wouldn't miss this Mass for anything.”

Top: Megan McGraw, right, of St. Anastasia in Hutchinson (Diocese of New Ulm) and her daughter, Mary Catherine, participate in the Mass for Persons with disAbilities Sept. 9 at the The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Center: Mackenzie Willits of Holy Name of Jesus in Medina shares a joyful moment with Auxiliary Bishop Lee A. Piché after the Mass.

Bottom: Bishop Piché greets Kristina Gilderhus after confirming her. Photos by Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit.
Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan celebrated the Sept. 10 opening Mass marking the fifth year of the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute. Returning students from the Class of Blessed John Paul II were joined by new students in the Class of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha for a combined total of 319 students.

The Class of Blessed Kateri is full with a long waiting list. Last year’s class also had an abundance of applicants, signifying a growing excitement for the program.

“As people are looking for substantive answers to life’s questions, they are growing more and more discouraged with what the world has to offer,” said Jeff Cavins, Director of the institute. “Word is getting out that the Catechetical Institute curriculum follows what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls ‘the plan of sheer goodness,’ and, as such, offers students the answers they are looking for to transform their lives and grow in holiness.”

These students have two years of discovery laid before them, years in which they will unlock the truths of the faith, encounter saints, forge new relationships through small-group and class work and receive weekly instruction from some of the best teachers in the archdiocese. They bring an array of backgrounds into this program.

“We have students who just went through a conversion to Christ, to people are in responsible leadership positions in the archdiocese,” Cavins said. “We have students who have just graduated college and students who have worked in the home or workplace for years and are excited to step back into the academic environment. Theology I and II men from the seminary also participate to learn along with and about the flock they will one day shepherd.”

Such a diverse class deserves a special patron. The Catechetical Institute traditionally chooses class patrons who have exemplified holiness in their lives and who are currently being celebrated in the Church. Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha is no exception, as she will become the first canonized Native American on Oct. 21. That means she will be the first class patron to have a name change during his or her patronage: Blessed to Saint. She also seems the ideal candidate to represent Pope Benedict’s declared Year of Faith, which commences Oct. 11.

The Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute will host an evening of ongoing formation on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at St. John the Baptist in New Brighton for graduates from 7 to 9 pm. Jason Adkins, Executive Director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, will speak on marriage, discussing what is at stake in the recent attempts to redefine it. The event is open to all in the archdiocese and will begin with a gathering of the three graduated classes. For more information on this event and other Catechetical Institute events, please visit CIStudent.com or call Susan Pitman at (651) 962-6890.

Standing before Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan, faculty of the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute state the Profession of Faith and prepare to sign the Oath of Fidelity.

Photo by Bryce K. Werkmeister/University of St. Thomas.
In honor of the Year of Faith, which officially begins Oct. 11, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis is lifting up community-wide prayer for the sanctification of priests through Eucharistic Adoration at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity.

Every Thursday Catholics across the archdiocese are invited to participate in Eucharistic Adoration in St. Mary's Chapel, beginning at 7:15 am and ending at 5 pm with a midday break for Mass.

Susan Steadman, a member of the Church of St. Anne in Hamel and a former chair of the seminary’s Women’s Auxiliary, sees this as a special opportunity for lay Catholics to prayerfully support our current and future priests. “This is a concrete way we can offer our love to our priests,” she said.

Steadman said her pastor has addressed the vital role of women in priests’ lives and shared examples from his life, saying, “Behind every good priest is a good mother.”

“As a woman,” she said, “we can bring a mother’s heart to this.”

The location of the adoration adds meaning, Steadman said. “The seminary is really the heart of our archdiocese and at the very center of that is this beating heart of Jesus, right there. It’s beautiful to be able to take part in that at the seminary. We may be doing it for the priests, but in the process our own lives are being transformed.”

