OPEN WIDE THE DOORS
WELCOMING IN AND REACHING OUT
Dear Friends,

Charged by the office that is his, each priest is ordained to preach and teach and sanctify. The Gospel mandate, “go therefore, make disciples of all nations . . . teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. . .” touches to the very heart of the priest’s pastoral ministry. In response to this calling every priest should be “passionate, intense, and proud.” In the words of Henri Nouwen he must realize that his “deepest vocation is to be a witness to the glimpses of God he has been allowed to catch.” To that end each priest should possess what the illustrious Msgr. Ronald Knox described in his Pastoral and Occasional Sermons as “a jealous regard for tradition, for established precedent, a reluctance to be stampeded by the fashion of the moment, to barter away for some momentary advantage a long inheritance of accumulated wisdom.”

This having been said, each priest then must take deeply into his own heart the example of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and recognize that the future strength of the Church is in the future of her youngest children. To move forward in faith and forward with Christ, each priest must see that catechesis of the faith is the moving factor for building a strong and vibrant Catholicism in our own day.

The priest today must stand unafraid when confronted with vistas uncontemplated and perhaps unimaginable even to the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council. In his call to teach in the “here and now,” today’s priest must graft creatively a new shoot on the old stock.

A priest today is called to be an authentic and credible witness “to the glimpses of God he has been allowed to catch” in this new millennium.

Dear friends, in this current edition of the Oracle you will find our response to the awesome challenge of preparing students to be the best of teachers and evangelizers. Their charge will be to bring God’s people to see the splendor of truth and contemplate the face of the Savior Jesus Christ.

Having reflected on the office of priest as teacher, in closing I recall a remarkable teacher of mine from high school days, now of happy memory. Mr. Thomas Nevils was a devout Catholic layman who spent his entire adult life teaching young and eager minds an appreciation for poetry and literature as a means of touching the Divine. A short poem of his beautifully describes the virtues necessary to teach as the Master. This poem might serve as our prayer as we strive to prepare “teachers for the new millennium:”

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**ON THE COVER**

Following the graduation ceremony for the Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute in May, Seminarian Brian Park gathered with graduates and their families in the foyer outside St. Mary’s Chapel.
O Lord . . . when I enter the classroom
Give me those virtues which will make me an effective teacher.

Give me WISDOM beyond knowledge, not merely to know the facts I have prepared, but to see their importance in the lives of those I teach.

Give me that WISDOM which will prevail in the face of indifference, for youth comes with no deep interest in You. I must create this interest.

Give me Your KINDNESS, which lived on in the face of treachery and disinterest; to see, behind the mask, the lonesome soul.

Give me Your PATIENCE, which was not disappointed by failure. To teach You, I must imitate You, who worked in the tough soil of the human will.

Give me Your HUMILITY, to lead others to You, as You led others to Your Father. Since I can give no grace never let me promote myself.

Give me INSIGHT to appreciate that I am the adult, that these youth have neither my control nor my desire. Then add a spirit of kindness to my discipline.

While I teach, let me learn.

Learn that I must love; for I can have all knowledge, yet without love, all knowledge profits me nothing.

Learn that I am most the teacher when youth sees something of You in me.

Learn that, while I point out to youth the way to heaven, I must not lose that way myself.

Finally, let me understand that my greatest reward is not here, but thereafter; when, accompanied by the youth I have instructed, I will shine like a star in heaven for having diffused Your Light upon earth.

God bless you,

Monsignor Aloysius R. Callaghan
Rector and Vice President
Say the word “seminary” and one might picture a place set apart where young men spend time in quiet reflection surrounded by piles of theological books. At first glance, visitors to The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity might embrace that description as they move beyond the walls separating the campus from the courtyard and imposing statue of St. Paul. Walk through the doors, though, and one quickly encounters vibrant, energetic seminarians and lay students who are on fire with their faith and full of anticipation for the day they will graduate and fully embrace the vocation for which they are so vigorously preparing.

Even seminarians might admit the mystery that surrounds a seminary. “I did not know what a seminary was until I was in college,” remarked Brian Park, Theology III. He had no idea where priests “came from,” and knows that many Catholics might say the same thing. So, he gladly welcomes the opportunity to engage those who enter through the seminary doors so “people can actually meet ‘live’ seminarians and see that we are real people, come from real families and have real struggles.”

