ENGAGING THE CHURCH UNIVERSAL
IN PREPARING TO SHARE THE GOSPEL
Dear friends:

I recall a beautiful line from a spiritual conference that captures so well the commitment one makes when answering God’s call to service: “To journey with Jesus, to walk with Jesus is a way that costs not less than everything.” It is the cost of discipleship and God wants no half-hearted response!

With his recent apostolic letter, “Porta Fidei” (“The Door of Faith”), our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI formally announced a special Year of Faith to help all Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God, and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others. Celebrating Mass with participants in a Vatican conference on the New Evangelization this past October, our Holy Father said in his homily that this Year of Faith “... will be a moment of grace and commitment to an ever fuller conversion to God, to reinforce our faith and proclaim Him with joy to the people of our time.”

It was with this in mind that our seminary has chosen as its theme and focus this year: 
To proclaim the Gospel with joy and tell the Good News.

In a homily delivered in 1986 at the 400th celebration of Bamberg Seminary, the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger spoke to the seminarians of “having the courage to be near the fire and proclaiming joy.” This twin call for courage and joy re-echoes in our Holy Father’s announcement of this special year of faith. For each of us now the simple words from the web page cover of our own University of St. Thomas translates this call: Challenge Yourself, Change Our World! But we must always keep in mind “our lives are not defined by how we are challenged, but by how we respond to the challenge.”

Thus, in response to the Holy Father’s invitation in this special Year of Faith, our seminary is planning a new program: Evangelization in Action. It is an evangelization program for Catholic seminarians.

What is Evangelization in Action?

Accepting the great commission of Jesus Christ to go out to all nations, The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity offers an eight-week program of study combined with hands-on experience for seminarians completing their first year of theology. This program provides a thorough grounding in the theological basis and practical application of the Catholic Church’s vision for the New Evangelization. Church documents and current evangelization resources are incorporated into didactic sessions, examining the foundations of evangelization in Scripture, the history of the Church, and contemporary Church documents.

Complementing the didactic session is an intense pastoral program. Seminarians have the opportunity to assist in evangelization in parishes by reaching out and building relationships with inactive Catholics, helping them become more involved in their faith and parish.

The didactic and pastoral components are integrated with opportunities for spiritual direction, weekly reflection groups and daily Mass. Seminarians develop a deeper awareness of the variety of tools available for evangelization.
Ultimately our evangelization goal is to get to heaven and to take as many people with us as we can. To do that we realize that “the Church needs us to be where the sheep are grazing so that we might help them find the better pastures.”

This *Year of Faith* reminds us that as we go forward with Christ we see a future filled with hope.

Words of the Jesuit theologian Karl Rahner in writing about priesthood in an essay entitled “*Theological Reflections on the Priestly Image of Today and Tomorrow*” can serve to strengthen our spirit as we respond to the call to be witnesses of joy in announcing the Good News:

> We have to believe in this future unconditionally, and by this act of faith to shape this future precisely when it seems to be improbable. Here too we need to be not those who suffer the future, but rather those who create it. In a spirit of faith, prayer, and selflessness we have to overcome any tendency to a bourgeois ‘establishment’ attitude toward our ministry as though it were means of earning our living. We have to be the sort of priests who in the boldness of faith seize upon the folly of the Cross. We have to be not hirelings but shepherds who hope against all hope.

And so dear friends, I ask you to pray for our seminarians so that they might truly be enthusiastic witnesses of the New Evangelization. And let us pray for each other that this *Year of Faith* will be for us all a time of special grace to help us light up lives with great courage and true joy.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President

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*On the cover: Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt and the men of Theology IV sang for Pope Benedict XVI during the papal audience in Rome on Jan. 11. Video of the moment is available at [http://player.rv.va/vaticanplayer.asp?language=it&tic=VA_ZIY1AO65](http://player.rv.va/vaticanplayer.asp?language=it&tic=VA_ZIY1AO65) starting at the 31:50 mark.*
WORLD RENOWNED SCHOLAR SPENDS MONTH AT SEMINARY

For one month this winter, the seminary community was blessed with the presence of an internationally renowned biblical scholar: Fr. James Swetnam, S.J. Part of the Visiting Scholars Program, Fr. Swetnam taught two classes, engaged in seminary life and spent time on his writing projects.