Fr. Andrew Cozzens, Director of Worship, expressed his appreciation for this community-wide devotion. “At the Saint Paul Seminary we know very well that the work of forming priests is a spiritual work, and thus we rely heavily on the prayers of many people in order to form holy priests. Priests, who are beset by so many challenges in our culture today, need prayers, and our rector Msgr. Callaghan is delighted that the seminary can be a place for these prayers before our Eucharistic Lord.”

Offering adoration on Thursdays is significant, Steadman pointed out, because it is the day we commemorate both the institution of the priesthood and the Holy Eucharist.

Catholics are welcome to stop in and pray any time on Thursday – on the way to work, during lunch break, after school pick-up with the kids – but a fixed time commitment is especially helpful.

To sign up for a regular holy hour, or for further information, please contact Susan Steadman at susansteadman7@msn.com or call The Saint Paul Seminary at 651-962-5050.
“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The apostolic commission given by Christ to the disciples at the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew is at the heart of the newly established evangelization training program for seminarians studying at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity. For the vast majority of us, fulfilling the Great Commission will not take the same shape as it does for a Catholic priest. In a real way, though, those who have a hand in seminarian formation participate in Christ’s commission to preach the Gospel to all nations.

The truth of this was brought home to me while talking with Deacon Kevin Abakisi. Deacon Kevin is from Ghana and spent the last four years here at the seminary. He returned to Ghana and will be ordained on Dec. 1. Before he left, I had the opportunity to ask him what was most helpful about his formation here at The Saint Paul Seminary.

His answer was not what I expected. He explained that in many ways the Church in Ghana is decades behind the Church in the United States. In Ghana, there are only very rudimentary programs of catechesis and the assistance of the lay faithful either as volunteers or staff is almost non-existent. Like the country itself, the Church in Ghana is very much in a developmental phase.

Deacon Kevin said his time in the United States gave him a picture of where the Church in Ghana was heading. And as a result, he felt better equipped to help shepherd the Church into a more developed era.

As I spoke with Deacon Kevin, I could sense in his voice a profound gratitude for the formation he had received and an eagerness to begin his priestly ministry to the people of Ghana.

When Deacon Kevin is ordained, his time of preparation will officially end and his fulfilling of the Great Commission handed down by Christ through 2,000 years of apostolic succession will officially begin. Those who have supported him in his preparation through prayer, financial support, instruction and encouragement will also be sharing in his ministry and, in a tangible way, fulfilling the commission to proclaim the Good News to all nations.

Thomas R. Ryan
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

Dr. David Jenkins, Director of Liturgical Music, attended the biennial national convention of the American Guild of Organists held July 1-6 in Nashville. Dr. Jenkins was recently elected to a three-year term on the board of the Twin Cities Chapter of the guild. Dr. Jenkins also performed a faculty recital on Sunday, Sept. 16, at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas at the University of St. Thomas, playing music of Widor and other composers. He earned his doctorate in organ performance from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Instructor in Liturgy, Sacraments and Homiletics, Fr. Tom Margevicius was a guest panelist at the University of Notre Dame Preaching Conference, “We Preach Christ Crucified.” There were several hundred attendees, including bishops, priests, deacons, and homiletics teachers. The topic of the panel was “Issues in Preaching Today.” Other conference speakers included Archbishops Carlson of St. Louis and Gomez of San Antonio, and Mundelein Seminary Rector Fr. Robert Barron. Additionally, Fr. Margevicius attended a week-long conference on sign language in the liturgy, designed for priests, deacons, and sign language interpreters. The topic was how to sign the new translation of the Roman Missal.

Deacon Joseph T. Michalak, Director of Diaconate Formation, served on the faculty at the National Directors Institute in June, jointly sponsored by the National Association of Diaconate Directors and the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. Deacon Michalak also preached retreats for deacon candidates and deacons in the dioceses of Lafayette, Indiana; Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Dr. Christian D. Washburn, Associate Professor of Theology, attended the fourth meeting of the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity from July 12–19 in Paderborn, Germany. Lutheran and Catholic representatives finalized the document, “From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran-Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017.” Plans are underway for the publication and release of this work. He also attended the second meeting of Round XII of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue in Mundelein, Illinois, May 24-27.