GATHERING IN AND SENDING FORTH
It is said that the seminary is the heart of the local Church. “The care and concern for the future of the local Church is really at the heart of what seminary formation is all about,” reflected Fr. Robert Pish, vice rector. “No other aspect of the Church can have such a wide reaching influence as a seminary does. The men we prepare for priesthood and lay students for other forms of ministry go out like the apostles that Christ sent to the ends of the earth and touch every aspect of what life in the Church is all about.”

Given this missionary call to take the Gospel out far and wide, those preparing for this work must engage the world as part of their preparation to one day serve it.
“Preparation for any formal ministry is not just a theoretical exercise, it is an incarnate reality,” said Fr. Pish. “Ministry is exercised within the particular details of a local Church and its history. These details are best understood when not just talked about but experienced.”

And experience it, they do. Opportunities to engage the local Church and beyond are plentiful and woven into the fabric of the seminary’s formation program. From welcoming in people of all ages for prayer and fellowship to visiting parishes to learn from pastors and parishioners, seminarians and lay students alike find formation opportunities at every turn and well beyond the walls of the seminary campus.

LEARNING FROM ONE ANOTHER
Christopher Deaver, Theology II, from the Diocese of Rapid City, learned very quickly that “you can’t just regurgitate something you learned in class to a parishioner” in his teaching parish, St. Olaf in downtown Minneapolis. “You need to know, almost intuitively, how to relate concepts rather than definitions.”

This insight is the basis of the seminary’s teaching parish program. A seminarian is assigned a teaching parish during his first year of major seminary formation. The pastor and parishioners of that parish walk with him during his four years of preparation.

Matthew Kopyar, a long-time St. Olaf parishioner and sales professional, was honored to be asked to serve on Deaver’s teaching parish committee. “We as lay people should do everything we can to support formation of priests and support vocations.”

While the program is designed to help the seminarian learn about the ins and outs of parish life, he is not the only one who gains knowledge and insight. Kopyar has learned much about his faith and the priesthood from a “future priest’s perspective rather than seeing it from the pew.” He is also getting to know parishioners he did not know well and learning from “our conversations in meetings with Chris.”
Deaver is grateful for the outpouring of support he feels from St. Olaf parishioners. “They want me to learn how people interact” with their faith and with each other in a parish setting and what this means to them. He is learning the breadth and depth of parish life and how Christ is present at every turn. He acknowledges the importance of liturgy and catechesis but adds that even the little things of parish life like “baking cookies and serving at Exodus Residence” provide “personal interaction where people can be joyous and happy in Christ.”

THE THEOLOGIAN AS MISSIONARY

“As an academic you can get caught up in studies, books and papers,” said Master of Arts in Theology student Brandon Wanless. “It can be easy to lose track of other parts of life.” And that’s why he jumped at the chance to help organize a service project for the seminary’s lay graduate students.

An evening spent at Feed My Starving Children, a Twin Cities-based hunger alleviation organization, turned out to be more than just volunteering for a good cause: relationships were formed, theological studies were put into context and what it means to be a theologian was clarified. Wanless forged stronger relationships with his classmates that evening. Working side-by-side packing food for those in need “broke a social barrier and established friendships on a mutual understanding of what we are about, living lives of service – teaching, serving needs of the poor, or whatever our vocation might be,” after graduation.

This Peoria, Ill. native, who hopes to pursue a Ph.D. after completing his master’s degree in 2013, knows he is in training as a “missionary,” and appreciates the seminary’s approach to theological studies. He and his fellow students study theology not only as an end in itself, but also to “participate in Christ’s conquering of the world. There is an evangelical tint that comes with everything.”
Seminarians, too, engage in apostolic service as part of their formation. Neil Bakker, Pre-Theology II, coordinates the service program for the pre-theology men. There are six outreach opportunities: VA Hospital, Our Lady of Peace Home for hospice patients, Missionaries of Charity after school program, Ramsey County Corrections, RCIA for University of St. Thomas students and the Wednesday night *Lux in Tenebris* Mass.

“This program has been crucial to my formation in that I have both been able to learn how to adapt in these very different environments and styles of ministry, but also I’ve been able to take time to give back to the community at large and be a part of the Church’s ministry of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” said Bakker.

“THIS IS YOUR SEMINARY”
Seminary Rector Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan always emphasizes, when speaking to donors and other friends of the seminary, that “this is your seminary and the doors are always open for you.”