Fr. Swetnam was ordained in 1958 and spent much of his priesthood teaching in Rome. From 1960 to 2010 he was resident at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, first as a student and then in various teaching and leadership capacities, including vice rector and dean of the biblical faculty. A specialist in the Epistle to the Hebrews and a Greek scholar, Fr. Swetnam taught 1,500 students, primarily priests, from 85 countries, including The Saint Paul Seminary’s Fr. Juan Betancourt.

Recounting his practice of daily quizzes when teaching Greek, Fr. Swetnam remembers the time when Fr. Betancourt’s performance on a quiz did not reflect his potential. “I engaged the Jesuit practice of ‘cura personalis’ – personal care and concern for the individual – and wrote ‘This is not you’ on his quiz.”

This care and concern for each person was a hallmark of Fr. Swetnam’s visit. He ate most every meal alongside seminarians at the Binz. “The men are fascinating,” he remarked. “Such varied backgrounds and interests. I gained much from listening to them.”

The men, too, were moved by their interaction with Fr. Swetnam. Deacon Ben Little, Theology IV, deeply appreciated Fr. Swetnam’s “seriously Catholic approach to Scripture study.” Deacon Little and his classmates were exposed to “the best tools for sound biblical exegesis” and were grateful for the opportunity to prepare to preach the Gospel under the tutelage of such a gifted and holy priest.

“He is a model for us in approaching God’s Word as a priest.”

Fr. James Swetnam concelebrated Mass in St. Mary’s Chapel.
The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity community joined Archbishop John Nienstedt on the evening of Feb. 6 to celebrate two very special people: a patron saint and a seminary leader. Gathering for the annual St. Paul Day, benefactors, faculty, staff, seminarians and friends were also able to commemorate seminary Rector Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan’s 40th anniversary of priesthood.

After Mass, the St. Paul Day banquet was held in the Binz Refectory, during which seminary community members gave personal testimonies to the rector’s dedicated service and love for the priesthood. Graduate student Brandon Wanless, representing the lay student body stated, “[Msgr. Callaghan’s] faith shows the lay students the necessary means of theology.” Deacon Evan Koop represented the seminarians in saying, “Most of all, his joy in being a priest is contagious to everyone he meets. I, and many other seminarians, will always consider him a father of my priestly vocation.” Finally, representing his fellow priests, Fr. Jeffrey Huard described Msgr. Callaghan as a “priest’s priest and a true friend.”

At the dinner, Msgr. Callaghan also received small gifts of appreciation. The most significant gift was received by the seminary community itself, however, when Archbishop Nienstedt was pleased to announce that Msgr. Callaghan will continue to serve The Saint Paul Seminary for another six years, giving his life to Christ and to His Church as its patron did.

Above left: Following dinner, Msgr. Callaghan listened with delight to the remarks honoring his 40 years of priesthood.

Archbishop Nienstedt was surrounded by priests from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and beyond during Mass marking the St. Paul Day celebration.
A stamp in the passport stimulates the mind, stretches the heart and stirs the soul, which makes terrific preparation for priesthood.

The men at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity have been blessed by life-changing travel during their January terms: England for Theology II students, the Holy Land for Theology III students and Rome for Theology IV. The seminarians count those J-term pilgrimages as vital training to preach the Gospel with knowledge and zeal.

“Preaching is daunting,” said Marc Paveglio, 27, a Theology II student from St. Paul. “The first couple of homilies I gave in class were crash-and-burns.”

Walking in the footsteps of the legendary preacher Blessed John Henry Newman in England this January helped the future priest connect with the future saint. “Everything was so tangible to us,” Paveglio said, “the altar he celebrated Mass on, the pulpits he preached at, the desk he wrote many of his sermons at, the streets he walked.”

Paveglio picked a few pebbles from an Oxford road and slipped them in his pocket, a memento he brought back to the States. Since his return he has continued to reflect on Blessed Newman’s intuitive Gospel witness. “He was
able to be gentle or challenging as appropriate. He really knew the psyche. I think that’s key. As a preacher, we’re not just dropping sound bites or spiritual nuggets, but we’re calling upon that person’s freedom to say ‘What are you seeking?’—Christ’s question from the Gospel of John. We all have the same fundamental desires and Blessed Newman would show people they’re able to experience what they seek in Jesus Christ.”