Dr. Washburn also attended two conferences: “Preaching and Teaching the Law and Gospel of God,” at the Lutheran CORE 2012 Theological Conference in Golden Valley, Minnesota, Aug. 15-16 and “The Association of Theological Schools 2012 Biennial Meeting” in Minneapolis June 20-22.)
Fr. Michael Byron, S.T.D., retired from The Saint Paul Seminary faculty on June 15 to begin his appointment as pastor of St. Pascal Baylon Parish in St. Paul. “It is with a sense of deep gratitude that I acknowledge his dedicated service as priest professor and formator at this venerable institution these past 17 years,” Msgr. Callaghan said as Fr. Byron made his transition from academic life to pastoral ministry. He was appointed to the seminary faculty in 1995. In 2007 he was promoted to Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and granted tenure. He earned his Master’s of Divinity at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity and earned his S.T.L. and S.T.D. at Weston Jesuit School of Theology.


Sr. Schuth gave numerous presentations during the summer, including a convocation on Ordained and Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Boise, Idaho. For the St. John Vianney Center and the National Catholic Educational Association, she presented a talk entitled “Interculturally Competent Seminaries and Seminarians” at a June conference in Philadelphia, followed by a July presentation to the Serra Club of the Twin Cities Airport Chapter entitled “Vocational Interests and Changes in Church Ministry” at St. Bonaventure in Bloomington, Minnesota.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Fr. Joseph P. Brady ’74  
Fr. Gerald A. Hoenig ’52  
Fr. Jerome J. Janski ’50  
Msgr. James M. Lavin ’45  
Fr. Richard P. Roedel ’59

**SAVING GOODBYE TO CAMPUS LEGEND**

On Sept. 21 The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity, the University of St. Thomas and the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis laid to rest one of their favorite sons, Msgr. James M. Lavin. He was 93. After attending St. Thomas College and The Saint Paul Seminary, Msgr. Lavin was ordained in 1945. After one brief assignment at the Cathedral of St. Paul, he began living and teaching at St. Thomas, where he remained until 2005.

His presence on campus was legendary. Thousands of undergraduates knew him as a counselor, confessor, and confidant. Fellow colleague and friend Fr. James Stromberg fondly remembered this humble man of service to the Church and his university, telling *The Catholic Spirit*: “He was the face of the priesthood to St. Thomas students. Everything he did was an extension of his priesthood.”

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Archbishop Ireland Memorial Lecture</td>
<td>7:30 P.M.</td>
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<td>Owens Science Hall 3M Auditorium</td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Institution of Acolytes, Theology II</td>
<td>7:00 P.M.</td>
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<td>St. Mary's Chapel</td>
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<td>Oct. 24</td>
<td>Rector's Dinner</td>
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<td>Town &amp; Country Club (By invitation only)</td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Hill Society and Distinguished Alumni Awards Mass &amp; Luncheon</td>
<td>11:35 A.M.</td>
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<td>St. Mary's Chapel (By invitation only)</td>
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<td>Nov. 2-4</td>
<td>40 Hours Adoration</td>
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<td>Nov. 5, 7-8</td>
<td>Seminarian Phone-a-Thon</td>
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<td>Nov. 13</td>
<td>Graduate Studies Information Night</td>
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<td>The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Lessons and Carols</td>
<td>4:00 P.M.</td>
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<td>St. Mary's Chapel</td>
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<td>Dec. 8</td>
<td>Women's Advent Morning of Reflection</td>
<td>8:00 A.M.</td>
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<td>Jan. 2</td>
<td>J-Term Begins</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>Spring Semester Begins</td>
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<td>Feb. 15</td>
<td>Institution of Lectors, Theology I</td>
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<td>St. Mary's Chapel</td>
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