Sheryl Moran took his words to heart when she heard them for the first time at the Rector’s Dinner. “I came away from that evening filled with hope and gratitude. The enthusiasm and faith of the seminarians I met, combined with the depth of knowledge and faith of the faculty and staff, made me excited for the future of our archdiocese. My husband and I knew immediately that we wanted to support the seminary any way we could.”

Fast forward a few years and Moran is now involved in planning the Rector’s Dinner as a member of the Women’s Auxiliary, a group she chairs. The auxiliary’s initiatives are designed to engage the community in the important work of the seminary. In addition to the Rector’s Dinner, the group coordinates the Adopt-a-Seminar program and Women’s Advent Morning of Reflection.

Simply put, “we are ambassadors for the seminary,” said Moran. “Once I discovered how powerfully God is working at our seminary, I wanted to let everyone else know.”

Moran acknowledges that inviting people to experience the seminary is good both for the visitors and the seminarians. “Every time I enter our seminary, I leave encouraged and hopeful. Similarly, many seminarians have told me that they are encouraged by their interaction with the greater community.”

*Sheryl Moran enjoyed a conversation with Fr. Michael Becker, rector of Saint John Vianney College Seminary, at the Rector’s Dinner last fall.*
Among the many ways seminarians welcome the community into their “home” is the beautiful gathering of young people on the first Friday of every month during the school year: *Cor Jesu*. Named for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, its structure is simple, says Brian Park, Theology III, a volunteer who assists with the outreach. “We don’t offer anything except Jesus and the sacrament of reconciliation.” Clearly, that is more than enough for the 200 people who attend “to worship and spend time in fellowship with other young adults who love the Lord.”

*Cor Jesu* provides seminarians the opportunity to glimpse into their future. “The end goal of our studies here is to become priests who lead people to an intimate relationship with Christ and His Church,” said Park, which is exactly what *Cor Jesu* is doing.

Park has seen the fruits which have emerged during the five years of *Cor Jesu*. He reports the story of a young Protestant woman who came to believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and decided to become a Catholic. More broadly, young people are developing a habit of going to confession. “We average 12 priests for confessions, and they are busy for a good hour to hour and a half.”

*Cor Jesu* also fills a gap in the Church: ministry to single young adults. “The idea that you would be 35 and single is rare in the history of the Church and the world,” reflected Park. “We are doing something to offer formation and deepen the prayer life of young adults in the Twin Cities.”

Contributing to the life of the local Church, as *Cor Jesu* does, is a beautiful and intentional outcome of the seminary’s formation program.

“It is important for us to impress upon seminarians and lay students that the Church is not a blank slate where you exercise a particular ministry but a place that has a history, people within it and unique needs,” Fr. Pish said. “When you get outside the walls you appreciate the Church not in abstract but in reality.”
When it comes to the Adopt-A-Seminarian program, the blessings go both ways: for the seminarians and for families like ours.

The Adopt-A-Seminarian program matches all of the men at the seminary with local families for the duration of their formation, until, God-willing, they are ordained.

The families have three obligations: to pray daily for their seminarian; to attend the milestone events in their seminarian's life (lector and acolyte installation, diaconal and priestly ordination); and to invite their seminarian to their house for dinner once a year.

After applying and being accepted to the program, I asked that our family be placed with a seminarian from overseas. I grew up with foreign exchange students, so I knew how challenging it can be to come to Minnesota and make it a second home. I also knew our family would be able to give a foreign seminarian extra encouragement when he was so far away from his support system.

We were happily matched with Joseph Kirembwe, a second-year seminarian from Kampala, Uganda – and we were delighted to discover that my brother- and sister-in-law also were matched with a Ugandan seminarian: Joseph Kavuma.

Our two families have had “The Josephs” over to our houses for dinner numerous times, and they have become like members of our extended family. This last year, we took our Joseph to the State Fair and a Saints game, he went out trick-or-treating with our kids, and we gave him his first birthday party ever. Both of our families and the Josephs were supposed to get together for Christmas Eve dinner, but my sister-in-law ended up having her third baby early that morning!

Not only do our kids get to know a wonderful man discerning his vocation to the priesthood, but we have been exposed to a whole new world with our adopted Ugandan “son.” We also have gained a prayer warrior, as our Joseph keeps our special intentions in mind during his holy hours and Masses at the seminary.

We count the Adopt-A-Seminarian program, and our Josephs, among our blessings.