Processing the day’s lecture on a train or at a pub later in the day cemented the education and the bonds among seminarians, Paveglio added. “Having Guinness over there—not imported across the Atlantic—was just great.”

The seminarians were grateful to travel with Fr. Tom Margevičius, an instructor in liturgy, sacraments and homiletics.

“The word Catholic means universal,” Fr. Margevičius said. “Sometimes we reverse the momentum to make it sound more exclusive—‘More Catholic than the pope.’ In order to understand what it means to be Catholic in the universal Church, students need exposure to the universal Church.”

“RUGGED LAND”
On a personal level, Fr. Margevičius added, the trip renewed him. “I turned 50 last October, and when a man gets to be 50, he starts to ask himself more wide-reaching questions: What is the future of the Church? The future of ministry? Being a seminary instructor has helped me see the next generation of men who could have been my children had I gotten married—and now to see they are becoming priests and encouraging me in my own priesthood.”

His colleague Fr. Scott Carl guided seminarians through the Holy Land this January. “The Scriptures they’ve studied come alive,” said Fr. Carl, an assistant professor of sacred Scripture.

Every evening the men practiced giving homilies in their lodgings, incorporating fresh insights from the day’s outings.
Because the men are agile travelers, well formed and able to devote an entire month to the trip, they enjoy an unusual degree of immersion, Fr. Carl said. “You’re able to enter more freely and deeply into what can be a pretty rugged land.”

“It’s not an easy place to live,” agreed Jake Greiner, 30, a Theology III student who was raised on a grain farm in Keota, Iowa. “It was amazing because we’ve been practicing preaching for a year and a half and now we go to the places we’re preaching about and see how our preaching has to in some way incarnate those places and people. You get to experience where the incarnation happened and therefore your preaching becomes more incarnational.”

The farm boy has come to recognize the wide-ranging benefits of travel. “It challenges you to trust in divine providence. Travel is never 100 percent planned.” For seminarians, he added, moving outside a comfort zone provides valuable formation.

“You have to get outside your experience to apply the Gospel, to learn about yourself. One brother seminarian said, ‘After being to some places in the Holy Land, no parishioner’s house is going to seem that strange.’ You cannot live the end of Matthew’s Gospel – go out to the whole world and baptize in the name of the Son – unless you have some experience of how the Gospel has been spread.”

THE GIFTS OF ROME

Getting outside yourself was also important to Deacon Ben Hadrich, 28, who grew up in McGregor, Minn., population 404 and has now experienced the multi-lingual bustle of St. Peter’s Square in Rome. “It’s hard to imagine being Catholic and not going to Rome,” which he said made a fitting culmination of his seminarian travels and a natural follow-up to his Holy Land pilgrimage. “It’s probably the most universal you can get of the Church here on earth. It’s a beautiful thing to see the body of Christ together.”

The Rome trip, made possible by the Rome Studies Endowment established by John and Sue Morrison, is packed with practical insights too, thanks to a series of appointments with various congregations and offices in Vatican City as well as religious and lay missionary groups. “It’s a discovery,” said Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt, an assistant
professor of sacred Scripture. “The men get a taste of how the Church actually works and what is available for the people of God around the world.”

Deacon Hadrich found a special souvenir in Rome, a gift from his parents, which is now perched on his dresser as he counts down to ordination: a gold and silver chalice depicting the four evangelists. “I wanted to get it in Rome for that symbolism of the universality of the Church and the connection with all the saints,” he said.

At his first Mass this June – and at countless Masses to follow – he’ll raise that chalice and consecrate wine, carrying all his travels with him and bringing the incarnate Savior to thirsty Catholics.

Deacon Ben Hadrich with his parents, John and Brenda, at the Coliseum. Deacon Ben and his parents travelled together in Rome prior to the start of his retreat and J-term course on Jan. 2.

Theology IV seminarians from Ghana had the opportunity to be interviewed on Vatican Radio while in Rome. From left: Deacons Albert Wugaa, Kevin Abakisi, Robert Abotzabire, and Peter Akudugu.
FACULTY ENGAGE INTERNATIONALLY, REAPING GLOBAL AND LOCAL BENEFITS

Just as J-term provides seminarians the opportunity to explore the Church universal, faculty venture abroad in January, and other times during the year, to contribute to and learn from the global Church.