*Annamarie Adkins is a member of the Women’s Auxiliary and co-chair of the Adopt-A-Seminarian program.*
SONS OF THUNDER TAKE THE PRIZE AT RECTORS’ BOWL

On Oct. 8, Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan’s Sons of Thunder played hard against Saint John Vianney College Seminary’s JAXX, claiming a 32-18 victory. Now in its twelfth year, this friendly rivalry offers seminarians an opportunity to celebrate family, friends and the brotherhood of Catholic men in formation for the priesthood.

Msgr. Callaghan celebrated his seminarians’ victory on the field.

BISHOP BEVARD INSTITUTES ACOLYTES

In an important step in the life of a seminarian, 19 men from Theology II were instituted to the ministry of acolyte. 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. The ceremony, which took place in St. Mary’s Chapel on Oct. 11, was presided over by Bishop Herbert Bevard of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Bishop Bevard’s connection to The Saint Paul Seminary is twofold: Theology II seminarian Bruce Anderson is from the Diocese of St. Thomas and Bishop Bevard and Msgr. Callaghan were seminary classmates.

Seminarians surrounded Bishop Herbert Bevard and Msgr. Aloysius Callaghan following the acolyte institution.
On Oct. 27, a capacity crowd of 300 gathered at the Town and Country Club in St. Paul for the sixth 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 vocation stories of Deacon Evan Koop, Theology IV and Paul Shovelain, Theology II. In addition, Archbishop John Nienstedt addressed the group; Bishop Lee Piché, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis and Diocese of New Ulm Bishop John LeVoir were also in attendance.

Dr. Stephen Hipp, associate professor of systematic theology, delivered the Ireland Memorial Lecture on Oct. 17. Titled “‘Hierarchy’ as a Pervasive Feature of the World,” the talk explored the universal presence of hierarchy in creation and the intrinsically hierarchical structure of being, from its simplest natural forms to its loftiest supernatural perfection.
SEMINARIANS PARTICIPATE IN SEVENTH ANNUAL BORROMEO WEEKEND

Seminarians from The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary dedicated the weekend of Nov. 4-6 to worship, social time and 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration. Archbishop John Nienstedt closed the weekend by presiding at Sunday Mass followed by brunch with the seminarians. Now in its seventh 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.

Bishop Lee Piché offered Mass for members of the Hill Society and the seminary community on Nov. 2, All Souls Day. At this inaugural event for the Hill Society, donors were recognized for their legacy gifts which sustain the seminary’s mission to form men for the priesthood and lay men and women for service in the Church and society.
**LESSONS AND CAROLS OFFERS PRAYERFUL REFLECTION FOR ADVENT SEASON**

St. Mary’s Chapel was filled with people and beautiful music on Dec. 4 as Dr. David Jenkins directed The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale in presenting Lessons and Carols for Advent. The program offered carols and hymns for the season, including music by Bell, Handel, Hassler, Rutter, and Willcocks. Deacon Evan Koop, Theology IV, directed his fellow seminarians in The Saint Paul Seminary Schola. Other musicians included Michelle Plombon, organ, Chris Kachian, guitar, and Wendy Barton-Silhavy, flute.

**WOMEN GATHER FOR REFLECTION IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

It has become tradition for women of the archdiocese to gather at the seminary for a Saturday morning of reflection during Advent. Now in its sixth year, this event on Dec. 10 attracted a capacity crowd of 150 women and was hosted by the Women’s Auxiliary. Fr. Robert Pish, vice rector, offered two conferences. Women also had the opportunity for Mass, the sacrament of reconciliation and fellowship with those in attendance.

Fr. Robert Pish offered his presentation to women attending the morning of reflection.
REAL AND PERMANENT GOOD

The other day while listening to MPR, I learned the program just aired was made possible through a grant from Carnegie Corporation. The tag line following the acknowledgement caught my ear, “100 years of doing real and permanent good in the world.”

Intrigued, I visited the Carnegie website. Impressive would be an understatement. The foundation was founded in 1911 by Andrew Carnegie, steel baron turned philanthropist. Mr. Carnegie created the foundation with a $135 million trust, the largest ever created at the time. Today, the assets of the foundation are more than $2.5 billion and annually make grants totaling $120 million. In its 100-plus year history, Carnegie Corporation has given $1.4 billion to support a host of worthy and noble causes.

After a momentary experience of budget inadequacy, I realized the impact of the seminary is no less impressive than that of Carnegie Corporation. Impact cannot always be measured in dollars and cents. In fact, I would argue the most important work – the building of the kingdom of God – often remains hidden.

Think about it. A troubled conscience is forgiven in the confessional. An anxious soul is put at peace and readied for the final passage before death. Those who mourn are comforted. The hungry fed. The sick healed. Darkness becomes light. The building of the kingdom and the ministry of a priest takes place in recesses of the human soul.

Like leaven in bread the real work of the kingdom of God often is unseen. That is why it is impossible to count or measure the real and permanent good that has taken place in this world (and the next) through the ministry of those who have passed through the halls of the seminary. Only God truly knows the lives that have been saved and changed.

We can be certain though, that the good being done is vast, real, and permanent. That is why work of the seminary is so important. It is also why we give thanks daily for those who support this noble work with their prayers and financial support.

ANNUAL PHONE-A-THON RAISES $44,700

Seminarians took a break from their studies Nov. 8-10, making phone calls to donors to thank them and ask for continued support. This annual event gives seminarians the opportunity to express gratitude to those who make their formation possible.

Marcus Milless, Theology II, and Leonard Andrie, Theology III, teamed up to call donors during the annual phone-a-thon.
**FACULTY NOTES**

**N. Curtis Le May** was appointed the 2012 chair of The Catholic Library Association’s Membership Committee effective January 1, 2012.

**Fr. Allen Kuss** attended Symposium on the Priesthood at The Catholic University of America on Oct. 5. The focus of the symposium was the study conducted by Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti of CUA entitled "Why Priests are Happy: A Study of the Psychological and Spiritual Health of Priests."

**Dr. Christian Washburn** attended the annual meeting of the Midwest Association of Theological Schools in Chicago from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. The theme of the meeting was "The Place of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue in Seminary Formation." He also attended the first meeting of National Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue held from Oct. 13-16 in Washington D.C.

**Dr. Christopher Thompson** offered the keynote address on Nov. 19 at a conference in Stockton, CA, on Food, Faith and Farming sponsored by Catholic Charities of Stockton, the Diocese of Stockton and National Catholic Rural Life Conference. The talk was titled: "Assenting to the World and the Challenge of Thanksgiving." Thompson is a member of the board of directors of National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

**Fr. Scott Carl** attended the 2011 Conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in San Francisco, Nov. 19-22. At the conference, he promoted in particular the work of the seminary’s Monsignor Jerome D. Quinn Institute of Biblical Studies.

**Dr. Deborah Savage** gave the reflections on Jan. 7 at the First Saturday Morning Retreat at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Her talk was entitled: “By the Grace of God: Conversion in St. Paul.”

On Jan. 17, Dr. Savage gave an address at a one-day conference, The Beauty of Complimentarity, at the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham, England. The title of her paper was: “Through the Lens of Aquinas’s Theory of the Soul: the Nature of Woman in Relation to Man in Genesis 1 and 2.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

Norbert Brandner ‘54  
Fr. James Crossman ‘46  
Fr. Thomas Kramer ‘59  
Fr. Raymond Moorman ‘46  
Fr. Richard Paddock ‘59  
Fr. Bernard Reiser ’49  
James Remes ‘55
### Calendar

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>Graduate Studies Information Night</td>
<td>5:15 P.M.</td>
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<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Chrism Mass</td>
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<td>Cathedral of Saint Paul</td>
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<td>Mar. 30</td>
<td>Via Crucis, The Way of the Cross</td>
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<td>The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale and</td>
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<td>University of St. Thomas Schola Cantorum</td>
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<td>Apr. 13</td>
<td>Seminarian and Priest Basketball Tournament</td>
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<td>Guardian Angels Church in Chaska</td>
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<td>Apr. 15</td>
<td>Friends Mass and Breakfast</td>
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<td>Apr. 26</td>
<td>Rector's Council Dinner</td>
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<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>Archbishop Ireland Memorial Lecture</td>
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<td>“In Defense of Natural Philosophy” - Fr. Brian Mullady, O.P.</td>
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<td>3M Auditorium, Owens Science Hall</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Ordination to the Diaconate, Theology III</td>
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<td>Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Friends Mass and Breakfast</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Archbishop Harry J. Flynn Catechetical Institute Graduation</td>
<td>6:00 P.M.</td>
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