“When we engage the international Church we can rethink certain aspects of the questions we face as a local Church,” observed Dr. Deborah Savage, clinical faculty and director of the Master of Arts in pastoral ministry program.

An area of great academic and pastoral interest for Savage is the complementarity of women and men, particularly in the writings of Blessed Pope John Paul II. Her growing national reputation for this work gained her a spot on an international panel in January hosted by Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, England entitled The Beauty of Complementarity: A Day on Authentic Catholic Womanhood. In addition to Savage, four women from England, Switzerland and Italy spoke, including Ana Cristina Villa Betancourt, head of the women’s section of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Academic Dean Dr. Christopher Thompson believes that American theologians are obliged to serve not only the local Church but to “make contributions to the common discernment of the Church universal.” But, he adds, Americans need to also listen to the global voices, giving “us access to cultural and global perspectives that are not refracted through the prism of our mainstream media. We gain a keener insight into what the concerns are for Catholics broadly.”
Thompson’s most recent contribution toward advancing theological scholarship internationally is featured in the Winter 2012 English edition of Nova et Vetera, a premier international journal for theological and philosophical studies from a Thomistic perspective. The majority of the issue features papers presented at the symposium on Aquinas and the environment organized by Thompson and hosted by The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity in 2009. Savage and Dr. Stephen Hipp, associate professor of systematic theology, also had papers published in the journal.

International engagement by faculty has a direct impact on students in the classroom. “We can provide students insight into the way the universal Church conducts herself,” said Dr. Christian Washburn, assistant professor of systematic theology. Washburn’s firsthand experience as a member of the International Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity allows him to “talk about concerns of theological matters from different cultural perspectives” in the classroom. Appointed in 2008 by Cardinal Walter Kasper, then-president of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Washburn meets annually, typically in Germany, with people from all over the world to prepare documents that further unity between Catholics and Lutherans.

Thompson, Washburn and Savage all agree that engaging the Church internationally makes their scholarship and teaching more robust. In Savage’s words, “Putting my work into a global context helps me connect the mission of the seminary to the mission of the Church universal.”
In March, two celebrations were held honoring parishioner participation in the seminary’s Teaching Parish Program. Through this program, unique among seminaries, seminarians are placed in a parish community for the four years of their formation, receiving feedback and support from a teaching parish committee. The members of the committees and their families were invited to Mass followed by brunch in appreciation of their support and constancy. Between the two celebrations, the seminary welcomed 534 guests representing 59 area parishes.

Andrew Brinkman, Theology III, visited with members of his teaching parish committee at brunch on March 4.

Fr. Allen Kuss, director of pastoral formation, celebrated Mass for the teaching parish committee members, their families and the seminary community prior to the brunch.
Reflecting on Lent Through Music

On March 20, Franz Liszt’s Via Crucis or “The Way of the Cross” was performed in St. Mary’s Chapel. The program featured the combined choirs of the University of St. Thomas Schola Cantorum and The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale. Aaron Brown, director of the university’s liturgical choirs, directed the singers while David Jenkins, liturgical music director at the seminary, accompanied on the organ.

Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan offered Scripture readings during the program.

Dr. David Jenkins accompanied the choirs on the organ.

Kyle Kowalczyk, Pre-Theology II (center), a member of the seminary’s chorale, sang during the performance of “Via Crucis”.

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Occasionally, when telling someone what I do for a living, I’ll get a response like, “I could never ask people for money.” On hearing this, I think to myself, “Neither could I.” That may sound strange coming from the person at the seminary who is chiefly responsible for raising support for the work of priestly formation. But the truth is in my 19 years in the development field, rarely, if ever, have I asked someone for money.

The work of philanthropy is about much more than giving money. It is about doing something important. It is about making a difference, creating an impact, advancing a particular mission. As a colleague of mine says, “Ultimately, it all comes down to changing and saving lives.”

This issue of Oracle illustrates the point. Over the last several years, we have been able to strengthen the priestly formation program thanks to a very successful campaign. The ability to bring in renowned scholars, to have seminarians walk in the footsteps of Christ, to learn from one of the greatest orators in the Church, or study in Rome would not be possible without the generosity of our benefactors. And, I assure you, when they were contemplating their gift, they were not simply thinking about giving money. They wanted to make an impact. They wanted to do something important. They wanted to form more good holy priests for today and generations to come.

Those who support the seminary, or any institution for that matter, aren’t simply giving money. They are real participants in the life and mission of that institution. In a very tangible way the “yes” of those who support the seminary make possible the “yes” of each seminarian.

That is why each day, we give thanks and remember those who support the work of the seminary in our prayers.
FACULTY NOTES

Papers from a symposium convened by Dr. Christopher Thompson were published in the Winter 2012 issue of Nova et Vetera, English edition. The conference, Renewing the Face of the Earth: The Church and the Order of Creation, was held during October 2009 at the seminary.

Fr. J. Michael Byron delivered an address: “Faith and Work: Convergence and Conversion” at St. Olaf Catholic Church in Minneapolis on March 8. His lecture was part of the Faith and Work Breakfast Series.

On Feb. 15, Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt, SEMV, was interviewed by Wendy Wiese for the live national radio call-in program, “On Call” on Relevant Radio. The program focused on the Church’s ministry to Hispanic Catholics in the United States. He also presented a paper, “The False Prophet in the Deuteronomistic Paraphrase in the Temple Scroll,” on March 30 at the regional meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Luther Seminary, in St. Paul.

Dr. Kenneth Snyder recently completed a six-week lecture series for Selim Center for Learning in Later Years entitled, “The First Christian Centuries: The Origins and Development of Early Christianity.” Selim Center is an outreach program of the University of St. Thomas designed to foster and support lifelong learning.

Fr. John Floeder is completing the final semester of his Licentiate of Sacred Theology coursework at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family Life in Washington D.C. and will return to the seminary to begin teaching in the fall.


On Jan. 31, Sr. Katarina Schuth, OSF, addressed a large gathering of seminary rectors in San Antonio, Texas, at a meeting sponsored by the NCEA Seminary Department. Her topic was related to her work on preparing study guides for seminaries on “The Background on Sexual Abuse and Changes in Seminary Formation Related to Celibacy and Sexuality.” In addition, her article, “A Change in Formation: How the Sexual Abuse Crisis Has Reshaped Priestly Training,” appeared in America magazine on Jan. 2.

STUDENT NOTES


Brandon Wanless, MAT ’13, delivered a paper at the Archbishop Iakovos Graduate Students Conference in Patristics, March 8-10. The conference was hosted by the Pappas Patristic Institute at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, Mass. The paper was entitled, “St. Thomas Aquinas and the Eastern Fathers on the Union of the Incarnation.”

IN MEMORIAM

Fr. William F. Dawson ‘57
Fr. Leo A. Dolan ‘52
Fr. Gerald M. Fisch ‘57

Fr. Lawrence P. Ginther ‘46
Fr. E. Edward Higgins ’57
Fr. Joseph G. Kivel ’61
Fr. George J. Kovalik ‘47
For more information on any of these events, please call 651-962-5050

## Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>MAY 8</td>
<td>Graduation for Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Chapel</td>
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<td>JUNE 4-15</td>
<td>National Association of Church Business Administration Seminars</td>
<td>The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity campus</td>
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<td>JUNE 11</td>
<td>The Saint Paul Seminary Golf Tournament</td>
<td>Town and Country Club in St. Paul</td>
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### Priesthood Ordinations 2012

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<th>Location</th>
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<td>Rockford</td>
<td>May 19</td>
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<td>Cathedral of Saint Peter</td>
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<td>Duluth</td>
<td>June 22</td>
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<td>Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary</td>
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<td>SioUX Falls</td>
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<td>Saint Joseph Cathedral</td>
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<td>St. Paul &amp; Minneapolis</td>
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<td>St. Cloud</td>
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<td>Navrongo-Bolgatanga</td>
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### Diacconal Ordinations 2012

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<td>Davenport</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Cathedral</td>
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<td>Crookston</td>
<td>June 2</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception</td>
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<td>St. Paul &amp; Minneapolis</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Basilica of Saint Mary</td>
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<td>St. Paul &amp; Minneapolis</td>
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<td>Des Moines</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
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